**DAYLE Hadlee,** son of WA Hadlee (no 267) and brother of Dayle (no 411) and Richard (no 412) attended Christchurch Boys High School from 1955 until 1959 and was captain of the 1st XI in 1959. He joined the Christchurch Old Boys club on leaving school and over 25 seasons from the 1959/60 season until 1984/85 he played 330 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, in1961/62 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. His average of 59.2 from 9 completed innings in 1975/76 was the leading average for the season. Hadlee scored 14 centuries and 57 half centuries and took 125 catches. Hadlee is third on the all time aggregates behind father Walter and Ian Cromb and third equal with Cran Bull on half centuries scored.

He played in two National under 20 tournaments with a best score of 36 against Wellington in December 1959. Hadlee’s first match for Canterbury was a two day game against the Fijians at Lancaster Park in January 1962. Playing in the match with his father, Hadlee scored 71 in 73 minutes and hit 11 fours. Walter failed to score in the first innings but opening in the second he was 36 not out when Canterbury reached their target of 92 for the loss of one wicket. In February 1964 Hadlee played for the New Zealand Colts against South Africa and made 10 and 0 in a match that was drawn. The Colts following on were 127 for eight at the finish.

Hadlee made his first class debut in December 1961, just 11 days after turning twenty. He batted at three in most matches that season and made his mark in the fourth game against Otago, hitting nine fours in scoring 86 in 227 minutes. Canterbury won by 162 runs. He concluded the season with another half century, the 51 against Central Districts was scored in 70 minutes and included seven fours. Although a regular member over the next eight seasons a major breakthrough came in the match against Pakistan in January 1973. Canterbury were 275 runs behind on the first innings and Hadlee, batting at five, came to the wicket in the second innings with the score 96 for three. Losing partners frequently, Hadlee was joined by number 11 batsman Murray Webb with the score at 269 and his own score 75. The pair added 69 runs in only 72 minutes before Webb was bowled by Intikhab, Hadlee was unbeaten on118 scored in 254 minutes and he hit 14 fours.

From that period on Hadlee 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. Against Auckland in the fourth match of the 1978/79 season, Canterbury were chasing 316 for three declared when Hadlee and Geoff Smith opened the batting. Canterbury had lost three wickets for 308 runs when the declaration was made, Hadlee’s 160 was scored in 330 minutes and he hit one six and 20 fours. After another declaration Canterbury needed 324 runs for victory but failed by 66 runs and ended up last in the Shell Trophy competition. After missing the 1979/80 season Hadlee returned for his final and most successful season. His highest first class score came in the match against Otago. Sent into bat Hadlee had an opening partnership with David Dempsey of 218 scored in 169 minutes. Four other good partnerships saw Canterbury reach 409 for the loss of five wickets when the 100 overs was reached. Hadlee 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.

Hadlee made his limited over debut for Canterbury against Otago in December 1971 and went on to play in 13 matches. He scored 229 runs at 19.08 average. His highest score of 45 came in his last match which was the Shell Cup final played in Auckland. Canterbury lost by three wickets. After three limited over matches for Canterbury, Hadlee made his International debut against England at Carisbrook in March 1975, the 35 over match was rain effected with Hadlee seven not out and New Zealand 15 without loss chasing 136. Although not selected for the second match of the series he was a member of the New Zealand team that played in the June 1975 World Cup in England. Hadlee missed the opening game against East Africa but played against England scoring 19 off 77 balls. As he later commented **“I have no fond memories, it was quite a struggle”** with bowlers able to bowl defensively down the leg side or over the head.

Hadlee 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. Hadlee 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 Hadlee was a front foot player but later developed a back foot technique and never cut or hook very often. Hadlee 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 Hadlee had played 16 seasons for Canterbury, only two behind the record held by Dan Reese and Bill Patrick. He set records for the most appearances, 82, the most runs at 4,430, the most half centuries at 24, the first player to reach 4,000 runs which he achieved in January 1981 against Northern Districts and the most runs at Lancaster Park of 2,427. In addition Hadlee never made a pair, he batted in 47 innings between December 1962 and December 1971 before he made a duck. 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 and they scored 2,031 runs for an average of 41.4 with three century partnerships. Their highest partnership was 153 scored against Northern Districts at Seddon Park in January 1975. They are the third most successful opening pair 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 and both end up at the same end, as in the infamous time when they ran side by side along the wicket for three circuits of the pitch. Coman told Mathew Appleby that **“I would go for it and he 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”.** Hadlee’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”.**

Hadlee said his father was a huge influence on his cricket,**”we had a great partnership against Sydenham in 1962 and although they had a quick left arm bowler Ross Nicholson we batted together to score 100 and 98 respectively. However if I did something wrong he would shake his head and I knew I needed to get back to basics”.**

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 joined 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 trio played 17 matches together, the final game being against Otago in January 1978 at Lancaster Park. Barry played 13 matches with Richard and 10 matches with Dayle. The most rewarding game the three brothers played together was the Shell Trophy final against Otago in March 1976. Barry scored 107, Dayle took five for 62 and none for 47 and Richard took four for 43 and one for 20, Canterbury won by nine wickets. Against Otago on13th January 1978, Barry scored 30 and 31 while Dayle took one for 60 and five for 38 and Canterbury scored 202 to win by two wickets. This game was the best Richard/Dayle combined result while the best result for the combination of Barry and Richard came on 15 December 1978 when Barry scored 67 and 51 and Richard took six for 78. The match against Central Districts at Lancaster Park on 16th December 1978 was badly affected by rain with no play on the first day, it ended in a draw.

Hadlee worked for the Canterbury Cricket Association as their assistant secretary from 1967 to 1972 in charge of the competitions and from 1985 until 1994 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. Hadlee was a qualified accountant and worked in his father’s firm before later going out on his own account.