

# Newcastle

## Location, Parking and Access



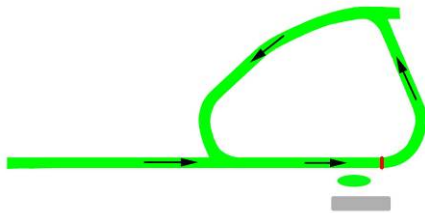
Located north of the city it is close to the A1 junction with the A1056, which also links with the A19.

Parking is on a mixture of grass and hard standing and is free, exiting afterwards can be a hard slog – especially if the last race coincides with rush hour.

Newcastle station is 4 miles from the racecourse. There are buses from the city centre to the course, alternatively catch the metro to either Regent Centre or Four Lane End and then catch a free shuttle bus to the course.

A taxi from Newcastle Central Station to the course costs around £20.

## Course Layout



The racecourse is a left handed (anti-clockwise), triangular shaped circuit of 1¾ miles. There is a spur on the home straight allowing for races up to 1 mile on a straight course. The home straight is steadily uphill.

Strong galloping, resolute horses with plenty of stamina tend to do well at Newcastle.

Draw Advantage: Depends on where the stalls are situated. If on the stands side then high numbers are favoured whilst the bias switches to the low numbers when the stalls are on the far side.

## Admission

Newcastle operates a two enclosure policy. Premier (£20 - £45) and Grandstand (£14 -£25).

Accompanied under 16's admitted free, discounts available for students, OAP's, disabled and aged 16-18 (proof required). Discounts are also available for groups of 15 or more booked in advance.

Annual membership: £220 full season, £165 flat and £130 jump

There is no official dress code although smart attire is preferred in the Premier Enclosure.

**Discounts: Seniors  Students  Group**

## Overview

The Premier enclosure houses two stands and the main entry to the enclosure is through Brandling House, which must be one of the grandest entrances to any racecourse in the country.



Brandling House houses the main restaurant and it has a course side frontage with steppings, offering good viewing. The other stand is the Colonel Porter stand, which is on two levels. The lower level is half steppings / half seating with the upper level being fully seated. The upper level probably offers the best viewing at the course. It should be noted there was no stewarding covering admission to the front of this stand, as a result racegoers with grandstand and paddock badges were able to use this facility, which begs the question of why one should bother paying the extra money for Premier admission?



The Grandstand and paddock has a main stand on two levels, offering the same viewing configuration as the Colonel Porter Stand. Additionally there is a further, tiered standing only, stand beyond that in line with the furlong marker.

All stands are fronted with a combination of hard standing and grassed areas.

Viewing is a mixed bag, from all areas be it in the stands or at ground level, viewing of the straight course is excellent. However viewing of the round course is decidedly mixed. From ground level it is nigh on impossible to view the round course due to the large number of advertising hoardings. From the stands, large areas of the course are obstructed from view due to trees and assorted shrubbery in the centre of the course. To make matters worse there was no big screen available so it

was impossible to follow the entire race on the round course from any of the outside areas. The only way to see the entire race was inside the bars watching on TV, personally I could watch the same pictures on my own TV at home without having to pay the admission charge.

Newcastle racecourse has a grand appearance, reminiscent of many of the grand northern railway stations like York, Darlington or even Newcastle. The Brandling house has to be one of the most upmarket entrances to any racecourse.

Now under the ownership of Northern Racing, Newcastle does have a reputation as being a "drinking" course with a reputation for rowdy crowds. Ask any regular racegoer about Newcastle and the inevitable response is a knowing nod and an "it's lively there" response.

On the day of the inspection it wasn't too bad, of course most racegoers were walking around with the seemingly obligatory drink in their hands, however the atmosphere was good, possibly due to the fact it was also the middle of the school holidays and there were more families than usual at the meeting. (My previous visits the course have all been to Saturday meetings and the atmosphere had, indeed, been lively with the local drink hard / play hard ethos seeming to rule)

If you don't mind the lively atmosphere then you would probably enjoy a day at Newcastle. The layout of the course is good, the viewing is reasonable, although a big screen should be present at all meetings.

Newcastle is a very popular racecourse so it does get crowded.

### **Catering**

The main restaurants are the Gosforth Park or Park View suites with packages from £90 plus VAT a head or the Charles Branding room from £55 plus VAT a head.

In the Grandstand enclosure there is the family food hall offering snacks and main meals. Snacks are from around £2.50 with main meals priced at £6.25 each.

Other outlets situated throughout the course offer pies (£2.40), hot rolls (£4.00 - £4.50), fish and chips (£4.50), Burgers (£3.20), sausages (£3.20) and various sandwiches (£2.10 - £3.95).

A reasonable selection of food, although like most race courses, very few "healthy" options, the good thing the pricing is very reasonable.

Bitter is £3.80 a pint and lager £3.90.

## Ancillaries

### **Bookmakers**

There were 28 bookmakers standing, quite reasonable for a midweek meeting and they were betting to an over round of 1.59% a runner.

### **Racecard**

Costing £2.50 a typical Northern Racing racecard. Wholly adequate and it serves a purpose without going overboard.

### **Toilets**

Clean and adequate for a midweek meeting – not sure how they would cope on a busy weekend.

### **Parade Ring**

With some button seating and tiered viewing, the parade ring is situated in front of the main stands and is clearly visible from the stands. It is not a particularly large ring but it is pleasing on the eye. The winners enclosure is attached to the parade ring, so is, again, fully visible from the stands.



The pre-parade ring / saddling boxes are located behind the Colonel Porter stand.

## Non Racing Attractions

Newcastle is famed for its lively nightlife and it is not uncommon to see groups of racegoers carrying on their party in the city after racing.

For those preferring a quieter life the stunning scenery of Northumbria is close by along with Hadrian's Wall.

## Contact Details

	<a href="http://www.newcastle-racecourse.co.uk">www.newcastle-racecourse.co.uk</a>
	0191 236 2020
	Newcastle Racecourse High Gosforth Park Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5HP

<b>Ownership</b>	Northern Racing
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**Fixtures 2012***Jump*

January 7th &amp; 26th

February 1st &amp; 25th

March 6th, 17th, 29th &amp; 30th

November 16th

December 1st &amp; 22nd

*Flat*

April 14th &amp; 24th (eve)

May 8th, 18th (eve) &amp; 31st (eve)

June 1st, 9th (eve), 28th, 29th (eve) &amp; 30th

July 28th

August 8th, 17th, 24th (eve) &amp; 27th

September 10th &amp; 15th

October 3rd &amp; 16th

**Inspection Dates**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
08/08/07	Sunny and warm	6 flat midweek
14/11/08	Sunny with a slight chill in the air	8 jump midweek
30/09/09	Overcast with some drizzle in the air	8 flat midweek
29/09/10	Pouring with rain	8 flat midweek
19/01/11	Sunny	7 jump midweek
26/01/12	Variable with a chill wind	7 jump midweek