Lord's

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Lord's Cricket Ground

Lord's

Lord's Cricket Ground logo.svg

Lords-Cricket-Ground-Pavilion-06-08-2017.jpg

The Pavilion in August 2017

Ground information

Location St John's Wood

London, NW8

Coordinates 51.5294°N 0.1727°WCoordinates: 51.5294°N 0.1727°W

Establishment 1814; 205 years ago

Capacity 30,000[1]

Owner Marylebone Cricket Club

Tenants England and Wales Cricket Board

End names

Nursery End LordsCricketGroundPitchDimensions.svg

Pavilion End

International information

First Test 21–23 July 1884:

England v Australia

Last Test 14–18 August 2019:

England v Australia

First ODI 26 August 1972:

England v Australia

Last ODI 14 July 2019:

England v New Zealand

First T20I 5 June 2009:

England v Netherlands

Last T20I 29 July 2018:

Nepal v Netherlands

Team information

Marylebone Cricket Club (1814 – present)

Middlesex (1877 – present)

As of 15 August 2019

Source: ESPNcricinfo

Lord's Cricket Ground, commonly known as Lord's, is a cricket venue in St John's Wood, London. Named after its founder, Thomas Lord, it is owned by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and is the home of Middlesex County Cricket Club, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), the European Cricket Council (ECC) and, until August 2005, the International Cricket Council (ICC). Lord's is widely referred to as the Home of Cricket[2] and is home to the world's oldest sporting museum.[3]

Lord's today is not on its original site; it is the third of three grounds that Lord established between 1787 and 1814. His first ground, now referred to as Lord's Old Ground, was where Dorset Square now stands. His second ground, Lord's Middle Ground, was used from 1811 to 1813 before being abandoned to make way for the construction through its outfield of the Regent's Canal. The present Lord's ground is about 250 yards (230 m) north-west of the site of the Middle Ground. The ground can hold 30,000 spectators. Proposals are being developed to increase capacity and amenity.[4] As of December 2013, it was proposed to redevelop the ground at a cost of around £200 million over a 14-year period.[5]

The current ground celebrated its two hundredth anniversary in 2014. To mark the occasion, on 5 July an MCC XI captained by Sachin Tendulkar played a Rest of the World XI led by Shane Warne in a 50 overs match.[6]

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Early history

Acting on behalf of the White Conduit Club and backed against any losses by George Finch, 9th Earl of Winchilsea and Colonel Charles Lennox, Thomas Lord opened his first ground in May 1787 on the site where Dorset Square now stands.[7] The White Conduit moved there from Islington soon afterwards and reconstituted themselves as Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).[8] In 1811, feeling obliged to relocate because of a rise in rent, Lord removed his turf and relaid it at his second ground. This was short-lived because it lay on the route decided by Parliament for the Regent's Canal.[8]

The "Middle Ground" was on the estate of the Eyre family, who offered Lord another plot nearby; and he again relocated his turf. The new ground, on the present site, was opened in the 1814 season. The earliest known match was MCC v Hertfordshire on 22 June 1814.[9] This is not rated a first-class match. MCC won by an innings and 27 runs.[10] The next match known to have been played at Lord's, from 13 to 15 July 1814, was the earliest first-class one, between MCC and the neighbouring St John's Wood club, which had several guest players for the occasion, including five leading professionals. MCC won by 4 wickets.[11]

The annual Eton v Harrow match was first played on the Old Ground in 1805. There is no record of the fixture being played again until 29 July 1818, when it was held at the present Lord's ground for the first time; Harrow won by 13 runs. From 1822, the fixture has been almost an annual event at Lord's.[12]

Ground

Stands

Panoramic view of Lord's Cricket Ground

Stands at Lord's.

As of January 2015, the stands at Lord's are (clockwise from the Pavilion):[13]

Pavilion

Warner Stand

Grand Stand

Compton Stand

Edrich Stand

Mound Stand

Tavern Stand

Allen Stand

Many of the stands were rebuilt in the late 20th century. In 1987 the new Mound Stand, designed by Michael Hopkins and Partners, was opened, followed by the Grand Stand (by Nicholas Grimshaw) in 1996.[14] The Media Centre, opposite the Pavilion between the Compton and Edrich Stands, was added in 1998-9; designed by Future Systems it won the Royal Institute of British Architects' Stirling Prize for 1999.[15] The ground can currently hold up to 28,000 spectators. The two ends of the pitch are the Pavilion End (south-west), where the main members' pavilion is located, and the Nursery End (north-east), dominated by the Media Centre.[13]

Pavilion

See also: Long Room and Lord's Honours Boards

Further information: Lord's Pavilion

The main survivor from the Victorian era is the Pavilion, with its famous Long Room; this was built in 1889–90 to the designs of architect Thomas Verity. This historic landmark— a Grade II\*-listed building— underwent an £8 million refurbishment programme in 2004–05. The pavilion is primarily for members of MCC, who may use its amenities, which include seats for viewing the cricket, the Long Room and its Bar, the Bowlers Bar, and a members' shop. At Middlesex matches the Pavilion is open to members of the Middlesex County Club. The Pavilion also contains the dressing rooms where players change, each of which has a small balcony for players to watch the play. In each of the two main dressing rooms are honours boards which commemorate all the centuries scored in Test matches or One Day Internationals (ODI) at Lord's, all instances of a bowler taking five wickets in a Test or ODI innings and all occurrences of a bowler taking ten wickets in a Test match.

The only cricketer to hit a ball over the pavilion was Albert Trott, off Monty Noble on 31 July 1899.[16]

The Victorian-era Pavilion

The Long Room in the pavilion

Old Father Time

The Grand Stand

Main article: Father Time (Lord's)

Another highly visible feature of the ground is Old Father Time, a weather vane in the shape of Father Time, currently stands on a structure adjacent to the Mound Stand on the south-east side of the field.

Media Centre

The futuristic J.P. Morgan Media Centre

Main article: Lord's Media Centre

The Media Centre was commissioned in time for the 1999 Cricket World Cup, and was the first all-aluminium, semi-monocoque building in the world. It was built and fitted out in two boatyards, using boat-building technology. The centre stands 15 metres (49 ft) above the ground and its sole support comes from the structure around its two lift shafts— it is about the same height as the Pavilion directly opposite it on the other side of the ground. The lower tier of the centre provides accommodation for over 100 journalists, and the top tier has radio and television commentary boxes. The centre's only opening window is in the broadcasting box used by BBC Test Match Special.[17] The building was awarded the RIBA Stirling Prize for architecture in 1999.

Tavern Stand

This memorial stone to Lord Harris is in the Harris Garden at Lord's

The Lord's Taverners, a charitable group comprising cricketers and cricket-lovers, take their name from the old Tavern pub at Lord's, where the organisation's founders used to congregate. The pub no longer exists, and the Tavern Stand now stands on its former site. However, a new pub of the same name is open in the grounds, as well as the Members Bar, in the Pavilion.

Field

Main article: Lord's slope

One of the most distinctive and famous features of the Lord's ground is the significant slope across the field. The north-west side of the playing surface is 2.5 metres (8 ft 2 ins) higher than the south-east side.[18] This slope causes appreciable deviation in bounce of the ball on the pitch, making it easier to move the ball in to right-handed batsmen when bowling from the Pavilion End, and easier to move it away when bowling from the Nursery End. The outfield was notorious for becoming waterlogged, resulting in considerable loss of play due to rainfall, until clay soil was relaid with sand during the winter of 2002–2003.

Grace Gates

Further information: Grace Gates

Another feature of the ground is the pair of ornamental gates, named in honour of W. G. Grace. In 1923, the W. G. Grace Memorial Gates were erected at the St John's Wood Road entrance to the ground.[19] They were designed by Sir Herbert Baker and the opening ceremony was performed by Sir Stanley Jackson, who had suggested the inclusion of the words The Great Cricketer in the dedication.[20]

Floodlights

Twenty20 match at Lord's: Middlesex vs Kent, 27 May 2009

Temporary floodlights were installed at the ground in 2007, but were removed in 2008 after complaints of light pollution from local residents. In January 2009, Westminster City Council approved use of new retractable[21] floodlights designed to minimise light spillage into nearby homes. Conditions of the approval included a five-year trial period during which up to 12 matches and 4 practice matches could be played under the lights from April to September. The lights must be dimmed to half-strength at 9.50 pm and be switched off by 11 pm. The floodlights were first used successfully on 27 May 2009 during the Twenty20 Cup match between Middlesex and Kent.[22]

Cricket matches

Lord's hosts Test matches, one-day internationals, some Middlesex home matches, MCC matches and (starting with a fixture between Middlesex and Surrey in July 2004) some of Middlesex's home Twenty20 games.

Lord's typically hosts two Tests every summer plus two one-day internationals. Lord's also plays host to the finals of the National Village Cricket Competition, the MCC Universities Challenge tournament and the Royal London Cup.

On 7 September 1963 Lord's hosted the first Gillette Cup final. The Gillette Cup was the first major one-day tournament.[23]

The oldest permanent fixture at Lord's is the annual Eton versus Harrow match which began in 1805 (Lord Byron played in the 1805 Harrow XI) and celebrated its bicentenary in 2005. Since 2000 it has been 55 overs per side, but before that it was declaration and before that it was two innings per side over two days. Eton has the balance of wins, but the victor in the bicentenary year was Harrow.

MCC Museum

Perimeter wall display at Lord's

Lord's is the home of the MCC Museum, which is the oldest sports museum in the world, and contains the world's most celebrated collection of cricket memorabilia, including The Ashes urn. MCC has been collecting memorabilia since 1864. The items on display include cricket kit used by Victor Trumper, Jack Hobbs, Don Bradman, Shane Warne, and others; many items related to the career of W. G. Grace; and curiosities such as the stuffed sparrow that was 'bowled out' by Jahangir Khan of Cambridge University in delivering a ball to T. N. Pearce batting for MCC on 3 July 1936. It also contains the battered copy of Wisden that helped to sustain E. W. Swanton through his captivity in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp during World War II. The Museum continues to collect historic artefacts and also commissions new paintings and photography. A recently opened exhibition, which celebrates the life and career of Brian Lara, is especially suitable for children. It contains the Brian Johnston Memorial Theatre, a cinema which screens historical cricket footage for visitors.

MCC Library

Lord's also has one of the largest and most comprehensive collection[s] of books and publications dedicated to cricket.[24] The library includes over 17,000 volumes and is open by appointment.[24] In 2010, a selection of 100 duplicates from the library's collection was offered for auction by Christie's with proceeds going to support the library.[25]

Test matches at Lord's

England v. New Zealand in a Test match at Lord's, May 2004

Over one hundred Test matches have been played at Lord's, the first in 1884 when England defeated Australia by an innings and 5 runs. Australia's first win was in 1888 by 61 runs. South Africa played their first Test match at Lord's in 1907 and the ground was the host to an Australia v South Africa Test match in 1912. The West Indies appeared in a Test match at Lord's for the first time in 1928, to be followed by New Zealand (1931), India (1932), Pakistan (1954), Sri Lanka (1984), Zimbabwe (2000), Bangladesh (2005) and Ireland (2019). The hundredth Lord's Test match was in 2000, England v West Indies. As of 25 August 2010 England have played 119 Test matches at Lord's, winning 45, losing 28 and drawing 46.

Lord's often hosts two Test matches each summer, one match for each visiting team. In 2010, the ground hosted three Test matches: as well as England's matches against Bangladesh and Pakistan, a Test match between Australia and Pakistan was held there in July.[26] Lord's was the venue of the 2000th test match when England hosted India from 21 to 25 July 2011.[27]

Other sports

Lord's was the venue for the Archery at the 2012 Summer Olympics.

A baseball game was held at Lord's during World War I to raise funds for the Canadian Widows and Orphans Fund. A Canadian team played an American team in a match watched by 10,000 people. Bowls, archery and several other sports have been played at Lord's in the past, but never rugby or football.

Lord's hosted the London Pre Olympics Field Hockey Tournament in 1967. Pakistan vs India was notably the most anticipated match at Lords Cricket Ground which Pakistan won defeating their arch-rival India 1-0[28]. Pakistan also defeated Belgium 2-0 at Lord's[29].

Lord's was also one of the venues for the 2012 Summer Olympics.[30] The archery competition took place in front of the Pavilion, with the archers positioned in front of the Pavilion and the targets placed in front of the Media Centre just past the square.[clarification needed] Lord's also houses a real tennis court.

Test match records

Graham Gooch (England):

Most Test runs (2015) and centuries (6) at Lord's. In 1990 against India, Gooch scored a record 333 & 123.

Glenn McGrath (Australia):

Best innings analysis (8/38) and joint most Test wickets (26) by an overseas bowler at Lord's.

Sir Donald Bradman (Australia):

His 254 in 1930, a ground record for 60 years, set up a total of 729/6 declared, which remains the ground record.

James Anderson (England):

Most Test wickets (103) at Lord's.

Batting

Most career runs[31]

Runs Player Period

2,015 (39 innings) England Graham Gooch 1975–1994

1,937 (47 innings) England Alastair Cook 2006–2018

1,562 (31 innings) England Andrew Strauss 2004–2012

1,476 (37 innings) England Alec Stewart 1990–2003

1,264 (32 innings) England Ian Bell 2005–2015

Most career runs (non-England)[32]

Runs Player Period

575 (7 innings) Australia Warren Bardsley 1909–1926

571 (9 innings) West Indies Cricket Board Garfield Sobers 1957–1973

551 (8 innings) Australia Donald Bradman 1930–1948

512 (9 innings) West Indies Cricket Board Shivnarine Chanderpaul 2000–2012

508 (8 innings) India Dilip Vengsarkar 1979–1990

Highest individual scores[33]

Runs Player Year

333 v. India England Graham Gooch 1990

259 v. England South Africa Graeme Smith 2003

254 v. England Australia Donald Bradman 1930

240 v. Australia England Wally Hammond 1938

226 v. Bangladesh England Jonathan Trott 2010

Most centuries[34]

Centuries Player Period

6 (39 innings) England Graham Gooch 1975–1994

6 (19 innings) England Michael Vaughan 2000–2008

5 (23 innings) England Kevin Pietersen 2005–2011

5 (28 innings) England Andrew Strauss 2004–2012

4 (24 innings) England Allan Lamb 1982–1992

4 (47 innings) England Alastair Cook 2006–2018

4 (32 innings) England Ian Bell 2005–2015

Bowling

Most career wickets[35]

Wickets Player Period

103 (45 innings) England James Anderson 2003–present

94 (46 innings) England Stuart Broad 2008–present

69 (26 innings) England Ian Botham 1978-1992

63 (24 innings) England Fred Trueman 1952–1965

47 (16 innings) England Bob Willis 1973–1984

Most career wickets (non-England)[36]

Wickets Player Period

26 (6 innings) Australia Glenn McGrath 1997–2005

26 (8 innings) New Zealand Richard Hadlee 1978–1990

20 (5 innings) West Indies Cricket Board Malcolm Marshall 1984–1991

20 (7 innings) West Indies Cricket Board Courtney Walsh 1988–2000

19 (6 innings) Australia Charlie Turner 1888–1893

19 (8 innings) Australia Shane Warne 1993–2005

Best innings figures[37]

Figures Player Date

8/34 v. Pakistan England Ian Botham 15 June 1978

8/38 v. England Australia Glenn McGrath 19 June 1997

8/43 v. Australia England Hedley Verity 22 June 1934

8/51 v. Pakistan England Derek Underwood 8 August 1974

8/53 v. England Australia Bob Massie 22 June 1972

8/84 v. England Australia Bob Massie 22 June 1972

8/103 v. West Indies England Ian Botham 28 June 1984

Best match figures[38]

Figures Player Year

16/137 v. England Australia Bob Massie 1972

15/104 v. Australia England Hedley Verity 1934

13/71 v. Pakistan England Derek Underwood 1974

12/101 v. South Africa England Roy Tattersall 1951

11/70 v. New Zealand England Derek Underwood 1969

Team records

Highest innings scores[39]

Score Team Year

729/6 d Australia v. England 1930

682/6 d South Africa v. England 2003

653/4 d England v. India 1990

652/8 d West Indies v. England 1973

632/4 d Australia v. England 1993

Lowest completed innings[40]

Score Team Year

38 Ireland v. England 2019

42 India v. England 1974

47 New Zealand v. England 1958

53 England v. Australia 1888

53 Australia v. England 1896

Partnership records

Highest partnerships[41]

Runs Wicket Players Match Year

370 3rd Denis Compton (208) & Bill Edrich (189) England v. South Africa 1947

332 8th Jonathan Trott (184) & Stuart Broad (169) England v. Pakistan 2010

308 3rd Graham Gooch (333) & Allan Lamb (139) England v. India 1990

291 2nd Robert Key (221) & Andrew Strauss (137) England v. West Indies 2004

287\* 2nd Gordon Greenidge (214\*) & Larry Gomes (92\*) West Indies v. England 1984

All records correct as of 24 August 2019.