**Richard John Hadlee**

In 1969 Richard began his Christchurch club career with the Lancaster Park club. Over five years 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 played in under 20 age tournaments in 1968/69 and 1969/70 and under23 tournaments in 1969/70 and 1970/71.

Richard made his first class debut for Canterbury in January 1972 against Auckland at Lancaster Park. In only his third match he took a hat trick against Central Districts and is one of only four Canterbury bowlers to have done so, the previous bowler was Ted Mulcock back in the 1937/38 season. 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 for Canterbury scoring 2,012 runs at 26 average 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 in January 1989, he was seventh in appearances made, he held the record for the most wickets taken, 285. Richard was the first player to achieve the 2000 runs /200 wickets double and in his 62 matches he took 31% of the wickets to fall, a remarkably high percentage.

On 27 December 1983 at Lancaster Park playing Auckland he and Dayle set a new record of 166 for the eighth wicket breaking a figure which had stood for 22 years and still remains the record

against Auckland. It was made in three hours and included 24 fours and one six. Richard made 93, had match figures of four for 45, and Dayle scored 69 and took five wickets for 50. Canterbury won by an innings and 12 runs and continued on to win the Shell Trophy. A true Hadlee defining match. With Richard playing for New Zealand he was able to play only three matches that season but still was able to take 12 wickets at 8.08 average. He retired after the drawn match against Pakistan in January 1989 at Lancaster Park.

In limited over matches Richard only played 30 matches but he took 46 wickets at 14 and he has the leading economy rate at 2.4 runs per over. He was a member of the 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 in a performance that helped him win the Man of the Series award. It was his 36th five-for, which was the record at the time and to add to the legend he took a wicket with his last ball in Test cricket, Devon Malcolm lbw for a duck after three balls.

To put into perspective the influence that Richard had on the Test matches he played, in his 82 matches 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 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). He won the Winsor Cup on 13 occasions.

Richard inspired generations to play and raised the profile of the sport to unprecedented heights. 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 unruly hair flowing in the wind. .

After retirement Richard had a term on the panel of the New Zealand board of selectors. In December 2002, he was chosen by [Wisden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisden_Cricketers%27_Almanack" \o "Wisden Cricketers' Almanack) as the second greatest [Test](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test_cricket) bowler of all time and in March 2009, Richard 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. It was opened to help sportsmen and women who were in situations of hardship to strive for success in their chosen sporting or cultural discipline.