

The First Graders

Jimmy Byrne

Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 38

Full Name: **James Byrne**

Date and Place of Birth: **26 October 1983, Taree, NSW**

Secondary School: **St Ignatius College, Riverview**

Occupation: **Fund Manager**

Playing role: **Right arm pace bowler / right hand bat**



BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2004-05	8	6	4	22*	61	30.50			2
2005-06	9	8	3	9*	21	4.20			7
2006-07	17	15	5	35	160	15.00			4
2007-08	19	13	4	45	148	16.44			2
2008-09	17	16	5	97	328	29.82		1	2
T20	3	3	0	28	55	18.3			1
2009-10	18	11	3	28*	140	17.50			3
T20	2	1	0	9	9	9			1
Totals	93	73	24	97	922	18.82		1	22
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2004-05	93	17	12	367	30.58	3-35			
2005-06	92.5	15	16	341	21.31	5-47	1		
2006-07	169.3	31	28	654	23.36	4-59			
2007-08	187.2	32	27	679	25.15	4-10			
2008-09	195	32	24	720	30.00	5-58	1		
T20	11	0	4	97	24.25	2-46			
2009-10	171.1	32	19	640	33.68	4-93			
T20	7	0	1	43	43	1-19			
Totals	926.5	159	131	3,541	27.03	5-47	2		



A towering fast bowler with good pace and bounce coupled with the ability to bowl good lines, James Byrne was called into 1st Grade in round two of 2004-05 celebrating with a classic first wicket—Test batsman Phil Jaques. The match at Glenn McGrath Oval against Sutherland was an unusual circumstance for the debutante as he was thrown the new ball after his team had been knocked over for a then record low score of just 69. The wicket of Jaques was a significant start to James' 1st Grade career as he was to dismiss the Test star on two other occasions.

Byrne showed he had a liking for the Sutherland batsmen as he took 5-47 at Coogee the following season to ensure a good win against a team then running second in the 1st Grade competition. His season was split between 1's and 2's although he won the bowling average in 1st Grade with his 16 wickets at 21.31. It wasn't until 2006-07 however, than Byrne became a regular 1st grader. Interestingly he saved one of his best performances that summer for the Sutherland match where he produced a very hostile spell with the new ball firing out three batsmen in just seven balls including Phil Jaques first ball. He also added 19 in a 50 run partnership with Matt Mott to enable his side to scrape home 201 to 180 and clinch a spot in the competition semi-finals. His 28 wickets that season at 23.36 again won him the 1st Grade bowling average.

Over the following three seasons James Byrne was one of the most consistent performers in the 1st Grade side. At Raby Oval against Campbelltown—Camden in 2007-08 after his team had been bowled out for its lowest ever score of 57, Jim responded with 4-10 to have the Ghosts out for 75 enabling Randwick Petersham to go on and score an amazing outright win. His second five wicket haul was achieved in 2008-09 on an historic occasion being the first time a 1st Grade competition game was played outside Sydney. At Bradman Oval, Bowral, Byrne bowled his side to victory with a 5-58 performance over the Sydney club. Returns of 2-6 off eight overs against Sydney University in a limited overs match and a spell of 3-1 against Campbelltown—Camden completed a fine season for the tall all-rounder.

Jim was always keen to display his batting prowess as he did in his first season when he joined Matt Mott in a record partnership of 110 for the eighth wicket against Campbelltown scoring 22 not out. Again in 2006-07 he teamed up with Brett Hunter in a record tenth wicket unbroken partnership of 57 to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat against Mosman at Rawson Oval. When Jim went to the crease as last man in the score stood at 9-237 chasing 292. With Hunter finishing 51 not out and Byrne 17 not out the win was one of 1st Grade's greatest in the club's first 10 years.

James Byrne didn't score a century with Randwick Petersham but he got very close in 2008-09 against Wests at Coogee Oval when he was out for 97. In 40 degree heat he and Rod Stafford (49) put on 109 for the eighth wicket although it wasn't enough to prevent a first innings loss. During his innings Byrne passed 50 for the club for the first time having been perilously close the previous match when dismissed for 48 against Sutherland at Glenn McGrath Oval.

With 3-18 in round one against University of NSW at Village Green season 2009-10 looked like being a good one for Byrne. However, apart from a 4-93 return against Sydney Uni. at Coogee wickets were hard to come by while an outstanding team batting line-up restricted his opportunities with the bat. The result was that an offer to bat higher up the order from neighbouring University of NSW was too hard to ignore and after eight summers with Randwick Petersham Jimmy changed clubs. In the seasons which followed Jim became the fine utility player for University that he was for Randwick Petersham. In his time with the club he took 215 wickets and scored 1,579 runs. His 131 1st Grade wickets were second only to Andrew Harrison's 137. He also won a 2nd Grade premiership in 2004-05 rating that win under the captaincy of Greg Hartshorne among his fondest memories.