

8 CHAMPIONSHIPS AND 2 TESTS

Wilf Barber, Brighouse CC and England, by Matt Carswell

Wilf Barber was born in Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, on 18 April 1901. He was a professional for Yorkshire between 1926 and 1947 and also represented England in two Tests in 1935 against South Africa. Renowned for his batting and fielding abilities, during his time at Yorkshire he won the County Championship eight times, scoring a total of 16,402 runs in 373 first-class matches.



Barber achieved a career average of 34.38 runs and made 29 career centuries, 27 of which were for Yorkshire. His most successful season was in 1935 where he exceeded 1,000 runs, making 2,147 at an average of 42.09. This was one of eight different occasions where he exceeded 1,000 runs in a season. In 1935 he hit a personal highest score of 285 against Surrey at Bramall Lane, Sheffield.

In the same season he represented England against South Africa. His first Test match was at Headingley where he made a total of 38 runs in his two innings. The match was eventually drawn. His second and final Test was the 4th Test of the same series at Old Trafford. This time he made a total of 45 runs and this match was also drawn.

The highest partnership Barber took part in - still a Yorkshire record to this day - was with Maurice Leyland against Middlesex at Sheffield in 1932. In four and a half hours they made a total of 346 with Barber making 162 and Leyland hitting 189, even with the help of a runner!

Although not known for his bowling, he tops the all-time test match bowling lists! He took one wicket from two balls in his first Test for England against South Africa. Despite his few Test matches with England, he did tour Australasia with the M.C.C Team in 1935/36, scoring a total of 797 runs. He made 91 against Queensland at Brisbane but failed to really hit form. He did, though, when the tourists went over to New Zealand, making 365 runs in four matches including 116 against Canterbury.

After he retired Barber became groundsman and coach at a school in Harrogate, Yorkshire. He died in a Bradford hospital on 10 September, aged 66.