**Noel Dellow**

**Dellow** attended Timaru Boys High School from 1943 until 1946 and played in the 1st XI for three years, captain in his final year. He was also a member of the 1st XV in 1946. He joined the Timaru Old Boys club on leaving school and played in the senior team until 1970. He then continued play cricket in the Presidents grade alongside fellow first class cricketers, Murray Jack and John Ward.

After playing in the November Show Day trial matches against Christchurch teams he was selected for the Plunket Shield squad which entailed driving up from Timaru to practice every Thursday. He had an outstanding game against a CCA team in April 1954 when he took four for 24 and three for 23 as the opposition scored 129 and 48 for four wickets. South Canterbury made 122 and the match was drawn. However his best performance in these trial matches came on November 15 1955 when he took six for 82 and helped to dismiss the opposition for 203. South Canterbury were 140 for seven when time ran out.

After being 12th man for the earlier matches Dellow made his debut for Canterbury in the third match of the 1954/55 season and was bowled sparingly contributing only four of the 79 overs as Wellington made 265 in reply to Canterbury’s 286. After a collapse by Canterbury, Wellington only needed 156 for victory which they achieved for the loss of five wickets. Dellow removed opening batsman Vance for 45 caught by Guillen and later bowled Barton for 27. In the following match Dellow opened the bowling but was not used in Auckland’s second innings as MacGibbon and Tom Burtt bowled 116 of the 156 overs. Canterbury won by 96 runs and finished second to Wellington in the Plunket Shield. The next season Dellow opened the bowling with George Geary and played in three of the four matches missing the final game against Central Districts as he was unable to get leave from his work. Canterbury won all four matches outright to claim the Plunket Shield with Dellow’s best bowling coming against Auckland with three for 84. The same match saw him reach his highest first class score, having a 10th wicket partnership of 37 with Ian Sinclair which helped Canterbury to reach 322, only five runs short of Auckland’s first innings.. Chapple and Sinclair then claimed nine of Auckland’s wickets as they were all out for 115 and Canterbury went on to win by six wickets.

In the history of South Canterbury cricket written by Rex Bowden it is recorded that Dellow in his first Plunket Shield match came to the crease as the number eleven batsmen. **“The slip cordon was strengthened and the fast bowler eager to wrap up the innings thundered in. Half way through the long run up Noel turned to the men behind the stumps and muttered sorry about this. I’m a left hand batsman. Noel had faced up as a right hand batsman”.** Dellow, reminiscing in 2012, said **“that as I came out of the pavilion Guillen, already dismissed, gave me so much advice that I became so confused so that when I took guard it was as a right hand batsman”. The bowler was Bob Blair and he hit me in the ribs and I am still looking for the ball. We had no one that fast in Timaru”.** However Dellow and Tom Burtt then went on to have a good partnership putting on 20 runs for the last wicket before Dellow was bowled by John Reid for one run. At the end of the season Dellow had to make the difficult decision to retire from first class cricket as he had two young boys, one and three and he was also having difficulty in obtaining leave from work.

Dellow played for South Canterbury from 1950 until 1962 taking 193 career wickets. His best match performance was ten for 77 against North Otago in 1960. Against Fiji in February 1953 he scored 31 and added 85 for the eighth wicket. He also took two for 22 and one for 24 as the home team won by five wickets. As a member of a Southern Combined team playing against the Australians in February 1957 he took two for 41 off 14 overs. The match was completed in one day with the combined team dismissed for 43 and 76. Against a Canterbury eleven in November1956 Dellow took four for 36. South Canterbury made 91 and 70 for seven with Canterbury all out for 122. One of his best bowling efforts came three years later against Australia in Invercargill when he took five for 63 off 30 overs. Australia made 231 and the locals were bowled out for 72 and 63. Although Dellow bowled mostly outswingers he also had the ability to move the ball the other way.

Dellow after studying at night school at the Timaru Polytech, and by correspondence school qualified as a chartered accountant. He spent a period as the CEO of South Canterbury Cricket and coached the girls at Timaru Girls High School. After retiring from his own accountancy practice he was the groundsman at the Aorangi ground for 5 years. He has fond memories of an excellent pitch produced for the one day match in January 1994 when Canterbury scored 313 against Northern Districts and Blair Hartland scored 161. He is a life member of the South Canterbury Cricket Association.

Dellow played senior grade rugby for Timaru Old Boys and played six matches for South Canterbury. He also took up bowls and played for South Canterbury as a junior representative. In 1955 he married Fay McQuarrie.