

Lingfield Park

Location, Parking and Access



Set in the village of Lingfield, 8 miles south of M25 J6. Access from the M25 is clearly signposted.

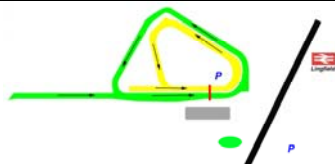
Alternatively the course can be accessed from J10 of the M23.

Parking is on what can be best described as gravelled grass.

Members parking is available in the centre of the course. Although being in the centre of the course it doesn't suffer the common bugbear of only being able to exit between races as the course executive have actually built a tunnel under the course allowing access at all times.

Lingfield station is a 45 minute journey from either London Bridge or Victoria and the course is a pretty 5 minute walk from the station. Trains are every 30 minutes

Course Layout



Lingfield has three courses in one. There is an all weather (polytrack) course 1¼ miles in diameter. There is a triangular grass circuit outside the polytrack used for both flat and jump racing, which is 1 mile 3½ furlongs round and there is a spur on the grass track allowing straight races of up to 7½ furlongs.

The sprint course is almost as fast as Epsom's and is suited by runners who can get away quickly and are well balanced.

Draw Advantage: On the turf straight course high numbers have a distinct advantage, especially if the stalls are on the stands side. However when the going is soft or worse the balance switches to the far side.

Admission

Winter (January – April & October – December)

Flat midweek – single enclosure £13

Flat weekend – single enclosure £13

National Hunt – single enclosure £15

Summer (May – September)

Flat midweek –single enclosure £15

Flat weekend– single enclosure £20

Discounts are available for advanced bookings at some meetings and for groups of ten or more. Under 16's are admitted free of charge.

Annual membership: £305 or £415 for a combined membership with Folkestone.

Dress Code (from the Lingfield web site) *Shirts should be worn at all times in all enclosures. We request that no t-shirts, trainers or torn/ripped jeans are worn at Lingfield Park, however smart jeans are fine. Tailored shorts are permitted when the weather is very hot.*

Discounts: Advanced Groups (10+)

Overview

The main stand offers low level tiered viewing of which about 50% is under cover. There is no seating in the stand.

An older stand has been demolished to facilitate the building of a new on-site hotel. The development will include new parking and entrance facilities and the work is still ongoing in November 2009.

One thing to bear in mind is the all weather track is situated inside the turf track. Factor in the large areas in front of the stands, then the track is actually a fair distance away from the stands themselves, so a good pair of binoculars is recommended. It should be said, however, that even from ground level viewing of the course is good ... but then again on a winters all weather racing day you aren't actually fighting the crowds.

Big screens also provide views of the action.

Lingfield as a racecourse is a paradox. Known as Leafy Lingfield it has some of the best facilities in the country and it is certainly amongst the most beautiful in the country. Even on a winters afternoon it was a joy to walk round, when the flowers are out in the summer it is even more delightful.

Despite these lovely facilities the bulk of the racing is low standard, all weather fare, attracting crowds of no more than a couple of hundred ... it almost seems to be a waste of great facilities. It is akin to owning Fortnum and Mason, then opening it up as a charity shop. I suppose from Lingfield's perspective it makes money by dint of the levy contributions but it does strike me as being a waste of a lovely course.

There are some good quality flat, turf, meetings held in the summer and these do attract good crowds. Indeed on a sunny summer afternoon there are few better places to while away an afternoon racing.

The course also stages National Hunt turf meetings.

On the whole the catering is above average in comparison with other courses.

Lingfield has the luxury of having a large amount of real estate, especially behind the stands and it is one of the few Park courses, where the use of the word Park can be fully justified.

Another area where the course must be highly commended is with its signage. There are signs all over the place explaining all the ins and outs of a day at the races, excellent for the newcomer and a sometimes useful reminder for us more seasoned racegoers.

Lingfield is a lovely track and well worth a visit. If you don't like crowds choose an all weather meeting you will not be crowded. Summer turf meetings are invariably busier but due to the large size of the course you will never feel that claustrophobic.

One word of advice though, if you are going to make the most of your day at Lingfield Park and spend time looking at the horses in the parade ring, place some bets and then watch the racing, then please wear some sensible shoes ... you will do a fair amount of walking.

Catering

There is a trackside restaurant on the first floor of the main stand offering excellent views of the course. Serving a four course carvery lunch, further details are available from the course on 01342 834800. Cost is £55 a head, including admission.

The Brasserie restaurant (in Premier when the enclosures are split) offers good quality food at reasonable prices. Soup is available for £2.60, a roast for £9.00, Curry £9.00 and they will also cook you a sirloin steak to order. A very nice looking (and I'm not a great salad lover) prawn salad was available for £9.00. Service is very good, I ordered a steak and they didn't have one available, but rather than try to sell me something else they arranged for one to be bought over from the main restaurant, that was good customer service.

The Deli Marche (in Grandstand when enclosures are split) offers a range of sandwiches from £2.95 along with arrange of pies (£2.95) and 'slices' and Panini's. Soup of the day and a roll costs £3.29

Towards the rear of the stands is the Fish and Chip shop, and that's just what it is ... it's your standard high street chippy with fish and chips at various prices from £6.20 - £7.50 and sausage and chips for £2.80.

There is also a sports bar, however this was reserved for a private function, so it wasn't possible to inspect.

In the various bars Lager was £3.10 and bitter also £3.10.

Water was £1.50 a bottle.

Ancillaries
<p>Bookmakers</p> <p>There are about a dozen bookmakers standing at the all weather meetings.</p>
<p>Racecard</p> <p>Unusually for a racecard and, perhaps, something other courses should consider is the card actually contains an index, very useful indeed.</p> <p>There is a two page colour plan of the course, not a great deal of detail but adequate. This is followed by a couple of different pages, one detailing how to "make the most of your day" and another, and this is the first time I have seen this, containing some discount vouchers including £2 off a bottle of wine and £2 off a £5 placepot bet – well done for this initiative.</p> <p>The racecard had some differences which made it stand out from the crowd and it made a refreshing change and at £2 was good value.</p>
<p>Toilets</p> <p>More than adequate and very clean and presentable, some of the best at any racecourse.</p>
<p>Parade Ring</p> <p>A delightful paddock, with a good tiered viewing area allowing a large number of racegoers to view the horses. An excellent touch is a number of boards around the paddock explaining what to look for in a horse as it parades.</p> <p>Further back is a delightful pre-parade ring with saddling boxes to the rear, this also seems to be popular with the punters.</p> <p>There is a separate unsaddling enclosure.</p>

Non Racing Attractions
<p>Lingfield village is pretty enough but not enough to keep you occupied for a great deal of time.</p> <p>The countryside in the area with many delightful villages to explore.</p>

Contact Details	
	www.lingfieldpark.co.uk
	01342 834800
	Lingfield Park Racecourse Racecourse Road Lingfield Surrey RH7 6PQ

Ownership	Arena Leisure
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<p>Fixtures 2010</p> <p>Jump November 9th & 23rd December 11th</p> <p>Flat Turf May 7th, 8th, 19th & 22nd (eve) June 3rd, 5th (eve), 12th (eve), 19th (eve), 21st & 26th (eve) July 7th, 11th, 17th (eve), 24th (eve) & 31st (eve) August 7th (eve), 14th (eve) & 26th September 1st & 7th</p> <p>Flat All Weather March 2nd, 5th, 8th, 10th, 19th, 20th, 26th & 29th April 10th, 27th & 30th May 25th July 21st August 6th & 10th September 3rd & 14th October 1st, 13th, 19th, 28th & 31st November 4th, 12th, 13th, 17th, 20th, 24th, 29th & 30th December 3rd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 15th, 18th, 22nd, 28th, 30th & 31st</p>
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Inspection Dates		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
07/03/07	Sunny with some cloud	8 AW midweek
11/08/07	Sunny	6 AW Sat eve
10/05/08	Hot and sunny	7 flat weekend
07/02/09	Broken cloud, very cold	8 AW weekend
10/11/09	Overcast with persistent drizzle	7 jump midweek