**Gary Stead**

Gary joined the Riccarton club in 1989 and in a career finishing at the conclusion of the 2004/05 season he played 183 matches and scored 6,469 runs at an average of 32, this included eight centuries, 33 fifties. He bowled 8,170 balls and took 192 wickets at 25.

Gary represented Canterbury in six National under age tournaments with a best performance of 105 not out against Central Districts in December 1990. Excellent performances saw him selected for the New Zealand Under19 team to tour India in February 1992, is best innings on tour was 96 made against the Indian Presidents eleven.

Gary made his debut for Canterbury in 1993/94 and in his second match, which was the semi final against Central Districts, he scored 113 not out in a team score of 559. Canterbury won the game and then went on to win the Shell Trophy final although Gary was not selected for that match. Over the next 13 seasons Gary played 88 matches for the province scoring 4,410 runs at 32. He made ten centuries and twenty fifties, coincidentally the same number of fifties as his father. His best season was in 2000/01 when hit 852 runs and made three centuries. Gary was involved in 23 century partnerships and holds a number of record partnerships. He holds the record with Chris Harris for the third wicket against Auckland of 183, the fifth wicket with Chris Harris of 290, and the eight wicket of 136 set with Carl Anderson, both against Central Districts. With Blair Hartland he set a first wicket record of 287 against Wellington. In 136 dismissals he was only run out on one occasion and he captained Canterbury in 45 matches.

Gary played 102 one day matches and scored 2,173 runs at 27 with two centuries and 10 fifties. Again he has a number of record partnerships, the highest being for the fourth wicket against Northern Districts of 221 with Lorne Howell. This was the highest partnership for any wicket in a one day match until it was beaten this year by Henry Nicholls and Neil Broom with 291 runs. He was captain in 59 matches with 36 victories and was involved in seven final matches winning four of them.

He made his New Zealand debut in March 1999 and played five tests, four in New Zealand and one in India in October 1999 when he was called into to replace an injured Craig McMillan. In that test he opened the batting and made his highest score of 78.

After retiring from cricket Gary has held a number of coaching positions and is at present the coach of the Canterbury mens team.