

# The First Graders

## Nigil Singh



### **Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 40**

Full name: **Nigil Vishaal Singh**

Date and Place of Birth: **23 December 1981 in Suva, Fiji**

Secondary School: **St Mary's Cathedral College, Sydney**

Occupation: **Investment banker**

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

<b>BATTING</b>									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2004-05	12	7	3	10	24	6.00			1
2005-06	7	7	5	4*	12	6.00			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6.00</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>BOWLING</b>									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2004-05	160.4	34	22	537	24.41	4-75			
2005-06	60	16	5	150	30.00	2-26			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>220.4</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>25.44</b>	<b>4-75</b>			



After 17 wickets at just 14.53 in 2nd Grade including 5-23 against Mosman at Rawson Oval in the first round of the 2004-05 season, Nigil Singh won a place in the 1st Grade team. He made his debut on a hot day at Merrylands Oval in round seven against Parramatta where he excelled having four of the first seven wickets to fall before finishing with 4-75. It was a stunning debut for the medium pace swing bowler while rubbing shoulders with the likes of class players Simon Katich and Richard Chee Quee.

Starting his cricket career as an A W Green Shield player with Randwick in 1997-98, Singh had progressed in leaps and bounds and fully deserved his call up to the top grade. He confirmed the selectors' decision by going on to finish the season with 22 wickets at the good average of 24.41.

While far from being a major contributor with the bat, in just his second 1st Grade game Nigil displayed plenty of tenacity and determination when he joined Glenn Farquharson to put on a then record 51 for the tenth wicket and get the team score from 9-141 to 192 before they bowled out Penrith for 147 to take the points.

In 2005-06 Singh had limited opportunities only bowling 60 overs in seven matches for a return of five wickets at an average of 30.00. He spent most of the season in 2nd Grade where he performed well taking 18 wickets. But then disaster struck. In the off-season Nigil was struck down by a debilitating disease which threatened his playing future. It was a sign of his perseverance and dedication to the game and the club that he managed to get back on the cricket field in 5th Grade towards the end of the 2006-07 season bowling 23 overs for a 5-37 return in his one and only game in that grade.

While his medical problems meant an end to his 1st Grade playing days Nigil Singh was far from a spent force going on to take a club record 9-43 against Bankstown in 3rd Grade the following season. From there he took over as captain of the 3rd Grade side for the next three seasons. He was named Clubman of the Year in 2009-10 while also taking out the prestigious Sydney Cricket



Association 3rd Grade Captain of the Year Award. An enthusiastic contributor as a committee man to the administration of the club, Singh was the first Randwick Petersham player to take 300 wickets for the club, a feat he achieved early in the 2012-13 season.

In an interesting sidelight, shortly after Nigil made his 1st Grade debut he was joined in the team by his older leg-spinning brother Mel in a one-day limited overs match against UTS Balmain at Drummoyne Oval. The brothers starred that day with Nigil taking 3-42 and Mel 2-38. Richard Chee Quee and Usman Khawaja then put the finishing touches with the bat to ensure a place for the team in the 2004-05 SCA Limited Overs Semi-Final. An intriguing point about those four mentioned players is that they all have Asian heritage--an unusual feature in any cricket team. Nigil and Mel were also the second set of brothers to play 1st Grade cricket for Randwick Petersham behind Grant and Daryl Parmenter.