

Wexford

Location, Parking and Access



Situated just outside the town of Wexford, which is just off the Dublin - Rosslare by-pass.

The nearest station is Wexford Town, from where there is a taxi service to the course. Approx costs in each direction, €6.

Waterford airport is 57km away.

Parking is provided free of charge within the confines of the course and outside the along the edges of the road. On course parking is located on grass. Please note that on the day of review the grass was bone dry so parking may provide a challenge in the winter months when the ground is wet. If you wish to beat the rush as punters leave the course I suggest that you park on the outside of the course and leave before the last race.

Course Layout

Wexford is a gently undulating right-handed course of one mile and two furlongs which features flat and National Hunt racing.

The course favours speedy types due to the undulations. In respect to pace bias, front runners have a definite advantage as they are assisted in the latter stages of the race by a downhill run-in to the winning post situated 2 furlongs from the final turn (flat) and 1 furlong from the final fence (jumps).

In respect to the draw bias, being a right handed course, high berthed horses are advantaged.

Admission

Admission is €15, with OAP's and students €8. Under 14's are admitted free.

Annual membership: €120

Overview

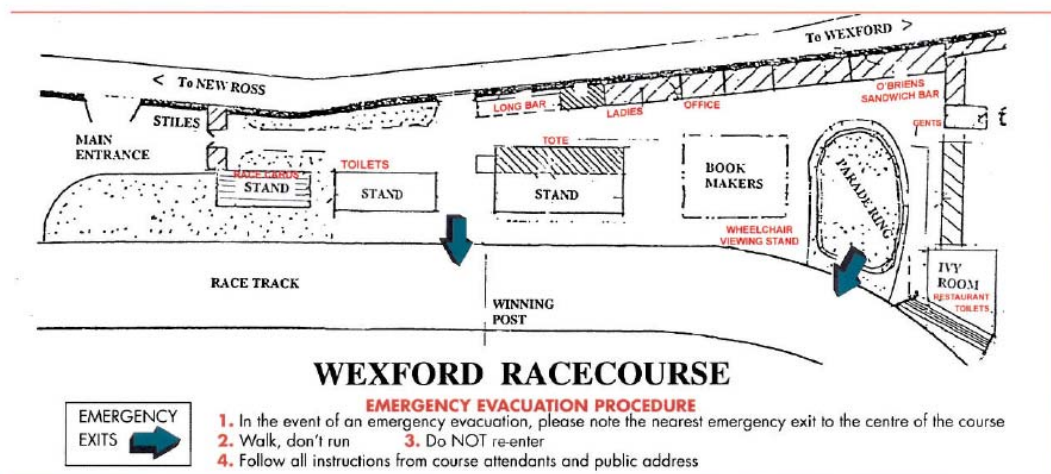


Initial impressions of Wexford were not good.

From the outside the course looked in need of renovation. However by the end of my visit I departed with pleasant memories of a warm, friendly and relaxed setting.

Wexford is small course which mainly serves locals and visiting holiday makers internal and external to Ireland.

The course provides the normal amenities found at all racecourses, however please note there are no on course cash point machines.



As outlined in the diagram above, there's not much to see however lack of real estate presents a cosy feel to race goers.

During my visit the sunny weather brought out the crowds in droves and with the exception of the parade ring which is extremely small I could easily walk around without feeling claustrophobic.

The offices along the side of are converted stables and modernised on the inside to provide a unique experience to this race goer.

As a punter that likes a tippie when doing his cojones, it was an absolute dream to be served a drop of the black stuff in a glass. In fact on course all drinks are served in glasses and there are no restrictions when carrying such utensil between different locations. A welcome change from the plastic and tasteless beverages of UK courses.

Maybe it was the relaxed family atmosphere, or Irish approach to life but

at no time did I detect the rowdy behaviour common to UK courses.



Although the course is undulating, the crowd is located close to the action and the stands offer good views of the racing even to the far side of the course.



However you need to reserve your position early as the stands are small. They are also exposed to the elements and appropriate attire should be taken when visiting in the Winter months.

From a punting perspective it's almost impossible to review horses in the parade ring due to its size and limited viewing when crowded, get your bet on and then casually secure an advantageous viewing position in the stands.

Catering

As typical to most courses, burger vans situated close to the entrance of the course provides standard fare. Alternative catering is limited to a sandwich bar (which I did not attend) and a restaurant called the Ivy Room.

The Ivy Room is not gourmet. Think transport café with basic facilities, a small serving area with tables and chairs and you won't be far from the mark.

The menu provided the obligatory chips, sausages, curry, pre-made sandwiches etc; however I chose the Irish dish of Bacon, cabbage and potatoes for €8.50. Very reasonable and massive portions served by friendly catering staff.

Ancillaries

Bookmakers



The betting ring also provided a unique experience.

It may be due to the compact nature of the course, but unlike most betting rings with bookies aligned in rows, the ring is arranged in a square formation.

This layout allows a punter to position themselves in the centre of the square and provides the advantage of reviewing the prices of all the bookies in a single 360 degree sweep. Very punter friendly!

However, I was curious why the meeting was well attended by book makers.

Pre race my handicapping indicated the 4 of the 7 races were contentious and once the meeting was in full swing I recognised that all they were doing was taking advantage of the competitive races and the holiday mood.

14/1, 8/1, 7/2, 6/1 and winners made me realise that that the layout of the betting ring allowed the bookies to corral the sheep easily.

I was informed that the races at Wexford are typically "competitive" however as the course favours front runners this angle provides an efficient elimination method to tilt the balance in favour of the punter.

Racecard

Colourful and cheap (€3) but totally inadequate for form analysis. Tipster selections list the obvious choices. There is no notes area or section to write the results of each race.

Toilets

Did not visit.

Summary

As I mentioned above, after some initial worries, Wexford won me over and if I'm on the area I would have no hesitation to visit again although expect the racing to be low grade and competitive.

Given the pace bias, I'll be noting future meetings to determine spot plays on front-runners in a pace-less field.

If you plan on visiting, take a trip into Wexford town after the meeting. Its close by and like all Irish towns, the pubs offer a great crack and atmosphere.

Contact Details

	www.wexfordraces.ie
	(053) 43853
	Wexford Racecourse, Newtown Road, Wexford.

Fixtures 2012

March 17th
April 20th
May 19th
June 20th
July 6th, 27th & 28th
August 24th
October 27th & 28th
November 20th

Inspection Dates

Date	Weather	Type
25/07/08	Very Sunny	7 mixed evening

Review provided by Slipperytoad www.slipperytoad.co.uk

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