

# Stratford

## Location, Parking and Access

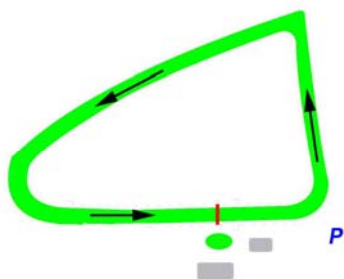


Located on the outskirts of the town the course is well signposted. The course is in close proximity to the motorway network with the M40 and M5 being in easy reach of the course.

The main car park is close to the course entrance and is on grass with a £3 charge. The, free, public car park is a couple of hundred yards away and is also on grass. Exiting the course can be a bit of a chore and at the busy meetings there is a traffic flow system in operation.

Stratford station is the nearest and is a short taxi ride or 25 minute walk away from the course.

## Course Layout



Stratford is a left handed (anti-clockwise), triangular circuit about 1¼ miles in circumference.

Apart from a small mound on the back straight the course is perfectly flat.

Galloping horses tend to be favoured.

## Admission

Stratford have three enclosures, Club (£18), Tattersalls (£14) and Centre Course (£8). Discounts are available for advanced bookings and groups of 15 or more, again booked in advance.

Accompanied under 16's are admitted free of charge.

Annual membership: Full membership £145, Junior (16-24) £85 and senior (75 and over) £85

There is a "smart casual", no jeans or trainers in operation for the club enclosure.

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

## Overview



The club enclosure occupies only a small area in the main enclosure with some tiered viewing and seating both outside and behind glass. The main stand itself has some tiered viewing. The bulk of the viewing is from ground level. Viewing is good from most areas, although there is no big screen.

There is an open roof at the far end of one of the stands offering excellent viewing.

The centre course is an open area with a single building providing limited refreshments and some shelter.

As you enter the course through the main entrance take a look to your left. On the wall is a marker showing how deep the water was when the course was flooded in the summer of 2007. It makes you wonder just how they ever managed to recover.

Not only did they recover, they were able to race within a few weeks of the waters receding, albeit with limited facilities. A year on the only evidence of the flooding is the aforementioned plaque.

Stratford is a lovely small course. It is friendly and compact with reasonable viewing and the ability to get close to the action. There is not a great deal of cover if the weather is inclement but jumping supporters are a hardy bunch. There is good naked eye viewing of the action and there is normally a big screen available.

Leaving the course after racing can be a bind, especially if heading east towards the M40.

## Catering

There is a restaurant in the Club enclosure offering a three course meal for £28.50 and another restaurant, on the ground floor open to all, offering a three course lunch for £25 and afternoon tea for £7 (£30 for the two if booked in advance) – prices do not include admission.

There was a mobile noodle wagon offering noodle and rice dishes for £5.50. Also a burger unit with burgers £4.50 (£4.80 with cheese).

Elsewhere there were plenty of sandwiches available, as well as a café selling some hot choices, including curry at £5.95 or a hot meat roll for £4.95. Also Pasty £2.50 and chips £1.50.

Bitter was £3.30 and lager £3.50

## Ancillaries

### **Bookmakers**

Around 18 bookmakers stand in the main enclosure, with an additional half dozen in the course enclosure. Betting over round was to a rather mean 1.9% per runner (indeed one race was betting at 3%)

### **Racecard**

Cost £2.50. A small racecard but without a plethora of advertising.

In keeping with the course, the racecard served a purpose and was functional rather than flash.

### **Toilets**

There are plenty of toilet facilities dotted around the course, those on the ground floor have all be refurbished.

### **Parade Ring**



Situated in front of the stands the rectangular parade ring can be clearly viewed both close to and from the stands themselves. It also includes the winners enclosure. The pre-parade ring and saddling boxes are located behind the stands.

## Non Racing Attractions

Stratford = Shakespeare - what else is there to say?

Contact Details	
	<a href="http://www.stratfordracecourse.net">www.stratfordracecourse.net</a>
	01789 267949
	Stratford-on-Avon Racecourse Luddington Road Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire CV37 9SE.

<b>Ownership</b>	Private
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Fixtures 2012
March 12th, 24th & 31st
April 22nd
May 9th & 20th
June 1st (eve) & 2nd (eve)
July 3rd (eve), 15th & 29th
August 2nd, 16th (eve) & 30th
September 8th
October 27th
November 1st

Inspection Dates		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather</i>	<i>Type</i>
13/08/07	Overcast with sunny spells and showers	7 jump midweek
23/08/07	Sunny	7 jump midweek
03/03/08	Sunny but cold, with wintery showers	7 jump midweek
30/07/09	Light shower early, sunny later	7 jump midweek
08/08/10	Sunny but cool	7 jump midweek
01/04/11	Sunny and warm	7 jump midweek