

The First Graders

Steve Bidwell-Brown



Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 63

Full Name: **Steve Bidwell-Brown**

Date and Place of Birth: **12 January 1984, Sydney**

Secondary School: **St. Andrew's Cathedral School, Sydney**

Occupation: **Book reviewer**

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

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2008-09	4	4	1	10	14	4.67			0
T20	1	1	0	8	8	8			0
Totals	5	5	1	10	22	5.5			0
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2008-09	54.2	12	5	159	31.80	4-31			
T20	4	0	1	29	29	1-29			
Totals	58.2	12	6	188	31.33	4-31			



Steve Bidwell-Brown had a dream 1st Grade debut when called into the Randwick Petersham side in round four of the 2008-09 season. The match was against Mosman at Petersham Oval and the 24 years old pace bowler celebrated with a wicket first ball. Letting go a real "loosener" a few feet outside off stump, the Mosman batsman's wild slash saw the ball fly to David Mitchell at second slip who took what was described as a "screamer" and give Bidwell-Brown figures of 1-0 off one ball! He didn't stop there going on to finish with 4-31 from 17.1 overs and set his team up for a solid six wickets win.

Steve's impressive debut was no real surprise as he was a player who had showed steady improvement as he progressed through the lower grades in earlier seasons. Having not played for three years he joined the club in 2003-04 and was selected for an encouragement award by season's end for his 23 wickets and tenth wicket batting partnership record in 5th Grade. In 2004-05 he won the club's prestigious Most Improved Lower Grade Player award and the following season was a major force in the club's narrow loss in the 4th Grade Grand Final. Noted for his stamina in bowling for long spells, in that match he bowled 31 overs in the first innings for a return of 4-37 and another 21 in the second dig to take 3-31. His 25 maidens in that total of 52 overs emphasised his accuracy and well as his tenacity.

Unfortunately for Steve, wickets were hard to come by after that amazing 1st Grade debut. With a chronic elbow injury restricting his bowling, he only played three more games in 1st's. He managed five matches in Two's but at season's end he retired from Grade Cricket. In five seasons Bidwell-Brown played 67 games taking 139 wickets in all grades while scoring 449 runs with a highest score of 61 not out.

Steve recalls: "I remember the joint-venture atmosphere of the club always bred a real enthusiasm for everyone's week-to-week successes, especially in the early days when the place had barely any silverware or collective history to fall back on. Everyone was starting anew with the Trust, Respect, Humility thing and it was a rather awesome thing to be a part of."