

= Jack Crossland =

John " Jack " Crossland (2 April 1852 ? 26 September 1903) was an English professional cricketer who played for Lancashire between 1878 and 1887 . A right @-@ arm fast bowler , Crossland was recognised as one of the fastest bowlers in county cricket . However , he was also widely criticised for throwing , rather than bowling the ball . Were it not for this , he would have probably played for England against Australia in 1882 or 1884 .

Crossland was born in Nottinghamshire , but qualified to play for Lancashire due to residency . He made his first @-@ class debut for his adopted county in 1878 , but his bowling was most effective from 1881 until 1884 . His best year was 1882 , when he topped the national bowling averages , claiming 112 wickets at an average of just over ten . The presence of Crossland , and a number of other bowlers with suspect actions , in the Lancashire team resulted in some counties refusing to play fixtures against during the mid @-@ 1880s . During 1885 , a ruling from the Marylebone Cricket Club barred Crossland from playing for Lancashire as his qualification for the county had been breached by him living in Nottinghamshire during the winter . The ruling forced his retirement from county cricket , though he continued to appear in other matches for a few years following that .

In all , Crossland claimed 322 wickets in first @-@ class cricket at an average of 12 @.@ 48 . He claimed ten wickets in a match on six occasions . Primarily a tail @-@ end batsman , he scored 1 @.@ 172 runs with a top score of 51 .

= = Early career = =

Crossland was born in Sutton @-@ in @-@ Ashfield in Nottinghamshire on 2 April 1852 . Employed as a coal miner , he was one of a number of Nottinghamshire @-@ born cricketers who sought professional contracts in Lancashire . The Lancashire cricket leagues began paying the best players to appear for them , creating an exodus of cricketing talent to the county . Crossland first gained employment as a professional cricketer in 1876 , with Enfield Cricket Club . In a single innings match against Burnley that season , he took eight wickets and conceded 88 runs (eight for 88) . The following season he once again took eight wickets against the same opposition , finishing with figures of eight for 50 . Towards the end of 1877 , he was chosen to play for a " Gentlemen and Players XI " against Burnley in a benefit match for Burnley 's professional John Melling . He took five for 10 in the match from his five overs to help his side win on first innings . In early 1878 , Crossland improved upon his previous efforts , taking eight for 28 against Burnley .

= = Lancashire professional = =

Crossland 's performances for Enfield drew the attention of Lancashire County Cricket Club , for whom he was qualified on the basis of residency . He made his debut against Yorkshire in August 1878 . He was not required to bowl in the first innings , and after scoring one run , bowled eight overs without a wicket in the second innings . He took his maiden wicket in first @-@ class cricket in his second match , against Kent . In another benefit match played for Melling , Crossland took eight for 60 for " Burnley District XI " against Burnley in September 1878 . His first match for Lancashire in 1879 came in June , when he claimed four for 26 against Derbyshire ; his best bowling that season . He claimed wickets consistently through the season , and finished with fifteen wickets from his seven matches at an average of 14 @.@ 53 . He only played three times for Lancashire in 1880 , taking seven wickets at 16 @.@ 28 . He bowled with little effect in most of 1881 , but took ten wickets in a match against Surrey at the Oval . Across his other six matches that year , he only claimed three further wickets , and completed the season with thirteen wickets at an average of 7 @.@ 15 .

The 1882 season was Crossland 's best ; though he started with a wicket @-@ less match against the Marylebone Cricket Club . He took seven wickets against the touring Australians in early June , while in the following match , against Somerset , he took six for 7 in the second innings , to help Lancashire to an innings victory . He took five wickets in an innings on ten occasions during the

season , including twice in a match against Middlesex , to claim ten wickets in the match . Playing a match for Liverpool and District against the touring Australians , he took his best bowling figures in an innings that season , claiming seven wickets for 72 . He took a pair of five @-@ wicket hauls against Surrey in late August to finish with eleven wickets in the match . His final match of the season was a further fixture against the Australians , in which he took eight wickets in the match for the North . In all , Crossland took 112 first @-@ class wickets at an average of 10 @.@ 06 in 1882 , topping the national bowling averages . Lancashire were recognised by some publications as being champion county , or more commonly as joint champions with Nottinghamshire in 1882 , and in addition to Crossland , Lancashire 's George Nash , Dick Barlow and Alexander Watson took fifty or more wickets at an average of under thirteen . In his obituary in Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack , it was suggested that were it not for the accusations of throwing against Crossland , he would have been selected for the sole Test match against the touring Australians at the Oval .

= = Throwing controversies = =

An article written for The Argus , an Australian daily newspaper , by an unnamed member of the Australian side in 1882 reported that Crossland bowled ; " with a delivery so like a throw that I feel sure it would not be allowed in Australia ; but , as we all know , throwing in England is just as common as bowling ? more 's the pity . " Crossland 's delivery was the cause for much discussion throughout his most successful year of 1882 , but despite a commonly held view that he threw the ball , umpires never called a no ball against him for throwing . In 1883 , Middlesex refused to arrange matches with Lancashire due to the perceived unfair bowling of Crossland and some of his teammates . He continued to bowl effectively during 1883 , and peaked towards the end of the season , claiming seven wickets in an innings against " The Rest " while playing for a combined Lancashire and Yorkshire side , another seven in an innings for Lancashire against Surrey , and the best bowling figures of his career , eight for 57 for the North against the South . During the match against Surrey , which was held at the Oval , Crossland was heckled by the crowd , with cries of " well thrown " , and " take him off " , shouted during his bowling spell . The vehemence of the protests almost drew the Lancashire captain , A. N. Hornby to refuse to complete the match . In an end of season match for Dick Barlow 's XI against Tom Emmett 's XI ; he scored his highest first @-@ class score with the bat , reaching 51 runs in the second innings . He took 72 wickets in 1883 at an average of 12 @.@ 97 , placing him third in the national bowling averages . Lancashire 's policy of recruiting professional bowlers without much regard for their qualification to play for the county caused some bad @-@ feeling with other counties , most notably Crossland 's native Nottinghamshire . The bickering between the counties escalated and in 1883 , after receiving a provocative Christmas card from Lancashire , the Nottinghamshire committee sent an aggressive response :

LANCASHIRE COUNTY CRICKET . The only rules necessary for players in the County Eleven are that they shall neither have been born in , nor reside in , Lancashire . Sutton @-@ in @-@ Ashfield men will have the preference .

At the end of the 1883 season , a meeting of the county secretaries at Lord 's was held , during which a proposal was made " that the undermentioned counties agree among themselves not to employ any bowler whose action is at all doubtful . " The proposal was essentially a gentlemen 's agreement to try and prevent unfair bowling , necessitated by the umpires ' refusal to intervene . The resolution was signed by representatives from Derbyshire , Kent , Middlesex , Nottinghamshire , Surrey and Yorkshire , but those from Gloucestershire and Sussex refused to sign it , along with the representative from Lancashire . As a result , Middlesex were joined by Nottinghamshire in boycotting Lancashire in 1884 . Crossland was strong again , and claimed ten wickets in a match on three occasions ; first against Oxford University in late May ? early June . In his next match , for the North against the South , he claimed seven wickets in each innings to record match figures of 14 for 80 . The crowd at Lord 's followed the example set at the Oval in the previous year , heckling Crossland throughout the match . He collected seven wickets in an innings again , in a match not classified as first @-@ class against Leicestershire , and completed the ten @-@ wicket haul with

four wickets in the second innings . He faced the touring Australians twice during June , taking two wickets for the North , before collecting eleven wickets for Liverpool and District . The report in The Argus once again vilified Crossland , writing that " owing principally to the successful throwing of Crossland " the Australian first innings closed for 140 .

Crossland was considered for selection in the first Test against Australia , which was played at Lancashire 's Old Trafford ground . An official from the home ground chose the England team for each match . Lord Harris announced that he would not participate in the Test at Old Trafford if Crossland was selected . As a result , Lord Harris was not chosen by the Lancashire official , although in the end Crossland did not play either . Lord Harris , who was both the captain of Kent and England in 1884 , led the protests against throwing . He forced the retirement of two of Kent 's bowlers , but was reasonably satisfied with Lancashire in 1884 : for their match against Kent at Old Trafford , they dropped Nash , and by the meeting of the two sides in August that year , neither Crossland nor Nash were in the side . Lord Harris had hoped that this indicated that Lancashire were making efforts to " of [their] own free will , and without agreement with other counties , to place [their] eleven in an irreproachable position . "

= = Termination of county cricket career = =

In 1885 Lancashire once again were unable to face either Middlesex or Nottinghamshire as the two sides maintained their boycott . Crossland was chosen to appear for Charles Thornton 's England XI against Cambridge University , in which he took seven wickets for 117 . In late May , he took four for 52 and three for 51 against Kent at Old Trafford . After the match , Lord Harris , unhappy with the return of Crossland and Nash to the Lancashire side , requested that the Kent committee cancel the home fixture against Lancashire . The committee agreed with his argument , and Kent became the third first @-@ class county to refuse to play against Lancashire . Crossland only played six matches for Lancashire in 1885 before the Marylebone Cricket Club ruled that he had breached his residency qualification by returning to live in Nottinghamshire during the winter period . Due to this , he was not allowed to play for Lancashire , effectively ending his first @-@ class career . Nash retired from county cricket at the end of 1885 due to criticisms about his own action , and fixtures between Lancashire and Middlesex , Nottinghamshire and Kent resumed in 1886 . He played two further first @-@ class matches , in 1886 and 1887 , both for CI Thornton 's XI against Cambridge University .

At his peak in 1882 , Crossland was considered one of the fastest bowlers in England , and his yorker were described as W. G. Grace as being " exceedingly difficult to play . " In his Wisden obituary , it was reported that " the majority of experts having no hesitation in describing him as a rank thrower . " Grace was scarcely kinder , noting that he was " inclined to think that he ought to have been no @-@ balled in every over . " Although the widespread opinion against his action , the umpires , themselves professional , were reluctant to no ball him . In all first @-@ class matches , Crossland claimed 322 wickets at an average of 10 @.@ 95 . He took ten wickets in a match on six occasions , and five wickets in an innings 25 times . He scored 1 @,@ 172 runs with a high score of 51 .

= = Later life and career = =

Crossland remained in Lancashire after his expulsion from their county side , playing for a variety of club sides ; East Lancashire from 1885 to 1889 , Church and Oswaldtwistle in 1890 and Colne in 1891 . He died on 26 September 1903 in Blackburn . His burial was paid for by Lancashire County Cricket Club . Throwing in cricket came to a head in the early part of the twentieth century when the careers of a number of professional bowlers came to a close , most notably those of Lancashire 's Arthur Mold , Somerset 's Ted Tyler and Leicestershire 's Frederic Geeson .