

LOVELY AND VERY ENGLISH

Chris McEnhill on the ground

I think Riley Lane is one of the loveliest grounds in the area. It's a very English setting, with the parish church overlooking the playing area.

There have been a few changes round the ground. A tea room and kitchen were added in the 1980s, plus some ladies toilets. There have been two major extensions over the years.



There was also a proposal to build a bowling green but this was never taken up seriously.

About 20 years ago we erected our nets. They've been used very well – before, people just practised on the field. The square has been totally dug up and replaced – and the outfield treated too.

A few decades ago we had a tree by the sightscreen at the bottom end of the ground. It was an idiosyncrasy! It was situated just outside the playing area but we had to get rid of it. It added a bit of character to the ground – it was one of those curious little things – but it was also a danger.

We had to be more professional. Funding was available from the ECB and the Lord's Taverners but only for clubs that did things properly.