

Huntingdon

Location, Parking and Access

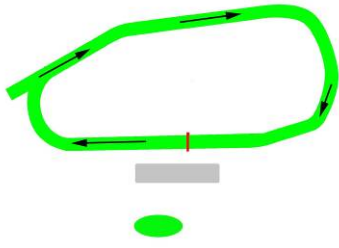


Located about 2 miles west of the town the racecourse is very close to the junction of the A1 and A14. Access is via a private road.

There is ample free parking on grass.

Huntingdon station is on the East Coast mainline and is 1½ miles from the course. There is a free shuttle bus on racedays starting 2 hours before the first race and half an hour either side of the last race.

Course Layout



Huntingdon is a right handed (clockwise) circuit of 1½ miles and it is totally flat throughout.

Long striding, speedy horses do well and the only challenge seems to be the second last fence which can catch some runners out if approached too fast. It is the type of course where form holds out well and many course

specialists also emerge.

Admission

Huntingdon has now adopted a single enclosure policy with a £15 admission charge. There is a picnic enclosure (open evenings / weekends and Bank Holidays) with an admission charge of £8. (at the Boxing day meeting charges are £18 & £10 respectively)

Senior Citizens can join the Jubilee Club for £10 and enjoy a £5 discount on all race days. Accompanied under 16's are admitted free of charge.

Annual membership: Annual £150 single, £275 dual. Half year, after July, £80 single, £140 dual.

Discounts: Seniors Group

Overview

The single enclosure has a basic grandstand with tiered viewing but no seating, although there are some garden benches at ground level at what used to be the members end of the stand.

The main stand is 75% under cover. Most of the area in front of the stands is concrete, with a small grass area at one end. There is an open ditch in front of the main stand, providing a spectacular view when it is jumped.

The entire course is visible from the main stands, however the tiers are not particularly high therefore viewing can be obstructed by your neighbours. I'm 5' 10" and I struggled to see the racing clearly when a taller person stood next to me or in front of me.

The Cromwell Stand, opened in 2009, houses a new weighing room complex on the ground floor level. The upper level houses boxes and an annual members / owners and trainers facility. Whilst to the front are steppings offering good viewing of the entire course.



Cromwell Stand

The picnic enclosure, only open at certain meetings, is located near the furlong marker. It is a flat area offering reasonable viewing, the real bonus being the number of hurdles and fences located in front of the enclosure.

When first inspected in February 2007 the course was in the middle of refurbishment work, by August the work was nearing completion and I am happy to report a much more pleasant experience on the subsequent visits.

There can be problems when conditions have been wet. The car park can be in danger of turning into a bog and getting out can be a bit slippery, however this comment can also be applied to the vast majority of courses. With the only approach to the parade ring being over grass sensible shoes or wellies are obligatory when wet.

The stands are functional providing good viewing, Huntingdon has some of the best naked eye viewing in the country.

Although going through a period of transformation, Huntingdon is a good course, generally popular, especially at the evening meetings and weekends. It's primary meeting is the Peterborough Chase held every November.

Best Viewing Position



Main Stand

Viewing is good from anywhere within the stands. The only potential drawback being any nearby tall people.

Catering

The main restaurant is the Peterborough Chase Restaurant, with a three course meal costing from £63 (£80 on Boxing Day) including admission.

Hurdles bistro offers a more informal dining option, with Formica tables it isn't the height of luxury and even an hour before racing all the tables were occupied, not necessarily by diners. Soup of the day was £2.90, a range of main courses are available from £6.10 - £6.90.

A champagne and seafood bar has recently opened and is situated behind the stands.

Most food vending is from outlets at the rear of the main grandstand, offering usual racing fare. Pork roll £4.10 or baguette £5.25, Pasty £4.20, Jacket potatoes £2.50 - £3.00 and noodles for £4.90.

Water is £1.70 for 500ml, a bottle of Coke £2. Beer and Lager are £3.70 a pint.

There are a large number of bars. *(prices correct as at Jan 2012)*

Ancillaries

Bookmakers

There are usually a couple of dozen bookmakers standing at the course. Betting is to an over round of 1.86% a runner.

Racecard

Costing £3.00 the racecards are in full colour and are detailed. There were colours for away meetings, unusually found in the centre of the racecard.

The racecards used to be disappointing with a difficult to read colour scheme, however they have no greatly improved.

Toilets

Toilets are generally refurbished and in good condition. At the Bank Holiday meeting there were invariably queues but most other racedays queuing is not normally an issue.

Parade Ring



The large oval paddock is located behind the stands, although only one side of it is accessible to the public. The far side houses saddling boxes.

Access to the paddock is on grass only so it can get a bit muddy underfoot on occasion.

The winners enclosure was separate from the paddock but has now been incorporated into the main paddock. This area has some tiered viewing.

Non Racing Attractions

To be honest not a lot although history buffs may well make the most of local connections with the Civil War.

Contact Details

	www.huntingdon-racecourse.co.uk
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Ownership	Jockey Club Racecourses
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Fixtures 2012

January 4th, 13th & 27th
February 9th & 23rd
March 4th & 14th
April 9th
May 29th
August 27th
October 7th & 16th

November 4th, 13th & 24th December 13th & 26th

Inspection Dates		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
22/02/07	Overcast	7 jump midweek
27/08/07	Hot and sunny	7 jump 1 pony Bank Holiday
16/10/07	Overcast with some showers	6 jump midweek
24/10/07	Dry but chilly	7 jump weekend
01/05/08	Sunny	6 jump evening
19/02/09	Sunny	7 jump midweek
31/08/09	Overcast and muggy, becoming sunny	7 jump Bank Holiday
19/11/09	Broken cloud but very windy	7 jump midweek
11/02/10	Sunny but cold	7 jump midweek
10/02/11	Showery	7 jump midweek
04/01/12	Overcast with a bitterly cold wind	7 jump midweek

