

Salisbury

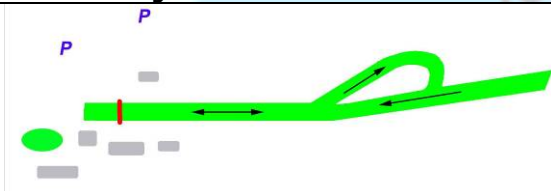
Location, Parking and Access



Situated outside of the City the tourist signs do send you to the course via a rather circuitous route around the ring road. The final approach is via a relatively narrow country lane. Parking is on grass.

Salisbury station is four miles from the racecourse and there is a linking bus service. Salisbury is served by regular trains from London and Southampton (both ½ hourly) and Cardiff (hourly). Journey times are about 90 mins, 30 mins and 2 hours respectively.

Course Layout



The course is a 1 mile straight course (with a slight dog-leg) with a loop to allow running of races over longer distances, which sometimes results in races starting with the runners running

the “wrong way” down the home straight.

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

Salisbury has three enclosures, Members (£18), Tattersalls (£11) and Course (£6)

Discounts are available for advanced and online booking and accompanied under 16's are admitted free of charge.

Annual membership: £160

Dress code: There is a Dress Code in Members which is 'Smart Casual' - no shorts, trainers, tracksuits, football shirts or T-shirts and jeans must not be ripped or torn and should be considered smart. A jacket and tie for gentlemen is not essential, but collared shirts are.

Discounts: Advanced

Overview



In the Members enclosure, access to the stand is good with a lift available to the 1st floor. There is a large seating area on the first floor of the stand.

From the seating in the stands most of the course, with the exception of about 1 furlong of the loop, is visible, from ground level viewing is poor, although there is a big screen. The stewarding in the stand was poor with racegoers being allowed to stand in front of the seating area and in the gangways, obstructing the view of those using the seats.

The roof of the Lester Piggot bar (Shared with Tattersalls) offers fantastic views of the course, albeit "head on" and the parade ring, although it provides no protection from the elements.

In Tattersalls it has to be said that access isn't particularly good, with very steep steepings which would be a challenge for anyone with mobility problems.

There is a staircase at the rear of the stands which is less strenuous but in an emergency the steep steepings could be an issue. Viewing is adequate with, again, part of the loop not being visible. The enclosure is well short of the winning line, however the big screen allows a clear view of the finish.

In the Course enclosure, there is a small covered stand but little protection from the elements. Viewing is not that good, it is short of the finishing post and the only 'live' viewing would be of the horses flashing by the furlong post.



Salisbury racecourse is actually a difficult course to assess. It is far too good to be classed as a "small" racecourse but it isn't quite there with the big players.

It is a racecourse with few pretensions. A compact course in a delightful setting. It's one of those idiosyncratic courses with a loop, slightly more grand than Hamilton's but not as grand as Goodwood's. Get in the right seat in the members enclosure and you have the added bonus of a spectacular view of Salisbury Cathedral.

The main grandstand has certainly seen better days and the layout of the course means that Tattersalls racegoers have to endure a dank walk behind the stands, with an array of electrical junction boxes on display, if

they want to venture to and from the parade ring to the main enclosure. To pick on these shortcomings however is doing Salisbury a disservice and I wouldn't want to put anybody off going racing there, there are plenty of less enjoyable courses around.

The quality of racing is good but not exceptional, the course is well supported by trainers and there are usually reasonably size fields at most meetings. The course also attracts reasonable crowds.

The management of Salisbury should be pleased with the product they supply. It's a friendly track and one I look forward to visiting again.

Catering

There was a good selection of home made food in both enclosures. The home made pie was tasty with generous portions. The eating area in the members stand was very popular. In the Tattersalls enclosure the food was of the same quality, however the actual area in which the food was served was a bit tatty.

There is a formal restaurant in the Members area, however views of the racing are restricted. Main meals are available from £5.50 to £6.50.

There is a bar café underneath the Tattersalls stand with a range of hot meals and sandwiches. In the September 2010 visit I tried the sausages and mash, available for £5.50 and I have to say I was disappointed. Although there was plenty on the plate and three large sausages were served, I am afraid most of it ended up in the bin. The "mash" was very glutinous and had a terrible texture and was tasteless. The sausages, whilst large, were an insipid pink colour, also tasteless and were just not pleasant at all.

Bacon or sausage baps were available for £3 each and sandwich's for around £2.80. Hot beef (£3.80) and pork (£3.60) rolls were also available, as were jacket potatoes (£3.00 - £3.40)

Salisbury had fewer mobile units than most although the seemingly mandatory burger van there was selling burgers and hot dogs at £3.20 (£3.50 with cheese). There was also a stall selling a variety of curry and chilli at £5 a go (although this unit was closed in September 2010).

Bitter and lager are both priced at £3.00 and water was £1.60 a bottle.

Ancillaries

Bookmakers

There were 27 bookmakers standing in the main enclosure and a further 10 in the course enclosure. Betting was to an over round of a reasonable 1.3% per runner.

Racecard

Costing £2, the racecard is full colour but sadly lacking a racecourse plan, although it does give details of where to eat and drink. Details of the Salisbury races were good with colours clearly shown. There was a photo review of the previous meeting. Adequate without being flash.

Toilets

Plenty of toilets of varying standards, although all were acceptable.

Parade Ring

The lack of tiered viewing isn't really an issue as the parade ring is so big, possibly one of the largest in the country, there is plenty of space for everybody to gain a vantage point. You also feel very close to the horses as they are paraded. The pre-parade ring is located at the far end of the parade ring, with the winners post at the end nearest the stands.

Non Racing Attractions

Salisbury is a beautiful city and the Cathedral, immortalised by John Constable's famous painting, is a must see. There are also many different from the usual shops in the shopping centre.

The New Forest is less than 20 miles away.

Contact Details

	www.salisburyracecourse.co.uk
	01722 326461
	Salisbury Racecourse Netherhampton Salisbury Wiltshire SP2 8PN

Ownership	Private
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Fixtures 2012

May 6th, 17th & 24th (eve)
June 12th, 17th & 27th
July 1st, 14th (eve) & 28th (eve)
August 15th, 16th & 31st (eve)
September 6th
October 3rd & 15th

Inspection Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
28/06/06	Warm and sunny	7 flat midweek
22/05/08	Overcast	6 flat evening
14/06/09	Sunny and warm	6 flat weekend
02/09/10	Sunny and hot	8 flat midweek

