

The First Graders

Paul Toole

Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap no. 1

Full Name: **Paul Gregory Toole**

Born: **27 June 1972, Bathurst**

Secondary School: **Bathurst High School**

Occupation: **Industrial Union Organiser**

Playing role: **Right hand bat/left arm finger spin bowler**

| BATTING | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Season | Mtch | Inns | N.O. | Best | Runs | Ave. | 100 | 50 | Ct. |
| 2001-02* | 20 | 23 | 6 | 100 | 862 | 50.71 | 1 | 7 | 7 |
| 2002-03* | 11 | 13 | 2 | 73 | 391 | 35.55 | | 2 | 3 |
| 2003-04* | 22 | 25 | 6 | 88 | 568 | 29.89 | | 2 | 10 |
| 2004-05 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 38 | 165 | 18.33 | | | 2 |
| 2005-06 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 36 | 88 | 11.00 | | | 1 |
| Totals | 72 | 80 | 16 | 100 | 2,074 | 32.41 | 1 | 11 | 23 |
| BOWLING | | | | | | | | | |
| Season | Overs | Mdn | Wkts | Runs | Ave. | Best | | | |
| 2001-02* | 6 | 2 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0-11 | | | |
| 2002-03* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 2003-04* | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0-9 | | | |
| 2004-05 | 13 | 1 | 3 | 52 | 17.33 | 3-38 | | | |
| 2005-06 | 7.67 | 0 | 2 | 48 | 24.00 | 2-2 | | | |
| Totals | 28.7 | 3 | 5 | 140 | 28.00 | 3-38 | | | |

*captain

Paul Toole was the first captain of the Randwick Petersham First XI. His appointment appeared a bold move as he had not previously captained a Sydney Grade team although he had proved himself a solid 1st Grade player over six seasons with Randwick. The former Randwick and Petersham-Marrickville captains Andrew Millican and Graham Doig didn't offer for the job with the newly merged club but remained in the side which took the field for the first time as Randwick Petersham on 29 September 2001. The three seasons which followed proved the decision by the new club to be a good one as Toole led the side with flair and distinction leading his charges to the 2003-04 1st Grade Grand Final.

While many players fall by the wayside when the captaincy is thrust upon them the 1st Grade Randwick Petersham appointment was a positive one for Paul and he flourished under the added responsibility. He led the side to the 2001-02 Qualifying Final in the Belvidere Cup and to the Semi-Final in the Limited Overs competition including a record 11 successive first innings wins. His own form blossomed as well and he produced his best season in Sydney Grade Cricket with a massive 862 runs at an average of 50.71 including a century and seven fifties. He was fittingly rewarded as the first Randwick Petersham Player to be named Clubman of the Year.

The side was again very competitive the following summer finishing seventh in the Belvidere Cup and narrowly missing out on its first premiership when defeated in the Grand Final of the Limited Overs competition by Sutherland. A highlight of Toole's season was the opening partnership of 165 he and Joe Hill put on to defeat Gordon outright by 10 wickets after being bowled out for 75 in the first innings. Paul again missed out on leading the club to its first premiership in 1st Grade when the side was defeated in the 2003-04 Belvidere Cup Grand Final by neighbouring Eastern Suburbs.

The pressure of an expanding young family and the need to relocate out of the area to more affordable housing saw Paul stand down from the 1st Grade captaincy at the end of that season before going on to play a major part in the club's inaugural premiership win in 2nd Grade in 2004-05. One summer later he retired and moved to Lake Macquarie where he played in the Newcastle competition.

In a 14 season Sydney Grade Cricket career with Randwick and Randwick Petersham, Paul Toole scored 7,634 runs including 10 centuries. He scored 5,671 runs in 1st Grade including 2,074 with Randwick Petersham. At the 10th Anniversary Dinner in 2011 Paul Toole was named in the Randwick Petersham Team of the Decade.