

# Newbury

## Location, Parking and Access



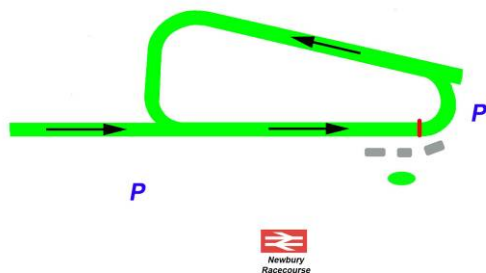
Access was reasonable although at evening meetings there is some rush hour traffic in the town centre to contend with.

Parking at most meetings is free and on grass, although at some meetings there is members parking for which there is a charge.

Newbury racecourse has its own station adjacent to the course, on the London / Reading to Bedwyn line. Timing of the trains does seem a tad irregular so it's worth checking with National Rail Enquiries before setting off.



## Course Layout



Newbury is a flat track just under two miles in circumference. There is an extension to the home straight to allow races up to one mile to be run on the straight course. The main course is left handed (anti-clockwise).

suites by the course.

Long striding, galloping horses are

Draw bias: There is no discernable draw bias.

## Admission

There are three enclosures at Newbury. Premier (£22 - £26), Grandstand (£15 - £20) and Picnic\* (£7), the higher prices generally being for Saturday meetings. For the Hennessy Gold Cup day the prices are £40 / £22 / £6 respectively.

Accompanied under 18's are admitted free of charge.

Annual membership: £290 annual, £550 dual annual, £210 flat only, £140 jump only single, £265 jump only dual and £90 (age 18-25)

Dress Code:

*Premier Enclosure: Racegoers are encouraged to wear smart attire, although a tie is not essential for gentlemen, it is preferred. **NO** jeans, shorts, T-shirts, vests, tracksuits or sportswear (including trainers) are permitted in the Premier Enclosure.*

\*The picnic enclosure is closed at certain meetings.

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

## Overview

Enclosures

Premier / Members



**Hampshire Stand**



**Berkshire Stand**

As one would expect at a top class course the facilities are very good. The Premier Enclosure actually has two Grandstands. The Hampshire and Berkshire Stands. Both are well maintained and there is seating both inside and out. Viewing is good from both stands and one of the features of the Hampshire Stand is some excellent tiered seating, behind glass, so that even in the most inclement of weather it is possible to sit and view the racing in comfort. 95% of the external stands are under cover.

Grandstand

The stand is a fair way back from the track giving a slight feeling of detachment from the action. The stand itself is modern and impressive offering a great amount of tiered viewing. There are a few 'button' seats on the top row of the stand. Approximately 80% of the stand is under cover. Viewing is good offering line of sight viewing of all the course, supplemented by big screens.



**Main Grandstand**

In the Course Enclosure there is a basic stand offering some covered viewing.

All the enclosures are large, however on a quiet day the course can almost appear to be an empty void. A midweek evening meeting isn't a typical Newbury meeting and the place seemed rather empty despite the crowd probably being of a size that would more than delight many of our smaller courses. Because Newbury is so big it looks forlorn on its quieter days.

Having said that Newbury is a lovely racecourse and you never know who you're going to bump into (a few years ago we had a family trip to the track and my mother in law was strolling on the far side of the parade ring and walking towards her was another elderly lady, none other than The Queen). Royal patronage besides, Newbury does attract the crowds but, due to the amount of space available it rarely feels overcrowded.

Mostly the racing is of a high quality, although at some meetings the quality can be low by Newbury standards and they should consider reducing admission prices for the few lesser meetings that they stage.

Newbury is definitely one of those courses where you do get what you pay for. The picnic enclosure is basic, the grandstand enclosure is good (and better than most), whilst the members enclosure is first class.

On the first revisit, it was the day after the Hennessey Gold Cup and a lot of the extra facilities from that day were still in evidence. The third visit was somewhere between the two with sufficient facilities to suit numbers.

Basically it seems Newbury are adept at adjusting the facilities to fit the expected number of visitors.

## **Catering**

There are two formal restaurants, one offering a set package and the other a la carte and I know from previous visits that the food in these is of the highest standard, which would grace top restaurant. Prices range from £45 - £90 for the Racegoers Restaurant in the main grandstand or £80 - £105 in the Hennessy Restaurant. (On Hennessy Gold Cup day only the Hennessy Restaurant can be booked at £250 a head)

The Brasserie on the first floor of the Berkshire Stand offers brunch for early arrivals for £9.50. Lunch is á la carte with starters from £3.50 - £6.95, mains £12.50 - £13.85 and desserts £5.65

There is plenty of food on offer, catering for all tastes. Even the ubiquitous mobile caterers cater for all tastes from the standard burger fare to a very nice Italian unit in the Premier Enclosure.

A hot beef baguette was £5.50, served at various outlets.

There is a fish and chip shop selling fish and chips for £7.00, Chicken and chips for £5.00 and sausage and chips for £4.50. A Continental sausage vendor has a range of German sausages in a baguette for £4.00 a go.

In the Premier Enclosure there is a Champagne and seafood bar. Seafood mains available for £11.50 - £19.00.

A burger unit offers various options from £4.50 through to £7.00. Pies, with mash, are available at various outlets for £6.90 a go.

A seafood unit has various hot and cold options, ranging in price from £2.00 to £7.50.

Bitter was £3.70 a pint and lager £3.80

## **Ancillaries**

### ***Bookmakers***

There are invariably a large number of bookmakers standing at the course, in both the main and, where applicable, course enclosures.

### ***Racecard***

Costing £2.50 the card is functional with some additional editorial relevant to the meeting. At the first inspection the one thing that struck me was the cover, featuring photographs of Mubtaker who had enjoyed success at Newbury and who had died a few days before the meeting ... a very nice touch.

### ***Toilets***

The toilets in the Grandstand enclosure were adequate although a bit smelly .... it had been a hot day!!

The toilets in the Hampshire stand were excellent, very clean with some very trendy fittings.

### **Parade Ring**






One of those courses where the importance of parade ring viewing is recognised and this is reflected by the large number of racegoers who surround the paddock before each race. The large amount of tiered viewing allows several rows of racegoers to examine the horses.

Situated behind the stands the parade ring also includes the unsaddling enclosure.

### **Non Racing Attractions**

Newbury town is attractive with some interesting shops. The canal provides a setting for some nice walks or picnics.

### **Contact Details**

	<a href="http://www.newbury-racecourse.co.uk">www.newbury-racecourse.co.uk</a>
	01635 40015
	Newbury Racecourse Newbury Berkshire RG14 7NZ

<b>Ownership</b>	Private
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### **Fixtures 2012**

#### *Jump*

January 18th  
February 11th  
March 2nd, 3rd, 23rd & 24th  
November 29th, 30th  
December 1st, 19th & 29th

#### *Flat*

April 20th & 21st  
May 18th, 19th & 26th (eve)  
June 14th & 26th (eve)  
July 5th (eve), 13th & 14th  
August 5th, 17th & 18th  
September 21st & 22nd  
October 26th & 27th

<b>Inspection Dates</b>		
<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Weather</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>
06/07/06	Warm with broken cloud	6 Flat evening
26/11/06	Wet	7 Jump weekend
05/08/07	Very hot and sunny	9 Flat (including 1 Arab race) weekend
02/12/07	Very wet and windy	7 jump weekend
20/03/09	Sunny	6 jump midweek
06/03/10	Bright with a cold wind	7 jump weekend
01/08/10	Broken cloud and humid	10 Flat (including 1 Arab and 2 Pony)
04/03/11	Broken cloud	7 jump midweek
18/01/12	Overcast	7 jump midweek

