

The First Graders

Matthew Taylor

Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 42

Full name: **Matthew Philip Taylor**

Date and Place of Birth: **2 September 1983, Sydney**

Secondary School: **Waverley College**

Occupation: **Sports Management Director**

Playing role: **Right hand bat/ wicketkeeper**



BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2004-05	4	4	0	7	12	3.00			
2005-06	5	6	0	52	81	13.50		1	
2006-07	21	24	1	77	533	23.17		3	
2007-08	7	8	0	42	118	14.75			1
2008-09	17	20	0	103	379	18.95	1		7
T20	2	2	0	0	0	0			3
Totals	56	64	1	103	1,123	17.83	1	4	11
WicketKeeping									
Season	Caught	Stpd.	Total	Byes					
2004-05	6	1	7	15					
2005-06	8	0	8	10					
2006-07	22	5	27	69					
2007-08	5	1	6	4					
Totals	41	7	48	98					



Matthew Taylor began season 2004-05 in 3rd Grade, progressed through to Seconds and eventually won a spot in the 1st Grade team before going on to take out the club's prestigious Player of the Season Award. An attacking wicketkeeper / batsman, Matt was always destined for 1st Grade, carving out premierships in 4th, 3rd and 2nd grades along the way under the experienced eye of Greg Hartshorne.

The 1st Grade opportunity presented itself following the retirement of record-breaking wicketkeeper Daryl Parmenter mid-way through the 2004-05 summer and after stand-in 'keeper David Mitchell decided to put the gloves away to concentrate on his batting. His 12 runs and seven dismissals in four games was a rather subdued start to his 1st Grade career having regard to his outstanding performances in the lower grades and Poidevin-Gray competition which saw Taylor complete the season with 1,114 runs and 28 wicket-keeping dismissals.

Season 2005-06, the worst in the club's history in 1st Grade, brought Matt only five appearances in the top grade. One of those was in the last game of the season against Blacktown at Joe McAleer Oval where Taylor celebrated his recall to the side with a memorable 52 enabling the team to enjoy one of only three wins in the season. The amazing feature of that innings was that he smashed every ball in one over including a no-ball for four! Seven boundaries (28 runs) in the one over! An historic moment for Matt whose name went into the Randwick Petersham record books, not just for that performance, but also for the fact he was the club's leading batsman with 652 runs and the leading wicketkeeper with 34 dismissals.

Drafted into the 1st Grade side for the whole of the 2006-07 season, the untapped ability of Matt Taylor was on show early with successive century partnerships with Usman Khawaja. His scores of 66 and 60 in those partnerships was followed by a dashing 77 in another century partnership, this time with Shawn Flegler as the pair put on 131. In the game against Mosman Taylor got together with Adam Semple to record his fourth century partnership of the season with the pair hitting 100 for the sixth wicket to set a new club record. With 533 runs for the season Matt became only the second player to pass 3,000 for the club. He also completed a fine season behind the stumps with 27 dismissals.

With the highly-regarded Ashley Doolan joining the club and taking over the 'keeping duties, 1st Grade opportunities were limited for Matt in 2007-08 and he spent the majority of the season in 2nd Grade. The following season however, he was back in 1st Grade playing as a batsman. And he showed he still had plenty to offer scoring his maiden 1st Grade century when he hit 103 of a near-record partnership of 202 for the second wicket with Brett Jackson against Hawkesbury at Owen Earle Oval. A quick-fire 45 to help win against Sydney University in a limited overs match at University 1 was also a good knock.

Matt played one more season in 2nd Grade before retiring at the relatively young age of just 29. In his nine seasons with Randwick Petersham he scored 4,239 runs with five centuries and effected 182 wicket-keeping dismissals. He remains one of the most talented and exciting players to have donned the club's colours.