

Naas

Location, Parking and Access



Situated 37km from Dublin via the N7, the course is on the eastern outskirts of the town..

The nearest station is Newbridge, 14km away, from where a taxi can be caught to the course.

Parking is free and on grass. The process is very well marshalled although the usual exit queues arise as people try to queue jump.

Course Layout

The course is left-handed, undulating and one mile and four furlongs in length with a stiff uphill climb to the winning post. Also a chute for sprint races that joins the straight.

Admission

Admission to all meetings is €15. OAP's and students €9.

Annual membership: €120

Under 14's admitted free.

20% discount for pre-booked groups of 10 or more.

Overview

Very much the feel of a country course and apart from the miserable git on the turnstile everyone, staff and racegoers, was friendly and welcoming.

There are two main stands, both with tiered viewing and one of which has some limited bench style seating.

There is a stand near the furlong marker resembling a miniature aircraft hanger with three sides removed. In front of which there is a children's playground.

There is a fourth stand, with upper floor viewing, beyond the main stands and winning post. This also offers covered views of the parade ring from one end.

All the stands offer viewing of the entire course. For those without binoculars a big screen is provided.

As I have previously mentioned the course is very welcoming and even though this was my first visit, the Irish hospitality showed through and I was treated like an old friend.

At one point I was writing up a race report on my laptop and this old boy sidled up to me and whispered "have you any girlie pictures on that?" Priceless!!!

Interestingly racing from the other Irish meeting at Listowel and from the UK meeting at Leicester was shown on the big screen with commentary broadcast over the PA system. There were also TV's inside the main stand showing ATR, SIS, RUK and Sky News.

The inside the main stand is a rather stark and somewhat basic but with a number of sofas round the side which offer a welcome respite during the afternoon.

Although the meeting was on a Bank Holiday afternoon and there was a good crowd you did not feel claustrophobic and the atmosphere was free and relaxed.

The stands and buildings may not be the prettiest however they are practical. If I were to be hypercritical then a decent lick of paint would not go amiss.

Another happy memory concerns the information board on the end of the main stand. This details non-runners and jockey changes. It is updated by this chap on a rickety step ladder sticking magnetic strips with the information. He put up details of the non-runners which were duly noted by the large attentive crowd which had gathered round. Five minutes later he was back changing it all round as he had put the wrong numbers against the wrong races. Back in the UK I'm sure he would have had a riot on his hands, here the mistake was happily accepted.

Catering

There is a formal restaurant offering meals at €40 – 45 (higher rates at weekends and Bank Holidays) add an extra €10 if booked in advance to cover admission.

There is what is advertised as a self service restaurant which is only self service to the extent you carry your tray. It is rather basic with formica tables but the food is of reasonably good quality with a range of main meals available for €7 - €13.40.

What was noticeable was a complete lack of mobile units, apart from a sweet wagon.

Draught beers were available from €4 to €4.30

Not a huge choice but what was available was quite acceptable and there should be something for all tastes.

Ancillaries

Bookmakers

There were 25 bookmakers standing. As seems typical at Irish courses several were betting without the top two or three in the betting.

Of course Tote Ireland also pay out 1, 2, 3 & 4 on all 16+ runner races be they handicaps or otherwise.

Racecard

Costing €3. A reasonable card providing full colours.

Not much editorial but plenty of advertising.

Toilets

Certainly enough, of varying standards which coped with the numbers present.

Parade Ring

An odd, almost pentagon, shaped parade ring beyond the main stands.

It is a good size but without seating or tiered viewing.

Having said that it was popular with crowds five or six deep at times.

The pre-parade ring is in the stable block and cannot be seen by the public.

Contact Details

	www.naasracecourse.com
	(045) 897391
	Naas Racecourse, Tipper Road, Naas, Co. Kildare

Fixtures 2012

January 8th & 21st
February 11th & 26th
March 11th
April 21st
May 16th
June 27th
July 11th & 25th
August 6th
October 21st & 29th
November 10th

Inspection Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
02/06/08	Hot and generally sunny two light showers.	7 flat Bank Holiday

