

= Len Hutton =

Sir Leonard " Len " Hutton (23 June 1916 ? 6 September 1990) was an English cricketer who played as an opening batsman for Yorkshire from 1934 to 1955 and for England in 79 Test matches between 1937 and 1955 . Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack described him as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket . He set a record in 1938 for the highest individual innings in a Test match in only his sixth Test appearance , scoring 364 runs against Australia , a milestone that stood for nearly 20 years (and remains an England Test record) . In 1952 , he became the first professional cricketer of the 20th Century to captain England in Tests ; under his captaincy England won the Ashes the following year for the first time in 19 years . Following the Second World War , he was the mainstay of England 's batting , and the team depended greatly on his success .

Marked out as a potential star from his teenage years , Hutton made his debut for Yorkshire in 1934 and quickly established himself at county level . By 1937 , he was playing for England and when the war interrupted his career in 1939 , critics regarded him as one of the leading batsmen in the country , and even the world . During the war , he received a serious injury to his arm while taking part in a commando training course . His arm never fully recovered , forcing him to alter his batting style . When cricket restarted , Hutton resumed his role as one of England 's leading batsmen ; by the time of England 's tour to Australia in 1950 ? 51 , the team relied heavily on his batting and did so for the remainder of his career . As a batsman , Hutton was cautious and built his style on a sound defence . Although capable of attacking strokeplay , both Yorkshire and England depended on him , and awareness of this affected his style . Hutton remains statistically among the best batsmen to have played Test cricket .

Hutton captained the England Test team between 1952 and 1955 , although his leadership was at times controversial . He pursued a cautious approach and faced criticism for negativity . Never comfortable in the role , Hutton felt that the former amateur players who administered and governed English cricket did not trust him . In 23 Tests as captain , he won eight Tests and lost four with the others drawn . Worn out by the mental and physical demands of his role , Hutton retired from regular first @-@ class cricket during the 1955 season . Knighted for his contributions to cricket in 1956 , he went on to be a Test selector , a journalist and broadcaster . He also worked as a representative for an engineering firm until retiring from the job in 1984 . Hutton remained involved in cricket , and became president of Yorkshire County Cricket Club in 1990 . He died a few months afterwards in September 1990 , aged 74 .

= = Early life = =

Hutton was born on 23 June 1916 in the Moravian community of Fulneck , Pudsey , the youngest of five children to Henry Hutton and his wife Lily (née Swithenbank) . Many of his family were local cricketers and Hutton soon became immersed in the sport , which he both played and read about with enthusiasm . He practised in the playground of Littlemoor Council School , which he attended from 1921 until 1930 , and at Pudsey St Lawrence Cricket Club , which he joined as a junior . At the age of 12 , he made his first appearance for Pudsey St Lawrence 's second eleven and by 1929 had reached the first team . Locals encouraged him to meet the Yorkshire and England cricketer Herbert Sutcliffe , a neighbour , from whom Hutton received coaching in Sutcliffe 's garden . Sutcliffe was impressed by the young batsman , and commended him to Yorkshire as a good prospect .

Following this endorsement , Hutton went to the county 's indoor practice shed at Headingley in February 1930 . George Hirst , a former Yorkshire cricketer responsible for assessing and coaching young players , believed that Hutton 's batting technique was essentially already complete . Bill Bowes , the Yorkshire pace bowler , was equally impressed , and helped Hutton to correct a minor flaw in his technique . Hutton was sufficiently encouraged to decide to attempt a career in professional cricket , but at the prompting of his parents decided to learn a trade as well . During 1930 , he watched the Australian Don Bradman hit 334 not out at Headingley in a Test match , then a record individual score in Tests ? which he himself would surpass eight years later . Later that year , Hutton enrolled at Pudsey Grammar School where he spent a year studying technical drawing

and quantitative work before joining his father at a local building firm , Joseph Verity . After becoming a professional cricketer , Hutton continued to work for the company during winter months until 1939 .

= = Career before the Second World War = =

= = = First years with Yorkshire = = =

By 1933 , Hutton was regularly opening the batting for the Pudsey St Lawrence first team in the Bradford Cricket League . By close observation of his opening partner , the former Yorkshire county batsman Edgar Oldroyd , Hutton further developed his batting technique , especially in defence . The local press soon identified Hutton as a player of promise , particularly after he scored a match @-@ winning 108 not out in the Priestley Cup . Senior figures within Yorkshire cricket identified him as a potential successor to Percy Holmes as an opening partner to Sutcliffe ; at this stage in his career , Hutton was also considered a promising leg spin bowler . In the 1933 season Hutton was selected for the Yorkshire Second Eleven . Although he failed to score a run in either of his first two innings , over the season he scored 699 runs at an average of 69 @.@ 90 . Yorkshire appointed Cyril Turner as Hutton 's mentor ; Hedley Verity and Bowes also offered Hutton guidance in his early career .

Hutton made his first @-@ class debut for Yorkshire in 1934 , at the age of 17 the youngest Yorkshire player since Hirst , 45 years earlier . In his first match , against Cambridge University , he was run out for a duck but scored an unbeaten 50 runs in his second match ; he followed this with another half @-@ century against Warwickshire on his County Championship debut . He played regularly for the rest of the season but to prevent his overexposure to Championship cricket , Yorkshire limited his appearances and returned him periodically to the second eleven . In matches for the first team , Hutton shared large first @-@ wicket partnerships with Wilf Barber and with Arthur Mitchell , before scoring his maiden first @-@ class century in an innings of 196 against Worcestershire . At the time , he was the youngest Yorkshire batsman to score a first @-@ class century . He finished the season with a total of 863 runs at an average of 33 @.@ 19 ;

An operation on his nose before the 1935 season delayed Hutton 's appearance on the cricket field that year . Attempting to return too quickly , he endured poor health which limited his subsequent appearances and effectiveness ; by the middle of August he had scored a total of just 73 runs . A century against Middlesex led to run of bigger scores , and his contribution to Yorkshire 's County Championship victory that season was 577 runs at an average in first @-@ class matches of 28 @.@ 85 . In the winter of 1935 ? 36 Hutton went on his first overseas tour , as Yorkshire visited Jamaica . In the 1936 season he reached 1 @,@ 000 runs in a season for the first time ? 1 @,@ 282 runs at an average of 29 @.@ 81 ? and was awarded his county cap in July . He took part in several large partnerships through the season , including one of 230 with Sutcliffe , although he experienced a sequence of low scores in May and June .

Throughout his first seasons , Hutton faced press criticism for his caution and reluctance to play attacking shots . Although regarding him a certain England selection in the future , critics thought Hutton slightly dull and pedestrian . Yorkshire remained unconcerned ; cricket writer Alan Hill believes Hutton 's subsequent success was built on this initial establishment of a defensive technique . His achievements brought limited recognition , owing to the high level of expectation surrounding him . This sense of frustration was heightened by comments from Sutcliffe in 1935 , when he wrote that Hutton was " a certainty for a place as England 's opening batsman . He is a marvel ? the discovery of a generation ... His technique is that of a maestro . " Such praise was rare from Sutcliffe , but Hutton found the comments a burden , while others found them embarrassing .

= = = Test match debut = = =

After Hutton began 1937 with a series of high scores ? including an innings of 271 against

Derbyshire , the reigning County Champions , and 153 against Leicestershire two days later when he and Sutcliffe shared a 315 @-@ run opening partnership ? he was chosen to play for England against New Zealand in the first Test match of the season . On 26 June , he made his Test debut at Lord 's Cricket Ground , scoring 0 and 1 . Retaining his place in the England team after scoring centuries for Yorkshire in the following games , he scored his maiden Test hundred on 24 July in the second Test at Old Trafford , Manchester . He batted for three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half hours to score exactly 100 runs and shared a century opening partnership with Charlie Barnett . Hutton 's remaining two innings in the Test series yielded 14 and 12 , giving him 127 runs at an average of 25 @.@ 40 . Also in 1937 , Hutton made his first appearance for the Players against the Gentlemen at Lord 's . In total that year he scored 2 @,@ 888 runs , more than double his previous seasonal best , at an average of 56 @.@ 62 and including ten centuries . He also recorded the best bowling performance of his career , six wickets for 76 against Leicestershire , altogether taking ten wickets in the match ? the only time he achieved this . His performances that year earned him selection as one of Wisden 's Cricketers of the Year . The citation praised his attitude , technique , fielding and bowling , noting however that some commentators continued to criticise his overcaution .

In early matches of the 1938 season , with an Ashes series against Australia pending , Hutton made three centuries and scored 93 not out . Selected for a Test trial , he shared a century opening partnership with Bill Edrich , and was selected for the first Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham beginning on 28 June . In just over three hours , Hutton scored 100 from 221 deliveries on his Ashes debut , adding 219 with Charlie Barnett for the first wicket . England , in Wally Hammond 's first match as Test captain , posted a total of 658 for eight wickets , but the match was drawn . Hutton failed in the second Test , with two single figure scores in another drawn game . He was generally unsuccessful with the bat in the following weeks , during which the third Test was entirely rained off . Following a sequence of low scores for Yorkshire , Hutton 's finger was broken in a match against Middlesex played on a dangerous pitch at Lord 's . Consequently , he could not play in the fourth Test , played at his home ground , Headingley , in which England were soundly beaten . After missing a month of cricket , Hutton played just two games before his selection for the final Test of the series .

= = = Test record score = = =

The last Test was played at The Oval and began on 20 August 1938 . Hammond won the toss on a very good pitch for batting , and after an early wicket fell , Hutton and Maurice Leyland , his Yorkshire teammate , took the score to 347 for one wicket after the first day . Hutton was unbeaten on 160 although Australia missed a chance to dismiss him , stumped , when he had scored 40 . After a rest day , the Yorkshire batsmen took their partnership to 382 before Leyland was out . Hutton then shared substantial partnerships with Hammond and Joe Hardstaff junior , taking his personal score to 300 at the end of the second day , out of a total of 634 for five . In the process he surpassed the previous highest Test score by an England batsman in a home match . Hutton maintained caution throughout ; Wisden commented that his dominance of the bowling had become slightly monotonous after two days , although it recognised his skill . On the third day (23 August) , the Australians made a concerted effort to dismiss Hutton before he broke Bradman 's 1930 record Ashes score of 334 ? the record score in a Test match was Hammond 's 336 not out against New Zealand , but it was compiled against what was perceived as inferior bowling , and Bradman 's total was more prestigious . Although showing nerves as he approached the record , Hutton passed Bradman 's score with a cut off Chuck Fleetwood @-@ Smith , and extended his score to 364 before he was out , caught . Lasting for more than 13 hours , with 847 balls faced , Hutton 's innings was the longest in first @-@ class cricket at the time . It was only the sixth Test of his career . The innings was the highest individual score in a Test until Garfield Sobers scored 365 in 1958 ; in 2016 it remains the 6th highest in Tests and is the most runs scored in an innings by an English player . England eventually scored 903 , the highest team total in a Test at that time , before Hammond declared the innings closed . Australia were bowled out twice and England won by an innings and 579 runs to draw the series with one victory apiece .

Commentators mainly praised Hutton 's concentration and stamina ; his slow scoring , particularly when compared to Bradman 's innings of 334 , was excused on the grounds that the Oval match was played without a time limit , and run accumulation was more important than fast scoring . Furthermore , Hammond had instructed Hutton to bat as long as possible . Among views expressed by Test cricketers , Les Ames believed that while Hutton had shown great skill , a combination of a very easy wicket for batting and an unusually weak bowling attack presented an ideal opportunity . Former England captain Bob Wyatt described the innings as one of the greatest feats of concentration and endurance in the history of the game . Some critics expressed distaste at England 's approach , but this opinion was not widely shared . In the aftermath of the innings , Hutton became famous , in constant demand from the public and press who compared him to Bradman . Hutton later described the acclamation he received as one of the worst things that happened to him , not least because expectations were unreasonably high every time he subsequently batted . When the season ended , Hutton had scored 1 @, @ 874 runs in all matches at an average of 60 @. @ 45 .

= = = Leading batsman = = =

From October 1938 , Hutton toured South Africa with the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) ? the name by which England teams toured at the time ? under the captaincy of Hammond ; England won the series 1 ? 0 , with the other four games drawn . He scored centuries in two early matches but in a match against Transvaal , a delivery from Eric Davies knocked him unconscious and forced him to miss the first Test . Unsuccessful on his return in the second Test , Hutton scored a double century in the following tour match , but had another low score in the third Test , which England won . He was more successful in the final Tests . In the fourth , on a difficult pitch for batting , he scored 92 . The final Test was drawn after ten days of play in a supposedly " timeless " Test . In a match which set a record aggregate of runs , Hutton scored 38 and 55 but his contributions were overshadowed by the heavy scoring of others . Although Hutton scored 265 runs in the Test series , at an average of 44 @. @ 16 , critics were disappointed , expecting more after his record innings of 1938 . In all first @- @ class matches , he scored 1 @, @ 168 runs at an average of 64 @. @ 88 , the highest aggregate among the tourists , and accumulated five centuries . Spectators found his batting attractive and the Wisden correspondent regarded him the most accomplished batsman on the tour .

In its summary of the 1939 season , Wisden noted the development of Hutton into a more exciting batsman to watch , observing that he " gave further evidence of being one of the world 's greatest batsmen " . He began to dominate opening partnerships with Sutcliffe , in contrast to prior seasons when he was the junior partner . In total , he scored 2 @, @ 883 runs , over 400 more than any other batsman and his average of 62 @. @ 27 placed him second in the national averages behind Hammond . Among his twelve centuries , Hutton scored his highest total for Yorkshire , 280 not out in six hours against Hampshire , sharing an opening partnership of 315 with Sutcliffe . His contributions helped Yorkshire to their third successive Championship . He was also successful in representative matches , scoring 86 for the Players against the Gentlemen , and compiling 480 runs (averaging 96 @. @ 00) in the Test matches against West Indies . England won the series , after recording victory in the first match and drawing the others . Hutton scored 196 in the first Test , hitting his last 96 runs in 95 minutes ; he and Denis Compton scored 248 runs together in 133 minutes . After low scores in the second Test , Hutton scored 73 and 165 not out in the final game at the Oval . Facing a West Indian lead of 146 , he batted five hours in the second innings , sharing a partnership of 264 with Hammond . He ended his season with a century against Sussex in Yorkshire 's final match before the war ; two days after its conclusion , the Second World War began .

= = Wartime injury and recovery = =

At the beginning of the war , Hutton volunteered for the army and was recruited to the Army Physical Training Corps as a sergeant @- @ instructor . Although no first @- @ class cricket was

played during the war , league and charity cricket matches continued and Hutton played several high @-@ profile matches in 1940 . But in March 1941 , his future in cricket was threatened by a serious injury . On the last day of a commando training course in York , Hutton fell in the gymnasium when a mat slipped from under him . He suffered a fractured left forearm and dislocated his ulna at the wrist . By the summer , surgery and rest initially looked to have repaired the injury ; Hutton returned to his unit and resumed cricket , scoring a century in one game . However , he began to suffer increasing pain and underwent more surgery to graft bone from his legs onto the injured arm . A first operation failed , but the second attempt at the end of 1941 eventually proved successful . The surgery left him with a left arm almost two inches shorter than the right . He was discharged from the army in the summer of 1942 and , after a period of recovery , began work as a civilian for the Royal Engineers , inspecting the condition of government @-@ owned properties . Hutton 's recovery and return to cricket was closely followed by the wartime press , which kept track of many pre @-@ war cricketers .

Hutton resumed professional cricket with Pudsey St Lawrence in 1943 , briefly captaining the team before poor results and a disagreement with the committee led him to resign the captaincy . He played for Pudsey until 1945 , batting successfully and helping the team to the Priestley Cup , but his relationship with the club remained strained and he did not play for them again after 1945 . When the war ended in 1945 , a programme of first @-@ class matches was organised , involving counties and other teams . A series of matches was played between England and an Australian Services cricket team , called Victory Tests although they were not official Test matches . Hutton played in all three games with mixed success . He scored 46 in the second match , but was struck painfully on his weak arm by a short ball from Keith Miller , whom he encountered for the first time . After scoring 81 for Yorkshire against the Australian team , Hutton scored 104 and 69 in the final " Test " . Another century followed for Yorkshire against the Australians , taking his first @-@ class run aggregate to 782 runs at an average of 48 @.@ 87 in nine games . Commentators were satisfied that his batting technique remained effective and that he could still succeed at the highest level . The showpiece match of the season was England against the Dominions at Lord 's , but Hutton was prevented from appearing by his commitments to Pudsey .

= = Career after the war = =

= = = First tour to Australia = = =

County cricket fully resumed in 1946 . Hutton was troubled by his injury ; his wrists no longer rotated fully and he abandoned the hook shot . Nevertheless , he scored 1 @,@ 552 runs at an average of 48 @.@ 50 , and was recognised by Wisden as Yorkshire 's most effective batsman as the county won their fourth consecutive championship title . His four centuries included 183 not out against the touring Indian team , but he was less successful in the three Tests , scoring 123 runs at an average of 30 @.@ 75 . England won the series 1 ? 0 but Hutton 's only fifty was a defensive innings in the second Test , when he was troubled by a bad back . He was omitted from the Gentlemen and Players match , but was part of the MCC team touring party for the 1946 ? 47 tour of Australia .

The MCC were reluctant to tour so soon after the war , but the Australian authorities were insistent . The tourists , led once more by Wally Hammond , were beaten 3 ? 0 in the Test series , finding their opponents much stronger than expected . Hutton began the tour well , scoring two early centuries , the latter of which was described by Wisden as the best English innings of the tour . A string of other good performances drew praise from press and former players ; one such report named him the best batsman in the world . However , Hutton failed to reach a score of 50 runs in the first three Tests ; in the first , he was out for a first ball duck , and in the second , a short ball from Keith Miller struck him on his injured arm . In the second innings of the latter game , he quickly scored 37 , frequently driving the bowling of Miller and Fred Freer before the bat slipped from his hand and hit the wicket , ending the innings . Even so , the display was praised by critics .

In the final two Tests , Hutton shared three consecutive century opening partnerships with Cyril Washbrook . A four @-@ hour 94 in the first innings was followed by 76 in the second . Press opinion was divided over Hutton 's performance ; some critics , including the Australian bowlers , detected insecurity against fast bowling , particularly the bouncers with which Ray Lindwall and Miller targeted him . Hutton 's preferred tactic of ducking under the ball reinforced the impression that he was afraid . In the final Test , Hutton scored a century , batting through the first day to score 122 not out , his first Test century in Australia , despite another barrage from Lindwall and Miller . The Sydney Morning Herald criticised the high number of short balls bowled by the Australian pacemen , bowled at Hutton as often as three times per over . After the second day was rained off , Hutton was taken ill overnight with tonsillitis , missed the remainder of the match and flew home soon after . In all first @-@ class matches on tour , Hutton scored 1 @,@ 267 runs at an average of 70 @.@ 38 , while in the Tests , he managed 417 runs at an average of 52 @.@ 12 ; he topped both sets of averages . Wisden noted that it took him time to find form in the Tests , but that he often batted well despite ill health . Bill Bowes , covering the tour as a journalist , believed that Hutton was unable to master bowling faster than he had encountered for eight years , but acquitted himself reasonably well .

= = = Series against South Africa and West Indies = = =

Hutton 's tonsils were removed before the start of the 1947 season but his poor health continued , forcing him to miss some games at the start of the season . Nevertheless , his form remained good and he scored four centuries in early matches . Yorkshire dropped to equal seventh in the County Championship , affected by the retirement of key players and the frequent loss of Hutton to representative cricket . In the Test matches Hutton did not initially score heavily . His highest innings after three Tests was only 24 runs , and critics called his place into question . He returned to form during the fourth Test , his first at Headingley , with a four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ hour century on a difficult pitch for batting . Hutton scored 83 and 36 in the drawn final Test , and England won the series 3 ? 0 with the other two games drawn . Hutton hit 344 runs in the Test series at an average of 44 @.@ 00 ; in all first @-@ class matches , he scored eleven centuries and totalled 2 @,@ 585 runs at an average 64 @.@ 62 , although his achievements that season were overshadowed by those of Denis Compton and Bill Edrich , who both broke the previous record for most runs scored in a season .

After 16 months of continuous cricket , Hutton chose to miss the 1947 ? 48 winter MCC tour of the West Indies . However , injuries severely affected that team , and its captain Gubby Allen requested reinforcements . Subsequently , Hutton flew out to join the tour ; Immediately after he arrived , having travelled for four days , Hutton played against British Guiana , scoring 138 and 62 not out , before appearing in the third Test . After a century against Jamaica , Hutton played innings of 56 and 60 in the fourth and final Test , giving him 171 runs at an average of 42 @.@ 75 in the series . He came top of the first @-@ class averages for the tourists , with 578 runs at an average of 64 @.@ 22 , and was judged by Wisden as one of the few batting successes in a team which lost the four @-@ Test series 2 ? 0 and failed to win a single match on tour .

= = = Struggles against pace = = =

During 1948 , Hutton scored heavily for Yorkshire . Despite missing more than half the County Championship matches , he scored more runs at a better average than anyone else in the side . In county matches , Hutton averaged 92 @.@ 05 and scored eight centuries . Some Yorkshire critics expressed concern at the team 's dependence on Hutton and the poor performance of other batsmen . Hutton 's main challenge that season came from the Australian side which toured England undefeated and won the Test series 4 ? 0 . In the early part of the tour , the Australians , and particularly the pace bowlers Lindwall and Miller , tried to shake Hutton 's confidence by targeting him . Although Hutton failed on a difficult pitch in Yorkshire 's match against the tourists , he was the only successful batsman against them when he appeared for MCC shortly after .

Hutton was selected for the first Test , but England were overwhelmed by the Australian fast bowlers and lost the match . After a failure in the first innings , Hutton scored 74 in the second , and briefly established dominance over Miller , who responded with a series of bouncers , one of which struck Hutton on the shoulder and provoked an angry reaction from the crowd . Miller bowled him in very poor light at the start of the fourth day 's play . At Lord 's in the second Test , also lost by England , Hutton scored 20 and 13 , but of more concern to critics was the manner in which he batted . In the second innings , England had to bat for a long time to save the game , Wisden noted that Hutton , in contrast to his opening partner Washbrook , looked " plainly uncomfortable " . He was nearly dismissed several times before he was out for 13 , and returned to the pavilion to an uncomfortable silence from the crowd . The former Australian batsman Jack Fingleton , covering the tour as a journalist , described it as Hutton 's worst effort in a Test . Bill O 'Reilly , another former Australian player working as a journalist , said Hutton seemed to be struggling with concentration and was a shadow of his former self .

Following his struggles at Lord 's , Hutton was omitted from the team for the third Test . Observers had noticed Hutton backing away from the fast bowlers , which the English selectors saw as a poor example from a leading batsman . The decision generated considerable acrimony , but surprised and pleased the Australians , who felt Hutton was their most formidable opponent with the bat . Press and critics generally judged the omission a mistake , although the Wisden correspondent believed the decision to be correct as Hutton benefited from a break . In later years , Norman Yardley , the England captain , agreed that the choice was a poor one . Hutton , who escaped most of the debate by playing in Scotland for Yorkshire , found the situation unsettling and Patrick Murphy , a sports journalist , writes that it " served to drive a reserved man further in on himself . " Meanwhile , Hutton was chosen to captain the Players against the Gentlemen at Lord 's ; he scored 59 and 132 not out .

Recalled to the England team for the fourth Test at Headingley , Hutton scored 81 and 57 . Given an excellent reception by his home crowd , he shared a century opening partnership with Washbrook in both innings , the second time they had accomplished this feat . Critics considered Hutton to be a better batsman when he returned and that these innings repaired his damaged reputation . Australia needed 404 to win on a pitch favouring spin , but the poor performances of the main bowlers allowed Australia to record a seven wicket win described by Wisden as " astonishing " . Hutton 's contribution to the second Australian innings was to bowl four overs and concede 30 runs . Australia 's dominance in the series was sealed by a crushing win in the fifth Test . England were bowled out for 52 runs in the first innings , of which Hutton scored 30 before being last out to an exceptional catch down the leg side from wicketkeeper Don Tallon . Wisden described Hutton as " the one exception to complete failure " , while other critics noted he always looked comfortable . Facing a huge deficit in their second innings , England were bowled out for 188 . Hutton scored 64 , playing a similar defensive role to his first innings . In the Test series , Hutton scored 342 runs at an average of 42 @. @ 75 . In all first @-@ class matches , he reached 2 @, @ 654 runs at an average of 64 @. @ 73 .

= = = Leading batsman again = = =

Hutton toured South Africa in the winter of 1948 ? 49 with the MCC under the captaincy of George Mann . Wisden described Hutton 's tour as a succession of triumphs until he tired at the end : " Hutton 's driving aroused the greatest admiration , but all his strokes were stamped with the hallmark of class . " Before the Test matches began , Hutton scored three centuries and then contributed 83 as England won the first Test . The next three Tests were drawn . In the second match , Hutton and Washbrook set a new Test match record opening partnership . In easy batting conditions , they shared 359 runs on the first day before Hutton was out for 158 after almost five hours batting . In more favourable bowling conditions in the third Test , Hutton scored 41 and 87 , followed by 123 in the fourth game which settled England 's second innings at a dangerous time . England won the final game to take the series 2 ? 0 , and Hutton finished the Test series with 577 runs at an average of 64 @. @ 11 , while in all first @-@ class matches he recorded 1 @, @ 477

runs at an average of 73 @. @ 85 .

The most successful season of Hutton 's career in terms of runs scored was 1949 ; he scored 3 @, @ 429 runs at an average of 68 @. @ 58 , the fourth highest aggregate of runs in an English season . In both June and August he scored over 1 @, @ 000 runs ; his 1 @, @ 294 runs in June was a record for a single month and only Herbert Sutcliffe had previously passed 1 @, @ 000 runs for a calendar month twice in a season . He scored a double century against Lancashire , only the second for a Yorkshire batsman in the fixture . With Hutton available for more matches than in the previous few seasons , Yorkshire shared the County Championship with Middlesex , their last success until 1959 . In the four Test matches against the touring New Zealanders , all of which were drawn , Hutton scored 469 runs at an average of 78 @. @ 16 . He scored 101 in the first Test , and fifties in the second and third matches , before ending the series with an innings of 206 in the fourth Test , in which the second hundred runs took only 85 minutes .

Hutton scored 2 @, @ 049 runs at an average of 56 @. @ 91 in the 1950 season . Batting effectively on a succession of early season rain @-@ affected wickets , Hutton frequently top @-@ scored for Yorkshire . Hutton 's benefit match against Middlesex was affected by rain , but other events , collections and insurance for loss of play gave Hutton £ 9 @, @ 713 , a record at that point for a Yorkshire cricketer . Two @-@ thirds of the amount was invested on Hutton 's behalf by the Yorkshire committee , following their usual practice ; Hutton resented this paternalism from the committee , particularly as he did not receive the full amount until 1972 . Hutton played in three of the four Tests against West Indies . In the first Test , hampered by a finger injury , he scored 39 and 45 as England recorded their only victory of the series . The West Indies won the second Test , their first Test victory in England , and won the final two Tests to take the series 3 ? 1 ; Hutton missed the third Test with lumbago but in the fourth Test scored 202 not out , carrying his bat through England 's first innings . The West Indian spinners Sonny Ramadhin and Alf Valentine caused difficulties for all the batsmen except Hutton , who always appeared comfortable . Wisden praised his effort as unforgettable .

= = = Australia 1950 ? 51 = = =

Hutton was chosen to go on the MCC tour of Australia in 1950 ? 51 , under the captaincy of the amateur Freddie Brown . The latter was an unexpected choice as captain , after a struggle to find a suitable amateur for the role . As a compromise aimed at critics who favoured the appointment of a professional captain , the professional Denis Compton was made vice @-@ captain , but Brown came to rely more on Hutton than on Compton for advice . The tour selectors , in an attempt to strengthen the batting line @-@ up , asked Hutton to bat in the middle order rather than his usual position as opener . He batted well in the early games but the team struggled . In the first Test , England dismissed Australia for 228 before rain made the pitch difficult for batting . In reply , England collapsed to 68 for seven before Brown declared to make Australia bat again while the pitch was still treacherous . Australia in turn struggled to 32 for seven , before declaring to leave England needing 193 to win . By the end of the third day 's play , victory seemed unlikely as England were 30 for six . Next morning on a slightly easier pitch , Hutton scored 62 not out , an innings which was widely acclaimed in the press . Wisden observed that he had " given yet another exhibition of his wonderful batsmanship on tricky turf ... Hutton thrashed the fast bowlers majestically and played the turning or lifting ball with the ease of a master craftsman . " However , the team were bowled out for 122 and Australia won by 70 runs .

Hutton remained in the middle order for the second Test , which England lost by 28 runs , but resumed his role as opener for the rest of the tour and scored a century in the following state game . Hutton scored 62 in the third Test , but the Australian spinner Jack Iverson , who caused the touring batsmen huge problems all series , bowled Australia to victory . Hutton 's form continued in the fourth Test as he carried his bat for the second time in six months . Wisden observed : " Against Hutton the bowling looked almost mediocre , but most of the other batsmen made it appear lethal . " He scored 156 not out and added 45 more runs in the second innings , but Australian won by 274 runs . With the series lost , England won the final game , their first victory over Australia since the

war and Australia 's first defeat in 26 matches ; Hutton contributed scores of 79 and 60 not out and struck the winning run . Hutton scored 553 Test runs at an average of 88 @. @ 83 , and in all first @- @ class matches accumulated 1 @, @ 199 runs with five centuries and an average of 70 @. @ 52 . In contrast to his previous Australian tour , Hutton played the short ball comfortably . Reviewing the tour , Wisden stated , " With Hutton , figures did not lie . He stood head and shoulders above every other batsman and , taking all factors into consideration , worthily earned the description of the finest present @- @ day batsman in the world . "

= = = 100th century = = =

Hutton scored 2 @, @ 145 runs in 1951 with nine centuries , including his 100th in first @- @ class cricket . The South Africans toured England , losing the Test series 3 ? 1 . After Hutton scored fifty in the first Test , which was won by South Africa , his 100th century almost came during the third Test , when he scored an unbeaten 98 in the second innings to take England to victory . But the innings provoked controversy when Hutton 's team @- @ mates seemed to decline easy runs to allow Hutton the opportunity to reach his hundred before the end of the match , thereby jeopardising England 's chances of victory in unsettled weather . The 100th century came a week later , against Surrey , when Hutton became the thirteenth player to achieve the landmark . He followed this immediately with 194 not out against Nottinghamshire and 100 , in the drawn fourth Test at Headingley . In the final Test , which England won to take the series , Hutton became the first man in Tests , and only the fourth in all first @- @ class cricket , to be given out obstructing the field : he edged a ball in the air and legitimately knocked it away from his wickets with his bat ; in doing so , he prevented a catch being taken and was given out . This remains the only such instance in Tests . Hutton ended the Test series with 378 runs at an average of 54 @. @ 00 . Late in the season , he scored a century against Gloucestershire to become the second Yorkshire player after Sutcliffe to complete centuries against the other 16 first @- @ class counties .

= = Captain of England = =

= = = Appointment = = =

Brown 's resignation from the captaincy of England at the end of 1951 left no obvious replacement candidate . Traditionally , captains in county or Test cricket were amateurs , who usually came from privileged backgrounds , in contrast to professionals , who often came from the working classes . Consequently , class distinction pervaded cricket which was organised and administered by former and current amateurs , many of whom reasoned that professionals would not make good captains owing to their worries over safeguarding their contracts or concerns about affecting the livelihoods of other professionals . In 1952 , the selectors judged that none of the serving amateur county captains possessed the required ability or experience to fill the role of England captain . Consequently , the selectors decided to radically depart from tradition and appoint a professional captain . All previous England captains in home Test matches had been amateurs , and no professional had captained England in any match in the 20th century . But , as widely anticipated by the press , Hutton was appointed to captain England in the first Test of a four @- @ match series against the 1952 Indian tourists . He harboured private doubts whether the cricket establishment would accept a professional captain , but declined to turn amateur , as Wally Hammond had done in 1938 . The decision met with broad approval from the press , and the editor of Wisden wrote : " In breaking with tradition and choosing a professional as captain the Selection Committee made a vital decision in the interests of England , because it should mean that in future no man will be picked as leader unless he is worth a place in the side . " Hutton had not expected to be asked and had thought an amateur would have been appointed as usual . He presumed his appointment was an interim measure until a more suitable candidate could be found .

Before his home crowd at Headingley , Hutton 's first match as captain was a success , although his

tactics were cautious . The Wisden correspondent wrote : " For Hutton the match was a personal triumph . Tradition had been broken ... and he must have known that the eyes of the world were upon him . He did not falter and his astute leadership earned him many admirers " . England won comfortably , although Hutton failed with the bat . In the second Test , Hutton scored 150 out of a total of 537 , and although cautious once more , the Wisden editor believed his captaincy helped to secure a win . Following this match , the selectors appointed Hutton captain for the rest of the series . In the final two Tests , Hutton scored 104 and 86 and his bowlers dominated the Indian batsmen . The drawn final Test was ruined by weather , but England won the four match series 3 ? 0 , and Hutton scored 399 runs at an average of 79 @.@ 80 ; in the whole summer he scored 2 @,@ 567 first @-@ class runs at an average of 61 @.@ 11 with eleven centuries .

= = = Ashes victory = = =

During the 1953 season , Australia toured England having held the Ashes since 1934 but critics considered England to have a good chance of winning the series . Hutton was retained as England captain initially on a match @-@ by @-@ match basis . His health was uncertain and he was troubled by fibrositis which restricted his movement and adversely affected his fielding . He top @-@ scored in both England innings with 43 and 60 not out in the drawn first Test , and batted effectively for Yorkshire against the Australians . After dropping three catches in Australia 's first innings in the second Test , Hutton scored 145 runs in his first innings . However , he was dismissed early in the second innings ; England managed to draw the match , but Hutton faced press criticism for his cautious tactics . Rain prevented a result in the third Test , but Hutton scored 66 and his tactics were praised . After the match , he was confirmed as captain for the remainder of the series , and the forthcoming MCC winter tour of West Indies .

The fourth Test , in front of Hutton 's home crowd , was his least successful of the series . He was bowled second ball by a yorker from Lindwall and England struggled to remain competitive throughout the match . In the fourth innings of the game , Australia needed 177 runs to win , with 115 minutes of play remaining . Hutton used Trevor Bailey to bowl negatively and slow Australia down ; his tactics , including time @-@ wasting and the use of leg theory , meant Australia could not score the runs in the available time and the match was drawn . It is possible that the idea came from Bailey himself , but the Australian press criticised Hutton for his negativity . In contrast , English critics believed the tactics were justified . Amid great public interest for the deciding fifth Test , Hutton lost his fifth successive toss but replying to Australia 's first innings of 275 , England established a narrow first @-@ innings lead . Surviving an early scare when a bouncer from Lindwall nearly knocked his cap onto his wickets , Hutton scored 82 . In reply , Australia collapsed before the England spinners and England scored the necessary 132 runs to win their first series against Australia since 1932 ? 33 and their first such home series win since 1926 . Wisden praised Hutton 's strategy and tactical sense , and he was widely acclaimed in the press , particularly for the good spirit which he and Hassett , the Australian captain , maintained . Hutton scored 443 runs at an average of 55 @.@ 37 in the Tests , but found it mentally tiring to lead England . Meanwhile , some Yorkshire observers felt he should do more to improve discipline at the county . In the whole summer , he scored 2 @,@ 458 runs at an average of 63 @.@ 02 .

= = = Captain in the West Indies = = =

In the winter of 1953 ? 54 , Hutton led the MCC on a tour of West Indies . Before the team left England , critics queried his appointment , arguing that a professional captain was unsuitable to lead a tour . Hutton 's authority was also compromised by the MCC , who did not give him the tour manager he requested ; instead , they appointed the inexperienced Charles Palmer , the Leicestershire captain , who had already been selected as a player on the tour . Palmer 's dual role as player and manager blurred the lines of command . Hutton also found some of the professionals in the team to be difficult to lead , particularly Godfrey Evans , and Fred Trueman . Off @-@ field events often overshadowed the cricket . Amid growing independence movements in the region ,

Hutton believed his team was used as a political instrument to support colonial rule . The situation was further inflamed as journalists and English residents in the Caribbean placed great emphasis on an English victory , and the perception was that the series would establish the unofficial world champions . The standards of local umpiring were a further source of controversy . The crowds often made noisy protests about on @-@ field events , often related to umpiring . The climax came in the third Test when missiles were thrown onto the outfield when the umpire judged Cliff McWatt was out ; Hutton kept his team and the umpires on the field , possibly defusing a dangerous situation . The attitude of some English players inflamed feelings , either through a perceived lack of courtesy , or their negative reactions to events on the field . Some critics held Hutton responsible for this , but the editor of Wisden later wrote : " [Hutton] was involved in the most thankless task any cricket captain has undertaken when he went to West Indies . Instead of finding a friendly cricket atmosphere he and his players were subjected to the impact of deep political and racial feeling ? an experience all of them wish to forget . A few members of the team did not hide their innermost feelings , with the result that Hutton came under severe criticism , although his behaviour was blameless . "

Hutton wanted to exploit what he saw as a West Indian weakness against pace , picking four fast bowlers for the first Test . In doing so , he misjudged the pitch ; West Indies made a large score and won by 140 runs . Both captains employed time @-@ wasting tactics in the match , and used negative leg theory bowling , outside leg stump . In the second Test , Hutton scored 72 and 77 but could not prevent another defeat after losing his seventh consecutive toss in Tests . England batted slowly throughout ; Hutton was himself barracked for his slow , defensive batting during the match . England won the third Test by nine wickets , their first victory in the Caribbean since 1935 . Hutton , who finally won the toss , scored 169 in seven hours and West Indies were bowled out twice . After a drawn fourth Test , England had to win the final Test to draw the series . Hutton lost the toss but his bowlers dismissed West Indies cheaply in good batting conditions . Hutton then batted for almost nine hours to score 205 , his nineteenth and final Test century . Wisden observed that " For concentration and control , Hutton 's innings ... scarcely could have been excelled . " The innings ended amid another controversy when local officials and journalists accused Hutton of snubbing the congratulations of the Chief Minister Alexander Bustamante during a tea interval . Hutton apologised , not having noticed Bustamante speaking to him , but was dismissed immediately when play resumed ; the incident was prominently reported the following day . England 's bowlers bowled out West Indies a second time and England scored the required runs to record a series @-@ levelling victory , West Indies ' first defeat in Jamaica in a Test . In its summary of the tour , Wisden said that Hutton showed mastery over every bowler . The correspondent wrote , " From first to last no batsman compared with Hutton ... Considering the weight of his many responsibilities and worries , Hutton played magnificent cricket " . The press were generally supportive despite reservations over his caution . Swanton and Alan Gibson later credited England 's recovery in the series to Hutton 's batting and leadership . In five Tests , he scored 677 runs ? his largest aggregate in a series ? at an average of 96 @.@ 71 , the highest on either side . In all first @-@ class matches , he made 780 runs at an average of 78 @.@ 00 .

= = = Appointment of Sheppard = = =

Hutton missed large parts of the 1954 season on medical advice , suffering from mental and physical exhaustion brought about by the West Indian tour . He played in the first Test against Pakistan , on their first tour of England , scored a duck and missed the next two matches . In Hutton 's absence , the selectors appointed the amateur David Sheppard , a theology student at the time ; Sheppard achieved little batting success , but England won the two Tests in which he was captain . According to Wisden editor Norman Preston , influential figures within the cricket hierarchy blamed Hutton for the previous winter 's events and attempted to replace him as captain . Two former England cricketers , Errol Holmes and Walter Robins , the latter also a selector that year , favoured Sheppard over Hutton and persuaded him to offer his candidacy to captain the MCC in Australia that winter . Sheppard indicated he would accept the post and take a leave of absence from his studies if required . The press speculated that Hutton would step aside , but most newspapers favoured his

continued leadership and ran stories alleging MCC prejudice against professional cricketers . Neither Hutton nor Sheppard publicly expressed an opinion , although Hutton informed the MCC he would tour Australia as captain or player as required , and both men remained on good personal terms throughout . Robins , seeing the strength of opinion , backed down . When Hutton returned to cricket in July , scoring two centuries , he was appointed captain of the MCC for the winter tour . Returning to captain a slightly weakened team for the fourth and final Test , Hutton failed with the bat , and Pakistan recorded their first Test victory . In his three Test innings of the season , Hutton scored just 19 runs . Owing to his reduced appearances , Hutton failed to reach 1 @,@ 000 first @-@ class runs for the first time since 1936 , reaching 912 runs at an average of 35 @.@ 07 .

= = = Captain in Australia = = =

Expectations before the Australian tour were low after the confusion of the 1954 summer and some controversial selections . Trueman , Jim Laker and Tony Lock , part of the winning 1953 team , were omitted ; Colin Cowdrey and Vic Wilson were included . Hutton further downplayed his team 's chances through exaggerating its inexperience to the Australian press ; newspapers were already sympathetic to Hutton as a professional captain of a class @-@ driven country . The team began the tour well . Hutton made a series of good scores in the opening games . But for the first Test , Hutton did not include a spinner in the team and chose to bowl on winning the toss , an unusual strategy in Australia . The home side scored 601 , England dropped 12 catches and , with the key players Evans and Compton injured , lost by an innings ; the press blamed Hutton for choosing to bowl . Despite the result , Hutton saw potential in Frank Tyson 's bowling and arranged for Alf Gover , a respected coach who was in Australia as a journalist , to improve and shorten Tyson 's run to the wicket . For the second Test , Hutton left out the unfit Alec Bedser , England 's most reliable bowler since the war , to include two spinners , but in a low @-@ scoring game , Tyson made the difference and England won by 38 runs . Hutton was unwell before the third Test , suffering from fibrositis and a heavy cold , and had to be persuaded out of bed by members of his team . He decided to play at the last minute and unexpectedly left out Bedser again , although he was fit to play . Hutton neglected to inform Bedser , who only learned of his omission when he saw the team list displayed in the dressing room before the match . Hutton contributed few runs , but Cowdrey and Peter May made large scores and Tyson took seven wickets as Australia were bowled out for 111 in their second innings , giving England a 128 @-@ run victory . The fourth Test was crucial , and Hutton 's innings of 80 runs in four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half hours was the highest of the game . Wisden believed Hutton 's tactics were instrumental in giving his team the upper hand , and in the final innings , England needed 94 to win and retain the Ashes . Early wickets , including Hutton 's , fell to Miller , and when the captain returned to the dressing room , he said that Miller had " done us again . " Compton , the next man in , replied " I haven 't been in yet " , and stayed at the wicket until the match was won by five wickets . Many commentators viewed this as a sign that Hutton 's reserve had slipped in the critical situation , but Alan Gibson believes it was a deliberate ploy to inspire Compton . England went on to draw the final Test in a match ruined by rain . Hutton was out to the fourth ball of the match , but Australia were forced to follow on for the first time by England since 1938 , and Hutton took a wicket with the last ball of the match before time ran out . This ended the series , which England won 3 ? 1 .

Hutton 's tactical approach in the series was praised by Australian and English commentators ; they noted how Hutton observed his opponents carefully to spot weaknesses . His caution was criticised , but the main complaint was that he deliberately slowed the speed of play , reducing the number of overs bowled , allowing the fast bowlers to rest and restricting the rate at which Australia scored . With the bat , Hutton scored 220 runs in Tests at an average of 24 @.@ 44 . In all first @-@ class matches in Australia , he scored 959 runs at 50 @.@ 47 . The tour ended with two Tests in New Zealand ; England won the first by eight wickets , and the second by an innings and 20 runs . New Zealand were bowled out for 26 in their second innings , which , in 2016 , remains the lowest Test score . In the latter match , Hutton scored 53 batting at number five in his final Test innings . He had played in 79 Test matches , scoring 6 @,@ 971 runs at an average of 56 @.@ 67 with 19 hundreds

. As England captain in 23 matches , he won eight Tests and lost four , and along with Percy Chapman was the only England captain to win consecutive series against Australia .

= = = Retirement = = =

On Hutton 's return to England , he was made an honorary member of the MCC , which changed its rules to allow a current professional to join the club . The selectors appointed him England captain for the entire forthcoming series against South Africa , a rare indication of confidence . After a poor start to the season , Hutton captained MCC against the tourists , but withdrew from the final day of the match with lumbago . His uncertain health led him to resign the England captaincy . The selectors made Peter May captain in his place and appointed Hutton as a selector . Hutton played for Yorkshire until the end of June . Against Nottinghamshire , he scored 194 in five hours , his final first @-@ class century . His last 100 runs came in an hour . After the following match , his back was too painful to continue and he did not play again that season . In eleven first @-@ class matches , he scored 537 runs at an average of 29 @.@ 83 . In June , he was knighted for services to cricket . Following the advice of a specialist , Hutton announced his retirement from first @-@ class cricket in January 1956 . He was 39 , an early retirement age for the period . He played one further match in 1957 for MCC against Lancashire , and two matches in 1960 for MCC and L. C. Stevens ' XI . In all first @-@ class cricket , he scored 40 @,@ 140 runs at an average of 55 @.@ 51 with 129 hundreds .

= = Style and technique = =

= = = Batting = = =

Wisden viewed Hutton , with Jack Hobbs , as " one of the two most accomplished professional batsmen to have played for his country " , and following the Second World War , critics regarded him as the best batsman in the world . In October 2010 , he was chosen as part of the ESPNcricinfo All @-@ time World XI , a team selected by a panel of respected commentators and cricket writers to represent the greatest cricketers of all time . As part of the same process , he was also chosen in England 's greatest team . The official Yorkshire history describes him as " technically and aesthetically the best batsman to play for Yorkshire " . E. W. Swanton believed that if Hobbs was the greatest professional batsman , Hutton , along with Hammond and Compton , came next . Hutton was more cautious than these others . Following the lead of Herbert Sutcliffe , he saw the role of an opening batsman as defensive . The basis of his game was a good defensive technique , although he was able to accelerate and play attacking shots when the situation demanded . Cricket historian David Frith believes that " there was an apparent touch of genius about his batsmanship " , and Alan Gibson described Hutton 's off drive as " the glory of the game . " He was particularly effective on difficult batting pitches . Of the next generation of England batsmen , Peter May tried to adopt Hutton 's mental approach to both batting and captaincy , while Colin Cowdrey later said " I had tried to model myself on Len Hutton ever since I started playing serious cricket . " Statistically , Hutton stands near the highest achievers . When he retired , only two men had scored more than his 6 @,@ 971 Test runs ; his average of 56 @.@ 67 is seventh highest of those who played at least fifty Test matches , as of 2016 , while only Sutcliffe has a higher average among openers who scored over 4 @,@ 000 runs . He also displayed consistency ; his annual average only fell below 50 three times , he averaged over 50 each year from 1947 to 1954 and scored 20 or more in 90 of his 138 innings .

Hutton 's batting technique was orthodox and conventional . John Woodcock writes that he seemed to possess great intuition , for example playing mystery spinners Ramadhin and Iverson with ease . His batting stance was relaxed and still , his first movement being to slide his right foot back and across towards middle stump . He often played the ball off the back foot , getting right back onto his stumps , but never played as far forward , preferring to let the ball come to him and play it late .

Occasionally , he left a slight gap between his bat and pads , meaning he was sometimes bowled through it when out of form . This arose mainly through the wartime injury to his arm and by 1950 he had adjusted his technique to compensate and had fewer problems . Immediately before the war , Hutton batted in a more attacking style and several of his contemporaries remembered his attractive strokeplay . By his own admission , Hutton was not the same player after the war . A combination of the effects of his injury and the responsibility of opening the batting in generally weak Yorkshire and England teams , whose success often depended on Hutton , meant that he batted cautiously . Hutton only played attacking shots when they presented no risk , and he rarely lifted the ball in the air ; he hit just seven sixes in Test matches . However , Patrick Murphy writes : " Just now and again he would play an innings of genius , when bowlers could not contain him . " One such innings was his score of 37 in the second Test of 1946 ? 47 in which the attacking shots he played reminded older spectators of Victor Trumper , regarded as the ultimate Australian strokeplayer . In all his innings , he was expert at hitting the ball just out of the reach of fieldsmen to allow runs to be taken . Several of his contemporaries believed he did not get enough credit for surviving the short @-@ pitched attacks of the Australian bowlers following the war .

= = = Captaincy = = =

As captain , Hutton believed that the key to success was a strong pace attack , stemming from his experiences against Lindwall and Miller , which influenced his selection of several promising fast bowlers . His natural inclination and the background to his appointment made him a cautious captain , for example slowing down the game to allow the fast bowlers to rest , which set a precedent for other captains . Tactically , Norman Yardley found him " sound rather than venturesome " . Run saving was his main priority , but during matches , he quickly adjusted his approach to attack the weakness of particular batsmen . Jim Kilburn believed that Hutton pursued a serious approach to all matches , to the point where he missed some enjoyment of the game . Kilburn wrote that the " outstanding characteristic of his captaincy was shrewdness . He made no romantic gestures ; he lit no fires of inspiration . He invited admiration rather than affection and would have exchanged either or both for effective obedience . "

Some of his selections as captain were widely debated . Following incidents in the Caribbean , Trueman did not play for England again under Hutton 's captaincy , although he was still regarded as an England prospect . Jim Laker was also omitted from the team , possibly because Hutton doubted Laker 's commitment . Both Jim McConnon , Laker 's replacement , and Vic Wilson were controversial choices for the 1954 ? 55 Australian tour , whose selections Trevor Bailey attributed to Hutton ; neither played a substantial role on the tour . A poor communicator , Hutton distanced himself from his team when a stronger lead was required . Trueman and Bailey thought Hutton found it hard to talk to his players : amateur critics considered this an inevitable consequence of a professional leading other professionals . On the other hand , Hutton played a key role in the development of fast bowlers Trueman , Tyson and Brian Statham . Tyson and Statham later acknowledged his advice and encouragement as factor in their subsequent success . Cowdrey also acknowledged Hutton 's advice and assistance when the former began his career . Furthermore , on the 1954 ? 55 tour of Australia , Hutton took a close interest in him and was a particular comfort when Cowdrey 's father died during the tour .

Cricket followers from the south of England remained slightly distrustful of Hutton owing to the perception that he occasionally carried professionalism to excess . When he was appointed England captain , many in the cricketing establishment held his professionalism against him with the result that Hutton never felt comfortable dealing with the amateurs who ran English cricket at the time . While captain , he was criticised for caution and negativity but also was expected to lead a successful team at a time when results began to assume a far greater importance than in previous years . Consequently , Hutton never felt secure in the position and was often uncomfortable around the amateur establishment . Like Herbert Sutcliffe , he attempted to alter his accent to match that of leading southern amateurs to help him to fit in . But he did not enjoy the attention that went with the captaincy , and he often worried about the impression he was making .

Hutton rarely captained Yorkshire , except in the absence of the official captain , through a combination of poor health , frequent absences with England and the presence of the amateur Norman Yardley in the side . Yardley claimed several times that he would have stood down in Hutton 's favour , but the committee remained distrustful of professional captaincy and thought Hutton a hypochondriac who used his health as an excuse not to play . Hutton was a reserved man for whom the Yorkshire dressing room clashes of the 1950s held little appeal . As the side 's senior professional , he did not always provide the guidance which younger players in the side were seeking . The team was divided and the players frequently clashed with each other ; some critics believe this was a factor in the county 's failure to win the County Championship in the 1950s . Ray Illingworth , a player at the time , believes that Hutton was the only man who could have changed the negative attitude around the team , but " he didn 't do anything about it " . Illingworth recalled that he was a " distant hero " , saying : " He was a funny man was Len ? slightly sarcastic all the time . He 'd hear an argument in the dressing room and he 'd throw a bit of wood on the fire to keep it going . He looked after himself , he was very much of a loner . "

= = Later life = =

Hutton married Dorothy Mary Dennis , the sister of former Yorkshire cricketer Frank Dennis , on 16 September 1939 at Wykeham near Scarborough ; they met at an end @-@ of @-@ season dance which Dorothy had attended with her brother . They had two sons : Richard , who later played cricket for Yorkshire and England , in 1942 , and John in 1947 .

During and after the war , Hutton worked for a paper manufacturer , but writing and journalism provided a more permanent career . Hutton worked with Thomas Moulton , a journalist and writer , to produce a book of memoirs , *Cricket is My Life* in 1949 , and he wrote for the *News of the World* while still playing . Following his cricketing retirement , Hutton worked in broadcasting until 1961 , and after 1955 , he wrote for the *London Evening News* until 1963 . A second book , *Just my story* , followed in 1956 in collaboration with journalist , R. J. Hayter . In 1958 ? 59 , Hutton travelled to Australia to cover the MCC tour as correspondent for the *Evening News* , again assisted by a professional journalist , while between 1963 and 1986 , he wrote for *The Observer* . He wrote a third book , *Thirty Years in Cricket* , in 1984 . Hutton 's increasing commitments in the south of England meant he moved to North London in 1959 . In 1960 , Hutton was invited to join the engineering firm of J. H. Fenner , mainly working in a public relations capacity . Later , he moved into marketing and overseas promotion of products , became a director of the firm in 1973 , and retired in 1984 .

Although he disliked committees , Hutton served as an England Test selector in 1975 and 1976 , but business commitments limited his availability so he resigned in 1977 . Hutton became involved with Surrey cricket in later years but maintained links with Yorkshire , and became president of Yorkshire county cricket in January 1990 . In his final years , Hutton suffered from ill health and became increasingly frail . In September 1990 , he suffered a ruptured aorta shortly after watching a cricket match at the Oval . After an unsuccessful operation , he died on 6 September .