

= George Dewhurst (cricketer) =

George Alric R. Dewhurst (31 October 1894 ? 4 January 1954) was a Trinidadian cricketer who played for West Indies before the team attained Test match status . A highly regarded wicket @-@ keeper , Dewhurst was an influential and popular member of the Trinidad and West Indian sides . In his later career , he improved substantially as a batsman . He toured England with the West Indies team in 1923 but missed the 1928 tour of England in controversial circumstances . Despite continued speculation that he would be recalled , he did not play representative cricket again .

= = Early career = =

Dewhurst made his first @-@ class debut for Trinidad in 1920 , playing two matches against Barbados . The following season , he played twice in the Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament , and also played both games in 1922 . In the final of the latter tournament , he scored 58 , his maiden first @-@ class half @-@ century and only his second score in double figures .

During 1923 , a representative West Indian team toured England . Dewhurst was selected as wicket @-@ keeper for the tour . He played in 15 games to score 182 runs at an average of 10 @.@ 11 , with one half @-@ century : 52 against Nottinghamshire . Although not the team 's official vice @-@ captain , Dewhurst was very influential in the side . His performances as wicket @-@ keeper were widely praised in the English press , and according to one team @-@ mate from that tour , the bowling was difficult for a wicket @-@ keeper to take . Despite competition from C. Piggott , whom many Trinidadians considered a superior wicket @-@ keeper , Dewhurst secured his place as Trinidad 's wicket @-@ keeper after the tour . Many critics regarded Dewhurst as the best wicket @-@ keeper in the West Indies .

Dewhurst continued to play for Trinidad between 1923 and 1926 , although , owing to his business commitments , he was unable to play in every game . In 1926 he played against the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) , which was touring the West Indies , for both Trinidad and a West Indies team . He passed fifty three times against the touring team , and such was his improvement as a batsman that critics suggested he could hold a place in the West Indies team for his batting alone . However , Dewhurst did not play another first @-@ class match until 1930 .

= = Controversy and later career = =

Dewhurst occasionally captained Trinidad in the Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament and was a candidate to captain the West Indies cricket team in England in 1928 , when the two most likely men were unwilling or unable to lead the team . Dewhurst had acted as vice @-@ captain of the West Indies team in 1926 to Harold Austin , but in the event , Karl Nunes was selected as captain . Dewhurst was also overlooked as vice @-@ captain in favour of Vibart Wight although the latter had no captaincy experience . Dewhurst was named in the team to tour England , but he withdrew . Some newspaper reports blamed illness for his decision , others suggested business reasons . Critics believed that Dewhurst 's absence adversely affected the team ; the replacement wicket @-@ keepers were not regarded as equal to Dewhurst 's ability , and the vice @-@ captain had little success . It was suggested that Dewhurst only missed the tour because he had not been chosen as vice @-@ captain . Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack noted : " The absence of Dewhurst ? a member of the team of 1923 ? was very severely felt . " However , Dewhurst was criticised in the West Indies for being unsporting by refusing to go on the tour .

After an absence from first @-@ class cricket , Dewhurst returned to play for Trinidad in 1930 when the MCC toured the West Indies . Before the series , he was named in the press as a candidate to lead the West Indies Test team . A Barbados newspaper claimed that he was the only suitable potential captain from Trinidad . The same report suggested that , while he may not have been available for every Test , he was an ideal leader if the selectors chose different captains for the matches played on each island . During the tour , and before the Trinidad Test , the Trinidad team played the MCC . Nelson Betancourt captained in the first game and won the match ; Dewhurst led

in the second and was defeated . Subsequently , Betancourt was selected as captain for the Trinidad Test match . Citing " insularity and prejudice " in West Indian selection , an article in a Trinidad newspaper stated : " The selection of Betancourt in preference to Dewhurst was a pre - arranged affair , the latter being only given the leadership of the second Trinidad team in order to keep quiet a suspicious and already much chagrined public . " The newspaper suggested that Dewhurst had been set up to fail when the selectors gave him a weaker team to play the MCC , that he still out - performed Betancourt in captaincy , and that the decision was based on factors other than ability .

The match between Trinidad and MCC was Dewhurst 's last in first - class cricket . In 31 first - class matches , he scored 665 runs at an average of 16 . 21 , passing fifty in six innings . He held 47 catches and made 13 stumpings . Both the Trinidad and West Indian selectors continued to leave Dewhurst out of teams . He was not chosen to tour Australia with the West Indies in 1930 ? 31 . One press report suggested " reasons are to be found in directions other than cricket " , and that minds had been " poisoned " . Dewhurst continued to be mentioned as a prospective selection , and even as a possibility for the West Indies captaincy , in the early 1930s , and critics still believed him to be the best wicket - keeper in the West Indies . But his lack of regular cricket was considered to count against him .

= = Impact = =

Writing about cricket in Trinidad , historian C. L. R. James noted that Dewhurst always kept wicket " excellently " , but that many Trinidadians considered Piggott a better wicket - keeper who was only left out because he was black and Dewhurst was white . James recalled that people were astonished when Piggott was not chosen to tour England in 1923 . But he suggests it was not a surprise as without Dewhurst 's selection , among the Trinidad representatives on the West Indian team , there would have been no players from the Queen 's Park Club , the most prestigious club on the island , nor would there have been any white players . Writing in 1927 , in the expectation that Dewhurst would tour England the following year , his 1923 team - mate C. R. Browne wrote that Dewhurst 's " heart is as big as his body " and that his " expansive smile captures many victims " . He described him as " very unassuming , but winning in appearance Dewhurst is effective in his job and inspires confidence in bowler and fieldsmen alike . Without Trinidad 's skipper no West Indies Team is complete . "