

The First Graders

Joseph Hill



Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 18

Full name: **Joseph Vettori Hill**

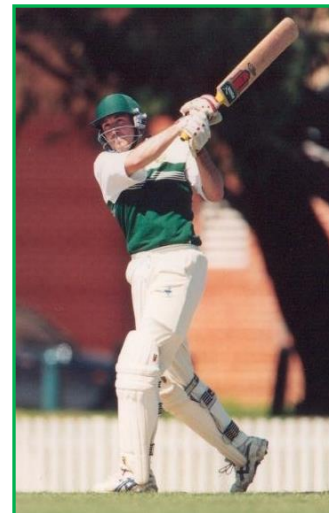
Date and Place of Birth: **18 October 1976, Blenheim, Marlborough, New Zealand**

Secondary School: **Marlborough Boys College, Marlborough, New Zealand**

Occupation: **Local Government Officer**

Playing role: **Right hand bat**

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2002-03	19	22	3	123*	612	32.21	1	3	14
2003-04	21	22	1	126	780	37.14	1	4	11
2004-05	17	19	1	90	432	24.00		2	14
2005-06	18	21	2	121	528	27.79	1	1	6
2006-07	21	24	2	110*	634	28.82	1	3	11
2007-08	1	1	0	2	2	2.00			1
Totals	97	109	9	126	2,988	29.88	4	13	57



It was one of the great debuts in Sydney Grade Cricket let alone with Randwick Petersham when Joseph Hill, wearing the baggy green colours of the club for the first time smashed the University of NSW bowlers to all parts of the Village Green in round one of the 2002-03 season. In a match where the club's marquee player Simon Katich was dismissed for a duck, Hill finished with a remarkable 123 not out off 122 balls with 14 fours and two sixes. The winning margin of 95 runs in a 50 overs match emphasised the dominance of Hill's innings.

But Joseph didn't have things all his own way later that summer when, with the scores level in the match against Gordon at Petersham, he needed one run for his hundred and one for the team's win. He smashed the next ball to the third man boundary with the umpire's arm outstretched signalling "no ball". Under the Laws of Cricket the match was over as soon as the bowler overstepped and was called meaning that Joe's great back-cut was all to no avail leaving him stranded on 99 not out!

In 2003-04 Hill hit a mammoth 26 sixes in his seasonal tally of 780 runs. An example of his exciting stroke-play was on display in the match against Campbelltown at Petersham that season. With very few games played because of continual rain it was a surprise to all at Petersham Oval that the umpires allowed the match to go on in gloomy conditions. With 165 to get in just 120 minutes a draw looked a foregone conclusion until Hill and Brett Hunter came together and hit a record fifth wicket partnership of 122 in just 64 minutes and knock over the 165 target in only 97 minutes just as the heavens opened! Joseph scored 81.

A few weeks later Hill was at it again in a rain-marred match against UTS Balmain at Petersham when he hit his career top score of 126 to record a miracle win achieving the target of 259 just as the rain tumbled down and the clock struck 6.45 pm! With a century and four fifties 2003-04 was a memorable one for Joseph Hill although he had the disappointment of being given out LBW without scoring in the Grand Final at Coogee with his father on hand to watch having made the trip from New Zealand.

Over the following three seasons Hill continued to be one of the top batsmen in the side hitting centuries against Fairfield (110*) and Sutherland (121). He captained the side in 2005-06 at a time of rebuilding following some major retirements. While the team did not perform up to expectations, under Hill's guidance the seeds were sown for future advancement.

Apart from Joseph Hill's ability as an attacking and entertaining batsman who loved nothing better than to hit the red ball over the cricket ground fence, he was also a dynamic fielder. First Grade manager Bobby Barter claimed Joe had an "eye like a mountain duck" in the way he would continually throw down the stumps. He did it twice in the same match against Blacktown in 2004-05 which won him the club's fielding award. He took 14 catches in a season twice among his total of 57 in five seasons which is an outstanding achievement. A most athletic fielder, his brilliance in the field regularly raised the spirit of the side.



Near the start of the 2007-08 season the birth of Hill's second child along with pressing business and family commitments brought his career with Randwick Petersham to an end. While he filled in for a match that season Joseph Hill retired with the enviable record of 2,988 1st Grade runs in a club career total of 3,138. He was the third player to pass 3,000 runs for the club.

His interest in the game has continued however with a 2008-09 Sydney Shires premiership for South Sydney alongside club legend Richard Chee Quee in a season including three centuries. Joseph is now in the Nepean District competition with the second oldest cricket club in NSW - Springwood Cricket Club. The club secured two minor premierships in 2010-11 and 2011-12 and a 2011-12 premiership with Hill hitting a further 1,445 runs at 58 including four centuries and a highest score of 203*.