

# Market Rasen

## Location, Parking and Access

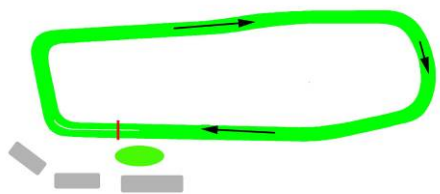


Located to the east of the town the course is on the A6531, which itself is off the A46 Lincoln to Grimsby road.

Parking is free, except for the picnic car park for which there is a charge of £5 a car.

Market Rasen station is located  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the course, however services do appear to be limited, to say the least, with an average two hourly service.

## Course Layout



Market Rasen is a right handed (clockwise), rectangular course,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles round. It has some minor undulations but no great hills or slopes.

in suites front runners.

Some of the turns are quite tight which favours speedy types and the short run-

## Admission

There are three enclosures at Market Rasen, the County enclosure (£19 - £25), Tattersalls (£14 - £20) and Family (£9 - £15). For an additional £7 County racegoers may upgrade to Premier which includes a 'free' racecard and access to the annual members bar.

Children under 16 are admitted free.

Annual membership: £195 single, £340 dual

A Behaviour and dress code operates in the County Enclosure. Anyone wearing ripped jeans, shorts or vests will be refused admission into the County Enclosure. A dress code does not operate in the Tattersalls Enclosure but bare chests are not permitted.

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

## Overview

The enclosures are spacious and lawned giving an open feel to the course.



The county enclosure does not have what would be regarded as a traditional grandstand. There is a block containing boxes, bars and restaurants and there is some tiered viewing on the roof of one of the bars. The same buildings extend into the Tattersalls enclosure and, again, there is tiered viewing at roof level.

A more traditional grandstand is shared between the Tattersalls and family enclosures. Again with tiered viewing. All the tiered viewing areas have a single row of bench seats at the top level. There are some garden benches on the county stand lawn.



Viewing is good and the entire course can be seen, even from ground level. Those in the Family enclosure are able to stand by the final fence, although those with badges for the other enclosures can pass freely to the family enclosure if they wish.

A fantastic gem is hidden away in the county stand – there is an archive corridor with the walls lined with photographs from days of yore and it provides a fascinating history of the course.

Market Rasen is a charming course with a spacious feel. Getting to the course is relatively easy, although actually getting through the town centre was a bit of a chore. The down side is that Market Rasen is one of those courses that seems to encourage drinking, beer is cheap and even available in jugs. As the afternoon progressed the beer flowed and the atmosphere became less enjoyable ... why do people need to pour alcohol down their necks to enjoy themselves?

In fairness there was no trouble, but one was left with the impression it wouldn't have taken much to tip things over the edge and had there been problems there were not enough stewards to deal with it. On the subject of stewarding any access control between the family and Tattersalls enclosures seemed to disappear after the fourth race, allowing free access between the two enclosures.

I was also at a loss to see the benefits of upgrading from the County to Premier badge. The only benefits for the £7 was a free race card (value £2.50) and access to the annual members bar, which, frankly was no great shakes. Certainly it wasn't possible to see the racing from the bar. Unless I missed something there was no other tangible benefit from upgrading.

Looking back at what I have written, I do perhaps wonder if I am being overly critical of Market Rasen. The gripes I have aren't major but still enough just to take the edge of the days enjoyment, which is a shame as it is a lovely course and one where you can feel part of the racing. I may have been unlucky and visited on a bad day – it was a warm Saturday and there were clearly quite a few stag and hen groups at the races on the day.

### **Catering**

The main restaurant offers packages from £63.

There were mobile units in the family and Tattersalls enclosures. Pork or Beef baguettes (£5.50) or rolls (£4), burgers (£3.20), fish and chips (£5.50), sausage and chips (£4), hot dogs (£3.20).

There were food vending areas in the main buildings. Main courses were available for £5.95, options being three bean chilli, chicken curry, lasagne, lamb stew or neck of lamb. Sandwiches were available from £2.40 and hot filled rolls for £4.80.

Basically the food options were good with most tastes and pockets catered for.

Bitter and lager was priced at £3.40

### **Ancillaries**

#### ***Bookmakers***

Almost 30 standing in the main ring and a further 20 in the course enclosure.

#### ***Racecard***

Costing £3.00 a reasonable card which provides enough information for all levels of racegoer.

#### ***Toilets***

Toilets were clean and presentable, although queues did devolve as the afternoon progressed and the beer flowed.

### **Parade Ring**



The layout at Market Rasen is interesting as I cannot think of any other course where the pre-parade ring, parade ring and winners enclosure are so far away from one other, you will get plenty of exercise walking between them.

The parade ring is located in front of the stands, unusually it can be viewed from all the enclosures. The ring is almost

footprint shaped and is well presented.

The pre-parade ring is located far behind the main stands, whilst the winners enclosure is located outside the weighing room, again behind the stands.

### **Commentary & PA**

The sound system is clear.

There was a preview before racing. At most meetings Mike Vince is the compare and I have to say he added to the atmosphere of the afternoon, with informed comment and some good interviews.

There was no big screen although with the clear viewing this was not an issue, an audio commentary of the big race at Sandown was broadcast.

### **Non Racing Attractions**

The area isn't blessed with too many attractions. The fishing port of Grimsby and its sister resort of Cleethorpes are in striking distance.

Hull, with its flagship aquarium, is reasonably nearby.

### **Contact Details**

	<a href="http://www.marketrasenraces.co.uk">www.marketrasenraces.co.uk</a>
	01673 843434
	Market Rasen Racecourse Legsby Road Market Rasen Lincolnshire LN8 3EA

<b>Ownership</b>	Jockey Club
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<b>Fixtures 2012</b>
January 22nd
January 7th & 19th
March 11th & 27th
April 15th & 28th
May 11th & 20th
June 8th & 22nd
July 8th & 21st
August 5th & 18th (eve)
September 1st (eve) & 29th
November 11th & 22nd
December 6th & 26th

<b>Inspection Dates</b>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
27/04/07	Sunny with a cool wind	7 jump weekend
27/06/08	Changeable	7 jump midweek
16/02/09	Overcast with broken cloud	6 hurdle midweek
09/02/10	Overcast with sunny spells, chill wind	7 jump midweek