

= Herbie Hewett =

Herbert Tremenheere " Herbie " Hewett (25 May 1864 ? 4 March 1921) was an English amateur cricketer who played for Somerset , captaining the county from 1889 to 1893 , as well as Oxford University and the Marylebone Cricket Club . A battling left @-@ handed opening batsman , Hewett could post a large score in a short time against even the best bowlers . Capable of hitting the ball powerfully , he combined an excellent eye with an unorthodox style to be regarded at his peak as one of England 's finest batsmen .

Hewett was educated at Harrow School , won a Blue at Oxford in 1886 and played for Somerset from 1884 . As an inconsistent middle @-@ order batsman he made little impact during this period . Even so , he was appointed captain of Somerset in 1889 . Over the next two years , his leadership and performances as an opening batsman were instrumental in the county regaining first @-@ class status and admission to the County Championship in 1891 . He remained Somerset captain for a further three seasons , usually opening the batting with Lionel Palairet . In 1892 , they shared a partnership of 346 for the first wicket , of which Hewett scored 201 . The stand remains the county 's highest first @-@ wicket partnership . In that season , Hewett made 1 @,@ 405 runs at an average of more than 35 , and was named as one of the " Five Batsmen of the Year " by Wisden . England did not play any Test matches at home in 1892 , or else Hewett would probably have won a Test cap ; instead his highest accolade was being selected to play for the Gentlemen against the Players at Lord 's in 1894 . A disagreement over whether play should take place on a sodden pitch in the match against the Australians in 1893 led to Hewett 's departure from Somerset at the end of that season .

He played first @-@ class cricket for three more years , during which time he scored centuries against both Oxford and Cambridge Universities , appearing for a variety of amateur and representative sides . Having been selected to captain an " England XI " at Scarborough in 1895 , Hewett was involved in another incident caused by a wet pitch . Feeling insulted by shouts of derision from the crowd , he left the match at lunch @-@ time on the first day . He made only one further first @-@ class appearance : playing for the Marylebone Cricket Club against Oxford University in 1896 . Hewett practised as a barrister , having been called to the Bar at the Inner Temple .

= = Early life = =

Herbert Tremenheere Hewett was born at Norton Court in Norton Fitzwarren , near Taunton on 25 May 1864 , the only son of William Henry and Frances M Hewett . Although he was the couple 's only son , they had at least four daughters ; in 1871 two older sisters , Emily Louisa and Helen G are listed in the census , along with one younger sister , Florance Ethel . By 1891 , Mary W is also listed as a younger sister , although by this date both older sisters are no longer registered at the address nor their father William Henry . He was initially educated at Hillside , Godalming where he was captain of the cricket and rugby teams . On leaving Hillside in 1879 he went to Harrow School . In 1881 he had a trial for the school cricket eleven mainly on the strength of his bowling , having taken all ten wickets for 22 runs in a house match . Hewett was part of the school 's cricket first eleven in 1882 and 1883 , and appeared in the annual contest against Eton College in both years , but did little on either occasion , his highest score being six , made in the first @-@ innings in 1882 . In all matches for Harrow he had a batting average of just 7 @.@ 4 in 1883 and 9 @.@ 5 in 1884 while his bowling average in 1884 was 32 @.@ 10 . Hewett also appeared in the school association football eleven in 1883 . On completion of his studies at Harrow , he attended Trinity College , Oxford . In his reminiscences , W. G. Grace suggests that Hewett " first won some little renown in Public School and ' Varsity cricket , but it was not until he joined Somersetshire that he forced himself to a prominent place in County Cricket . "

= = Oxford and Somerset (1884 ? 1888) = =

After appearing in The Freshman 's Match in 1884 , during which he scored zero and eight and took two wickets , Hewett made little impact in his first season at Oxford and was not selected for the University eleven . His debut in first @-@ class cricket came later that season for Somerset County Cricket Club at Tunbridge Wells , when he was 20 years old . Against Kent in late August , he scored 14 and 0 batting as part of the middle order , and claimed his only two wickets in first @-@ class cricket . He made one other appearance in 1884 , against Lancashire .

In 1885 Hewett played in a trial match at Oxford without success . He did , however , play in four of Somerset 's six first @-@ class matches that summer . In his first game of the season for Somerset , in mid @-@ July , Hewett scored his maiden half @-@ century ; he remained 50 not out in the second @-@ innings of a five @-@ wicket victory over Hampshire . He passed 50 for Somerset on two more occasions during 1885 , and finished the season with 247 runs at a batting average of 35 @.@ 28 , one of seven seasons in which his average was in excess of 30 .

He started the 1886 season well , scoring 151 for his college and 164 not out for Perambulators against Etceteras . An 1893 write @-@ up in Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack said : " early in the season of 1886 [Hewett] showed signs of the brilliant hitting which has since made him famous " . Although he top @-@ scored in the Seniors Match , he was not selected for the eleven until the university 's third game . He made scores of 49 and 77 in successive matches for Oxford University against Lancashire and gained his Blue , scoring 0 and 7 in the University Match against Cambridge . He finished the season fourth in the Oxford University batting averages with his 160 runs being scored at 22 @.@ 85 , and was described in James Lillywhite 's Cricketers ' Annual as being : " Sometimes a most dashing left @-@ handed hitter , but not at all dependable ; hard @-@ working field . "

Poor results in 1885 saw Somerset lose their first @-@ class status for the following seasons . Somerset played just six matches in 1886 of which Hewett played two , top @-@ scoring with 69 against Devon . An injury to his hand prevented him from playing all but one match for the university in his final year at Oxford , 1887 , when " he would have had a good chance of retaining his place in the University eleven " , according to Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack , although he was fit enough to score a century with a broomstick in a college match . During 1887 , in a second @-@ class match for Somerset against Warwickshire , Hewett scored 98 to help Somerset to an innings victory , scoring the first 92 runs in less than an hour , an unusually high rate of scoring .

The next year , 1888 , he scored successive half @-@ centuries for Somerset early in the season against Warwickshire and Staffordshire before making his debut for the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) . Facing Oxford University , Hewett made zero and eight for the London club . The same summer , Hewett was selected to play for an England XI against the touring Australians , and in a ten wicket win for the tourists , he scored 12 and 1 . Between 1884 and 1888 Hewett had limited success at the first @-@ class level , establishing a reputation as a useful , if erratic , hard @-@ hitting middle @-@ order batsman . He played a lot of club cricket , being a regular for Harrow Wanderers , and scoring 201 not out for Senior Common Room against Christ Church in 1888 .

= = Captaining Somerset = =

= = = Second @-@ class county = = =

Hewett 's appearances for Somerset in 1889 were more successful . Having previously appeared in the middle @-@ order , Hewett switched to opening the innings at the start of the season , and took on the captaincy . He scored three half @-@ centuries in the season : two against Warwickshire , and one against Staffordshire . He comfortably headed the Somerset batting with an average of 38 in matches against the other second @-@ class counties . In his history of Somerset cricket , Sunshine , Sixes and Cider , David Foot describes Hewett 's selection policy as captain as being one that was more dependent on the cricketing ability of the player than " of [the player 's] social charm and ability to drink into the early hours " ? unlike some of his predecessors .

In 1890 , his side were unbeaten against county opposition , winning the " Second @-@ class

County Championship " . In an early season first @-@ class appearance for A. J. Webbe 's XI , Hewett scored his maiden first @-@ class century , reaching 114 against Cambridge University . Later in May , for the MCC against Oxford University , he scored 71 . Hewett top @-@ scored with 65 in the second @-@ innings of Somerset 's opening county match of 1890 , and two matches later scored 64 during a first @-@ wicket partnership of 115 with Lionel Palairet against Leicestershire . A string of lower scores followed for just under a month before Somerset hosted Staffordshire at Taunton . Having dismissed the visitors for 43 , Hewett remained 203 not out when he declared the Somerset innings closed , scored in four hours , " a remarkable display of powerful and well @-@ timed hitting " . He did not pass 100 again that season , but came close during the Scarborough Festival , being bowled for 99 in the second @-@ innings for the Gentlemen of England . Hewett led Somerset 's batting averages in 1890 , during which the club won twelve and tied one of their thirteen matches against county opposition . Due to this record the county were admitted to the County Championship for 1891 after a unanimous vote , regaining their first @-@ class status .

While Red Lillywhite assessed him as " a dangerous left @-@ hand bat , very free , but somewhat uncertain ; good point " , after the 1889 season , a year later he was described as " one of the very best left @-@ hand bats in England , hitting hard all round ; excellent point . Captain in 1889 ? 1890 , which post he filled with wonderful judgement . " At the end of the 1890 season he was presented with a handsome silver flask by members of Somerset County Cricket Club .

= = = County Championship cricket = = =

Hewett led his side in their first County Championship match starting on 18 May 1891 . Although the club had played first @-@ class cricket a few years earlier , the championship had only been formed the previous season . Their debut in the competition was interrupted by rain and finished a draw ; Hewett top @-@ scored in Somerset 's only innings with 31 . Somerset 's next match was against reigning county champions Surrey . Lionel Palairet , Bill Roe and Sammy Woods were all missing for various reasons , leaving Hewett with a depleted side and only two real bowlers ; Ted Tyler and George Nichols . Surrey reached 449 , and then bowled Somerset out twice , for 37 in each innings . When Surrey travelled to Taunton later that season , most likely expecting an easy win to secure a second consecutive championship , Hewett top @-@ scored for his team with 55 in the first @-@ innings as Somerset reached 194 . Woods , Nichols and Tyler then secured a 40 run first @-@ innings lead for the home side who added another 331 runs in their second @-@ innings , Hewett contributing 42 . The same trio of Somerset bowlers proceeded to bowl the champions out for a second time , the final wicket falling two minutes from the close of play , and their team recorded a 130 @-@ run victory . Hewett had a quiet season with the bat , in addition to his 55 against Surrey he passed 50 on only one other occasion ; against Middlesex two weeks later . He totalled 514 runs during the season at an average of 19 @.@ 76 ; his lowest average when playing eight or more innings in a season .

= = Touring North America = =

Following the close of the 1891 County Championship , Hewett was part of Lord Hawke 's party which toured North America , playing six matches in the United States of America and two in Canada . Sammy Woods wrote that Hewett , along with Charles Wreford @-@ Brown and George Ricketts , became very seasick on the journey there . The first two matches were first @-@ class fixtures against the Gentlemen of Philadelphia . Hewett scored 30 and 49 in the first , an eight wicket loss which Woods blamed on taking place too soon after their arrival , claiming the team " had hardly found our land @-@ legs . " The first match had yielded an aggregate of 861 runs , the second contained only 352 , of which Hewett scored 10 and 29 . His captain , Lord Hawke , was the only other batsman to reach double figures in both innings as the touring side won by four wickets . None of the remaining fixtures on the tour had first @-@ class status , and not all were eleven @-@ a @-@ side contests . Hewett scored 113 against the sixteen man All New York on Staten Island , a match in which he was standing in as captain due to Lord Hawke being ill . Woods rated Hewett ,

along with Lord Hawke and Brown , as the best batsmen on the tour .

= = Batsman of the Year = =

Hewett 's first three matches of the 1892 season were for representative sides against the universities . He reached double figures in each of his six innings , and scored a half @-@ century for the Gentlemen of England against Cambridge . On returning to Somerset , he did not score a half @-@ century until his third match , making 54 against Oxford University . He passed 50 on twelve occasions during the season , the most during any season of his career . In late August , playing Yorkshire , Hewett scored 201 out of a partnership of 346 , establishing a record for the first wicket in first @-@ class cricket , surpassing W.G. Grace and Bransby Cooper 's 1869 total of 283 . Although their record has since been beaten in first @-@ class cricket , it remains Somerset 's record partnership for the first wicket . Their partnership was described as " Pure grace at one end , sheer force at the other " , in H.S. Altham and E. W. Swanton 's A History of Cricket . At the time , The Daily Telegraph reported that the pair remained together for three and half hours , during which Hewett scored 30 fours .

Hewett finished the season with 1 @,@ 047 runs for Somerset , making him the only batsman in England to score 1 @,@ 000 runs in county matches . In total he scored 1 @,@ 407 first @-@ class runs , the most by any batsman , and was third in the amateur batting averages . He was named as one of the Five Batsmen of the Year by the Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack in 1893 , in which it was claimed that " had it been necessary last August [1892] to put a representative England eleven into the field , Hewett would undoubtedly have been given a place . " Under Hewett 's captaincy , Somerset won eight , drew three and lost five matches in 1892 , finishing third in the County Championship , which would remain their highest position for over 100 years , until the county were runners @-@ up in the competition in 2001 . The Times praised the county 's achievements during the year , and reserved special praise for Hewett ; " Somerset 's many brilliant feats , and the fine play of Messrs. Hewett and Palaret in particular , were a marked feature of this year 's cricket . " After the close of the County Championship , Hewett appeared in three representative matches , captaining the West to victory over the East , and appearing under the captaincy of W.G. Grace for both the South and the Gentlemen v Players .

= = Departure from Somerset = =

Hewett began the 1893 season in good form , reaching his half @-@ century in each of his first three matches for the county , including a total of 94 against Oxford University in late May . Hewett missed most of the match against Kent shortly after , returning to Taunton due to the death of his brother @-@ in @-@ law , during which time George Wood replaced him as a substitute . In July 1893 , the touring Australians played Somerset at Taunton for the first time since 1882 , when both the ground and the county team were barely established . After the success of the 1892 season , and because talented , Australian @-@ born Sammy Woods was playing for Somerset , the match was eagerly anticipated . Thousands arrived in Taunton for the match , but after overnight torrential rain , the umpires inspected the pitch at 11 : 00 and abandoned play for the day . In his history of the county club , Roebuck suggest that they may have been put under pressure by the Australians or by Hewett himself . The Somerset fans and members were angry at the decision , but the Australians packed picnic baskets and after exchanging strong words with the locals , departed for the Quantock Hills . Hewett , along with Woods and Vernon Hill , arranged to play golf in Minehead . The crowd continued to show their dismay at the decision , and eventually the Somerset officials asked the umpires to take another look at the ground . Woods supported this decision in his reminiscences , claiming that " the decision not to play was premature . " At 14 : 00 , after their second inspection , the umpires retracted their previous decision and announced that play could start . Hewett reacted angrily , and argued unsuccessfully against the decision with the Somerset committee . The Australian players were recalled from their picnic , and play began at 16 : 00 , although neither team particularly wanted to play . Roebuck recorded that " Hewett , in particular ,

was in high dudgeon and ... he threw away his wicket for 12 runs , having been dropped once . " David Foot offered a more tempered opinion , saying simply that Hewett 's " mind wasn 't on the game . " No play was possible on the second day , and on the third , Australia won the match by six wickets . Hewett felt let down by the Somerset committee , who he felt had undermined his authority , prompting him to say that " if a captain can 't lead at Taunton , this is no place for him . " Although friends thought he was overreacting , he declared that he would resign from the captaincy and the club at the end of the season . Both Foot and Roebuck suggested that Hewett reacted in an over @-@ sensitive and extreme manner , but that his lack of self @-@ control may have limited his long @-@ term captaincy prospects .

In his five further games for Somerset before the end of the season Hewett hit two centuries . He reached 120 runs against Nottinghamshire and against Gloucestershire , on his final appearance for the county , he scored 112 runs in just under two hours ; according to James Lillywhite 's Cricketers ' Annual , it " was a splendid display " . He scored 1 @,@ 092 runs in total during 1893 , of which his 669 for Somerset in the championship were scored at an average of 31 @.@ 85 , topping the county 's batting charts . During his five seasons of first @-@ class cricket for Somerset , he played 51 matches and scored 2 @,@ 592 runs at an average of 30 @.@ 85 .

= = Later cricket career and life = =

After leaving Somerset , Hewett did not continue in county cricket at all , opting to play first @-@ class cricket only for amateur and representative sides . At the tail @-@ end of the 1893 season , he played three times for the South , scoring two half @-@ centuries . In July 1894 , Hewett made the second of his two appearances for the Gentlemen against the Players . Unlike his first appearance , made at Hastings , the match was played at Lord 's Cricket Ground , which was generally considered to be the more prestigious Gentlemen v Players fixture of the season , being the more representative . These matches were keenly contested during the 1890s , and were considered to be second in prestige only to gaining a Test cap . Batting at number three , Hewett scored 12 runs out of the Gentlemen 's total of 254 , before Stanley Jackson and Hewett 's former Somerset colleague , Sammy Woods , bowled the Players out for 108 and 107 . He appeared 11 times in 1894 , scoring 579 runs at an average of 34 @.@ 05 , higher than the previous season . Woods described Hewett as being " in splendid form " when he played , and lamented that he was no longer playing for Somerset . He scored his only century of the season for A. J. Webbe 's XI , reaching 110 after opening the innings against Oxford University . He continued his form with the bat into 1895 , twice scoring centuries for the Gentlemen against the universities , making 109 against Cambridge , and 102 against Oxford . During this season Hewett appeared in his first match for the amateur side I Zingari , who had strong links with both Harrow School and Somerset president Sir Spencer Ponsonby @-@ Fane .

Hewett played all three matches of the 1895 Scarborough Festival ; he opened the innings for the MCC against Yorkshire , and then captained the South in their loss against the North . In the third match , Hewett was named captain of an England XI , a compliment for the former Somerset captain . However , rain meant that the start was delayed . Unlike a couple of years earlier , Hewett was happy to ignore the puddles in the field and start the match at the scheduled time . The umpires disagreed with him , and the crowd , wanting cricket , blamed Hewett for the delay and lack of sport . When he belatedly led his side onto the field , the spectators threw insults at him until the Yorkshire captain , Lord Hawke , shouted " Keep quiet or I 'll think about calling the game off " . Hewett did not bother with such threats , and left the field , got changed and departed from the ground , taking no further part in the game . Fred Spofforth replaced him in the match which the England side went on to win by nine wickets .

During the English winter of 1895 ? 96 , Hewett once again toured with Lord Hawke , travelling to South Africa . Arriving too late to take part in the first match of the tour , he then played the next four matches , but was summoned back to England by important business . The tour included three matches against a South African national team which were deemed to be Tests , but by this stage of the tour Hewett had left South Africa , and he thus completed his cricket career without any Test

appearances . He played his final first @-@ class match in 1896 , scoring 86 for the MCC against Oxford University . In this match , for unknown reasons , he appeared as " Mr. H Herbert " .

" When Mr ' Herbert ' came in to bat ... many of the spectators in the free seats did not recognise him , but after he had sampled an over or two , an old gentleman , who had shown some knowledge of the game , hit the nail on the head when he remarked : I don 't remember to have seen this Mr ' Erbert ' before but he 's ' class ' . "

He continued to play cricket for the Harrow Wanderers , MCC and I Zingari until 1901 . At the time of the 1901 Census , Hewett was living in Westminster . He was listed as head of the household , the only other resident being a servant .

Hewett practised as a barrister , having trained at the Inner Temple , where he passed at least one exam in 1890 . During the First World War , he served in the Territorial Force Reserve as an Assistant Provost Marshal , an appointment which he held from 7 September 1915 until 24 May 1918 . He died in Hove , Sussex on 4 March 1921 , and his funeral was held in Norton Fitzwarren four days later . His obituary in The Times describes only Hewett 's cricket career , and does not give any details about his later life . It does not mention a spouse or any children . The notice of his funeral in the same paper says : " The whole village [of Norton Fitzwarren] was in mourning and among those present at the graveside were Mr H. E. Murray Anderdon , president , and Mr S. M. J. Woods , secretary of the Somerset Cricket Club . "

= = Personality and style = =

When Hewett was named as one of the Five Batsmen of the Year by Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack in 1893 , the publication described him as " the finest left @-@ handed batsman in England " . He played in an unorthodox but attractive fashion , which prompted W.G. Grace to praise " his dashing and fearless hitting " , while remarking that he had an awkward style . In Somerset , Cider and Sixes , David Foot described that he was " possessed of an eagle eye , considerable meat and the ability to make his forcing shots attractive . " In Peter Roebuck 's From Sammy to Jimmy , he offered a similar portrait of Hewett 's batting style , adding that " he saw it as his task to conquer " . Hewett 's batting received praise in H. S. Altham and E. W. Swanton 's A History of Cricket , where he is described as a " singularly determined and venomous " batsman who " hit the ball in unexpected and demoralizing directions . " He frequently scored his runs rapidly , as described by the Reverend R.S. Holmes , who wrote of his batting against Nottinghamshire ; " the Captain scored at his usual rate ? three out of four runs notched , represent his pace . Against Surrey he got 61 out of 81 , this time 60 out of the same total . That 's the kind of example every captain should set ? a run a minute , or thereabouts . " In summary of the 1892 season The Cricket Annual notes that " the Somerset player , in fact , had established the reputation of being the most punishing batsman and rapid scorer of the day , and on last season 's form no representative eleven could be considered complete without him . " Sammy Woods claimed that Hewett disliked fielding , but offered the view that he was good at point . Woods also related how Hewett would chew on a toothpick , which he always had in his mouth when fielding , when his team was losing .

As evidenced by the manner in which Hewett left Somerset and walked off during the Scarborough Festival of 1895 , he possessed a short fuse . Team @-@ mate Frederic John Poynton characterised his captain as a player who suffered " from a deep , difficult nature , which once upset , took long to recover " . He was a strong leader who was both respected and feared by his colleagues . In 1885 , Somerset County Cricket Club had failed to field eleven players for some of their first @-@ class contests , and in most of their other matches were a poor side . Hewett took on the county captaincy in 1889 , and in his second year led his side unbeaten against fellow county opposition to win the ' Second @-@ class County Championship ' , and gain re @-@ admission to the first @-@ class game . Hewett 's batting and captaincy were aided by the emergence of Woods and Palaret , both of whom were named as Wisden Cricketers of the Year between 1889 and 1893 . In 1891 , Somerset finished joint fifth among the nine first @-@ class counties , while the subsequent year they rose to third . Hewett 's final season at Somerset was the county 's least successful under his captaincy , winning just four of their sixteen matches to finish in eighth .

