



The First Graders

Robert Smith

Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 20

Full name: **Robert Thomas Smith**

Date and Place of Birth: **24 October 1974, Sutherland**

Secondary School: **Hurstville Boys High**

Playing role: **Right arm leg-spin bowler/right hand bat**

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2002-03	21	13	6	9*	41	5.86			8
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2002-03	267.5	41	41	993	24.22	7-82	1		



Robert Smith was a mature and experienced campaigner when he joined Randwick Petersham in its second season. He had played six seasons of 1st Grade Cricket for St George and one with Petersham-Marrickville just before the merger with Randwick. He also played first class cricket with Otago in New Zealand in 2000-01. As a leg-spinner, Smith's presence in the line-up was fortuitous as first-year "leggie" Grant Parmenter took up a club coaching position with a Shires club.

With 41 wickets for the season Smith was one of the successes of the side and with fast man Adam Warren snaring 46 and swinger Scott Obey 56, they formed a stand-out attack in a season where the batting was a bit hot and cold. The side missed the finals by one spot finishing seventh.

It was round four before Robert really weaved his spell taking a superb 7-82 out of a total Wests score of 301. It was a disappointment that such an outstanding performance was not complemented with a win. Not to be deterred he followed that up a couple of matches later with a winning effort in rather bizarre circumstances.

In a match the team won against Easts at Waverley Oval, Smith suffered slight concussion in a collision with an opposing batsman. A visit to hospital resulted in him not being discharged until 11.30 pm that Saturday night. The next day however, he was on hand at Coogee Oval to take 3-22 from nine overs and seal a win in the limited overs match against Sydney University!

The match that season against UTS Balmain was one of the most amazing wins in the club's history with Robert Smith the hero. Sent in on a seaming Drummoyne Oval wicket in super-friendly bowling conditions, the Tiger's Nathan Bracken had us reeling at 5-11 before a late rally managed to get the score to 93. A bowling fight-back saw Balmain slump to 6-47 in reply but at 6-82 the contest looked all over until Smith was introduced into the attack. He immediately struck and when Scott Obey chimed in with another wicket there still remained hope albeit slight. A wild swing off Smith by the number 10 with two to win saw him caught at mid-off and when Robert rapped the pads of the last man right in front to have them out for 92 and a one run win to us, the cheering could be heard at Sydney Heads!

During the winter of 2003 Robert took up a position in America and as a result was lost to the club for the next and following seasons.

