

Leicester

Location, Parking and Access

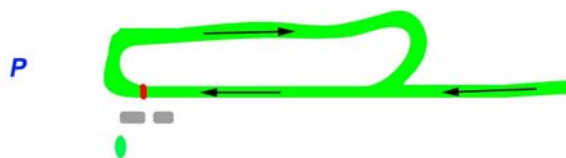


Located on the ring road at its junction with the A6. Access from the M1 is, theoretically, easy – however the traffic on the ring road can get busy so it is worth allowing a good 20 mins to get from the M1 to the course, possibly even longer for an evening meeting.

Parking is on grass and is free but is a couple of minutes walk from the course entrance.

Leicester station is 2 miles from the course.

Course Layout



Leicester is an oval circuit of $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles with an extension on the home straight which stages races of up to 7 furlongs. The course is right handed (anti clockwise). The

round course is undulating with a steady climb in the home straight. The straight course is downhill until it joins the main course when it becomes uphill. It can be a very testing course especially when there has been some rain.

With the uphill finish stamina is at a premium

On the jumping course long striding horses do well, although they have to be good jumpers as the fences can be somewhat stiff.

Draw Advantage: When the going gets soft then low numbers have a strong advantage on the straight course. (was the opposite way round prior to the 2011 season when the stall numbering system changed)

Admission

At premium fixtures, Leicester has a two enclosure policy, Members (£20) and Grandstand (£16).

At midweek meetings a single enclosure policy is in operation with admission at £12.

Annual membership: £225

Discounts: Seniors **Students** **Group**

Overview

Leicester is a course of contrasts and your experience will very much depend on the type of meeting you attend. My first inspection was at a summer evening meeting and this attracted a good crowd and there was a good buzz about the place. The second visit was a midweek in September and there was as much atmosphere as a January all weather meeting – i.e. none.



The Members enclosure is a fair size with a sizeable ground area in front of the stand, which is on a bit of a slope. The stand is a good size with some tiered viewing, with plenty of seating behind the standing area, all under cover, and with good viewing. The whole course is visible, although it is advisable to bring binoculars as there is no big screen.

The Grandstand in Tattersalls is a new building, standing only, offering good viewing although, as in members, a good pair of binoculars is recommended.

The areas in front of the stands is a combination of hardstanding and grass.

For what is often, unfairly, considered to be one of the lesser racecourses, Leicester is a nicely laid out, friendly racecourse and it provides a good racing experience.

The layout of the course is generally user friendly although it is a long trek from the parade ring to the Tattersalls enclosure. It would possibly be too much walking for somebody of limited mobility. Access from Members to the parade ring is OK.

Clearly a great deal of money has been invested in improving facilities at the course and this has paid off well for the course and the management should be commended. All they need to sort out is the racecard and they will be well away.

Catering

The majority of the food is served from mobile or temporary units. At most courses this would ring very loud alarm bells. Here at Leicester any worries are misplaced. The food is of a high quality. The number of outlets increases at the premium meetings and at one such meeting the £4.50 curry was of excellent quality and it wouldn't be out of place in an up market Indian restaurant. Unfortunately I have not seen it there since.

Whilst £3.50 may appear to be expensive for a prawn sandwich it was very generously filled and good value for money.

However the number of outlets at the standard meetings are very much reduced. Having said that two hardy perennials are the fish stall and the beef stall.

The beef stall always has a huge joint on the go with baps available in both regular (£3.50) and large (£4.25) and the rolls are well filled, as the queues attest.

The fish stall has a good range on offer. The grilled salmon roll at £3 comes highly recommended.

There is, of course, the ubiquitous burger stall with 4oz burgers £3 (£3.50 with cheese) or 6oz burgers £4 (£4.50)

The main grandstand has a snack bar with reasonably priced main dishes from £3.80 - £4.80

There is a viewing restaurant but no chance to inspect, however the menu looks to have a good selection and it is reasonably priced (from £45) in comparison to other racecourses.

The course did have a delightful tea room, the Quorn Room, one of racing's gems but it was closed at the end of 2011, hopefully the closure will only be temporary.

Bitter and lager are available at £3.50 a pint.

Ancillaries

Bookmakers

Around 20 bookmakers standing in the ring. They were betting to an average over round of a reasonable 1.4% a runner.

Racecard

Oh dear – the only way to describe it is a disgrace. Leicester had gone down the route of providing a free racecard. On the face of it something to be very much admired, however when you look at the card it is as much use as a chocolate teapot. The card is in black and white and provides only basic information. However they have now begun charging £2 for said racecard

In this day and age it is unforgivable for the racecard not to show the colours being carried by the jockeys – free or otherwise. Other courses with free racecards manage to provide them in colour.

For their feature meetings they have a full colour card for £2.50

Toilets

Toilets in both enclosures were large, well stocked and very clean.

Surprisingly the toilets in the cheaper enclosure were better than those in members but that is probably the result of the refurbishment of the main stand.

Parade Ring

Located behind the stands, the parade ring, which also doubles as a pre-parade ring, is good sized and the tiered viewing really helps.

The separate winners enclosure is situated adjacent to the nearby weighing room.

It is quite a trek from the parade ring to the main enclosures, although members have a short cut through the stands.

Non Racing Attractions

Let us be honest here and acknowledge that Leicester is not exactly renowned as being a tourist hotspot.

However there are some interesting sites to visit as the city can trace its roots back to the Iron Age. With its ethnic mix there are some interesting shopping areas and markets to visit with the chance to buy goods not easily found elsewhere.

Contact Details

	www.leicester-racecourse.co.uk
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Ownership	Private
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Fixtures 2012*Jump*

January 10th & 24th

February 1st, 16th & 28th

March 9th

November 17th

December 2nd, 6th, 12th & 28th

Flat

April 13th & 28th
 May 3rd (eve), 21st (eve) & 28th
 June 4th, 5th, 16th (eve), 21st (eve) & 28th (eve)
 July 7th, 19th & 25th (eve)
 August 1st (eve) & 12th
 September 4th, 11th & 24th
 October 9th, 16th & 29th

Inspection Dates		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
29/06/06	Warm and some sunshine	6 flat evening
17/09/07	Overcast with odd showers	6 flat midweek
08/01/08	Cloudy some spits and spots	7 jump midweek
26/06/08	Overcast with heavy rain later	4 flat evening (last two races abandoned)
24/02/09	Overcast but warm	6 jump midweek
01/06/09	Hot and sunny	8 flat midweek
17/05/10	Broken cloud	6 flat midweek
25/01/11	Showery	7 flat midweek
10/01/12	Overcast becoming sunny late on	6 jump midweek