

Goodwood

Location, Parking and Access

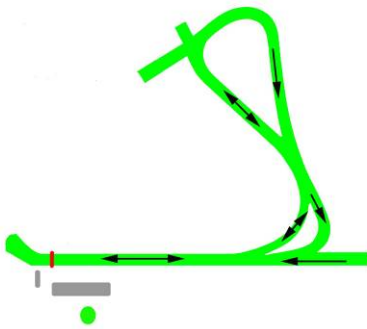


Located 4 miles north of Chichester. The nearest trunk routes are the A3 (from London) then the A286 or the A27 then the A285. Local signposting will then direct you to the course. Be warned nearby roads are quite narrow.

Parking costs range from free through to £7 depending on the meeting and how far away the car park is from the course. During the July festival a free mini bus service links the more remote car parks with the course.

The nearest station is Chichester which is served from London Victoria (journey time about 100 mins). Chichester is also on the south coast main line with links to Brighton, Portsmouth and Southampton. A bus service runs from the station on racedays.

Course Layout



Goodwood is basically a six furlong straight course with a series of complex loops allowing racing over varying distances. There are some undulations, most markedly at the 6 furlong start.

On the sprint course getting away quickly can be a great advantage and front runners can, if good enough, get an unassailable lead. Horses with a proven record on undulating courses tend to do very well at Goodwood.

Draw Advantage: Low numbers are strongly favoured in races between 7f and 1m 1f. (was the opposite way round prior to the 2011 season when the stall numbering system changed)

Admission

Goodwood has several enclosures. The top enclosure is the Richmond Enclosure, which charges £20 - £30 (the Richmond Enclosure is reserved for annual members only during Glorious Goodwood week). The main enclosure is the Gordon Enclosure, costing £16 - £22 for "normal" meetings and £37 for Glorious Goodwood. The Lennox Enclosure, which is not open for all meetings, charges £9 - £10 for normal racedays and £15 / £18 for the festival.

Annual membership: New members £499 (includes a £150 joining fee),

existing members £299.

Dress Code: In the Richmond Enclosure, ladies are encouraged to wear hats at the Festival Meeting. Gentlemen are required to wear jackets and ties, cravats or polo neck sweaters. Linen suits and the archetypal 'Goodwood' Panama hat are traditionally worn. Jeans and shorts are not permitted at any meeting.

In other enclosures dress is informal. Bare tops are not allowed in any enclosure. Due to the terrain at Goodwood and areas of decking, stiletto heels are not recommended.

Discounts: Seniors Students Group

Overview

The Richmond enclosure is arguably the best enclosure at any racecourse in the UK, if not the world. Magnificent manicured lawns and a good modern stand. The stand is a combination of standing area and seating, the lower 2/3 being standing and the upper 1/3 seating, all under cover. Inside the stand it is a little bit dark and dingy, some extra lighting would not go amiss. The first floor inside area is reserved for annual members.

Viewing is good, the only part of the course that cannot be seen is the first furlong of the six furlong course, this is due to the conformation of



the course and to be honest I don't think it would be visible even if standing on the roof of the grandstand. There is a big screen opposite the Richmond enclosure.

The Gordon enclosure is also spacious with large lawns. The Sussex stand is the main stand in the enclosure with tiered standing at the lower level, not under any cover. The upper floor is reserved for boxes. The roof has a seating area, under cover, offering excellent views.

The enclosure ends well short of the finishing line and with the big screen located in the Richmond enclosure it is difficult to see the finish of the race clearly.

The Lennox enclosure is a fair distance away from the winning line and is basically a large lawned area. There is a covered stand with tiered viewing.

Located outside the course itself Trundle Hill offers good views of the course, this is a free enclosure and it is very popular during the festival.

Whilst I am sure the marketing team at Goodwood work very hard, they must also have one of the easiest jobs in racing. Too many racecourses

have to resort to hyperbole to sell their product, all Goodwood have to say is "Glorious Goodwood" and that encapsulates the place perfectly. It is in a fantastic natural setting with stunning views of the Sussex downs on one side and of Chichester and the sea on the other.

If racecourses were human Goodwood would be the perfect woman. Attractive, beguiling, classy and plenty of curves.

The Richmond enclosure has the air of an Edwardian garden party, so much so one half expects King Edward VII himself to walk around the corner at any point. Yet for those who don't aspire to such heights both the Gordon and Lennox enclosures offer a convivial environment in which to enjoy the racing. If I wanted to be picky it would help if big screens were provided opposite the Gordon and, when open, Lennox enclosures so racegoers can have a reasonable view of the finishes.

The parade ring has been turned into the centre of focus and it attracts large crowds, helped by some strategically located glass fronted buildings and some excellent tiered viewing. It as if the parade ring has been considered part of the infrastructure and not just stuck in some spare bit of land as seems to be the case at some other courses.

Not only is the infrastructure well designed and complimentary to the natural landscape of the area, Goodwood also offers some very high quality racing.

On the day of the first inspection Goodwood was competing with the 2000 Guineas at Newmarket, which despite being almost 150 miles away, would have taken some of the attendees away. As a result the crowds were comfortable. It will be interesting to see how the facilities cope with the numbers expected at Glorious Goodwood, although from what I have seen I suspect they will cope well.

Goodwood is a grade one racecourse and is worthy of that status. Clearly being blessed with such a lovely setting does help the ambiance but the natural setting would be nothing without the successful design and management of the course.

Another innovation is that for the second and fourth races at each meeting they run a coach down to the start where 16 racegoers get to see the start first hand. There trips are popular and are offered on a first come first served basis.

It seems in this day and age we are faced with many top ten lists covering all aspects of life in terms of racing experiences a visit to Goodwood must rate in everyone's top ten, no make that top three.

If I lived closer to the course I would be an annual member without any doubt.

Catering

There are plenty of formal dining options at Goodwood. Ranging from the Horsewalk Carvery inn the Richmond Enclosure offering a two course carvery from £30.00, £35 with afternoon tea (admission not included), through to the Charlton Hunt restaurant (From £60 for a four course meal and £72.50 with afternoon tea, admission not included) and the Double Trigger restaurant (£64.35 for a three course meal and afternoon tea, once again admission not included)

At the festival meeting the Gordon restaurant offers lunch and tea at £67.50 head, plus admission.

At the more casual end of the market there are a large number of outlets providing good quality food at reasonable prices. There is a café offering main meals for £9.50. Sandwiches are available for £4.50 - £5.00.

There was an outlet offering bangers and mash or pie and mash for a fiver.

A seafood bar has a large range of options with prices ranging from £2.00 through to £8.50.

Even the mobile units are better than the usual offering with two of them offering organic steak and burgers from the Goodwood estate. A steak baguette £7.50. The excellent burgers were £6.00 plain and £6.50 with some excellent cheese ... certainly not the usual processed offering served elsewhere.

There was also a fish and chip unit offering the aforementioned product for £6.

There was also an ice cream stall, again better quality ice cream, which looked very nice. I say looked nice as I couldn't get to try any as there were massive queues there throughout the afternoon.

Bitter £3.80, lager £4.00 and water £2.

Ancillaries

Bookmakers

Almost 40 bookmakers were operating, working to an appalling over round of 2.3% a runner

Racecard

An interesting racecard with page 1 actually appearing on page 9 on the racecard ... what they have done is provide a wrap-around for the main part of the card and this wrap-around contains most of the advertisements, keeping, the main card section relatively clutter free, a good concept. The card for the feature race at Newmarket, the 2000 Guineas, was in the main card section in its correct chronological position and was a full detailed racecard.

There were two pages devoted to a cross referenced jockey and trainers list, very useful. The race cards themselves were clear and they managed to get six of the seven races covered on opposite pages so all the details were visible without having to turn the page. Cost £3

Toilets

As would be expected there were plenty and all were clean and adequate.

Parade Ring



Located behind the stands with access from both the Richmond and Gordon enclosures. The paddock is the centre of attention and it attracts large crowds throughout the meeting. It is a lively area and has a great atmosphere.

The winners enclosure is attached to the parade ring and the pre-parade ring is adjacent to the parade ring.

There are some benches at the far end of the Richmond side of the paddock (but viewing was obstructed by people standing round the paddock. There is plenty of tiered viewing.

Commentary and PA

The sound system is generally good, although there are one or two spots where the sound is a bit muffled.

There were some post race interviews, broadcast in the paddock area only. There were plenty of announcements between races, hosted by Lee McKenzie, it had to be said a great deal of it was promoting the course and it did tend towards hard sell at times. The commentary on the 2000 Guineas was broadcast over the public address.

Non Racing Attractions

Chichester is a delightful cathedral city with a good shopping centre. Bognor Regis is close by as well as the delights of Chichester Harbour.

Portsmouth, with its seafaring history, is about 20 miles away.

| Contact Details | |
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|  | www.goodwood.co.uk/horseracing |
|  | 01243 755000 |
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| Ownership | Private |
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| Fixtures 2012 |
|--|
| May 5th, 10th, 24th, 25th & 26th |
| June 8th (eve), 15th (eve) & 22nd (eve) |
| July 31st |
| August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 24th (eve), 25th & 26th |
| September 4th & 26th |
| October 14th |
| Fixtures in green - Glorious Goodwood meeting |

| Inspection Dates | | |
|------------------|---|----------------|
| <i>Date</i> | <i>Weather</i> | <i>Type</i> |
| 05/05/07 | Hot and sunny | 7 flat weekend |
| 30/05/08 | Overcast but warm | 8 flat midweek |
| 07/05/09 | Overcast with a chilly wind | 6 flat midweek |
| 01/05/10 | Overcast with sunny periods and showers | 7 flat weekend |
| 08/09/10 | Overcast with some showers | 7 flat midweek |
| 18/05/11 | Overcast and breezy | 7 flat midweek |