

# Ripon

## Location, Parking and Access

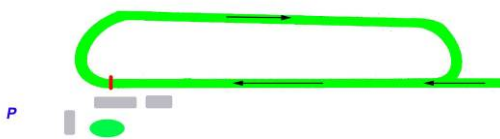


Ripon is located about 27 miles north west of York and 4 miles from the A1. The course itself is located close to the A61 and is signposted in the vicinity, although coming from the north the signs did disappear briefly.

Parking is on grass and free.

The nearest railway stations are York (27 miles), Harrogate (11 miles) and Thirsk (11 miles)

## Course Layout



The course is right handed oval circuit of 13 furlongs, with a run-in of five furlongs, a spur allows for six furlong races to be run on the straight course.

The course suits resolute horses and runners on the loop need to be agile to take the sharp turn.

Fast starting runners can be at a significant advantage on the straight course and can steal a march on their opponents.

The bends are well cambered so are not as demanding as would initially appear, however long striding horses can become unbalanced on the turn.

Draw advantage: In races up to a mile high numbers are favoured if the stalls are stands side or centre course, but low numbers are favoured if the stalls are on the far side. (was the opposite way round prior to the 2011 season when the stall numbering system changed)

## Admission

Ripon has three enclosures, Members (£18 - £21), Tattersalls (£12 - £14) and Course (£5).

Discounts are available for groups of 20 or more booked in advance. Accompanied under 16's are admitted free of charge.

Annual membership: £160 single, £240 joint and £100 junior (under 21)

Dress code is smart casual for the members enclosure.

**Discounts: Seniors  Group**

## Overview



All the enclosures are large and spacious. The members enclosure has a first floor seating area offering good viewing. There is also a tiered viewing stand. The steppings are not high but are deep and viewing is clear. The area in front of the stands is mainly grass with a large number of garden benches. The Tattersalls enclosure makes use of the remainder of the large main grandstand, offering tiered viewing, again with reasonable viewing. The area in front of the stands is a combination of concrete and grass with a large grass area at one end.

The delight with Ripon is behind the stands where proof abounds as to its claim to be the garden course. The lawns are immaculate – you almost feel guilty walking across them. Beautiful flower beds add colour, the ground staff are clearly keen gardeners. Another plus is the abundance of seating with benches everywhere and the chance to flop down and relax.

The buildings in the centre of the course do obstruct viewing the entrance to the back straight. Viewing of the start of the home straight is also restricted if standing towards the rear of the tiered viewing area in the main stands. If you like watching your races “head on” there is a good spot just past the winners post.

The course enclosure is situated in the centre of the track. It offers a tiered viewing area (no cover). There is also a mound giving good views, indeed offering better views of the start of the back straight than from the main stands. It has an impressive building housing a bar / café / Tote and hidden behind a rising blind is a giant screen.

A beautiful racecourse that you will want to come back to again and again. Ripon is one of those courses which has something for everyone, except perhaps the punter, as finding winners at Ripon can be a challenge.

Many courses use hyperbole in their marketing and Ripon calls itself Yorkshire's Garden Course, the difference in this case is it is no hype. Well laid out with expansive lawns it almost has a feeling of being from another age and I mean that in the nicest way possible.

Other courses should look at the catering options here, there is something for all tastes, they don't presume that all racegoers want to eat are burgers and their derivatives. Sure you can get burgers if that floats your boat but you can also get some decent, well cooked food at decent prices.

The only down side is the poor sound system, I couldn't find a spot where I could hear an entire race commentary clearly. It was either indistinct or drowned out by the crowd. I am fortunate in that I can read a race so I can survive quite happily without the aid of a commentary, however the

majority of racegoers cannot read a race and do depend on a clear commentary.

If I didn't live almost 200 miles away I would certainly be an annual member.

### **Catering**

The main restaurant is the Members Restaurant which offers an a la carte menu. (approximate price a head £15 - £20 – excluding drinks).

Elsewhere there are food outlets and cafés catering for all tastes and are reasonably priced. Fountains Café offers a good range of hot meals for around a fiver (£5.50 - £5.95).

In the members enclosure the Paddock Room had a range of sandwiches from £2.00. A seafood platter for £9.75 or platter of prawns for £9.35. Hot rolls were available for £4.50.

There are a range of fast food outlets offering all the usual fare. Chicken burgers were £3.75, chicken fillets £4.30, jacket potatoes £3.60 and pasties £3. There was also a very nice ice cream stall. Even the single mobile unit was better than average, offering a range of nice looking hot rolls (beef £5, pork £4.50 or turkey £4.20).

There is also an excellent fish and chip shop (recently voted the best on any racecourse) which is up there with the best of them and it is very reasonably priced with fish and chips only £4.35 and a portion of chips a reasonable £1.65

Bitter was £3.30, lager £3.40 and water £1.30.

### **Ancillaries**

#### ***Bookmakers***

A large number of bookmakers with 39 in the main enclosure and a further 12 in the course enclosure. The over round per runner was a rather tight 1.9%.

#### ***Racecard***

Cost £2, the big minus point is there was no plan of the course in the card. The usual parish notices start off the racecard, with details of the officials tucked away on page 6. There was a colour guide to the evenings away meeting.

The race details were clear and, of course, in colour. All in all an average racecard.

#### ***Toilets***

Plenty of them and clean

### **Parade Ring**

Located behind the stands the parade ring is, as one would expect, attractive with neat hedging and some magnificent trees. It is a good size and it must help the horses relax. The winners enclosures is adjacent to the parade ring. There is no seating around the parade ring but there is plenty of tiered viewing.



The pre parade ring is located close to the main ring.

### **Non Racing Attractions**

Ripon itself is a lovely town and well worth a visit. Nearby Fountains Abbey is also worth a diversion.

The stunning scenery of the Yorkshire Dales is close to hand.

### **Contact Details**

	<a href="http://www.ripon-races.co.uk">www.ripon-races.co.uk</a>
	01765 602156
	Ripon Race Company 77 North Street Ripon North Yorkshire HG4 1DS

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

April 19th & 28th  
May 11th (eve), 20th & 29th  
June 6th (eve), 20th (eve) & 21st  
July 9th (eve) & 21st  
August 6th (eve), 7th, 18th, 27th, 28th & 29th  
September 29th

<b>Inspection Dates</b>		
<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Weather</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>
06/06/07	Overcast	6 flat evening
19/07/08	Sunny becoming wet later on	6 flat weekend
18/07/09	Spits and spots early becoming sunny	6 flat weekend
31/08/10	Sunny	7 flat midweek

