

Arthur Fagg - By Maxwell Macfarlane

Arthur Edward Fagg was born at Chatham, Kent, on 18 June 1915. He made his debut with Kent County Cricket Club in 1932 and, as a right-handed bat, and much later as an occasional wicketkeeper, he served the club well until 1957.

He made his Test debut against India at Manchester in 1936 and was selected to play in the Ashes series in Australia in 1936-37 but halfway through he was invalided home with rheumatic fever and as a consequence missed the whole of the 1937 season. He recovered well enough to be recalled to the Test side in 1938 but declined an invitation to tour South Africa in 1938-39 and played his last Test, against the West Indies, at Manchester in 1939.



Altogether he played in five Tests (8 innings) for a total of 150 runs, with a highest score of 39, and took five catches. However, his record with Kent was considerably better. He played in 435 first-class matches (803 innings) for a total of 27,291 runs, including 55 centuries and six double centuries. His highest score was 269 not out in 1953, and he took 425 catches, including seven in one match against Hampshire in 1952. In July 1938, when playing against Essex at Colchester, he scored 244 runs in the first innings and 202 not out in the second, a double never achieved before or since, which included a county record first wicket stand with P R Sunnucks of 283.

In 1946 he married Edith Leavers from Sussex at Brighton and they eventually had three sons, Alan, Brian and Colin.

Unfit for service in the Second World War, he went as coach to Cheltenham College but returned to Kent in 1947. Though his Test days were over, he played many good innings for the County until 1956, and captained the 2nd XI in 1957. He scored over 2,000 runs in four seasons and well over 1,000 runs in four more.

During 1958 he took on country-wide coaching jobs but in 1959 he began a second career as a first-class umpire which eventually saw him stand in 18 Tests (1967-71) and seven One-Day Internationals (1972-76). He hit the headlines in 1973 at Edgbaston, after the West Indies team had criticised one of his decisions, by refusing to rejoin the field until after the first over.

In about 1960 he bought "Maridon", a house on London Road, Southborough, and in 1964 he opened a fruiterer's shop at 48 St. John's Road, Tunbridge Wells. He lived at "Maridon" until his death on 13 September 1977.

Sources:

Moore, D. 1989. The History of Kent County Cricket Club.
Wisden Cricket's Almanack.
Google.

