

The First Graders

Rodney Stafford



Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 31

Full Name: **Rodney Graeme Stafford**

Date and Place of Birth: **16 May 1981, Darlinghurst**

Secondary School: **Caringbah High**

Occupation: **Industry Solutions Designer**

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

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2003-04	16	12	2	58	168	16.80		1	8
2004-05	7	5	2	12	19	6.33			2
2005-06	4	3	0	26	39	13.00			1
2007-08	3	2	1	11	12	12			1
2008-09*	16	17	2	51	280	18.67		1	9
2009-10*	16	10	3	40	125	17.86			1
T20	1	1	0	6	6	6			0
2010-11	10	8	1	64*	174	24.86		1	6
2013-14	1	1	0	0	0	0			0
Totals	74	59	11	64*	823	17.15		3	28
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2003-04	235.4	25	26	908	34.92	6-62	2		
2004-05	80.5	6	6	312	52.00	2-37			
2005-06	50	3	2	229	114.50	1-58			
2007-08	12	1	1	67	67	1-0			
2008-09*	225.3	36	31	815	26.29	6-76	3		
2009-10*	216	37	21	774	36.86	4-70			
T20	4	0	1	28	28	1-28			
2010-11	82.3	7	10	391	39.10	4-50			
2013-14	5	0	0	41	0	0-41			
Totals	911.3	115	98	3,565	36.38	6-62	5		



*captain

Leg-spinner Rod Stafford will never forget his first over for Randwick Petersham in 1st Grade. He was called into the attack to bowl against one of Australia's greatest batsmen, Mark Waugh who was in full flight. And while Waugh went on to a century for his club Bankstown at Bankstown Oval that day, the occasion will also be remembered as the launching of Rod Stafford as one of the club's best performed all-rounders in its first 10 years.

Rod made his debut in 2003-04 after a number of seasons spearheading the 2nd Grade attack. And despite being tested by Mark Waugh in his debut match just three games later he was the toast of the team after taking 6-85 against UTS Balmain to set up a great win. And to show that performance was no fluke five games after that he took 6-62 against Eastern Suburbs at Waverley Oval to give his team a win by a bare four runs! His all-round ability was also on display against Mosman at Rawson Oval when he scored 58 in a 102 run partnership in 74 minutes with Nathan Rosser for the ninth wicket to win the game and establish a new club record. He finished the season with 26 wickets and 168 runs and had the thrill of playing in the 1st Grade Grand Final.

Despite his impressive debut season his appearances in 1st Grade were limited over the following three seasons. In 2008-09 however, after three years as 2nd Grade skipper, he was elevated to captain of the First XI, a team which included players of the calibre of Usman Khawaja, Nathan Hauritz and Burt Cockley. And while the side struggled that season Rodney was one of the real successes with returns of 5-49 against Fairfield-Liverpool, 5-83 v Wests and a fantastic 6-76 against North Sydney. He was also a consistent lower-order batsman hitting 280 runs with a best score of 51.

Stafford remained at the helm of the team in 2009-10 again being a major contributor with both bat and ball. The improvement of the side was most evident and Rodney's leadership did much to set the side on its way to contest the Grand Final in each of the following two seasons. And while he made few appearances in 1st Grade in 2010-11 he showed he still had plenty to offer by top scoring with 64 not out in a ninth wicket partnership of 97 with Rob Wilson against subsequent premiers Sydney Uni.

Rod Stafford remains the leading 1st Grade spin bowling all-rounder in the club as his 98 wickets and 823 runs confirm.