



The First Graders

Mel Singh

Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 41

Full Name: **Melvin Vishaal Singh**

Date and Place of Birth: **6 April 1977, Suva, Fiji**

Secondary School: **Sydney Technical High School Bexley**

Occupation: **Injury Management**

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



BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2004-05	6	3	2	34*	35	35.00			1
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2004-05	64.17	6	6	227	37.83	2-38			

Leg spinner Mel Singh is one of Randwick Petersham's greatest wicket-takers. After eight seasons with the former Randwick club he commenced his Randwick Petersham career as a member of the club's first 2nd Grade team in 2001-02. It was also the only team to win that day making Mel's beginning all the more meritorious.

Mel made his 1st Grade debut with Randwick Petersham on 16 January 2005 against UTS Balmain at Drummoyne Oval. It was not his Sydney 1st Grade debut having had that honour with Randwick in 1998-99. Apart from the thrill of receiving his baggy green prior to the start of the limited overs match, Mel was about to make the history books for Randwick Petersham for a different reason as he and his swing-bowler brother Nigil that day became only the second set of brothers to play in the same 1st Grade team for Randwick Petersham. The Parmenter brothers, Grant and Daryl were the first.

That connection may have inspired the brothers that day as the match belonged to them sharing five of the eight wickets to fall to bowlers with three others run out. Nigil took 3-42 and Mel 2-38 before 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.

Retained in the team for the following two-day match against Blacktown at Joe McAleer Oval, Singh had another starring role, this time with the bat. With the batsmen falling like flies in 40 degree heat, it was left to fast bowler Andrew Harrison and spinner Mel to put some respectability into the score which they did, putting on 60 for the ninth wicket to reach 194. Mel dominated the partnership with 34 not out. It was a popular batting performance as not only did it enable the team to record a win by 37 runs, but it was part of a five-grade win (commonly known as a "Greenwash") for the club.

Singh played another four matches in the top grade that season with moderate success. And while he continued to perform well in lower grades in the seasons which followed, the opportunity to again play 1st Grade for the club did not eventuate. He showed he was still up to the mark however, by taking all before him in 2nd Grade in 2008-09. Adding to the adage that leg spinners improve with age he took the bowling honours that season which included a 5-61 haul against Bankstown while with the bat he scored a half-century against North Sydney.

At the end of 2012-13 Mel Singh had put together an enviable cricket record. With Randwick Petersham his 10 seasons produced 233 wickets and 963 runs. Of those wickets an agonising 99 were secured in 2nd Grade. Adding his eight seasons Randwick record of 133 wickets and 414 runs gives him an overall total of 366 wickets and 1,377 runs. He also took 69 catches. Mel also played a season with Wests in 2003-04 featuring in a number of 1st Grade matches for that club.