

= Percy Chapman =

Arthur Percy Frank Chapman (3 September 1900 ? 16 September 1961) , usually known as Percy Chapman , was an English cricketer who captained the England cricket team between 1926 and 1931 . A left @-@ handed batsman , he played 26 Test matches for England , captaining the side in 17 of those games . Chapman was appointed captain for the final , decisive Test of the 1926 series against Australia ; under his captaincy , England defeated Australia to win the Ashes for the first time since 1912 . An amateur cricketer , Chapman played Minor Counties cricket for Berkshire and first @-@ class cricket for Cambridge University and Kent . Never a reliable batsman , Chapman nevertheless had a respectable batting record . He could score runs very quickly and was popular with spectators . As a fielder , contemporaries rated him extremely highly . Although opinions were divided on his tactical ability as a captain , most critics accepted he was an inspirational leader .

Born in Reading , Berkshire and educated at Uppingham School , Chapman established a reputation as a talented school cricketer and was named one of Wisden 's schoolboy Cricketers of the Year in 1919 . He went to Pembroke College , Cambridge and represented the University cricket team with great success ; his fame reached a peak when he scored centuries against Oxford University and in the Gentlemen v Players match within the space of a week . Chapman made his Test debut in 1924 , although he had yet to play County Cricket . Having qualified for Kent , he was the surprise choice to take over from Arthur Carr as England captain in 1926 . He achieved victory in his first nine matches in charge but lost two and drew six of his remaining games . Perceived tactical deficiencies and possibly growing concerns over his heavy drinking meant that Chapman was dropped from the team for the fifth Test against Australia in 1930 . He captained England on one final tour in 1930 ? 31 , after which he never played another Test . After he assumed the Kent captaincy in 1931 , his career and physique declined until he resigned the position in 1936 ; he retired altogether in 1939 , by which time he was drinking heavily .

Chapman 's fame as a cricketer made him a popular public figure ; he and his wife , whom he married in 1925 , were well known figures in fashionable society and their appearances were followed closely in the press . Outside of cricket , he worked for a brewery . In his later years , Chapman increasingly suffered from the effects of alcoholism and was often seen drunk in public . He and his wife divorced in 1942 ; he spent his final years , mainly alone , suffering from depression , arthritis and a continued dependence on alcohol . Following a fall at his home and a subsequent operation , Chapman died in 1961 , aged 61 .

= = Early life = =

Chapman was born on 3 September 1900 in Reading , Berkshire , the son of Frank Chapman , a schoolteacher , and his wife Bertha Finch . Chapman 's father encouraged him to play cricket and coached him personally . Chapman was first educated at his father 's preparatory school , Fritham House , and by the age of eight was in the school 's first eleven . In September 1910 , he joined Oakham School and scored his first century , dominating the cricket and football teams . From 1914 to 1918 , he attended Uppingham School . Although his academic performance was undistinguished , he soon established a cricketing reputation . By 1916 , he was in the Uppingham first team ; he achieved second place in the school 's batting averages , bringing him to the attention of the wider public . Chapman improved his record in 1917 , scoring 668 runs at an average of 111 @.@ 33 ; he hit two fifties , two centuries and a double century in his last five innings .

In 1918 , Chapman scored 472 runs at 52 @.@ 44 and took 15 wickets ; the following year , he captained the team , scored 637 runs at an average of 70 @.@ 77 and took 40 wickets . As a consequence of his achievements , he was chosen as one of the Cricketers of the Year for 1919 in Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack . In both 1918 and 1919 he was selected for prestigious school representative matches at Lord 's Cricket Ground ; although his weak defensive play drew comment , he was regarded as one of the most promising cricketers of his generation when he left Uppingham in 1919 .

= = University cricket = =

In 1919 , Chapman entered Pembroke College , Cambridge . He failed in two trial games , organised prior to the 1920 cricket season to inform the selection of the Cambridge team , and despite his reputation , was omitted from the University 's opening first @-@ class match against Essex . But on the day of the match , a player withdrew from the Cambridge team and Chapman replaced him . Making his first @-@ class debut on 15 May 1920 , he scored 118 in a rapid innings and kept his place in the team for the remainder of the season . After a century and two fifties , he was selected for the University Match against Oxford . Chapman scored 27 in this final game of the university season to aggregate 613 runs at an average of 40 @.@ 86 , second in the Cambridge batting averages . Unusually for someone in their first year of University cricket , he was subsequently selected for the prestigious Gentlemen v Players match at Lord 's . Although not particularly successful with the bat , critics singled him out for his effective fielding . During August , he played second @-@ class Minor Counties cricket for Berkshire as an amateur and headed the team 's batting averages ; he later appeared in three end @-@ of @-@ season first @-@ class games at the Scarborough Festival where he scored 101 in a Gentlemen and Players game against a bowling attack containing three internationals . In all first @-@ class matches in 1920 , Chapman scored 873 runs at 39 @.@ 68 .

In 1921 , Chapman averaged over 50 for the University and scored three centuries , although his growing reputation meant some critics felt he had underachieved . He once again played in the University match against Oxford , and for the Gentlemen against the Players , and impressed commentators . Some critics suggested he , along with other promising University players , should play for England ; the Test side were in the middle of a series against Australia which was lost 3 ? 0 , in the course of which an unusually large number of players were selected . Chapman once more appeared for Berkshire in August , scoring 468 runs and taking 19 wickets . At the end of the season , he was selected by Archie MacLaren in a match at Eastbourne , playing for an all @-@ amateur non @-@ representative England team against the undefeated Australian touring team . In a match which became famous in later years , MacLaren 's team became the first to defeat the tourists , although Chapman was not successful personally . Chapman finished the season with 954 runs at 39 @.@ 75 .

That winter , The Cricketer magazine named Chapman as a young cricketer of the year . However , at the beginning of the 1922 season , his form was so poor that critics suggested leaving him out of the University Match . He had scored 300 runs from 14 innings , but retained his place partially on the strength of his fielding . After Cambridge batted very slowly on the first day , Chapman attacked the bowling on the second morning to score 102 not out . Cambridge won easily , concluding Chapman 's cricket at the university , but his innings impressed critics to the extent that he was again selected for the Gentlemen v Players match at Lord 's . There , he scored 160 and shared century partnerships with Arthur Carr and Frank Mann . Chapman earned praise for his aggression and his stroke @-@ play on the off side . The Times described it as " one of the great innings in the history of the game " . Shortly after this , Sydney Pardon wrote in The Times : " In the cricket field the most interesting figure at the moment is , beyond all comparison , Mr. A. P. F. Chapman . A fortnight ago we were all lamenting his ill @-@ success this season and wondering whether he would ever do justice to his great gifts and fulfil the hopes entertained of him in 1920 . Most effectually he has put his critics to shame ... [he is] in such a position that if an England eleven had to meet Australia next week he would be picked at once with acclamation . " Prior to this , only R. E. Foster had scored centuries in both the University Match and the Gentlemen v Players match in the same year . Chapman ended his season by scoring 805 runs and taking 19 wickets for Berkshire , and playing in festival games . He aggregated 607 runs at 33 @.@ 72 in first @-@ class matches for the season .

Chapman was popular at Cambridge and enjoyed his time there . He took part in a variety of social engagements and became involved in other sports . These included fives , tennis , rugby union , golf and football . He captained Pembroke College at rugby and was close to playing for the full university side . Chapman continued to play rugby for Berkshire Wanderers until he was nearly 30

years old . Also for Pembroke , he played as goalkeeper in the football team and may have played for the university at hockey had he taken the sport seriously . In later years , he also displayed proficiency at tennis , in which critics thought he could have reached a high standard if motivated to do so , and golf .

= = Cricket career in the mid @-@ 1920s = =

= = = MCC tour to Australia and New Zealand = = =

During the English winter of 1922 ? 23 , the MCC selected a team to tour Australia and New Zealand . This side , captained by Archie MacLaren and composed mainly of amateurs , was not particularly strong and contained several players chosen for their social standing rather than cricketing ability . The team played four first @-@ class games in Australia against state teams ; the first was drawn and the others were lost . After scores of 75 and 58 against Western Australia , Chapman played consecutive innings of 53 , 73 and 69 against South Australia and Victoria , followed by 100 in the most eagerly awaited match of the tour against a strong New South Wales side . The press and public praised his attacking batting and his fielding , although Frank Iredale , a former Test cricketer , noticed some flaws in his technique . When the team moved on to New Zealand , after an uncertain start Chapman scored 533 runs at an average of 48 @. @ 45 , including two centuries . The tourists returned to Australia for the last leg of the tour ; Chapman scored 91 against New South Wales and 134 in 142 minutes against South Australia . In all the Australian games , he totalled 782 runs at 65 @. @ 16 ; in all the matches on tour he had 1 @, @ 315 runs at an average of 57 @. @ 15 .

= = = Qualifying for Kent = = =

When Chapman returned to England , he began to work for a brewery based in Kent , H & G Symonds ; his residence in that county allowed him to qualify for Kent County Cricket Club . There were few opportunities for Chapman to appear in first @-@ class cricket until he qualified . His cricket was mainly restricted to club level in 1923 , with some further games for Berkshire . In addition , he played 12 first @-@ class games for a variety of teams ; he was selected for the Gentlemen v Players matches at Lord 's and The Oval , scoring 83 in the latter game , and played in two trial matches for players on the verge of England selection , although no Tests were played that year . In total , he scored 615 first @-@ class runs at 29 @. @ 28 .

The focus of attention during the 1924 season was selection of a team to contest the Ashes during a Test @-@ playing tour of Australia the following winter . Critics regarded Chapman as a certainty for the team . Continuing to play as an amateur , he made his first appearance for Kent in a non @-@ Championship match , as he was still qualifying , and was very successful in early season club matches . That summer , England played South Africa in a Test series and Chapman was selected for a trial game before the first Test . He scored 64 not out and 43 for " The Rest " , and following the withdrawal of a batsman owing to injury before the first Test , Chapman made his Test debut against South Africa on 14 June . He became one of the few cricketers to represent England while playing for a minor county rather than a team playing in the County Championship . Chapman batted once and scored eight runs ; he drew praise from Wisden for an " amazing " catch on the last day as South Africa were heavily beaten . He retained his place for the second Test but did not bat : only four English batsmen were needed in the game which the home side won by an innings . Although selected for the third game , Chapman did not play owing to a motorbike accident . He was not seriously hurt but missed the remainder of the Test series and the Gentlemen v Players game at Lord 's . Upon recovering , he returned to play for Berkshire without much success and played several festival games at the end of the season . By this stage , he had already been selected to tour Australia . In the final match of the season , he was selected for " The Rest " to play the County Champions , Yorkshire . He scored 74 in 50 minutes and hit three sixes , two of them from

consecutive deliveries from Wilfred Rhodes . This was his highest score of the season , in which he made 561 first @-@ class runs at 31 @.@ 16 .

= = = Second tour to Australia = = =

The MCC team to Australia was led by Arthur Gilligan . In the opening matches , Chapman was cheered by the crowds who remembered his achievements on the last tour , but failed to make any significant scores . His first big innings came against Victoria ; he made 72 runs out of 111 scored while he was batting and played a large part in a win for the MCC . Against Queensland in the following match , he scored 80 in 70 minutes and then hit 93 against a representative Australian XI . He was selected for the first four Tests of the five @-@ match series . Batting aggressively , he made several substantial scores but only once passed fifty ? in the third Test , he scored 58 , his first Test half century . During the same Test , Gilligan strained a muscle while bowling and had to leave the field ; Chapman took over as captain . England lost the first three matches , giving Australia an insurmountable lead in the series , but won the fourth . Chapman was left out of the side for the final Test . In the series , he scored 185 runs at an average of 30 @.@ 83 , and critics were divided as to his ability and effectiveness . The former Australian captain Monty Noble believed Chapman could be a good batsman if he curbed his aggression but The Cricketer considered his technique to be faulty . Wisden did not judge Chapman a complete failure and noted that he " made useful scores at times " . In all first @-@ class games , Chapman scored 625 runs at 34 @.@ 72 . Although Chapman had a mixed time on the cricket field , the tour was a success for him socially .

Now qualified to play county cricket for Kent , Chapman played only four times in the County Championship in 1925 , preferring to establish himself in his new career in the brewery trade . Not sufficiently wealthy to play cricket full @-@ time as an amateur , Chapman 's business commitments frequently restricted his appearances on the cricket field . During his limited first @-@ class appearances in 1925 , he scored 207 runs at 25 @.@ 87 and Wisden said that he " did nothing out of the common " .

= = England captain = =

= = = Ashes series of 1926 = = =

By the beginning of the 1926 season , Chapman was no longer the star of English cricket . Although still respected for his earlier achievements , he had a modest record in Test and first @-@ class cricket . During the season , the Australians toured England for another Ashes series . Chapman did not play any early season games and his first match for Kent was against the touring side . He scored 51 , his first first @-@ class fifty since January 1925 . A week later , he scored 159 in the County Championship , bringing him back into contention for an England place , then scored 89 in a Test trial match played against the Australians . Chapman 's appearances for Kent were sporadic for the rest of the season , but he scored 629 runs in his nine County Championship games at an average of 57 @.@ 18 to lead the Kent averages . He also scored a century for the Gentlemen against the Players at Lord 's .

Early in the season , Arthur Carr was named as England captain for the start of the series ; Carr was a popular choice and the only other serious contender at the time was Percy Fender . Chapman played in two of the three trial matches and was chosen for the first Test but did not bat in a match ruined by rain . The second Test was drawn but Chapman scored fifty . Australia dominated most of the third Test but England saved the game ; Chapman scored 15 and 42 not out in the match . However , Carr 's tactical approach during the match was heavily criticised and he dropped a crucial catch on the first morning . Chapman was omitted from the side for the fourth Test , but fielded as substitute when Carr became ill during the game .

As the first four matches of the series were drawn , the final Test , played at The Oval , was decisive . Aware that England had beaten Australia only once in 19 matches , the selectors made

several changes to the team ; Chapman , at the time fourth in the national batting averages , replaced Carr as captain . This decision was controversial ; the press favoured Carr , particularly as Chapman was young , unproven as captain and not fully established in the team . When the match began on 14 August , Chapman won the toss and decided that England should bat first . When it was his turn to bat , he was given a good reception by the crowd . During his innings , Wisden noted , Chapman " hit out in vigorous fashion " , but once he was dismissed for 49 , the remaining batsmen were out quickly , leaving England with a disappointing total of 280 . Australia replied with 302 . On a pitch affected by rain , England then scored 436 , mainly because of a large partnership between opening batsmen Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe . Australia needed to score 415 to win , which was unlikely given the condition of the pitch . The team were bowled out for 125 , and at least one of Chapman 's tactical decisions resulted in Australia losing a wicket . Wisden reported that " not a catch was missed nor was a run given away , the whole England side rising gallantly to the occasion . Naturally a scene of tremendous enthusiasm occurred at the end , the crowd swarming in thousands in front of the pavilion , and loudly cheering the players , both English and Australian . " The correspondent also commented " Chapman ... despite lack of experience in leading a first @-@ class team in the field , turned out a very happy nomination for the post of captain , the young amateur , for the most part , managing his bowling with excellent judgement , and in two or three things he did , showing distinct imagination . " Throughout the match , Chapman chose to follow his own tactics rather than rely on the veteran players in the team for advice . In the series , he scored 175 runs at 58 @.@ 33 .

= = = Aftermath and success = = =

Following the match , Chapman was lauded as a cricketing hero , and among those who sent congratulatory messages were George V and Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin . In all first @-@ class matches in the season , he scored 1 @,@ 381 runs at an average of 51 @.@ 14 , the first time he had passed four figures in a season . In his history of the England cricket captaincy , Alan Gibson notes that the controversy over Chapman 's appointment was soon forgotten following his success . He writes : " English cricket had a new hero who looked the part ... Every selector was a champion ! "

In its summary of the 1927 season , Wisden named him as Kent 's best batsman and noted an improvement in his defensive technique . Against Lancashire , who retained the County Championship , he scored 260 in three hours ' batting , the highest score of his career . The Lancashire bowling attack included former Australian Test bowler Ted McDonald , regarded as the fastest bowler in the world at the time and feared by most county batsmen . Many critics praised Chapman 's innings as one of the best ever played . He was selected to lead the Gentlemen against the Players at Lord 's for the first time , and led representative sides in two of the three Test trials held that season ; the press judged his captaincy to be good . He totalled 1 @,@ 387 runs in first @-@ class games at an average of 66 @.@ 04 , the highest aggregate and average of his career . The Kent captaincy became available at the end of the season , but Chapman was not appointed ; according to Chapman 's biographer , David Lemmon , he was probably approached but was unable to dedicate the necessary time to the position .

Chapman was unavailable for the Test series in South Africa in the winter of 1927 ? 28 , but was a certainty to lead the MCC team to Australia in 1928 ? 29 . The selectors wished him to play more regularly , so he played more often in 1928 than any other season . He began in good form , but was never as effective as in 1927 . Although his captaincy continued to be highly regarded , there were concerns in the press over his increasing weight , although these were offset by his impressive fielding in that season 's Tests . He captained England to a 3 ? 0 series win over West Indies , who were playing their first Test matches , and scored one fifty . In total , he scored 967 first @-@ class runs at 37 @.@ 19 .

As expected , Chapman was named as captain for the Australian tour . The MCC touring team was regarded as a strong one by commentators ; the only controversy was the omission of Frank Woolley which was not fully explained . Rumours in later years said that Chapman was responsible

for leaving Woolley out as he was jealous of his county team @-@ mate , but Lemmon regards this as unlikely .

= = = Tour of Australia 1928 ? 29 = = =

According to Douglas Jardine 's biographer , Christopher Douglas , " [Chapman] hardly put a foot wrong during the tour and , even though he gave Australia their biggest hiding to date , he was and probably remains ... one of the most popular English captains to tour Australia . " From the opening games , England followed a strategy of accumulating large totals . For the first Test , to strengthen the team 's batting , Chapman and the tour selection committee chose only three specialist bowlers ; as the Tests were " timeless " ? played to a finish with no time limit ? he believed batting to be the key to victory . England batted first and scored 521 ; Chapman scored 50 , but critics believed he should have batted more cautiously . When Australia began their innings , he held a catch from Bill Woodfull in the gully which several observers rated as among the best they had seen . Sydney Southerton , writing of the English fielding , said : " The high note was struck by Chapman himself at Brisbane when , with a catch that will be historic , he dismissed Woodfull ... It is my opinion that catch had a pronounced effect on the course of events in the three subsequent Tests ... [Chapman 's fielding] exercised a most restraining influence on the Australian batsmen . " Australia were bowled out for 122 ; Chapman did not ask Australia to follow @-@ on but batted again , to the crowd 's displeasure , and his batsmen relentlessly built up the England lead . When Chapman became the first captain to declare an innings closed in a timeless Test match , Australia needed 742 to win . On a rain @-@ affected pitch , Australia were bowled out for 66 ; England 's win by 675 runs remains in 2016 the largest margin of victory by runs in Tests .

Chapman 's team won the second Test comfortably after scoring 636 in their first innings , the highest team total in Tests at that time . In the third Test , England began the fourth innings requiring 332 to win on a rain @-@ damaged pitch , a task critics believed impossible . A large opening partnership from Hobbs and Sutcliffe gave England a chance , and Hobbs sent a message to the England dressing room suggesting a tactical change in the batting order . But the team could not find Chapman , who according to Percy Fender , in attendance as a journalist , spent most of his time socialising with guests in the Ladies ' Stand . Consequently , the team followed Hobbs ' plan without the approval of the captain . England 's batsmen took the total to within 14 of victory when the fourth wicket fell . Chapman came in and batted in an unusual way ; after attempting some big shots , he played ultra @-@ defensively , possibly in an attempt to allow Patsy Hendren to reach fifty runs before England won . Hendren was out soon after , then Chapman tried to hit a six and was caught . The batsmen continued to play recklessly and a further wicket fell to a run out . Douglas describes the end of the match : " Meanwhile , [England batsman George Geary] was quite unruffled by the sudden upsets . He wound up for the next delivery and thumped it through mid @-@ on for 4 , bellowing , ' Dammit , we 've done ' em ! ' It was an appropriate way for a side under Chapman to win the Ashes . " England 's victory in the third Test ensured the Ashes were retained , and the team also won the fourth Test to take a 4 ? 0 lead in the series .

Up to this time , Chapman had enjoyed a harmonious relationship with the Australian crowds . However , in the match against Victoria which followed the fourth Test , the crowd barracked the MCC team when Chapman brought on Harold Larwood , a fast bowler , to bowl against Bert Ironmonger , the number eleven , a tactic regarded as unsporting . As the team returned to the pavilion , Chapman was insulted by members of the crowd in the midst of a minor scuffle . Possibly influenced by these events , he withdrew from the final Test ; illness and his poor form may also have been factors . According to Lemmon , it was suggested in later years that Chapman did not play owing to his heavy drinking . In his absence , Australia won the fifth Test . After the fifth day of play and having played both his innings , Jardine left to catch a boat to India , for reasons which are unclear , and Chapman acted as his substitute in the field . Douglas notes that it looked like England " were trying to pull a fast one by picking their strongest batting side (which meant dropping Chapman) without weakening the fielding (since Chapman was Jardine 's substitute) . " The Australians agreed to the substitution on the condition that Chapman did not field near the batsmen .

In the Tests , Chapman scored 165 runs at 23 @. @ 57 , and in all first @- @ class matches he reached 533 runs and averaged 33 @. @ 31 . Southerton summarised his performance : " Chapman himself began well in batting but in the later matches was too prone to lash out at the off ball and , as the tour progressed , the Australian bowlers discovered his weakness . " On his captaincy , Southerton wrote : " Chapman captained the side uncommonly well , improving out of all knowledge as the tour progressed . " Socially , Chapman enjoyed the tour ; he attended many functions and events ; Bill Ferguson , the team scorer , only saw him annoyed once on the tour : when his accustomed drink was not waiting for him at a lunch interval .

= = = Ashes series of 1930 = = =

Following the end of the 1928 ? 29 tour , Chapman did not return to England until July , midway through the cricket season ; Jack White and Arthur Carr captained England in his absence . Chapman resumed playing for Kent shortly after his return home but appeared in only seven matches , with a top @- @ score of 28 . His season was curtailed when he fell awkwardly while fielding in a match against Sussex at the beginning of August . He also missed the two MCC tours that winter to New Zealand and West Indies , neither of which involved a full @- @ strength team .

In 1930 , Australia toured England once more . Before the Test series , Chapman was not a unanimous choice among press correspondents ; several critics believed he should not be in the team on account of his rapidly increasing weight ? former England captain Pelham Warner suggested he needed to lose at least two stone ? and concern over his poor batting form . However , Chapman began the season well , impressing commentators with his batting , fielding and captaincy , and was named as England captain for the first Test match . In the first innings , he scored 52 in 65 minutes , and England won the match by 93 runs on the fourth day . The Wisden correspondent wrote : " Chapman , with his resources limited , managed his bowling well and himself fielded in dazzling fashion . " This was Chapman 's sixth successive victory over Australia and he had won all nine of the Tests in which he was captain . However , it was to be his last Test victory .

England lost the second Test by seven wickets , and Gibson describes the match as the " turning point in Chapman 's fortunes " . Wisden observed : " Briefly , the Englishmen lost a match , which , with a little discretion on the last day , they could probably have saved . " England scored 425 in their first innings , but Donald Bradman hit 254 runs and Australia reached 729 for six declared . When Chapman came in to bat in the second innings , England still trailed by 163 runs and had lost four wickets ? a fifth fell soon after . He attacked the bowling immediately , and shared a large partnership with Gubby Allen . When the latter was out , Chapman began to score even faster . He took England into the lead , hitting out at almost every delivery to reach his only Test century after 140 minutes ' batting . Wisden commented : " It was about this time that , with a little care and thoughtfulness , England might have saved the game ... So far from devoting their energies to defence they continued hitting away , adding another 113 runs in an hour and a quarter afterwards but losing their last five wickets . " Chapman was finally dismissed for 121 , after batting for 155 minutes and striking 12 fours and 4 sixes . England were all out for 375 , leaving Australia needing to score 72 runs to win . Although Chapman held a difficult catch from Bradman which was praised by commentators , Australia won comfortably . Chapman 's century made him the first batsman to score centuries at Lord 's in the University match , in the Gentlemen v Players game and for England in a Test match ; only Martin Donnelly later performed a similar feat , though his Test century was scored for New Zealand . As the Gentlemen v Players match ceased in 1962 , the feat will never be repeated .

In the immediate aftermath of the game , Chapman was praised for his batting ; the team and selectors , rather than Chapman , were blamed for the defeat . However , his captaincy and tactics were later criticised , by Pelham Warner among others . In particular , his placement of fielders and his refusal to play defensively were questioned . Gibson notes that historians regard this match as a turning point in Test matches ; afterwards , captains became more concerned to avoid defeat rather

than follow Chapman 's policy of playing entertaining , attacking cricket whatever the result . Chapman 's unwillingness to play for a draw was in later years held up as " the last sporting gesture by an England captain " .

In the third Test , Bradman made the highest individual score in a Test match by scoring 334 out of Australia 's 566 . Assisted by rain that shortened the available playing time , England drew the match . Chapman scored 45 in his only innings . The fourth Test match was also badly affected by rain which brought about another draw . Chapman now faced further criticism of his captaincy . His field placings were again queried ; Warner noted that Chapman 's tactics were poor and that he was slow to react to the opposition . According to cricket writer Leo McKinstry , the selectors lost faith in Chapman on account of his inconsistent , risky batting and his increased tactical shortcomings . However , McKinstry also writes that the selectors and other influential members of the cricketing establishment were privately concerned by Chapman 's heavy drinking which they felt was affecting his leadership . There were also rumours that he was drunk during some sessions of the fourth Test . Following an extended meeting of the selectors , Chapman was left out of the side and replaced as captain by Bob Wyatt . The press were united in attacking the decision , praising Chapman 's batting and captaincy while denigrating Wyatt 's lack of experience . Gibson observes : " In 1930 , despite the occasional criticisms , Chapman 's position did not seem in any danger . He was still the popular , boyish , debonair hero . He had been having his most successful series with the bat , and as a close fieldsman England still did not contain his equal . He could not seriously be blamed because the English bowlers could not get Bradman out (though this was perhaps more apparent in retrospect than at the time) . Wyatt , though nothing was known against him ... was a figure markedly lacking in glamour . "

In the final Test , Bradman scored another century and England lost the match and series , although Wyatt played a substantial innings , and Wisden conceded Chapman could have made little difference except as a fielder . The two men remained friends during and after the controversy . In comparing circumstances of Chapman 's appointment with those of his replacement by Wyatt , Gibson writes : " In 1926 , England won : in 1930 , England lost . That is why the echoes took so long to die down and why the selectors remained villains . " He concludes that , even though Wyatt did relatively well , " It does seem , after all these years , an odd decision to have taken . " In the series , Chapman scored 259 runs at 43 @. @ 16 . In all first @- @ class cricket , he passed four figures for the final time , reaching 1 @, @ 027 runs at an average of 29 @. @ 34 .

= = = South Africa tour 1930 ? 31 = = =

Already chosen as tour captain before the final 1930 Ashes Test , Chapman led an MCC team to a 1 ? 0 series defeat in South Africa the following winter . Several first @- @ choice players were not selected and the team suffered from injuries and illness . Chapman was popular with the crowds but made a poor start to the tour with the bat until he scored more substantially in the lead @- @ up to the Test series . England lost the opening match of the series by 28 runs and the other four were drawn . Needing to win the final match to level the series , England were frustrated when the start of the match was delayed . Chapman won the toss and chose to bowl on a damp pitch which would have favoured his bowlers . However , the umpires discovered the bails were the wrong size and would not start the game until new ones could be made ; in the 20 minutes which were lost , the pitch dried out and England lost much of the advantage of bowling first . Chapman made an official protest before leading his team onto the field . In the series , he scored 75 runs at 10 @. @ 71 , and 471 runs at 27 @. @ 70 in all first @- @ class games . Wisden observed that " without finding his full powers as a punishing hitter , Chapman occasionally batted well " . Socially , the tour was more successful . Chapman was accompanied by his wife , and his parents joined the tour for a time . He took part in many social events and visited several whiskey firms which were associated with his employers in England .

Chapman played no further Test cricket ; in 26 Tests , he scored 925 runs at an average of 28 @. @ 90 and held 32 catches . He captained England in 17 matches , winning nine and losing two with the others drawn . Under him the team achieved seven consecutive victories , equalling the English

record , which was not surpassed until 2004 . His nine victories came in his first nine games as captain .

= = Later career = =

= = = Kent captain = = =

Although Chapman lost the England captaincy after the South African tour , he became official captain of Kent in 1931 , having previously captained the side occasionally . Wisden commented that Chapman " exercised an invigorating influence " on the side . Before Chapman assumed the Kent captaincy , the county team was sharply divided along social lines and the amateur leadership was aloof from and often dismissive of the professional players . Members of the team felt that he improved the atmosphere within the side and made the game enjoyable . Critics and players thought that he was past his best by the time he became captain , and already affected by alcoholism , but Chapman was successful as leader . His fielding remained influential . However , his batting form was poor : in 1931 , he scored 662 runs at an average of 18 @. @ 38 . Sections of the press thought he should remain England captain , but he was replaced as Test captain by Jardine , who was not a popular choice ; the selectors chose Jardine to exercise more discipline on the team than Chapman had done . At the end of the season , Chapman toured Jamaica in a team captained by Lord Tennyson and scored 203 runs in first @-@ class matches at 33 @. @ 83 .

Chapman began the 1932 season in good form and appeared fitter than he had for many seasons . There were further calls in the press for him to captain England . Jardine 's captaincy in 1931 left critics unimpressed and C. Stewart Caine , the editor of Wisden , wrote that " the impression appears to be widely entertained that Chapman , were he in [batting] form , would again be given charge of the [England] team . " Christopher Douglas believes that the difference between Jardine and Chapman in captaincy style made it harder for the press to accept Jardine . He writes : " Chapman 's was just the kind of daredevil approach that is remembered with affection and , even though it was barely a year since he had lost the leadership , his reign was being regarded through rose @-@ coloured specs . " However , it is unlikely that the selectors ever considered returning to him . During the season , Chapman scored 951 runs , averaged 29 @. @ 71 , and led Kent to third place in the County Championship for the second year in succession .

= = = Decline = = =

In 1933 , he scored 834 runs but his average fell to 21 @. @ 94 and he never again averaged over 23 in any season in which he played regularly . Owing to his increasing weight and lack of physical fitness , he found batting much harder . As his physique declined , he was unable to produce the same batting feats he had managed previously . In the field , although still catching effectively , his inability to chase the ball meant he fielded closer to the batsmen ; he also took fewer catches . In both 1934 and 1935 , he averaged around 22 with the bat and scored under 800 runs . In 1935 , he scored his final first @-@ class century , against Somerset , having not reached the landmark since 1931 . Team @-@ mates and observers noticed that in the final years of his career , Chapman frequently left the field during matches , and they suspected he was drinking in the pavilion .

Chapman played infrequently in 1936 , and the captaincy was shared between him and two others . He was reluctant to bat , to the extent of dropping down the batting order to avoid doing so , and his friends believed that his nerve had gone . At the end of the season , he announced that business commitments forced him to give up the captaincy . Over the following three seasons , Chapman played for Kent in three more matches : against the New Zealand touring side in 1937 and in two Championship games in 1938 . He also captained a non @-@ representative England XI in a festival game against the New Zealanders in 1937 , batting at number ten in the order and scoring 61 . His remaining first @-@ class matches were low @-@ profile games against Oxford and Cambridge Universities ; he played 13 games in his final three seasons . In his last first @-@ class

game , in 1939 , he captained MCC against Oxford , scoring 12 and 0 . In all first @-@ class cricket , Chapman scored 16 @,@ 309 runs in 394 matches at an average of 31 @.@ 97 , and held 356 catches . By the time his career ended , his weight had increased even further , and Lemmon believes that he had become an embarrassment to other cricketers . Subsequently , Chapman faded away without much comment .

= = Technique and critical judgements = =

Writer Neville Cardus described Chapman as " the schoolboy 's dream of the perfect captain of an England cricket eleven . He was tall , slim , always youthful , and pink and chubby of face . His left @-@ handed batting mingled brilliance and grace ... His cricket was romantic in its vaunting energy but classic in shape . " While batting , Chapman always tried to attack the bowling ; although this meant he made mistakes which resulted in his dismissal , it meant that he could change the course of a game in a short time . Cricket writer R. C. Robertson @-@ Glasgow described him as : " Tall , strong , and lithe , he was a left @-@ handed hitter with orthodox defence , much of which was rendered unnecessary by a vast reach , and an ability to drive good @-@ length balls over the head of mid @-@ off , bowler , and mid @-@ on . His cover @-@ driving , too , was immensely strong . " Gibson notes that Chapman 's career batting figures were good , but that critics believed that , with his talent , he should have scored more runs . Gibson writes : " When Chapman was going well , he looked quite as good as Woolley [his Kent and England team @-@ mate] at the other end , and in the mid @-@ 1920s there was no other English left @-@ hander , possibly no other England batsman at all except Hobbs , of whom that could be said . " His increased weight in the 1930s robbed him of confidence and slowed him down to the point where his batting declined . When batting , Chapman usually wore the Quidnuncs cap .

Commentators claimed that Chapman was not a subtle captain and lacked tactical astuteness . Even so , his record is better than most others who led England during Chapman 's career . Pelham Warner believed that Chapman started well , but that in the later stages of 1930 , his tactical sense markedly deteriorated . On the other hand , several of Chapman 's contemporaries believed him to be one of the best captains . Arthur Gilligan , one of Chapman 's predecessors , considered him to be a model for the role , and Bert Oldfield , who played against Chapman as Australia 's wicket @-@ keeper , thought that Chapman possessed an " aptitude " for leadership . Chapman 's teams were usually harmonious and his sympathetic handling of his players often brought out the best in them . Writing in 1943 , Robertson @-@ Glasgow said : " He knew his men as perhaps no other captain of modern times has known them . " Cricket writer E. W. Swanton believes that Chapman 's cavalier reputation was misleading in assessing his effectiveness , and that " underlying the boyish facade was both a shrewd cricket brain and the good sense to ask advice from those of greater experience . "

Robertson @-@ Glasgow described Chapman as among the greatest fielders of all time , and The Times observed that " at his best he had been one of the finest fielders ever to play for England " . In his earlier years , he fielded in the deep but when he played for Kent and England , he was positioned closer to the batsmen ? usually at gully or silly point . The Cricketer commented that his " capacious hands made him a brilliant close @-@ to @-@ the @-@ wicket fielder , and some of his catches were miraculous " . In his youth , Chapman bowled quite regularly , but his negative experience bowling for Berkshire lessened his enthusiasm , and he did not take it seriously .

= = Personal life = =

= = = Marriage and fame = = =

During May 1921 , Chapman met Gertrude (" Beet " or " Beety ") Lowry , the sister of Tom Lowry , a cricketer from New Zealand who played for Cambridge and Somerset and went on to captain his country . The couple met again when Chapman toured New Zealand in 1922 ? 23 , and became

engaged . At the end of the 1924 ? 25 Australia tour , they married and returned to England together . The wedding was widely reported and until the end of the decade the couple were heavily involved in social events . They were popular guests at functions , and became notable figures in the fashionable society of the upper classes . In 1923 , Chapman joined a Kent brewery , H & G Symonds . His wife believed that his choice of a career working in the alcohol trade made his life difficult and contributed to his heavy drinking . The social duties associated with his job also contributed to his increased weight and failing fitness in the later part of his cricket career . Further problems arose through his fame ; as he wanted to keep people happy , he drank frequently and attended many social functions . Cricket writer Ivo Tennant believes that Chapman 's " taste for conviviality was his undoing " . He always appeared happy , but Gibson observes " that is the way some men disguise their unhappiness " , and Lemmon suggests that Chapman was seeking acceptance and felt lonely at heart . According to Lemmon , by the end of the Second World War , Chapman was largely living in the past , and that " mentally he was still in the happy days of University cricket . "

= = = Later struggle = = =

E. W. Swanton observes that " from the war onwards [Chapman 's] life went into a sad eclipse . " In 1942 , Chapman was divorced from his wife ; according to Lemmon , " Beet had stood much , but there is a point for all relationships beyond which one must not go " . She returned to live in New Zealand in 1946 . After 1946 , Chapman shared a house with the steward of West Hill Golf Club , Bernard Benson , and his health continued to deteriorate . He was frequently observed to be drunk in public , although his appearance and manners remained impeccable ; the cricket establishment ignored him , regarding him as an embarrassment , particularly on the occasions he watched matches at Lord 's . By the end of his life , he was unable to attend any cricket matches . In addition to his alcoholism , Chapman became increasingly isolated , suffering from loneliness and depression . By the 1950s , he had developed arthritis , probably as a result of his sporting activities . On one occasion in 1955 , Chapman was invited to a dinner organised by Kent ; he was later discovered in the car park on the bumper of a car in a distressed state and had to be assisted back inside .

In September 1961 , Chapman fractured his knee when he fell at his home . He was taken to hospital for an operation but died on 16 September 1961 . The newspapers reported that he had been ill for a long time ; his former wife later commented that " he must have died a very sad man " . Tributes focused on his successes as a cricketer and appealing personality . Summing up Chapman 's life , Gibson writes : " But just as a good end can redeem a sad life , so a good life can redeem a sad end , and he had known his hours , his years of glory . " Swanton concluded his obituary of Chapman in 1961 : " The elderly and the middle @-@ aged will recall him rather in his handsome sunlit youth , the epitome of all that was gay and fine in the game of cricket . "