

MEDIA RELEASE - Tuesday 6 November 2018

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6.30PM TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER

SIR RICHARD HADLEE SPORTS CENTRE

This evening the cricket family and local stakeholders celebrated a momentous occasion for Hagley Oval and the Christchurch cricket and sporting community. The Canterbury Cricket Trust welcomed guests to the Hadlee Pavilion to reveal a significant milestone marking a new chapter for Hagley Oval, with a significant donation received from the Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Trust towards the refurbishment of the Hagley Sports Centre.

The international cricket venue has seen several milestones since the opening of the Hadlee Pavilion in September 2014, including the recent purchase of the Horticultural Hall off the Christchurch Horticultural Society in March 2017 which was only possible through the generosity of Stephen and Heather Boock.

The announcement made this evening is yet another milestone for the iconic venue, with the Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Trust providing the first large tranche of funding for the facility, with \$800,000 being made available for the refurbishment, and the facility being named the Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Centre.

Canterbury Cricket Trust Chair, Lee Robinson, said “this is a fantastic contribution and one we are here to honour this evening. The generosity of Heather and Stephen Boock meant the Trust was able to purchase the Horticultural Hall. That acquisition has enabled us to provide a world-class indoor sports facility accessible to the entire cricket family whatever age or ability for both the women’s and men’s game.

Canterbury Cricket Trust greatly appreciates the sponsorship and support of the Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Trust headed by New Zealand’s greatest cricketer, one of the world’s best all-rounders and fast bowlers, which provides the basis of our fundraising programme to enable us to move forward into other avenues to access further funds” Robinson told guests and media.

“The gesture of Sir Richard and the Trustees of the Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Trust means we now have our international star player getting behind and supporting cricket from the grassroots level. This is a magnificent gesture in ensuring grassroots cricket, through the provision of this facility, is nurtured and developed.”

Sir Richard Hadlee also expressed his pleasure in being able to contribute to this fantastic facility for Hagley Oval and Christchurch. “The Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Trust is delighted to have an opportunity to gift \$800,000 to the Canterbury Cricket Trust as funding for the refurbishment of the new sports centre at Hagley Oval. This relationship will consolidate a foundation for ongoing support for future generations ahead. To know that thousands of people will use this facility to enhance their skills and grow their love of cricket is a wonderful legacy that I am proud to be part of. To be able to give back to the community is especially pleasing as I have had so much pleasure from cricket and I thank our Trustees for supporting this wonderful project”.

Sir Richard continued by saying “the new sports centre at New Zealand’s premiere cricket ground is a much-needed facility that will not only enhance the venue, but it will help the growth and development of cricket in Canterbury and prepare future boys and girls who may go on to play for Canterbury and hopefully become our future BLACKCAPS and WHITE FERNS”.

“I congratulate Canterbury Cricket Trust on their efforts to develop the facilities at Hagley Oval. The Hadlee Pavilion has already is an outstanding venue and I look forward to seeing the sports centre start construction as soon as possible. I wish the Trust every success in raising the additional and necessary funding to ensure this exciting project comes to fruition. I am immensely proud to have my name associated with the development of the new sports centre at Hagley Oval. This is a wonderful accolade and I thank Canterbury Cricket Trust for the great honour they have bestowed on me.”

Since the acquisition of the building in 2017, the Trust has spent the previous twelve months developing plans in consultation with stakeholders including New Zealand Cricket, Canterbury Cricket Association, Metro Cricket, Christchurch Junior Cricket and other parties who will utilise the facility.

Robinson said “this significant donation means we have almost a quarter of the monies required raised, however the Trust still needs an additional \$3.2 million, and we need the help of the cricketing public to do this. We need to have all monies raised by April 2019 so we can commence work on the project.

We also hope to attract two or three benefactors as major contributors to this facility. We are forming a ‘First Eleven Club’ which will enable us to seek the sum of \$100,000 from each individual. We need close to \$1 million from the general cricketing public to make this work. We need the public to pitch in. Any contribution, whether it is five, ten, twenty dollars or more, will be most welcome. It all helps, and we need to lean on each and every member of the public and cricket family for assistance.”

If you would like to donate to the Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Centre refurbishment project, please contact Carol Harris, Special Projects Manager for Canterbury Cricket Trust on contact@hagleyoval.co.nz or phone 021 894 620.

For further information on this media release please contact Nicky Lock, Executive Officer on nicky.lock@canterburycrickettrust.co.nz or 027 720 9221.