

Nottingham

Location, Parking and Access



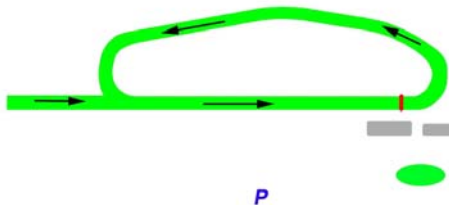
Located in Colwick Park off the A612, 2 miles east of Nottingham City centre. The M1, A1, A52 and A46 trunk roads are all nearby. The racecourse is signposted locally.

Parking is free and on hard standing.

The nearest station is Nottingham, 2 miles from the course. There is no bus link to the course. However the course car park is also one of the Nottingham Park and Ride sites therefore, presumably, it must be possible to get a Park and Ride bus from the City

Centre.

Course Layout



The track is left handed (anti-clockwise) and is 1½ round. There is a spur at the entrance to the home straight allowing straight races over 6 furlongs. Interestingly there is a second straight course inside the main one to allow races on fresh ground if need be. The course is virtually flat with only very minor undulations. Powerful galloping horses do well at Nottingham.

Draw Advantage: This depends on where the stalls are situated. On the straight course, if the stalls are on the stand side then high drawn horses have the advantage, especially when the going is soft. If the stalls are on the far side and the going is good to firm then low drawn horses have the advantage.

Admission

Nottingham operates a two enclosure policy, Premier (£16 - £20) and Grandstand (£10 - £14). Under 16's are admitted free. Discounts are available for Students, seniors and 16-21 year olds (proof required). Discounts are available for groups of 15 or more, booked in advance. Additionally special packages are also available if booked in advance, for more information visit the course web site.

Annual membership: £195 joint £370

Dress code (from the Nottingham web site) *"The Premier Enclosure operates a dress code of smart casual. Anyone wearing untidy attire, shorts, sports clothing or Fancy Dress will be refused access, but please note we do not insist on ties or jackets."*

Discounts: Seniors Students Group

Overview

The Premier enclosure does not have a stand as such. It has a building, the Centenary Stand, containing bars and restaurants with boxes on the upper floor. Viewing is from a balcony. There is a lawn in front of the building, this has some picnic tables with seats.

The main enclosure has a more conventional stand. With, steep, tiered viewing areas but no seating, the entire course can be seen from the stand. The area in front of the stand is tarmac and deep, placing the stand a fair way back from the track. There is an area at one end notionally reserved for Premier badge holders but this is not seemingly enforced.

Viewing from ground level is good, with the proviso that your view may be obstructed by tall neighbours.

The area behind the stands is very spacious with large lawned areas.

Without wanting to be disrespectful, Nottingham can best be described as an average course. Nothing exceptional, either good or bad. Viewing is generally good. There could be more seating at the course and I was accompanied on the day of the first inspection by an 84 year old who would have appreciated the opportunity to watch the racing sitting down.

I would question the value of paying for an upgrade to the Premier enclosure.

Oddly enough, in terms of aesthetics, Nottingham is a course where the area behind the stands is far more attractive than the area in front of the stands.

If you want an enjoyable days racing without any frills then you could do worse than spend a day racing at Nottingham.

Catering

The main restaurant is the Rooftop restaurant in the main stand, although a Premier ticket is required for access. (from £55 for the full package)

Outside of the main restaurant there are a range of eating options. GG's (not sure if it is named after erstwhile commentator Graham Goode) has fish and chips and other delights at a very good price, including a highly recommended chicken balti pie. Fish & Chips £6.50 (£7 with peas), Sausage and chips £3.80, pies £2.70, chips £2.50 or £3.90.

Various other outlets offer snacks, including hot rolls for £4.95 and chilli nachos for £2.50.

Both enclosures had a dish of the day priced at £6.25

Frankies is a new seafood restaurant offering seafood pie £7.80, seafood chowder for £5.80 of the dish of the day for £5.50.

A mobile unit had burgers for £3.30 (£3.50 with cheese) or Hot Dogs for £3.

Baguettes were available for £4.95 - £5.95

Bitter and lager are priced at £3.60 and water £1.80 a bottle.

Ancillaries

Bookmakers

Only 14 bookmakers standing. Betting to a not unreasonable over round of 1.4% a runner

Racecard

Costing £2.50, what I would describe as a reasonable racecard offering all the information required, plus some editorial as well.

Toilets

Adequate and clean, not a great deal more to say really.

Parade Ring

A good sized, oval, parade ring, functional rather than pretty. The winners enclosure is contained within the ring. The pre-parade ring is located adjacent to the main paddock.

There is some bench seating around the parade ring, however this is set back from the rail so the view will generally be obstructed by those standing by the rail.

Commentary & PA

The sound system was mixed and there were some spots with echo. However in the Premier enclosure the sound was very poor indeed.

Coverage between races was, on both occasions, hosted by Mike Vince and, as usual, it was a good presentation with many good interviews as well as a racing preview.

Non Racing Attractions

Not many that I can think of, although I am sure I will have the Nottingham Tourist Board telling me otherwise!!!

Contact Details	
	www.nottinghamracecourse.co.uk
	0870 850 7634
	Nottingham Racecourse Colwick Park Nottingham NG2 4BE

Ownership	Jockey Club
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Fixtures 2012
April 11th & 21st (eve) May 11th (eve), 12th & 22nd June 3rd, 6th & 14th July 7th (eve) & 20th August 2nd, 14th (eve) & 17th October 3rd, 10th, 17th & 31st November 11th

Inspection Dates		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
11/05/07	Sunny, clouding over by race five	6 flat midweek
02/08/07	Sunny and warm	6 flat midweek
02/04/08	Overcast	6 flat midweek
12/08/08	Broken cloud	6 flat midweek eve
03/06/09	Overcast but warm	7 flat midweek
27/04/10	Sunny	6 flat midweek
06/04/11	Sunny	7 flat midweek