

About us... What makes this place unique?

The Ground

When people think of the perfect English cricket ground, New Road will be high on their list. It is on the banks of a river, tree-lined, and with the famous cathedral spire creating a stunning backdrop, while the Ladies Pavilion continues to churn out its famous cakes during tea intervals. The county ground was owned by the cathedral until 1976, when it was bought for £30,000. Worcestershire had moved to New Road in 1899, after playing at Boughton Park and the arrangements for the first game were made in such a rush that the sightscreens were still being painted when play started. The pitch often helps the seamers, but it hasn't stopped the likes of Graeme Hick, Tom Graveney and Basil D'Oliveira making batting look simple against a succession of bowling attacks. D'Oliveira now has a stand named after him, the newest addition to New Road, but further development has been resisted and the ground retains its English charms.

Flooding

March 21st 2017 was the 70th anniversary of the deepest ever flood to engulf Worcestershire CCC's New Road headquarters. The flood peaked in the city on March 21, 1947 at an incredible height of 16 feet, eight inches. It was the highest in Worcester since November 18, 1770 when the water reached a level of 16 feet, 10 inches – and long before New Road had been transformed into a cricket ground. That 1947 flood was even greater than the one of 2007 which caused such devastation at New Road and meant no cricket was played at the County's base after June. But incredibly Worcestershire were back in action on home soil in 1947 just six weeks later. It was a memorable triumph as well against the South African tourists who apparently struggled to cope with snow flurries and icy winds.

The Home of the D'Oliveira 's

The D'Oliveira affair was a prolonged political and sporting controversy relating to the scheduled 1968–69 tour of South Africa by the [England cricket team](#), who were officially representing the [Marylebone Cricket Club](#) (MCC). The point of contention was whether or not the England selectors would include [Basil D'Oliveira](#), a mixed-race South African player who had represented England in [Test cricket](#) since 1966, having moved there six years earlier. With South Africa under [apartheid](#), the potential inclusion by England of a non-white South African in their tour party became a political issue. A [Cape Coloured](#) of Indian and Portuguese ancestry, D'Oliveira left South Africa primarily because the era's [apartheid legislation](#) seriously restricted his career prospects on racial grounds and barred him from the all-white Test team. He qualified for [Worcestershire County Cricket Club](#) through residency in 1964 and first played for England two years later. The consequences of D'Oliveira's possible inclusion in the 1968–69 MCC tour of South Africa were discussed by English and South African cricketing bodies as early as 1966. Manoeuvring by cricketing and political figures in both countries did little to bring the matter to a head. The MCC's priority was to maintain traditional links with South Africa and have the series go ahead without incident. South Africa's Prime Minister [B. J. Vorster](#) sought to appease international opinion by publicly indicating that D'Oliveira's inclusion would be acceptable, but secretly did all he could to prevent it.