

The First Graders

Alex Graham



Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 74

Full Name: **Alexander Charles Graham**

Date and Place of Birth: **25 September 1991, Balmain**

Secondary School: **Geelong Grammar School**

Occupation: **Personal Fitness Trainer**

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

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2010-11	13	11	2	47	119	13.22			9
2011-12	3	3	0	7	17	5.70			0
Totals	16	14	2	47	136	11.33			9
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2010-11	89.2	14	13	328	25.23	3-30			
2011-12	21	0	0	134	-	-			
Totals	110.2	14	13	462	35.54	3-30			



Promising off-spinner Alex Graham made his 1st Grade debut in a limited overs match for Randwick Petersham against Fairfield-Liverpool at Rosedale Oval in round two of the 2010-11 season. While the match finished in an exciting tie with both sides scoring 167, it was rather an inauspicious start for the 19 year old as he was bowled first ball and failed to take a wicket off his five overs which cost 19 runs. He won his spot after a 3-60 performance from 16 overs against Easts in 2nd Grade in round one, his first game with the club.

After a few more solid efforts in 2's including a 4-37 return against Manly he won a spot in the 1st Grade side for the clash with Blacktown at Joe McAleer Oval at Blacktown. And while it was a match the players would rather forget suffering an outright defeat, Graham was able to display his wares with the bat, top-scoring with 47 off just 35 balls in the second innings. Maintaining his place in the side he took his first wicket in 1st Grade when he bowled the Campbelltown-Camden top-scorer to give his side the points in a Twenty20 match at Raby Oval.

After some consistent displays over the following months in both 1st and 2nd grades and a superb season in the under 21 years Poidevin-Gray Shield competition, Graham's talent was beginning to surface. Against Sydney University in the 1st Grade limited overs semi-final he was one of only two bowlers to complete the full complement of 10 overs capturing three wickets for 66 in a high scoring match which the students won. However, his best game of the season came in the most important game of the season—the 1st Grade Belvidere Cup Grand Final against Sydney University at Bankstown Oval.

Called into the attack with Sydney Uni. seven wickets down for less than 100, it appeared to all and sundry that Graham had their number nine James Crowley caught behind. Unfortunately the umpire did not agree and it would be another 164 runs before Alex would get his man when Nick Warren snared a catch off Crowley just as he had made his 50. He quickly wrapped up the number 10 and when top-scorer and Uni. hero Scott Henry was finally despatched for 132, Graham had completed the innings with the best bowling figures of 3-30 off 21 well-controlled overs with seven maidens.

Chasing a target of 283 for victory, a batting slump saw Graham the last semblance of hope when he strode to the wicket with the score 7-196. With some attacking strokes including a dashing six, Alex was looking every-part of the valued all-rounder he was fast becoming. However, when he was snapped up at slip for 23 it was all over for Randwick Petersham for another year.

After his promising first season Alex Graham's career looked set to blossom in 2011-12. However, in the first match he had little opportunity to feature in 1st Grade's comfortable win over Bankstown and didn't play in round two. Resuming in the third game of the summer he stepped out in 2nd Grade hitting a magnificent 115 with 21 fours against North Sydney at North Sydney no. 2 and was quickly ushered back to 1st Grade. Unfortunately his success in 2's didn't follow him and by mid-November he decided to give away Grade Cricket to concentrate on his personal training business.