

The First Graders

Chris Whelan



Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 47

Full name: **Christopher David Whelan**

Date and Place of Birth: **8 May 1986, Liverpool, UK**

Secondary School: **St Margaret's, Airdrie, North Lanarkshire, UK**

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

Occupation: **Professional Cricketer**

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2005-06	1	1	0	6	6	6.00			
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2005-06	3	0	0	33		0-33			



Like many English cricket hopefuls before him, 19 years old Chris Whelan ventured to Sydney for a stint in Sydney Grade Cricket as part of his development as a county cricketer. Just prior to the start of the 2005-06 Sydney Grade Cricket season Whelan made his first class cricket debut for Middlesex against Hampshire at Southampton taking three wickets including Zimbabwe Test cricketer Sean Irvine who he claimed in each innings.

With Randwick Petersham Chris played seven matches in 2nd Grade after a couple in 3rds. His 1st Grade chance came on 7 January 2006 when he was selected to play against Bankstown in a one-day match at Bankstown Oval. He scored six runs and took 0-33 off 3 overs. That was an unfortunate match for Chris to make his debut as the side was rolled for a then record-low 64 with no batsman making double figures. Bankstown ran down the total for the loss of only one wicket.

Whelan was one of six newly capped 1st Grade players that season and interestingly, three of them were English recruits. The other two were Jade Dernbach and Arun Harinath, each of whom played in the Bankstown match.

Chris Whelan ventured back to Sydney Grade Cricket in 2011-12 as an opening bowler for Fairfield-Liverpool. In an interesting twist, Chris' return to Coogee Oval in the Limited Overs Grand Final that season resulted in him entering the Randwick Petersham record books for all the wrong reasons. Coming in to bat against 19 years old medium pacer Nick Stapleton, Chris was rapped on the pads right in-front first ball to give young Nick an historic hat-trick! Randwick Petersham went on to take out the match and record only its second premierships.

In the seasons between his two Sydney visits, Whelan switched from Middlesex to Worcestershire in the UK playing a number of first class County Cricket matches. He also represented Worcester against the touring New Zealanders taking 4-78.