



**UNSW
CRICKET CLUB**

University of NSW Cricket Club Life Member Profiles.

Rob Stark



2001

Roles and Honours

Team Captain	5th Grade 1995-96, 2001-02, 2002-03, 4th Grade 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 2008-09
Premiership Teams	5th Grade 1995-96
Ted Davis Player of the Year	2001-02, 2002-03
Barr-Turn Trophy	1982-83

Individual Profile

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Kogarah NSW on 27 January 1963 at St George Hospital. I grew up in Carlton about a 10-minute walk to Jubilee Oval, home of the Dragons. Eddie Lumsden, a brilliant winger for the Dragons, lived on the corner and Bluey Wilson, arguably one of the toughest players to ever lace up a boot, lived around the corner. His son Brad and I were best mates. What a childhood - I grew up surrounded by legends.

Where did you play your junior/local cricket or become interested in cricket?

I went to Sans Souci Public School and the school team evolved into Sans Souci Boys Cricket Club. Dad loved cricket, actually he loved all sports, and he had me sign up on the spot.

When and why did you become involved with UNSWCC?

It is believed I was the first professional cricketer in the Club's history. It was 1977 and I was 14 years old. Clayton Jones was a Master at my school, Newington College, and he was also my cricket coach at one point. He was captain of the UNSWCC third grade team, and they had a late drop out in third grade through illness and he asked would I like to field for them. Blick Oval vs Western Suburbs, 40-degree heat and no working fridge! I was paid \$5 and a can of lemonade.

What did you like about UNSW Cricket?

Everything! I had played Green Shield for Sydney and then for St George. I played a few lower grade games for Saints as well, but the environment was so different. Very strict, not much laughter. It was a case of seen but not heard. The UNSWCC was the exact opposite. Humour abounded and everyone from first grade to fifth grade was treated the same. Loved it. The place was just full of great blokes. I'm loving the Old Boys network now as well.

What is your Club nickname (Explain who gave it to you and why – if not obvious

Starky - have no idea why!

Robbo called me Thomas at one stage after Thomas the Tank Engine. He reckoned I just trundled in, over after over, like a steam train. I actually liked it, but it faded into obscurity when Greig retired.

The Table above outlines some of your Club achievements, roles, and honours. Can you give us an insight into how you saw your contribution to UNSW Cricket, which do you consider the most important?

I loved captaining and really enjoyed mentoring young cricketers coming up through the grades. I was never the best cricketer by a long shot, but I did have a bulldog mentality. I tried to instil that into the young blokes and that desire to never give up. In saying that I loved a laugh and I hope I made most days on the field enjoyable.

What did it mean to you to be awarded life membership?

The greatest honour ever bestowed upon me. Words cannot adequately describe what it means to me. This Club has been part of my life for over forty years and as a player for thirty years and to be recognised for my contribution still brings a tear to my eye. I love this Club and will till the day I die.

What is your greatest memory or memories of UNSW Cricket?

The 1995-96 fifth grade premiership - surreal still to this day. To captain that team was a privilege. I absolutely loved everyone in that team.

The lifetime friendships I have made through the Club.

The first-grade team of the late 70S and early 80s. OMG. Ray, Livingstone, Robson, Chapman, Lawson, Dixon, Hanger, Perger, Pym, Handley, Tout, Jansson, Campbell, Grattan -Smith.

Can I be a bit self-indulgent and mention the following:

- **Breaking the Club's bowling record and having the previous holder and my dear friend Greig Robinson present was very special.**
- **Player of the Year 2001-02 and 2002-03 aged 39 and 40 respectively!**
- **Match figures of 7-34 and 7-25 against Parramatta.**
- **Fourth grade hat-trick - all LBW - and it went - wicket LBW then 30 minute rain delay - back on wicket LBW then 45 minute rain delay - back on wicket LBW and hat-trick and you guessed it - off for another rain delay!**

In what profession or area of work are/were you mainly involved? What are your main interests outside cricket?

I had 31 years in the NSW Police Force before I was medically discharged in December 2017. If it wasn't for my three shoulder reconstructions and this bloody insidious creature - PTSD, I would still be there. I loved every minute of it.

My interests now are my horses and upkeep of our property; a full time job.

Where are you now?

Living on 6 acres in Brandy Hill in the Hunter with the missus, our two youngest daughters, seven horses with one on the way, three dogs, a cat and my blue tongue lizard.

Anything else you would like to add

Playing Record

Rob Stark									
Years Played			Grade			1980-2011			
			Shires			N/A			
BATTING									
Grade	Games	Inn.	NO	Total	Ave.	Highest	Caught	50's	100's
2	2	1		20	20.0	20	0		
3	27	24	6	242	13.4	29	13		
4	118	88	26	832	13.4	50	51	1	
5	91	69	21	566	11.8	38	43		
PG	15	11	3	150	18.8	47	8		
Totals	253	193	56	1810	13.2	50	115	1	
BOWLING									
Grade	Games	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average	5WI	Best	
2	2	20	4	3	81	27.0			
3	27	392	74	48	1214	25.3	1	6 for 59	
4	118	1999	562	293	4757	16.2	15	7 for 25	
5	91	1711	440	273	4200	15.4	13	8 for 16	
PG	15	96	19	18	335	18.6	1	5 for 52	
Totals	253	4218	1099	635	10587	16.7	30	8 for 16	



Another reasonably successful year for Starky captaining 5ths to the semis – not to mention him becoming the first Clubman to break the 500 Grade wicket mark.



Premiers 1995-96

Rear L-R: Gavin Harris, Paul Searle, Chris Jamieson, Tim Buckett, Glenn Clark, Paul Levett

Front L-R: Glenn Shepherd, Rob Stark (c), Marc Robson, Simon Gerber, Peter Carson, Jason Rudd (vc)



It was an historic day during Round 1 at Snape Park as Rob Stark claimed the three wickets he needed to overtake Greig Robinson as UNSWCC's all-time leading wicket taker. Starky finished with 5-18 (his 30th 5-wicket haul for the Club) to claim the record. Robbo was on hand to see his record broken and to celebrate the achievement.