For Barry Hadlee cricket was always going to be his game. He joined the HSOB cricket club on leaving school and over 25 seasons from 1959/60 until 1984/85 he played 330 first grade innings with 52 not outs and scored 10,272 runs at 36.94, his highest score was 151 not out in the 1976/77 season. He headed the Christchurch club aggregates on three occasions, in 1961/62 with 728 runs at 61.2, in 1973/74 with 874 runs at 54.6 and in 1979/80 with 638 runs at 35.4.

When he retired Barry had scored 14 centuries and 57 half centuries and taken 125 catches. He is third on the all time aggregates behind father Walter and Ian Cromb and third equal with Cran Bull on the number of half centuries scored.

He made his first class debut for Canterbury in December 1961, just 11 days after turning twenty. He was a regular member of the team over the next eight seasons with a major breakthrough coming in the match against Pakistan in January 1973. Canterbury were 275 runs behind on the first innings and Barry arrived at the crease in the second innings with the score at 96 for three. An early finish to the game seemed most likely but Barry joined by number 11 batsman Murray Webb, the pair added 69 runs in only 72 minutes before Webb was bowled leaving Barry unbeaten on 118. Canterbury lost the game by nine wickets.

From that period Barry was a prolific run scorer for the province, after having only score eight fifties in his first 36 innings, he compiled 16 fifties and five centuries in his next 45 innings. His highest scores of 160 and 163, both not out, came in his last two seasons when he had turned 39. After missing the 1979/80 season Barry returned for his final and most successful season in 1980/81. His highest first class score of 163 came in the match against Otago. Sent into bat Hadlee had an opening partnership with David Dempsey of 218 scored in 169 minutes. Barry had batted for six hours and hit 14 fours. Otago were dismissed for 224 and 266 and Canterbury scored the 82 runs in 44 minutes to win by nine wickets. They finished second in the competition.

Barry was a member of the New Zealand Ambassadors team that made a 12 week tour of North and South America, the West Indies and Europe in 1970. He said **“it was a wonderful three months and I began the next season with a lot of confidence, even although it was another two seasons before I scored my first century” I suppose you could call it my renaissance as a cricketer”.** On tour he played 26 innings and scored 769 runs at 45.20 average, his highest score was 121 not out against the Caracas Sports club in Venezuela.

In his early years Barry was recognised as an excellent front foot player but he later developed a back foot technique and never cut or hook very often. Barry said**“I had it drummed into me at high school that the hook and cut tended to get batsmen out. So I did not really develop those shots, instead I played more in the V”.**

When he retired at the conclusion of the 1980/81 season Hadlee had played 16 seasons for Canterbury, only two behind the record held by Dan Reese and Bill Patrick. He had set records for the most appearances at 82 matches, the most runs at 4,430, the most half centuries at 24 and was the first player to reach 4,000 runs which he achieved in January 1981 against Northern Districts. In addition Barry never made a pair.

At 39 years and 35 days he is the fourth oldest player to score a century, he was involved in 12 century partnerships, four against Auckland and three against Wellington. He opened with Peter Coman on 49 occasions scoring 2,031 runs for an average of 41.4 with three century partnerships. Their highest partnership of 153 was scored against Northern Districts at Seddon Park in January 1975. They are the third most successful opening pair for Canterbury behind Walter Hadlee and Gordon Leggat and Graham Dowling and Maurice Ryan.

They were an unusual pair but complemented each other very well. The tall elegant Hadlee and the short pugnacious Coman were fast between wickets but on occasions could get carried away as in the infamous time when they ran side by side along the wicket for three circuits of the pitch. Peter Coman told Mathew Appleby that **“I would go for it and Barry would back up at the other end. Then he would take over and put the icing on the cake. He never got rattled if I was on 50 and he was on seven, he knew he would soon catch up”.** Barry’s view was that **“we had a lot of laughs and came to a tremendous understanding. For instance he always wanted to face. He was keen to get amongst it, and that suited me. It took the heat off me for a couple of overs and let me settle in”.**

Don Cameron, the cricket reporter for the New Zealand Herald, said that **“Hadlee was an outstanding batsman at New Zealand first class level. He stood tall at the crease and like his father was a lovely driver of the ball. He was also quirkish enough to become one of the very few cricketers who, in a first class match, bowled right handed and left handed in the same over”.**

Barry said his father was a huge influence on his cricket **remembering a great partnership against Sydenham in 1962 when we batted together to score 100 and 98 respectively.**

When brother Dayle made his debut for Canterbury in December 1971 against Central Districts, he joined Barry who was making his 32nd match for the province. Richard made his Canterbury debut against Auckland a month later and joining Barry in the team. However the three brothers were not to play in same match until 16th February 1974 when Canterbury played against Australia, the match was drawn when bad light stopped play.

In all the trio played 17 matches together, the final game being against Otago in January 1978 at Lancaster Park, but the most rewarding game for the brothers was the Shell Trophy final against Otago in March 1976. Barry scored 107, Dayle took five for 62, Richard took four for 43 and one for 20, Canterbury won the match by nine wickets.

However it was not just all matches for Barry as he worked for the Canterbury Cricket Association as their assistant secretary from 1967 to 1972 in charge of the club competitions and from 1985 until 1994 he was the treasurer of the New Zealand Cricket Council. In October 2014 he began a two year term as President of the Canterbury Cricket Association and served a total of four years.

An involvement with cricket stretching many years both on and off the field Barry is richly deserving of the honour of Life membership of the Canterbury Cricket Assoication.