

The First Graders

Richard Phillips



Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 23

Full Name: **Richard Phillips**

Date and Place of Birth: **10 April 1975, Darlinghurst**

Secondary School: **Marist Brothers, Kogarah**

Playing role: **Left hand opening bat**

Occupation: **Senior Environmental Scientist**

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2002-03	9	11	1	42	257	25.70			2
2003-04	19	21	1	114	494	24.70	1		8
Totals	28	32	2	114	751	25.03	1		10

A left hand opening batsman with a classic cover drive and a dynamic covers fieldsman, Richie Phillips was called into the Randwick Petersham 1st Grade side just after the start of the 2002-03 season. He celebrated that call-up with a magnificent catch on the boundary at Bankstown Oval to dismiss Bankstown's top scorer Vaughn Williams when it looked certain the ball was heading over the fence for six! He also hit 37 in the one-day match but it wasn't enough to prevent the Bulldogs taking the points.

It was an excellent season for Phillips with 716 runs in the two top grades. He topped the averages in 2nd Grade with 459 runs at 57.38 including a magnificent 129 not out against Northern District at Coogee Oval to guide his team to a four wickets win. That score was in a match which elevated Seconds into the Qualifying Final and came at a time when they were 4-39 chasing 267.

Richie was the regular opener in 1st Grade throughout the 2003-04 season scoring 494 runs. In round three against Bankstown that summer he went from 77 to 100 in just 10 balls in registering 114. It wasn't enough however, to prevent Bankstown again defeating us due in no small way to Mark Waugh's fantastic 138 before a catch from Phillips sent the Test player on his way.

While Richie and skipper Paul Toole put on many great starts that season, Toole dropped down the order when 16 years old Usman Khawaja was promoted. Richie had the distinction of opening the batting with the future Test player on debut with the duo continuing their partnership into the Grand Final at Coogee against Eastern Suburbs. Chasing 273 Phillips and Khawaja put on 35 for the first wicket in the big match before Phillips was caught for 20. The side was eventually dismissed for 234 – 40 runs short of a 1st Grade Premiership win in only the club's third year.



Richie made up for his disappointment at that loss with a premiership in 2nd Grade the following season. He played the whole summer in Seconds scoring 554 runs at 29.16 with a top score of 72. And while he held an amazing 13 catches it was his defiant knock of 69 against Mosman on a seaming Rawson Oval pitch to get Two's into the Grand Final which highlighted his season. Many of his team-mates claimed that that innings was only overshadowed by the way he led the side in the team song in the dressing room after many good wins throughout the season!

Richie Phillips was an experienced cricketer when he joined Randwick in 2000-01 having played for St George in 1st and 2nd grades during the previous 10 seasons. After a few games in Randwick's 1st Grade team he joined the newly merged Randwick Petersham club but was only available for half the season which he played in 2nd Grade. Following his 2nd Grade premiership success in 2004-05, Richie and his wife made a career move overseas.

In his Randwick/Randwick Petersham playing career Richie Phillips scored 1,913 runs with two centuries from 60 matches.



