

CHANGING PLAYING STATUS IN CHAMPIONSHIP CRICKET: 1890 TO 1962

Until the end of the 1962 season, the authorities organising first-class cricket in England and Wales drew a distinction between amateur and professional players. County clubs treated their players according to their playing status, and the differences in this treatment have been widely documented.

In the formal County Championship, a total of 2,670 players played as amateurs between the beginning of the 1890 season and the end of 1962 season. The list of 102 names below, 3.8 per cent of that total, is an attempt at a full record of all players who played as both amateurs and professionals in Championship games during that period.

<i>Player/County</i>	<i>Seasons/matches as amateur</i>	<i>Seasons/matches as professional</i>
F.L.Angell (Somerset)	1947, 1948 (3)	1949-1952, 1954-1956 (118)
N.F.Armstrong (Leicestershire)	1919 (1)	1926-1939 (354)
F.H.Bacon (Hampshire)	1903-1907, 1909, 1911 (52)	1895-1897 (22)
C.S.Baker (Warwickshire)	1905-1919 (203)	1920 (2)
C.J.Barnett (Gloucestershire)	1928 (28)	1929-1948 (360)
G.S.Boyes (Hampshire)	1921 (5)	1922-1939 (452)
J.C.Bradshaw (Leicestershire)	1923-1925 (15)	1926-1933 (151)
J.Bridges (Somerset)	1920-1929 (148)	1911-1919 (55)
*R.G.Broadbent (Worcestershire)	1950 (1)	1951-1962 (270)
P.H.Bromley (Warwickshire)	1956 (1)	1949, 1950, 1952-1954 (35)
W.L.Budd (Hampshire)	1946 (4)	1934-1938 (55)
H.T.F.Buse (Somerset)	1929 (1)	1930-1953 (286)
E.F.Carless (Glamorgan)	1946 (1)	1934 (2)
H.Chidgey (Somerset)	1900, 1902 (2)	1908-1919, 1921 (90)
H.M.Claughton (Yorkshire)	1919 (3)	1914 (1)
D.C.S.Compton (Middlesex)	1958 (3)	1936-1957 (275)
J.S.Curtis (Leicestershire)	1921 (2)	1906-1909, 1911, 1912, 1919 (33)
A.G.Daer (Essex)	1929-1935 (92)	1925 (2)
H.B.Daft (Nottinghamshire)	1890 (2)	1891-1899 (112)
K.R.Davidson (Yorkshire)	1933, 1935 (5)	1934 (23)
T.C.Dodds (Essex)	1946 (24)	1947-1959 (325)
E.J.Drake (Hampshire)	1931, 1932 (4)	1933, 1934, 1936 (12)
R.G.Duckfield (Glamorgan)) 1930 (2)	1931-1938 (171)
L.C.Eastman (Essex)	1920-1926 (114)	1927-1939 (294)
W.J.Edrich (Middlesex)	1947-1958 (269)	1937-1946 (90)
S.Fenley (Surrey)	1924 (20)	1925-1929 (83)
(Hampshire)	1935 (3)	
T.Forester (Warwickshire)		1896-1899 (25)
(Derbyshire)	1902-1904, 1910-1920 (102)	
F.C.Gardner (Warwickshire)	1947 (3)	1948-1960 (302)
P.A.Gibb (Yorkshire)	1935-1938, 1946 (30)	
(Essex)	1951-1956 (135)	
H.H.I.H.Gibbons (Worcestershire)	1946 (2)	1927-1939 (358)
*G.Goonesena (Nottinghamshire)	1955-1958 (60)	1953, 1954 (30)
W.R.Hammond (Gloucestershire)	1920, 1938-1946, 1951 (56)	1922-1925, 1927-1937 (321)
E.G.Hayes (Surrey)	1896-1914 (427)	1919 (9)
(Leicestershire)	1926 (5)	
A.Hayhurst (Warwickshire)	1934 (4)	1935 (3)
*R.G.A.Headley (Worcestershire)	1958 (1)	1959-1962 (88)

E.Hill (Somerset)	1947 (5)	1948-1951 (61)
W.A.Hill (Warwickshire)	1929, 1930, 1946 (6)	1931-1939, 1947, 1948 (154)
*R.E.Hitchcock (Warwickshire)	1958, 1959 (13)	1950-1956, 1960-1962 (218)
*H.Horton (Worcestershire)	1946 (1)	1947, 1949 (5)
(Hampshire)		1953-1962 (251)
*M.J.Horton (Worcestershire)	1953, 1954 (5)	1952, 1955-1962 (234)
W.Hyman (Somerset)	1900-1902 (5)	1912-1914 (33)
*H.L.Johnson (Derbyshire)	1949, 1950 (16)	1955-1962 (206)
E.C.Jones (Glamorgan)	1934-1936 (8)	1937-1946 (84)
*P.H.Jones (Kent)	1953 (1)	1957, 1959-1962 (93)
W.E.Jones (Glamorgan)	1937, 1938 (14)	1946-1958 (294)
P.F.Judge (Middlesex)	1933, 1934 (7)	
(Glamorgan)		1939-1947 (50)
V.W.C.Jupp (Sussex)	1919-1922 (63)	1909-1914 (98)
(Northamptonshire)	1924-1933, 1936-1938 (268)	
I.M.King (Warwickshire)	1952 (2)	1953-1955 (43)
(Essex)		1957 (25)
K.C.W.King (Surrey)	1936 (2)	1936-1938 (24)
*J.C.Laker (Surrey)		1947-1959 (258)
(Essex)	1962 (12)	
A.F.Lane (Worcestershire)	1927-1929, 1932 (35)	1914 (10)
(Warwickshire)	1919, 1921, 1925 (11)	
H.M.Lawson (Hampshire)	1935 (7)	1936, 1937 (36)
*C.Lee (Yorkshire)	1952 (1)	
(Derbyshire)		1954-1962 (204)
*L.J.Lenham (Sussex)	1956 (1)	1957-1962 (150)
E.I.Lester (Yorkshire)	1946, 1947 (8)	1948-1955 (173)
S.Levy (Gloucestershire)	1910 (1)	1911 (3)
C.K.Linney (Somerset)	1934 (1)	1931, 1932, 1937 (31)
*P.J.Loader (Surrey)	1951 (1)	1952-1962 (224)
H.W.Lobban (Worcestershire)	1952 (6)	1953, 1954 (9)
*P.T.Marner (Lancashire)	1952 (2)	1953, 1955, 1956, 1959-1962 (153)
A.D. Matthews (Northamptonshire)	1928-1936 (211)	
(Glamorgan)	1946, 1947 (25)	1937-1939 (22)
*C.A.Milton (Gloucestershire)	1948 (1)	1949-1962 (321)
C.I.Monks (Gloucestershire)	1935, 1947, 1948, 1951, 1952 (19)	1936-1938, 1949, 1950 (42)
S.W.Montgomery (Glamorgan)	1949 (3)	1950-1953 (20)
A.S.Moule (Essex)	1921 (1)	1923, 1924 (15)
V.S.Munden (Leicestershire)	1947 (1)	1946, 1948-1957 (210)
W.L.Neale (Gloucestershire)	1923, 1925, 1927, 1928 (60)	1929-1948 (360)
*R.B.Nicholls (Gloucestershire)	1951 (1)	1953-1962 (206)
J.H.Parsons (Warwickshire)	1919, 1923, 1929-1934 (94)	1910-1914, 1924-1928 (206)
J.E.Pleass (Glamorgan)	1947 (5)	1948-1956 (149)
F.T.Prentice (Leicestershire)	1951 (1)	1935-1950 (220)
T.L.Pritchard (Warwickshire)		1947-1955 (152)
(Kent)	1956 (4)	
*G.Pullar (Lancashire)	1954, 1955 (9)	1956-1962 (149)
L.H.R.Ralph (Essex)	1953-1957 (69)	1958-1961 (92)
W.Reader-Blackton (Derbyshire)	1920, 1921 (7)	1914 (1)
T.B.Reddick (Middlesex)	1931 (1)	
(Nottinghamshire)		1946, 1947 (49)
J.Redman (Somerset)	1948, 1953 (4)	1949-1952 (58)
*D.W.Richardson (Worcestershire)	1953, 1955 (18)	1956-1962 (202)
*P.E.Richardson (Worcestershire)	1949-1958 (140)	
(Kent)		1960-1962 (83)
H.J.Roberts (Warwickshire)	1935, 1937 (5)	1932-1934 (12)
G.W.Robinson (Nottinghamshire)	1936 (17)	1930-1933 (2)

F.R.Santall (Warwickshire)	1920-1922 (53)	1923-1939 (422)
J.S.Sharp (Lancashire)	1919-1925 (109)	1899-1914 (383)
J.D.Short (Derbyshire)	1957 (3)	1960 (6)
N.A.Shortland (Warwickshire)	1946, 1949, 1950 (8)	1938, 1939 (14)
D.V.Smith (Sussex)	1946 (3)	1947-1962 (316)
*M.J.Smith (Middlesex)	1959 (1)	1960-1962 (35)
*J.A.Snow (Sussex)	1961 (2)	1962 (1)
E.J.Spry (Gloucestershire)	1899-1909 (81)	1921 (1)
H.S.Squires (Surrey)	1928, 1929 (12)	1930-1949 (331)
W.Sugg (Derbyshire)	1901, 1902 (9)	1895-1900 (82)
E.Sykes (Derbyshire)	1925 (3)	1932 (2)
R.M.Taylor (Essex)	1946 (26)	1931-1939 (169)
*N.I.Thomson (Sussex)	1952 (15)	1953-1962 (267)
J.E.Timms (Northamptonshire)	1925, 1926 (38)	1927-1949 (400)
G.E.Tyldesley (Lancashire)	1909-1935 (525)	1936 (2)
J.H.Vincett (Sussex)	1919 (3)	1907-1914 (152)
(Surrey)	1921 (2)	
J.E.Walsh (Leicestershire)	1938, 1939 (8)	1946-1956 (249)
G.S.Watson (Kent)	1928, 1929 (8)	
(Leicestershire)		1935-1950 (205)
E.A.Watts (Surrey)	1933 (7)	1934-1949 (200)
J.Wild (Northamptonshire)	1954 (9)	1955, 1958-1961 (25)
G.T.O.Wilson (Worcestershire)	1951, 1953 (2)	1952 (11)
C.J.B.Wood (Leicestershire)	1897-1921, 1923 (383)	1896 (5)
G.Wyatt (Derbyshire)	1954 (1)	1955, 1958 (8)

Notes: [a] Players who went on to play after 1962 in the Championship as undifferentiated 'cricketers' are denoted by an asterisk. [b] Figures in parentheses are for Championship matches only. [c] K.C.W King played both as an amateur and as a professional in 1936.

The table shows that just over half the instances of players changing status occurred in the seventeen seasons 1946 to 1962, when the practicalities of playing regularly as an amateur were most under threat: only eight instances occurred before the First World War.

The principal reason for changing status seems to have been financial. Fifty-seven of the players who did so became professionals after a few games or a season or two playing unpaid. This was particularly so in the 1950s, when there were several instances of National Servicemen playing as amateurs while on leave. On the other hand, there were some 21 cases where professionals became amateurs towards the end of their careers, 'turning out', as *Wisden* used to put it, for a few games.

Of the hundred players listed above, there were perhaps only fifteen who played 'full' seasons both as an amateur and as a professional. These were Barnett, Bridges, Dodds, Eastman, Edrich, Fenley, Goonesena, Hammond, Jupp, Parsons, Ralph, the Richardson brothers, Santall and Sharp.

Finally, a few special cases. The first player to change from amateur to professional in the 'official' Championship was Harry Daft in 1891: the first to change in the opposite direction was Cecil Wood in 1896. The last two players to change status were Jim Laker

who became an Essex 'gentleman' in 1962; in that same season, John Snow started as a Sussex professional having been an amateur in 1961. It will be seen that some players changed status more than once: Clifford Monks, uniquely, moved between amateur and professional four times in the course of his 61 Championship appearances for Gloucestershire.

D.J. 23.i.2020

Note: This is an amended version of the list and associated article, 'Crossing the Divide', which appeared in *The Cricket Statistician*, (Vol 118), in the summer of 2002.