

= Arnold Fothergill =

Arnold James Fothergill ( 26 August 1854 ? 1 August 1932 ) was an English professional cricketer who played first @-@ class cricket for Somerset and the Marylebone Cricket Club ( MCC ) in a career which spanned from 1870 until 1892 . A left @-@ arm fast @-@ medium pace bowler , he appeared for England in two Test matches in 1889 .

Fothergill began his career as a club professional in the north east of England . He joined Somerset as one of their first professionals in 1880 , but was forced to miss most of 1881 while he qualified for the county . He was the most productive bowler for the county in their first two years of first @-@ class cricket , but the emergence of E. W. Bastard , and later Ted Tyler and Sammy Woods , limited his opportunities with the club . He joined the ground staff at Lord 's Cricket Ground in 1882 , and played for the MCC until 1892 , also appearing at Lord 's for representative sides .

In the English winter of 1888 ? 89 , he was chosen to tour South Africa with the MCC , and played in two matches which were later designated as Test matches , though Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack described them as been " arguably not even first @-@ class . " He took 119 first @-@ class wickets during his career , of which eight came in his two Tests .

= = Early life and career = =

Arnold James Fothergill was born on 26 August 1854 in Newcastle upon Tyne , Northumberland . He began his cricket career with Northumberland Cricket Club , a private club which was a precursor to the county team . He appeared as a professional for the side from 1870 until 1879 , during which time he was also employed by Benwell High Cross Cricket Club in 1870 and 1871 , and Manchester Cricket Club in 1879 , before moving to Somerset in 1880 .

= = Somerset professional = =

= = = Second @-@ class cricket = = =

Somerset County Cricket Club was founded in 1875 , and although they initially struggled financially , Fothergill and Alfred Brooks were employed as the club 's first professionals in 1880 . Fothergill played his first recorded match for the county in July of that year , facing a team of sixteen men from Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare , taking thirteen wickets in the match . Throughout 1880 , he was regularly Somerset 's leading wicket @-@ taker in their matches ; he collected five wickets in an innings against the Marylebone Cricket Club twice , Hertfordshire , and Leicestershire . In 1881 , Fothergill was included in the Somerset team to face Kent in Bath . The Kent captain , Richard Thornton objected to Fothergill 's presence , correctly pointing out that he was not qualified to play for Somerset . As a result , Fothergill was removed from the side , and did not appear for the side in county cricket again that season , while he served his qualification . He did appear once for the county , against the MCC , taking four wickets in the first innings , and scoring 47 runs as an opening batsman .

= = = First @-@ class cricket = = =

In 1882 , Fothergill joined the ground staff at Lord 's Cricket Ground , and made his first @-@ class debut for the MCC against Derbyshire in May . Bowling unchanged in the first innings , he claimed five wickets for 31 runs , and then scored the highest score of his first @-@ class career , 74 runs , in a large victory for his side . The following month , he featured for Somerset in what is generally considered to be their first match of the first @-@ class cricket , against Lancashire . Somerset were heavily beaten in the match , during which Fothergill took three wickets and scored three runs . That summer , he was selected to appear for the professional " Players " against the amateur " Gentlemen " in the prestigious annual fixture at Lord 's , in which he had little impact as the

Gentlemen won by eight wickets . In all , Fothergill played fourteen first @-@ class matches in 1882 , claiming 44 wickets at an average of 22 @.@ 02 , and taking five wickets in an innings twice . He was Somerset 's leading wicket @-@ taker during the season , taking twice as many wickets as the next most effective bowler , Charles Winter .

Fothergill 's first match in 1883 was in a representative match , playing for the South against the North . The South , for whom Fothergill was the only player to score double figures in each innings , lost the match . He then played exclusively with the MCC until the end of July , when Somerset 's fixtures began . Having collected five wickets in an innings for the MCC against Oxford University , Fothergill repeated the feat twice that season for Somerset , taking five for 23 against Gloucestershire , and then achieving his best first @-@ class bowling figures of six for 43 against Hampshire . In the latter match , he also took four wickets in the second innings , giving him ten wickets in the match , the only occasion he achieved the feat in first @-@ class cricket . He played one further match towards the end of the 1883 season , against that year 's " Champion County " , Nottinghamshire . The MCC won the game by 121 runs ; in the first innings , Fothergill was not required to bowl as Nottinghamshire were bowled out for 23 , with six players scoring ducks , and he took five for 30 in the second innings . Fothergill was once more Somerset 's leading wicket @-@ taker during 1883 , taking 27 of his 37 first @-@ class wickets for the county that year . His bowling average of 14 @.@ 72 was his best during an English season .

During the following season , Fothergill only appeared once for Somerset , in match against Kent early in the season . He took four for 87 in the match , which was his final first @-@ class appearance for the county . Fothergill was again selected to play for the South against the North , but bowled just three overs in the match , without taking a wicket . The remainder of his notable appearances that season were made for the MCC , though few were considered first @-@ class . He performed well in matches against Wiltshire and Leicestershire , taking eleven wickets in each match , including seven for 62 in the second innings against Leicestershire , but neither match had first @-@ class status . In 1885 , he enjoyed his best match for the South , taking four wickets in each innings as the North were defeated by nine wickets . The majority of his cricket from 1884 until 1886 was made for the MCC , although he did appear four times in 1886 for Somerset , which had been stripped of its first @-@ class status . In contrast , in 1887 and 1888 , he played almost exclusively for the county , appearing just three times for the MCC . Somerset , who had relied on the bowling of Fothergill in the early 1880s , were spearheaded by E. W. Bastard , Ted Tyler and Sammy Woods in the late 1880s , and Fothergill was rarely needed to bowl many overs . Despite this , he was presented with a bat during 1888 , a reward usually given to batsmen who had scored a century .

= = Test cricketer = =

During the English winter of 1888 ? 89 , the MCC sent a touring team to South Africa . Organised by Major Gardner Warton , the original itinerary only featured " odds " matches , in which an 11 @-@ player MCC team faced opposition sides including 15 , 18 or 22 players , depending on their perceived strength . In his book , A History of Cricket , Harry Altham describes that the quality of the touring party " was about that of a weak county . " Fothergill was selected as part of the side , despite not having played a first @-@ class match since May 1887 . The majority of the wickets during the tour were taken by Lancashire 's spinner , Johnny Briggs , who took almost 300 , but Fothergill was heavily used as a bowler , and claimed 119 wickets at an average of 6 @.@ 89 . Altham suggests that the ease of the touring side 's victories justifies the selection of a comparatively weak side . As the tour continued , there were calls for an even @-@ strength contest , with the English side facing an 11 @-@ player South African side . Two such matches were arranged , but were considered no different from the other matches during the tour , being advertised as Major Warton 's XI v South Africa XI . The matches were later granted Test match status , although Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack commented that , " it was never intended , or considered necessary , to take out a representative English team for a first trip to the Cape . "

In the first Test , Fothergill opened the bowling with Briggs , and bowled economically , conceding

15 runs from his 24 four @-@ ball overs . He only took one wicket in the innings , and was noted more for his batting later in the day . Having bowled South Africa out for 84 , England rallied from 103 for nine due to a 45 @-@ run partnership for the tenth wicket between Fothergill and Basil Grieve . Batting at number eleven , Fothergill scored 32 runs , second only to opening batsman Bobby Abel . In South Africa 's second innings , Fothergill was used as first @-@ change bowler , and took four wickets for 19 , his best figures in the two Test matches . South Africa scored 129 runs before being bowled out , and England scored the 67 runs required for victory with a day of the match remaining .

England dominated the second Test , largely due to the bowling of Briggs . Batting first , England scored 292 runs , of which Abel contributed 120 . Fothergill claimed the first South African wicket , Albert Rose @-@ Innes at the end of the first day , but only claimed two more in the match , as Briggs took fifteen wickets on the second day to help England to an innings and 202 @-@ run victory .

Fothergill 's two Test appearances were the only ones of his career , and were also his final first @-@ class matches . In all , he took 119 first @-@ class wickets at an average of 18 @.@ 18 . His highest score was the 74 runs he scored on his debut .

= = Later life and career = =

After returning from South Africa , Fothergill played occasionally for the MCC , and three further times for Somerset , but with little merit . He made his final appearance for Somerset in 1889 , against Staffordshire ; he took 157 wickets for the county in total , of which 57 came in first @-@ class matches . His last match for the MCC was three years later , against Llandudno Cricket Club . In his obituary , Wisden suggest that he returned to Tyneside at the end of his professional cricket career . He died in Sunderland on 1 August 1932 .