

Haydock Park

Location, Parking and Access

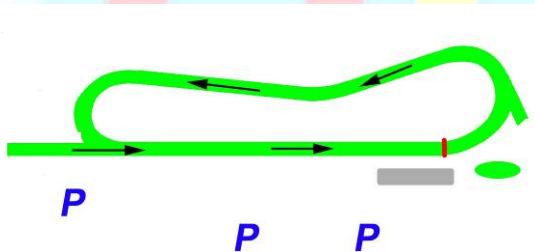


Located between Manchester and Liverpool, Haydock Park is conveniently located close to J23 of the M6. There are two entrances – for coaches and racegoers with reserved car parking places the A49 should be used. For all other racegoers the A580 east should be used ... both routes are signposted.

Parking is on various grades of hard standing, ranging from tarmac to cinder.

The nearest station is Newton-le-Willows on the Manchester to Liverpool line. Warrington and Wigan stations on the West Coast main line are both 8 miles away. A raceday bus connecting service operates from Newton-le-Willows station on selected racedays.

Course Layout



Haydock is a left handed (anti-clockwise) kidney shaped track about $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles round. It is generally flat although the finishing straight is very slightly uphill.

Controversially Haydock have dropped their permanent fences, including the drop fences which were a good schooling ground for Aintree bound runners, and replaced them with portable fences.

The configuration of the track favours long striding galloping types.

Draw Advantage: Over sprint distances high drawn runners have the edge, all the more so if the horse is quickly away. The draw advantage becomes even more marked over six furlongs when the going is soft.

When the ground is dry, low drawn runners have the advantage over seven furlongs as they runners are on the gentle left hand turn right from the off.

Admission

There are a number of admission options at Haydock. Top of the range is the Premier Suite offering some luxury surroundings with restricted numbers (£36 - £48), the County Enclosure equates to members elsewhere (£23 - £35), next is the main Tattersalls enclosure (£12 - £22) and the Newton (Course) enclosure (£12).

Annual membership: £330

Dress code (from the Haydock web site)

Dress for gentlemen in the County Enclosure and Tommy Whittle Stand is long trousers (not jeans or tracksuit trousers) and a collared shirt. Dress for gentlemen in the Park Suite and Premier Enclosure is a Jacket and Tie. Ladies should not wear jeans or a tracksuit.

Discounts: Seniors Disabled Group

Overview

The Premier Suite, located on the second floor of the Centenary Stand is restricted to a maximum of 450 people. It has a luxurious lounge / bar with comfortable chairs and sofas. It also includes Harry's Bistro. There is a balcony overlooking the winning post and offering superb views of the course.

The county enclosure has a large amount of seating and a tiered viewing area, with mainly lawns in front. There is clear viewing of the entire course. Legroom in the seating area, especially the back row is more Ryanair than American in terms of seat pitch. There is a walkway in front of the enclosure allowing access between the parade ring and Tattersalls enclosure.



The Tattersalls enclosure has two stands. The larger Tattersalls stand has a tiered viewing area on the lower level and a seating area on the first floor. The Makerfield Stand has a limited, level viewing area in front of the Final Furlong Bar. The area in front of the stands is mainly concrete with some lawns.



The Newton Stand has a tiered viewing stand, 50% under cover, offering quite adequate viewing, albeit a furlong from the finish. It has a large lawned area in front.

Put simply a Grade One course with Grade One facilities.

There is little to fault the infrastructure at Haydock although some more mid-range catering options would not go amiss.

There is, however, a great deal of controversy surrounding the decision of the course to effectively de-prioritise its commitment to National Hunt racing. I could easily bemoan their decision to replace their jumps with portable fences but that is a discussion for elsewhere. The paddock is excellent offering good viewing.

It is a large course and at a mid-week meeting it can appear to be a little bit deserted but for weekend and evening meetings the crowds flock.

Admission is not the cheapest, especially at the upper end, however they are a business and looking at the crowds that are attracted market forces clearly prevail.

The configuration of the course is such that viewing is good and there is also a big screen to aid viewing.

All in all a great course where you will have a good day out with the added bonus that they are able to attract some good horses and the racing is competitive.

Catering

At the top end there are plenty of fine dining options with three "formal" restaurants offering packages (including admission) at £100, £90 and £70 respectively. (The £70 option does not have direct viewing of racing from the restaurant).

Next down is the Seafood restaurant offering a range of offerings ranging from smoked trout at £8 through to a seafood platter for £21.

The Jubilee Bar in the County Enclosure offers bar snacks for £7.95 including Steak Roll and Chips, Fish and chips, bangers and chips or and I quote directly here "stilton and onion puff pastry tart topped with a goats cheese rollover" served with coleslaw and salad. I had a go at the steak roll and must admit I was disappointed, for the price I would have expected a reasonable slice of steak, instead there was more onion than meat and the steak had been diced – it was nice but I walked away feeling hungry.

Elsewhere pizza seemed to be the staple with a slice costing £3.25 or a full pizza for £10.50 in both.

Sandwiches and baguettes were freely available with prices ranging from £3.80 to £4.20

There was a single burger van with the usual burgers and hot dogs.

Bitter was £3.50, lager £3.80 and water at £1.50.

Ancillaries

Bookmakers

There were 20 odd bookmakers standing in the main enclosure, with an additional half dozen in the course enclosure. Betting was to an over round of 1.73% a runner.

Racecard

Coating £3.00 it was effectively two racecards in one, with a 16 page glossy section surrounding the card itself. A good idea meaning there is little advertising in the main card section.

There was a good full colour guide to the course although it is tucked away towards the end of the colour section, it may have been better positioned nearer the front as it was hard to find.

Toilets

More than sufficient and all were clean.

Parade Ring



A distinctive, large, parade ring with mature trees inside and out and a vulcanised walkway for the horses. There was no seating but some tiered viewing was available. It does get incredibly popular with crowds five to six deep at times.

The winners enclosure is located in the parade ring. The ring is situated beyond the stands, past the winning post.

Non Racing Attractions

Nothing much in the immediate vicinity, however the "delights" of Manchester, Liverpool and even Blackpool are in reasonable striking distance.

Contact Details	
	www.haydock-park.co.uk
	01942 725963
	Haydock Park Racecourse, Newton-Le-Willows WA12 0HQ

Ownership	Jockey Club Racecourses
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Fixtures 2012

Jump

January 21st
February 18th
March 21st
April 7th
October 31st
November 23rd & 24th
December 22nd & 30th

Mixed

May 12th

Flat

April 28th (eve)
May 24th , 25th & 26th
June 1st (eve), 2nd, 13th, 14th (eve) & 23rd (eve)
July 5th, 6th (eve), 7th, 20th & 21st (eve)
August 9th, 10th (eve) & 11th
September 6th, 7th, 8th, 28th & 29th
October 19th

Inspection Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
07/06/07	Overcast but dry	7 flat midweek
07/08/08	Overcast but dry	6 flat midweek
11/04/09	Sunny	7 jump weekend
24/03/10	Overcast with showers	7 jump midweek
26/10/11	Sunny	6 jump midweek