Richard Hadlee began his Christchurch club career with the Lancaster Park club in 1969. He played 34 matches for the club and took 101 wickets at 16.7 average. In 1974 he joined the High School Old Boys club and over the next 16 years he had some outstanding club performances taking over 150 wickets: in 1974/75 he took 32 wickets at 8.7 and in 1981/82 he took 37 wickets at 5.7 average.

He made his first class debut for Canterbury in January 1972 against Auckland at Lancaster Park. In only his third match playing Central Districts at Trafalgar Park he took a hat trick and is one of only four bowlers to have done so. 46 seasons later Canterbury cricket is still waiting for the next one. He had Ken Wadsworth lbw and then clean bowled Blair Furlong and John Howell. His best all round season came in 1981/82 when he made 408 runs at 37 and took 45 wickets at 14 with a five wicket bag on five occasions. His best match performance came against Northern Districts in January 1987 with figures of seven for 49 and five for 32.

Over 14 seasons Richard played 62 matches and scored 2,012 runs at 26 and took 285 wickets at 16: on nineteen occasions he took five wickets in an innings and twice ten wickets in a match. When he retired he was seventh in appearances made and he held the record for the most wickets taken. Richard was the first player to achieve the first class double of 2000 runs /200 wickets and in his 62 matches he took 31% of the wickets to fall, a remarkably high percentage.

Along with brother Dayle he held the record for the 8th wicket partnership of 166 made against Auckland in December 1983, a record which was to stand for 25 years.

In limited over matches Richard played 30 matches and he took 46 wickets at 14 and heads the bowlers economy rate at 2.4 runs per over. He was a member of two winning Shell Trophy teams and three Shell Cup teams.

Richard made his Test debut against Pakistan at the Basin Reserve in February 1973 and when he retired in July 1990 he had played 86 tests for New Zealand scoring 3,124 runs and taking 431 wickets, the leading Test wicket taker at that time. In One Day Internationals he played 115 matches and scored 1,751 runs and 158 wickets. He was first bowler to reach 400 Test wickets when he dismissed Manjrekar at Lancaster Park in February 1990. He finished his Test career with five for 53 at Edgbaston and received the Man of the Series award. It was his 36th five-for which was the record at that time.

Amongst all his achievements two Test matches truly stand out. At the Basin Reserve in February 1978, five years after his debut, his 10 wickets in the match, including 6 for 26 in the second innings, led New Zealand to gain their first victory over England, a win by 72 runs. However, his 15 wicket haul in Brisbane in November 1985 could will be regarded as his finest bowling effort. Nine for 52 and six for 71 were the major influences leading to a victory over the Australians by an innings and 90 runs and still remains one of the most talked about moments in Trans-Tasman cricket rivalry.

To put into perspective the influence that Richard had on the 86 Test matches he played, he took more than 35% of the wickets to fall and on the 22 occasions when he was on the winning side he took 41% of the wickets: almost eight wickets per match. But aside from his superb bowling, his batting was aggressive and positive and his gully fielding was of the highest quality.

Richard received the MBE in 1980 and he was [knighted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knight) in June 1990 for services to cricket, the only occasion an active cricketer has received such an honour. He was the New Zealand Sportsman of the year in 1980 and again in 1986 and in January 2009 he was one of the inaugural members inducted into the [ICC Cricket Hall of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ICC_Cricket_Hall_of_Fame).

But allied to his outstanding playing career his charisma and personality changed the profile of the sport to heights not seen before and who can ever forget the huge crowds in the 1980’s chanting in excitement Hadlee-Hadlee as he steamed in from his long run up and his hair flowing in the wind. Certainly one of the greatest cricketers to have ever played for Canterbury and New Zealand

In retirement he has been chairman of the New Zealand selection panel and on the Board of New Zealand cricket. In March 2009 Hadlee was commemorated as one of the [Twelve Local Heroes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_Local_Heroes), and a bronze bust of him was unveiled outside the [Christchurch Arts Centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christchurch_Arts_Centre). In August 1990 Richard established The Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Trust which was opened to help sportsmen and women who were in situations of hardship to strive for success in their chosen sporting or cultural discipline.

Sir Richard Hadlee, a true icon of cricket in this province and a worthy member of the Red and Black Club.