



THE JOHN SMITH'S GRAND NATIONAL

'No Nonsense' Information Guide

AINTREE
7, 8, 9 April 2005



John Smith's proud racing heritage



Everyone associated with John Smith's is immensely proud to be sponsoring, for the first time, the Grand National, a race which confers celebrity status on the winner and its connections and is without doubt one of the world's greatest sporting events.

We are also extremely pleased to be adding the John Smith's name to many of the other races run at this star-studded three-day meeting, including the John Smith's Fox Hunters' Chase and the John Smith's & Spar Topham Chase.

This major addition to our sponsorship programme continues a tradition which goes back to 1960, when the Magnet Cup at York, now run under the John Smith's banner, became the first commercially sponsored race on the Flat.

The history of the John Smith's Grand National weaves a tapestry of heroism and heartbreak which no other horse race can hope to match. All that stirring history is to be found in the pages that follow, along with a wide range of information designed to make your visit to Aintree more enjoyable.

There's even a No-Nonsense Guide to Finding the Grand National Winner: we can't guarantee that this will prove a failsafe means of beating the bookies, but we hope that whatever the outcome you'll be celebrating your win or drowning your sorrows with a glass of John Smith's!

JOHN DUNSMORE
Managing Director, Scottish Courage Limited



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NO NONSENSE FACTS! 1

John Smith's was the first Yorkshire bitter to be sold in the South where it was introduced in 1979.

Times and Order of Running

JOHN SMITH'S GRAND NATIONAL MEETING 2005

Thursday 7th April

Time		Distance	Prize £
2.00	* The John Smith's and Batleys Liverpool Hurdle	3m 1/2f	60,000
2.35	* The Betfair Bowl Steeple Chase	3m 1f	150,000
3.10	* The John Smith's Anniversary 4YO Novices' Hurdle	2m 1/2f	120,000
3.45	* The John Smith's Fox Hunters' Steeple Chase	2m 5 1/2f	35,000
4.20	* The John Smith's Red Rum Handicap Steeple Chase	2m	70,000
4.55	The John Smith's Mersey Novices' Hurdle	2m 4f	50,000
5.30	The John Smith's HBLB Mares Only Standard Open NH Flat	2m 1f	25,000

Friday 8th April

2.00	* The John Smith's Mildmay Novices' Steeple Chase	3m 1f	75,000
2.35	* The John Smith's Top Novices' Hurdle	2m 1/2f	50,000
3.10	* The John Smith's Melling Steeple Chase	2m 4f	150,000
3.45	* The John Smith's and Spar Topham Steeple Chase	2m 5 1/2f	80,000
4.20	* The John Smith's Sefton Novices' Hurdle	3m 1/2f	80,000
4.55	The betfair.com Handicap Steeple Chase	3m 1f	50,000
5.30	The John Smith's Extra Cold Handicap Hurdle	3m 1/2f	40,000

Saturday 9th April

1.45	* The John Smith's Extra Smooth Handicap Hurdle	2m 1/2f	50,000
2.20	* The John Smith's Maghull Novices' Steeple Chase	2m	110,000
2.55	* The Scottish and Newcastle Aintree Hurdle	2m 4f	150,000
3.45	* The John Smith's Grand National Steeple Chase	4m 4f	700,000
4.30	The John Smith's Novices' Handicap Chase (for amateur riders)	2m 4f	30,000
5.05	The John Smith's No Nonsense Handicap Hurdle	2m 4f	40,000
5.35	The John Smith's Champion Standard Open NH Flat	2m 1f	30,000

* BBC Televised races

Gates open at 10am on Thursday and Friday - 9am on Saturday

The publishers of this guide would like to thank all those who have contributed to its production, particularly the Racecourse Association for use of material derived from its publication Come Racing! and stress that while every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, they cannot accept any responsibility for any errors, omissions or misinformation. Views expressed are not necessarily those of either the publisher or John Smith's.

NO NONSENSE FACTS! 2

It takes approximately 20-22 seconds to pour the perfect pint of John Smith's Extra Smooth – more than it takes a world class sprinter to run the 200 metres



The world's greatest steeple chase



Becher's Brook ... Red Rum ... the Chair ... Bob Champion ... the Canal Turn ... Valentine's ... Foinavon ... the Melling Road ... Golden Miller ... the Elbow – no sporting event in the calendar is so deeply lodged in the popular imagination as the 4½-mile steeplechase run in suburban Liverpool every year in early April.

If all Australia stops to watch the Melbourne Cup, the whole world stops to watch the Grand National.

Most spectacular, most gruelling and most heart-stopping of all horse races, the Grand National guarantees racing immortality for every winner – and for a few losers – and year after year provides tales of romance and heroism, from horses and jockeys alike, which other sporting events can only envy.

The history of this famous race is far from clear-cut. There were long-distance steeplechases run near Liverpool – probably at Aintree, possibly at nearby Maghull – between 1836 and 1838, but it was in 1839 that "The Grand Liverpool Steeplechase" run at Aintree was firmly established as the most prestigious steeplechase of the season.

The race conditions advertised the distance as "four miles across country", and included the stipulation: "no rider to open a gate or ride through a gateway, or more than 100 yards along any road, footpath or driftway".

There were 29 obstacles, including a 5ft stone wall in front of the stands and, near the farthest extremity of the course, a "strong paling, next a rough, high jagged hedge, and lastly a brook about six feet wide".

On the second circuit of the race a horse named Conrad hit the fence hard and deposited his rider, one Captain Martin Becher, in the brook – from where he emerged with the observation: "Water is no damned use without brandy!"

The intrepid Becher remounted Conrad and continued in the race, only to come off again at the next brook – now Valentine's – and accept

discretion as the better part of valour. But the Captain's ignominious dunking was to give him a true immortality, and today Becher's Brook – sixth and twenty-second fence in the modern Grand National – is synonymous with any notoriously difficult obstacle.

Winner of the 1839 race was the appropriately named Lottery, who in his day was as superior to his contemporaries as was Arkle in the 1960s – and like Arkle (who never ran in the Grand National) caused race conditions to be altered to reflect that superiority: at Horncastle in 1840 a race was "open to all horses – except Mr Elmore's Lottery", and at Finchley two years later the entry conditions included, "Lottery's entry fee £40, others £10".

Then as now, the Grand National was all about jumping, and like Red Rum after him, Lottery was famous for his agility: his party trick was to canter up to a fully stocked lunch table and leap over it without disturbing a single item.

By the end of the nineteenth century the Grand National had worked its way into the public affection as a race with a unique character. It completely dominated National Hunt racing, and the turn of the twentieth century produced one of the immortals of the game in the shape of Manifesto, who ran in the National no fewer than eight times, winning in 1897 and 1899, finishing third twice (on the second occasion at the age of fifteen) and fourth once.

The status of the race rose further in 1900, when the Prince of Wales's Ambush II provided the only royal victory in the race's history.

The Grand National was run at the now defunct course at Gatwick from 1916 to 1918 on account of the First World War, returning to Aintree in 1919.

Between the two world wars came a

NO NONSENSE FACTS!

John Smith's is Britain's number 1 ale brand selling over 1 million pints a day

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NO NONSENSE FACTS! 4

John Smith's is backed by a £22 million marketing investment led by the brand's award-winning television campaign with Peter Kay.

succession of Grand National landmarks, including Sergeant Murphy winning at the age of 13 in 1923; 100-1 shot Tipperary Tim and the remounted Billy Barton the only finishers in 1928 after Easter Hero had caused mayhem at the Canal Turn; Golden Miller in 1934 becoming the only horse ever to win Grand National and Cheltenham Gold Cup in the same year; and the tiny Battleship – unusually, not a gelding but an "entire" horse – beating Royal Danieli by a head in 1938.

Although the race was run at Aintree in 1940 – and won by Bogskar from MacMoffat, runner-up for the second consecutive year – hostilities forced suspension of racing at the course, which spent part of the Second World War as a billet for the US military. The Grand National was revived in 1946.

The mid 1950s were dominated by the great Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien, who between 1953 and 1955 pulled off the unique feat of winning three consecutive Grand Nationals with three different

horses: Early Mist, Royal Tan and Quare Times.

Then came perhaps the most sensational modern

National of all, when in 1956 the Queen Mother's Devon Loch slid to a halt on the run-in within fifty yards of certain victory. Her reaction? – a stoical, "Well, that's racing!"

The 1960s saw one of the most pulsating finishes, when in 1965 Jay Trump held off Freddie all the way from the last fence, and one of the most grotesque outcomes, when in 1967 100-1 outsider Foinavon won because he had been so far behind that he was able to avoid the infamous pile-up at the twenty-third fence.

Throughout the 1970s the shadow of extinction loomed over the Grand National, as the sale of the racecourse to a property developer seemed ever more inevitable. But the race itself snarled its defiance with one of the greatest periods in its history: the age of Red Rum.

Trained at nearby Southport by Ginger

McCain, Red Rum was to become the greatest Grand National hero of all. But he started as the villain, coming from a seemingly impossible position to snatch the 1973 race on the line from the inexpressibly brave Crisp, whose front-running performance was the most stirring in National history.

To this day, most people who watch a recording of that race cannot believe Crisp will be caught. But he was, and the following year Red Rum won again to join a very select elite of double winners.

Rummy came second in 1975 (to L'Escargot, the only horse apart from Golden Miller to have won the National and the Cheltenham Gold Cup, which he had landed in 1970 and 1971), and second again in 1976 (to Rag Trade). Then in 1977 Rummy raised the Aintree roof when, ridden by Tommy Stack, he scampered home from Churchtown Boy to become the only triple winner in Grand National history.

If that race tugged at the heartstrings, it was

rivalled for sheer emotion by the 1981 running, when Bob Champion, who had returned to the saddle after being treated for cancer, won on Aldaniti, who had himself been sidelined through injury.

But it was not all glory: 1993 saw the shambles of two false starts and a void Grand National, and 1997 brought the ordered chaos of the evacuation of the course and postponement of the race after a telephoned terrorist bomb warning: the Grand National was run on the Monday as the single race on the programme, and won in brilliant style by Lord Gyllene.

Since that dramatic weekend, the Grand National has returned to making headlines for the very best reason – great horses and great jockeys conquering the most fearsome steeplechase in the world. And great trainers, too – notably the irrepressible Ginger McCain, for whom the 2004 victory of Amberleigh House wrote yet another tear-jerking chapter in the story of the Grand National, the race which stops the world.



'Stone cold magic' - the 2004 Grand National

There were two horses in the winner's enclosure after the 2004 Grand National: Amberleigh House, the 16-1 winner whose never-say-die spirit had seen him home with a late rally, and – in ghostly form but undeniably present – Red Rum, the greatest Grand National horse of all.

For Amberleigh House was trained by 73-year-old Ginger McCain, whose handling of Rummy had provided one of the most romantic stories in sporting history, now winning his favourite race again twenty-seven years after Rummy's famous third victory in 1977.

No wonder that in the immediate aftermath of the race the emotion flowed as freely as the champagne would later. "You can have your Gold Cup days at Ascot with all those upposed people," said Ginger: "You can have your Cheltenham with all those county types and tweeds. This is the people's place and this is the people's race."

For jockey Graham Lee, winning his first Grand

National, "It can't get any better than this. It's the best day of my life by a long, long way."

John Halewood, boss of Halewood International, the drinks company in whose colours Lee rode, described the moment when he felt defeat transmute into victory: "Cross my heart, I didn't think we'd win, but I saw the horse's ears were pricked and he just kept on coming. He was so brave."

Halewood revealed that this spine-tingling victory was the achievement of an ambition hatched over twenty years earlier: "It was in 1983 and I'd had a few drinks in a wine bar with Ginger in Southport. We went back and watched a video of Red Rum winning and I said, 'One day, Ginger, we'll find another.'"

Amberleigh House was well fancied for the 2004 National, on account of his excellent record around Aintree as much as his Rummy connections. His previous runs over the National fences included victory in the 2001 Becher Chase, the runner-up slot in that race in 2002 and 2003, and third place behind Monty's Pass in the 2003 Grand National.

But he was twelve years



NO NONSENSE FACTS!

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The John Smith's Peter Kay ad campaign has scooped no less than 70 advertising and marketing awards making it the sixth most awarded advertising campaign in the world!

old, an advanced age even for a National horse, when lining up against thirty-eight opponents for the 2004 marathon, and seven others were preferred in a very open betting market.

No fewer than four horses shared favouritism at 10-1: Clan Royal, who had beaten Amberleigh House a short head in the Becher Chase the previous November and won the Topham Chase over the National fences in April 2003, Jurancon II, Joss Naylor and 2002 winner Bindaree. Then came Hedgehunter on 11-1, Davids Lad 12-1, Bear On Board 14-1 and Amberleigh House 16-1.

First of that fancied octet to depart was Jurancon, who got no further than the fourth fence, and Bindaree unseated Carl Llewellyn after being hampered at the sixth, Becher's Brook. Joss Naylor, who had never been going well, was pulled up before the nineteenth fence when way out of touch.

By the time the survivors came back over the Melling Road and headed for the second last fence, there appeared to be only four horses with a realistic chance – Clan Royal, Lord Atterbury, Hedgehunter and, though he was well in arrears, Amberleigh House.

Clan Royal, whose jockey Liam Cooper had lost his whip when the horse made a bad mistake five out, led over the last from Lord Atterbury, though Hedgehunter, third and desperately weary, fell here.

Up the interminable run-in Clan Royal wandered off a true line, but managed to get the better of Lord Atterbury and looked to be delivering a first Grand National to his owner J. P. McManus – and then in the final hundred yards Amberleigh House swept from the clouds and passed Clan Royal, showing such a turn of foot that at the line he was the winner by three lengths. Clan Royal was a gallant second, Lord Atterbury third, and 2003 winner Monty's Pass stayed on to come fourth.

Another stirring finish to another wonderful Grand National, chock full of triumph and heartbreak, and another round of entries in the Grand National record book – notably a fourth training triumph for Ginger McCain, matching the all-time record held by Fred Rimell.

Whichever way you look at it, the 2004 Grand National belonged to Ginger, whose verdict on the day could stand as the motto for the race itself. It was, he said, "Stone cold magic".





The perfect partnership

The decision by John Smith's to sponsor the Grand National marks the start of an exciting new era in the rich and colourful history of the world's greatest steeplechase and underlines the commitment to horse racing of the nation's number one ale brand.

As a result of this ground-breaking agreement, the prize fund for the John Smith's Grand National tops a record £700,000, an increase of 16.6% on last year's previous best total.

'The perfect partnership,' was how Jonathan Townsend, Managing Director of John Smith's North, described the link between Aintree and the UK's number one ale.

Speaking at a media luncheon in London in February to announce the weights for this year's big race, he said, "Sponsorship today is more than slapping a logo on a football shirt, racing car or jockey's silks.

"As a leading consumer brand John Smith's

needs to be involved with sports and events that connect with our customers, and that can be brought to life across the country. Horseracing does this for us, and in spectacular fashion."

The John Smith's brand, which is owned by Scottish Courage, the UK's leading brewer, has become synonymous with racing primarily through its support of the John Smith's Cup at York, which was first run in 1960 and has the distinction of being the oldest-established commercially sponsored race on the Flat in Britain.

Other flagship events in the John Smith's horse racing sponsorship portfolio include the historic John Smith's Northumberland Plate at Newcastle, the John Smith's Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter and the John Smith's Stakes at Newbury.

Additionally, John Smith's sponsors a day at Brighton and Musselburgh each year as well as a number of regionally-promoted races and, together with significant contributions to Racing Welfare Charities, supports racing on many levels.

Through its 40,000 retail outlets, John Smith's is able to deliver much more and the incremental value of its sponsorship goes well beyond its contributions to the prize fund of the races it supports.

Apart from helping raise the profile of racing, John Smith's has been hugely successful in increasing the footfall on racecourses through its innovative customer-linked promotions which have been responsible for the introduction of many new faces to the sport.

NO NONSENSE FACTS!

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John Smith's history of high profile advertising started in 1970 with the "Yorkshire men love it" campaign. The 1980s saw the introduction of the award winning Arkwright ads, and the 1990s heralded Jack Dee and then No Nonsense Man respectively as the stars of the campaign. The latest spokesman is comedian Peter Kay who has starred in a series of hilarious adverts.

NO NONSENSE FACTS!

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Although the Tadcaster brewery has been greatly expanded, the original buildings have been carefully preserved as a reminder of John Smith's belief in the future potential of the brewing business in Tadcaster

Last ten winners

1995	ROYAL ATHLETE	Mrs J. Pitman	J. Titley	12-10-06	40/1
2 Party Politics; 3 Over The Deel. Owner: G. & L. Johnson. Distances: 7l, 6l. 35 ran.					
1996	ROUGH QUEST	T. Casey	M. Fitzgerald	10-10-07	7/1f
2 Encore Un Peu; 3 Superior Finish. Owner: A. Wates. Distances: 11/2l, 16l. 27 ran.					
1997	LORD GYLLENE	S. Brookshaw	A. Dobbin	9-10-10	14/1
2 Suny Bay; 3 Camelot Knight. Owner: S. Clarke. Distances: 25l, 2l. 36 ran.					
1998	EARTH SUMMIT	N. Twiston-Davies	C. Llewellyn	10-10-05	7/1f
2 Suny Bay; 3 Samlee. Owner: Summit Partnership. Distances: 11l, a distance. 37 ran.					
1999	BOBBYJO	T. Carberry	P. Carberry	9-10-00	10/1
2 Blue Charm; 3 Call It A Day. Owner: B. Burke. Distances: 10l, neck. 32 ran.					
2000	PAPILLON	T. Walsh	R. Walsh	9-10-12	10/1
2 Mely Moss; 3 Niki Dee. Owner: Betty Moran. Distances: 11/4l, 12l. 40 ran.					
2001	RED MARAUDER	N. Mason	R. Guest	11-10-11	33/1
2 Smarty; 3 Blowing Wind. Owner: N. Mason. Distances: a distance, same. 40 ran.					
2002	BINDAREE	N. Twiston-Davies	J. Culloty	8-10-04	20/1
2 What's Up Boys; 3 Blowing Wind. Owner: R. Mould. Distances: 13/4l, 27l. 40 ran.					
2003	MONTY'S PASS	J. Mangan	B. Geraghty	10-10-07	16/1
2 Supreme Glory; 3 Amberleigh House. Owner: Dee Racing Syndicate. Distances: 12l, 2l. 40 ran.					
2004	AMBERLEIGH HOUSE	D. McCain	G. Lee	12-10-10	16-1
2 Clan Royal, 3 Lord Atterbury. Owner: Halewood International. Distances: 3l, 2l. 39 ran.					





The ultimate test of horse and rider

The course itself is a major player in the annual Grand National drama, and its landmarks – Becher’s, the Canal Turn, Valentine’s, the Chair – are familiar to millions around the globe. Four and a half miles, thirty huge fences – constructed and dressed with spruce – setting a variety of traps for the unwary. There’s simply nothing like it anywhere else in the world.

With the shorter Mildmay Course employed for the great majority of races at Aintree, the Grand National course is used on only a handful of occasions each year, and the National itself is the only event run over two complete rounds of this famous circuit.

The Grand National starts to the right of the stands, and a run of over two furlongs to the first fence takes the field across the Melling Road, which runs behind the back straight of the Mildmay Course.

After all the excitement of the build-up, Grand National fields tend to go hell for leather to the first fence, and many pay the price of their impetuosity: in 1951, after a ragged start left many jockeys trying to make up ground too quickly, twelve horses – a third of the field – departed at the first!

The first two are plain fences, and then comes the National’s first big test, a five-foot-high fence preceded by a six-foot ditch. While less famous than Becher’s or the Chair, this is rated by many experienced National jockeys a greater problem, as the field had yet to sort itself out and calm itself down, and the fence is a fearsome obstacle in its own right.

Then two more plain fences, and then the sixth: Becher’s Brook. The fence itself is 4 feet 10 inches high and, from the take-off side, apparently innocuous. But the particular trap at Becher’s is the steep drop on the landing side, which can catch horses out and unbalance them as they try to regain their feet on landing.

Until 1989 the drop was significantly deeper on the inside of the course than the outer, but

modifications have now made the landing side fairer, and Becher’s still represents a formidable obstacle.

After Becher’s the course bends to the left towards the seventh fence, the smallest on the course, and then on to the Canal Turn. This must be jumped at a sharp angle, as it is situated at the very point where the field turns 90 degrees to the left, and a horse going straight on will end up in the Leeds-Liverpool Canal – or rather, would have done in the past, before the modern railing was in place.

(Until 1928 the Canal Turn was an open ditch rather than the plain fence it is today, but that

year the great Easter Hero, taking off too early, found himself straddling the fence, causing havoc to those who followed him. The decision was taken that the turn represented hazard enough, and plain fence the Canal Turn became.)

Ninth fence in the Grand National is Valentine’s Brook, named after the horse who, a furlong clear of his rivals, corkscrewed over this fence after trying to refuse in 1840. Valentine’s is nothing like as tricky as Becher’s, though the two named brooks are in fact the same stretch of water (which these days is little more than a trickle).

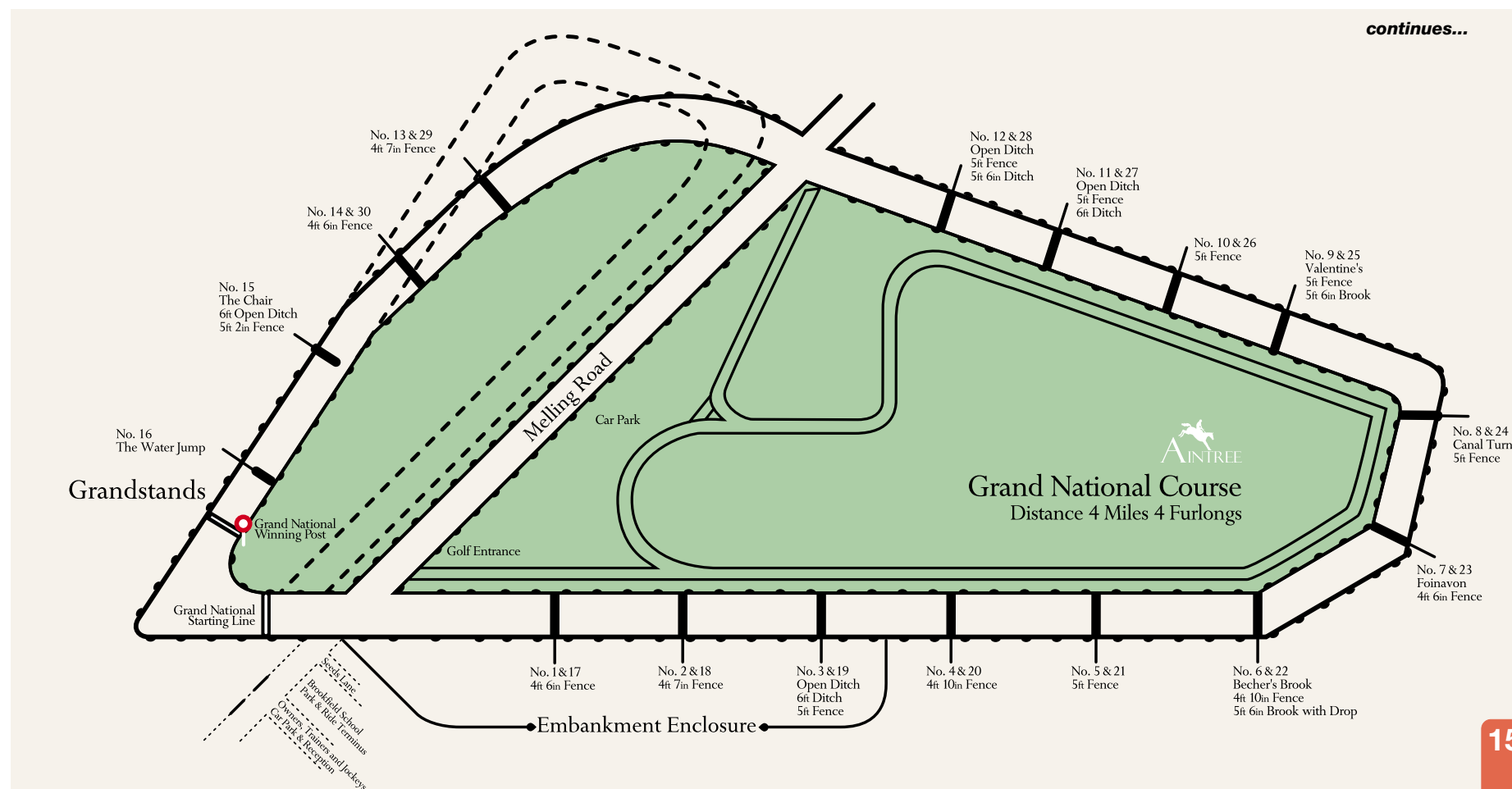
Next comes a plain fence, another open ditch and another plain fence, this time with a ditch on

the landing side. (The brooks and ditches of the Grand National course remind us that it was originally run over farmland, which for many decades involved the runners negotiating stretches of ploughed field.)

After clearing the twelfth fence the runners come back across the Melling Road towards the Mildmay Course and head for the thirteenth and fourteenth, both plain fences.

Then the course narrows, funnelling the field towards the most fearsome fence on the whole circuit: the Chair. In days gone by the "distance judge" would sit in a chair 240 yards from the winning post, and any horse who had not passed

continues...





him as the winner reached the post was adjudged to have been "distanced". The pedestal which held the judge's chair now stands by the fence – though the one which can be seen on National day is actually a replica: the real one is located near the Aintree parade ring.

But history matters little for a jockey thundering towards this most alarming of all steeplechase obstacles – a ditch yawning six feet

wide guarding a fence 5 feet 2 inches high – and getting over the Chair is a significant moment in any Grand National.

For the first circuit is all but completed – the water jump, right in front of the stands, is the sixteenth fence in the race and the last fence first time round – and the worst is behind you.

After the water the Grand National takes shape in earnest, and the few seconds when the remaining runners swing round the bend and head out "into the country" again are always significant. Who is still standing? Who is going conspicuously well? It feels as if the race is into its final phase, but in fact there are still two miles and fourteen fences to go.

What was the first fence now becomes the seventeenth, and from here on all the remaining obstacles will show the wear and tear – and sometimes semi-demolition – of being jumped on the first circuit.

Six fences in a straight line on the run down to Becher's, then turn towards the twenty-third – notorious for the carnage of 1967 which allowed Foinavon through for a preposterous 100-1 victory – the Canal Turn again, and then the run down towards Valentine's and the three fences following.

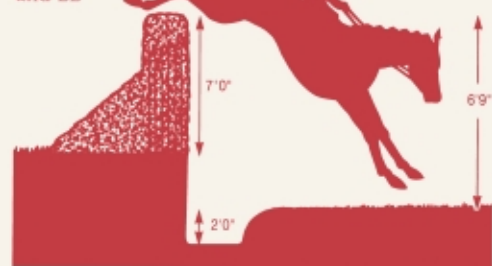
Many horses are still full of running now; others are tiring; yet others are creeping through the field, staying on stoutly when their speedier rivals have cried enough and started to fade.

Across the Melling Road again and swinging left towards the second last, and on to the thirtieth and final fence – and then Aintree's cruellest card of all, the interminable 494-yard run-in from the last fence, round the Elbow which diverts the runners away from the Chair and towards the winning post.

So many Grand Nationals have changed complexion up that run-in, from the sensation of Devon Loch slithering to a halt in 1956 to the roof-raising excitement of Team Spirit or Last Suspect or Amberleigh House charging up in the final few yards to deprive rivals who five seconds earlier looked home and hosed.

Win or lose, those who reach that run-in still with a chance, having cleared the thirty fences, have conquered the most gruelling course in horse racing, and have written themselves into the final scene of the Grand National drama. 

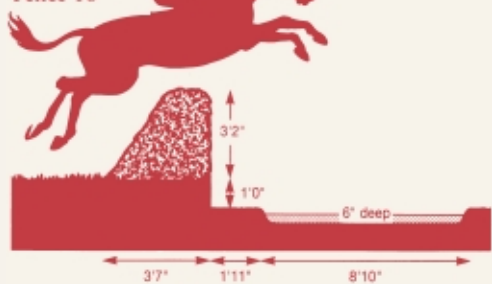
Becher's Brook
Fences 6 and 22



The Chair
Fence 15



The Water Jump
Fence 16



Twenty 'No Nonsense' racing terms

betting ring

Area of the racecourse, usually situated on the paved area in front of the main public grandstands, from which most on-course bookmakers operate. Also known as the jungle.

calling a cab

High arm-waving action, used to help maintain the balance of a rider as his mount takes a jump, often making a mistake.

favour a leg

When a horse prefers to distribute its weight onto a limb so as to alleviate the pain from another.

fiddling its fences

Describes a horse which clears the obstacles in a race, but with a muddling jumping action.

fresh

Describes a horse which has been recently rested.

furlong

One-eighth of a mile (220 yards), originating from the old English 'furrow long.'

gelding

Male horse of any age which has been neutered (castrated) by having both testicles removed.

going

The official description of the racing surface determined by the amount of moisture in the ground and comprising the seven grades of heavy, soft, good to soft, good, good to firm, firm and hard. For artificial surfaces the official grades are: fast, standard to fast, standard, standard to slow and slow.

hurdle

Timber-framed obstacle interlaced with gorse and birch and measuring a minimum of three foot six inches high.

jamstick

Jockeys' term for the winning post.

jolly

Alternative name for the favourite in any race.

morning glory

Describes a horse which works well on the gallops in the morning, but is unable to reproduce that form on the racecourse.

nap

Tipster's top bet of the day and is derived from the card game Napoleon in which going nap undertakes capturing all five tricks.

ping

To jump a fence quickly and neatly.

pony

1) betting slang for odds of 25-1; 2) slang for £25; 3) small type of horse standing up to 14.2 hands high.

pricked ears

A sign that a horse is alert and enjoying itself, but can also indicate that it is not necessarily concentrating on racing.

parade ring

Area of the paddock where the runners in a race are paraded before the public prior to the jockeys' mounting.

steeplechase

Race run over distances of two miles and upwards in which horses are required to jump over a minimum of twelve closely packed birch fences ranging from 4ft 6in to 5ft 2in, a water jump (optional) and open ditch. Also known as 'over the sticks,' or a chase.

stewards

Persons responsible for enforcing and regulating the Rules of Racing.

touch

A successful gamble.



Twenty 'No Nonsense' facts about the John Smith's Grand National

- 1** The John Smith's Grand National is Class A, Grade 3 steeplechase for six-year-olds and upwards run over 4½ miles, with 30 fences to be taken.
- 2** The race was run at Gatwick between 1916 and 1918 on account of the First World War, and not run at all between 1941 and 1945 on account of the Second World War.
- 3** Miinnehoma, winner in 1994, was owned by comedian Freddie Starr. When asked what the horse's name meant, he replied: "It's Gaelic for 'Lick my b****cks'".
- 4** Three men both rode and trained Grand National winners: Algy Anthony rode Ambush (1900) and trained Troytown (1920); Fulke Walwyn rode Reynoldstown (1936) and trained Team Spirit (1964); and Fred Winter rode Sundew (1957) and Kilmore (1962) and trained Jay Trump (1965) and Anglo (1966).
- 5** Film star Gregory Peck owned Different Class, third to Red Alligator in the 1968 race.
- 6** The Grand National was first televised in 1960.
- 7** Sixty-six runners lined up for the 1929 Grand National, the biggest field ever for a horse race in Britain. They had to start in two rows.
- 8** The 1993 race was declared void after two false starts.
- 9** Youngest winning rider was Bruce Hobbs, seventeen years old when landing the 1938 race on Battleship.
- 10** The 1997 race was run on the Monday following the scheduled Saturday, after a phoned bomb warning had caused the abandonment of the Saturday programme.
- 11** Some £200 million was wagered on the 2004 Grand National in the British betting industry.
- 12** Ayala, winner in 1963, was trained by Lester Piggott's father Keith. Lester had schooled the horse over fences during his Aintree preparation.
- 13** Oldest man to complete the course in the Grand National was Tim Durant, who in 1966 was sixty-eight years old when finishing fifteenth on Highlandie, whom he had remounted after falling at second Becher's.
- 14** First lady rider to compete in the Grand National was Charlotte Brew, who rode Barony Fort in 1977. Barony Fort refused at the fourth last fence.
- 15** The last mare to win the race was Nickel Coin in 1951.
- 16** The last entire – that is, an ungelded male horse – to win was Battleship in 1938.
- 17** The last grey to win was Nicolaus Silver in 1961.
- 18** Only lady trainer so far to have won the Grand National is Mrs Jenny Pitman, who has done so twice – with Corbiere (1983) and Royal Athlete (1995).
- 19** The last horse wearing blinkers to win was Earth Summit in 1998.
- 20** Wyndburgh finished second three times in the Grand National – 1957, 1959, 1962 – but never won.

and a few more...



HORSES

- Red Rum, who won in 1973, 1974 and 1977, is the only triple winner of the Grand National; he was also second in 1975 and 1976.
- Dual winners of the Grand National at Aintree are: The Duke (1836, 1837), Peter Simple (1849, 1853), Abd-el-Kadar (1850, 1851), The Lamb (1868, 1871), The Colonel (1869, 1870), Manifesto (1897, 1899), and Reynoldstown (1935, 1936). Poethlyn won the substitute race at Gatwick in 1918 and "the" Grand National at Aintree in 1919.
- Oldest ever winner was Peter Simple in 1853 at the age of fifteen. Oldest winner since 1900 was Sergeant Murphy, who landed the 1923 running at the age of thirteen.
- Youngest winners: five horses have won the Grand National at the age of five, the most recent of these being Lutteur in 1909. The race is now confined to six-year-olds and upwards.

JOCKEYS

- Most successful Grand National jockey of all was George Stevens, with five wins between 1856 and 1870. Since the Second World War only Brian Fletcher has won the race more than twice, taking it three times: Red Alligator 1968, Red Rum 1973 and 1974.
- Of current jockeys, only Carl Llewellyn has won the race more than once, taking it twice: Party Politics 1992 and Earth Summit 1998.
- Last amateur rider to win the Grand National was Marcus Armytage, on Mr Frisk in 1990.

TRAINERS

- Most successful trainers in Grand National history, each with four wins, are Fred Rimell (ESB 1956, Nicolaus Silver 1961, Gay Trip 1970 and Rag Trade 1976) and Ginger McCain (Red Rum 1973, 1974 and 1977 and Amberleigh House 2004).
- Since the Second World War there have been nine Irish-trained winners of the Grand National: Caughoo (1947), Early Mist (1953), Royal Tan (1954), Quare Times (1955), Mr What (1958), L'Escargot (1975), Bobbyjo (1999), Papillon (2000) and Monty's Pass (2003). Of that nine, three – Early Mist, Royal Tan and Quare Times – were trained by Vincent O'Brien.
- The only Grand National winner trained in Scotland was Rubstic (1979).
- The only Grand National winner trained in Wales was Kirkland (1905).



BETTING

- Longest priced winners: 100-1 shots Tipperary Tim (1928), Gregalach (1929), Caughoo (1947) and Foinavon (1967).
- Shortest priced winner: Sir William at 2-1 in 1838.
- Shortest priced winners since the Second World War: Merryman II (1960) and L'Escargot (1975), both 13-2.

TIME

- Fastest winning time: 8 minutes 47.8 seconds by Mr Frisk in 1990.
- Slowest winning time since 1900: 11 minutes 00.06 seconds by Red Marauder in 2001.

FIELD

- Largest field: 66 runners in 1929.
- Smallest field: 10 runners in 1883.

FINISHERS

- Glenside (1911), Shaun Spadah (1921), Tipperary Tim (1928) and Foinavon (1967) were the only runners in their respective years to complete the course without mishap, though in all cases at least one other horse finished.
- Since 1980, the number of finishers has been in single figures on six occasions: four finishers in 1980 and 2001; six finishers in 1994 and 1998; eight finishers in 1982; nine finishers in 1988.

'No Nonsense' guide to finding the National winner

Contrary to popular opinion, the John Smith's Grand National is far from a lottery, and although the occasional rank outsider still wins, the modern race can often reward careful consideration of a few vital factors:

AGE: The Grand National is no place for callow youth, and while Amberleigh House was twelve when winning in 2004, the ideal age range is between nine and eleven. Average age of the last ten winners is exactly ten. During that period the youngest winner was eight-year-old Bindaree.

WEIGHT: The last horse to carry over eleven stone to Grand National victory was Corbiere in 1983, though Rhyme 'n' Reason had 11 stone when winning in 1988. Average weight carried by the last ten winners is 10 stone 7.2 pounds.

BETTING: Although the last ten runnings have seen winners at 33-1 (Red Marauder 2001) and 40-1 (Royal Athlete 1995), recent renewals have tended to favour fancied horses. Both Rough Quest (1996) and Earth Summit (1998) started 7-1 favourite, and it has paid to be aware of major gambles forming over the last few days before the race: Earth Summit, Bobbyjo (1999) and especially Papillon (2000) were the subjects of huge wagering as the race approached, Papillon being backed from 33-1 in some places on the morning of the race to a starting price of 10-1. Average price of the last ten winners is 17.3-1.

FORM: There used to be a notion that the 4½-mile Grand National could suit horses whose best trip was around 2½ miles. None the less, the record books show that National winners almost invariably have winning form over a distance of three miles or longer. All the last ten winners come into that category, and all had winning form in races designated Class A or Class B. Bear in mind that most Grand National

horses are prepared especially for the big race, and would not be expected to be fully tuned up for their pre-Aintree outing. Of the last ten winners, only one (Bobbyjo 1999) had won his race immediately before the National.

THE AINTREE FACTOR: Opinions differ regarding the importance of previous experience around the unique Grand National fences, but the victory of Amberleigh House, who had extremely good form at Aintree, suggests that it must be factored in. On the other hand, 2001 winner Red Marauder had fallen at first Becher's in the 2000 race, his jockey Richard Guest reporting that he had hated the Aintree experience and adding "We won't be coming back here again." But come back they did – and won.

So the ideal John Smith's Grand National candidate will be ten years old, be carrying 10 stone 7 pounds, will have winning form at a good level though probably won't have won his most recent race, and will probably have run at Aintree before.

His name is right there in the racecard. It's simply a matter of identifying which name ...

NO NONSENSE FACTS!

8

John Smith was just 24 years of age when he purchased a run down brewhouse in the North Yorkshire town of Tadcaster and started a brewing heritage that has spanned over a century and a half

One final thought

The late Noel Furlong, who trained Reynoldstown to win successive Grand Nationals in the mid-1930s, maintained that a horse needed two main qualities to win the Aintree marathon - the speed to win a two miles hurdle race and the ability to win a two and a half mile steeplechase.

It is a formula which has proved successful, Gay Trip (1970) and Specify (1971) being striking examples, before Bobbyjo (1999) and Amberleigh House (last year) popped up.

No fewer than 15 of the entries for this year's race fit this profile. Along with Amberleigh House, they are: Alexander Banquet, Colonel Rayburn, Garvionnian, Grey Abbey, Ground Ball, Jakari, Kymandjen, L'Aventure, Nil Desperandum, Over The First, Puntal, Rince Ri, Simply Gifted, Snowy Ford.





Understanding your racecard

Available for sale around the racecourse for a relatively small charge, the racecard contains the programme of events for the day's racing.

Seasoned racegoers know to purchase only from official sellers and you are advised to resist any approach to buy a card in the car park as these will come with selections already marked and be offered at a price well above the face value.



The racecard is your basic tool for a successful and informed day at the races and will enable you to follow the day's events as they unfold.

The amount of information in the racecard varies from course to course, but all of them will tell you the start times of the races, the prize money on offer, the age and weight horses should carry, as well as the names of the owner, trainer and rider.

Most importantly, the racecard also carries the colours of all the runners which will enable you to follow the progress of your selections, and in most cases will provide details of each horse's recent form.

Known as the conditions, the details of all the races on the programme are often printed together on an alternative page in the racecard.

A knowledge of the different categories of races run under National Hunt Rules will be beneficial, although you do not necessarily need to know this information to pick a winner.

National Hunt is the generic name for racing over hurdles and steeplechases and commonly known as jumping. The programme on any day's racing can include events known as Graded or listed races, those designed exclusively for novices and beginners, hunter chases and National Hunt Flat races.

NO NONSENSE FACTS! 9

John Smith chose Tadcaster in North Yorkshire as the perfect location to build his brewery because the hard water from the river was ideal for brewing the perfect pint of bitter

How to Read the Racecard



Sex of Horse	Owner	Weight Carried
Horse's Saddlecloth Number	Horse's Name	Colours Description
Age	Jockey	
17	AMBERLEIGH HOUSE (IRE) (28)	12 10 10
Br g Buckskin (FR) - Chancy Gal Halewood International Ltd	(D. McCain, Cholmondeley)	G. Lee
3-342P5 C	BLACK, RED and WHITE striped sleeves, hooped cap. (Breeder - Robert McCarthy)	
Has become a real standing dish over these fences. Not only has he won and finished second twice in the last three Becher Chases, but he also finished an excellent third behind Monty's Pass in this race last year. Obvious each-way claims off only a 3lb higher mark today. Rating 143		
Colours Graphic	Previous Performances	Form Comments
	Breeder	Trainer & Location

A **Graded race** is one of an elite number of events, arranged in groups of one, two and three, according to importance and spread across a wide variety of courses throughout the season. Contests rated just below this group are known as **listed** races.

A **novice race** is restricted to horses which have not won a hurdle race or steeplechase respectively before the start of the current season.

A **National Hunt Flat Race** (popularly known as a 'bumper') is for prospective jumping horses without the inconvenience of having to clear obstacles and a **hunter chase** is for horses which have been regularly hunted.

At least two of the races on the programme will be handicaps. A **handicap** is a contest in which the weight each horse is to carry is individually allotted (by the official handicapper) according to past performance, the theoretical object being to equalise the chances of all horses in the race.

A **limited handicap** is one in which the range of weights is kept narrow ostensibly to encourage the participation of high-class horses, who will not have to make large concessions to other runners.



Planning your day

Most days at the races develop a rhythm which will probably consist of taking stock of the runners in the parade ring, choosing your fancy and going off to have a bet, watching the race from the stands or another vantage point, then going down to the winner's enclosure to watch the placed horses come back in.

Then off to the parade ring again to assess the next race to begin the procedure all over again. Races are usually run at half hour intervals, allowing time to study the form of the horses and perhaps have a bet.

The parade ring is one of the main features of any racecourse and the people you see in the middle are the owners, trainers, racecourse officials and the Stewards of the meeting.

Five to ten minutes before the 'off time' the jockeys will appear and shortly afterwards they will mount their horses and set off to the starting point of the race, which will vary according to the distance it is run over.

Punctuate this rhythm with the occasional pint of John Smith's or snack and before you know it the day's programme - usually six or seven races - will be coming to an end and you will be planning your next race day.

But it is fun to vary that rhythm and you can do that by simply choosing a different place to watch each race from, and it makes an exciting change to go down to the rails close to a fence for a race or two and experience the thrill of seeing the horses and riders meet and clear a jump.

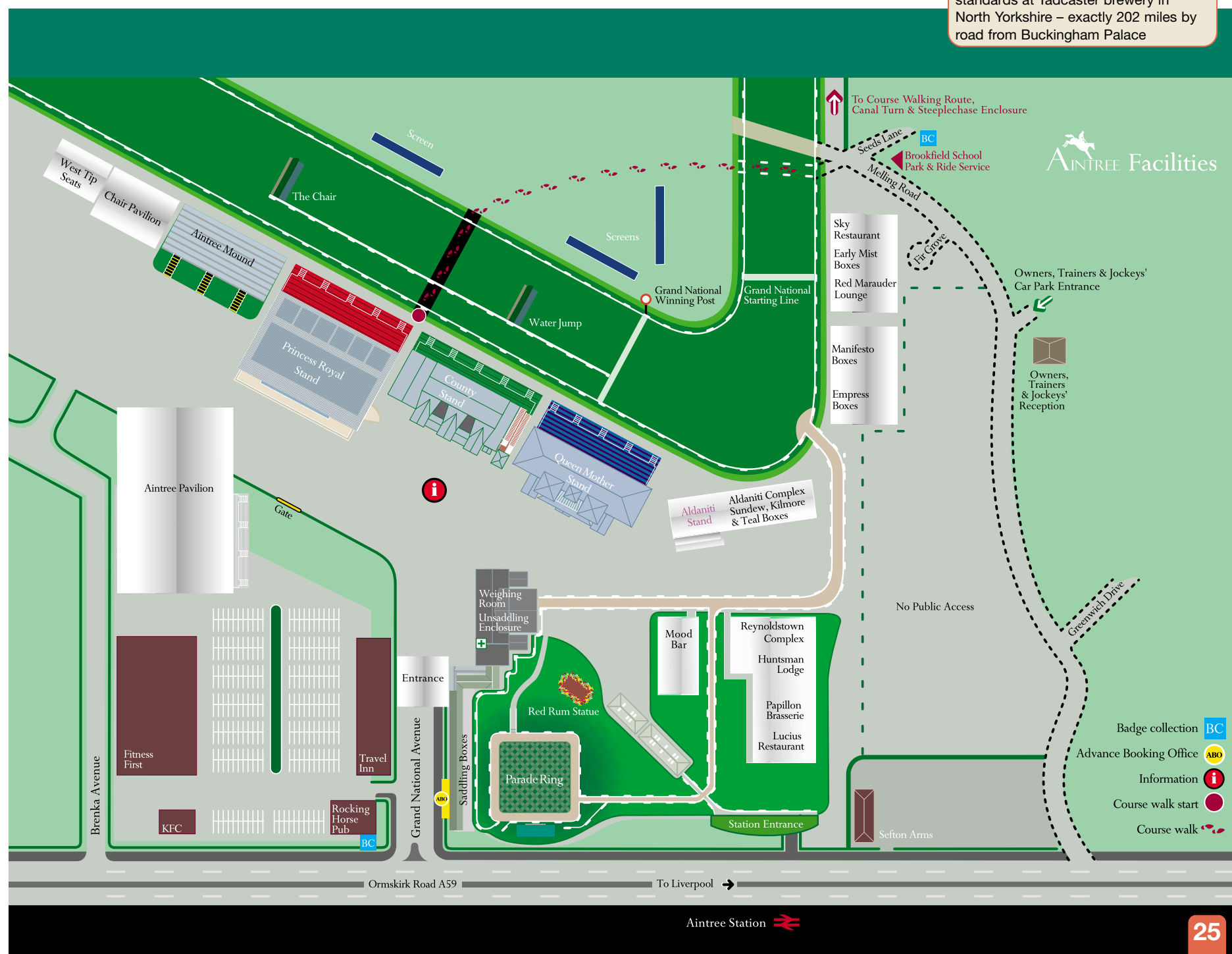
Before the race, take a look at the runners in the pre-parade ring, where the horses are led round prior to being saddled and taken into the parade ring. It can provide valuable clues as to the well-being and general demeanour of the runners and influence your choice when deciding what to back.

After the race, the winner and either two or three placed horses return to the winner's enclosure to be greeted by their trainers and usually by their delighted owners, followed by the presentation of trophies to the connections of the winner.

NO NONSENSE FACTS!

John Smith's Extra Smooth and John Smith's Bitter are still brewed to the highest standards at Tadcaster brewery in North Yorkshire – exactly 202 miles by road from Buckingham Palace

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Choosing your fancy

It is a common misconception that betting is an essential part of going racing. It is not, and racing enthusiasts can have a highly enjoyable day - revelling in the atmosphere and spectacle - without betting at all.

But most racegoers like at least to dabble in betting and before you bet you will want to decide what to bet on.

A baffling amount of information in newspapers and form summaries in the racecard are produced for each race, but if in doubt do not be afraid to go back to the most basic starting point of all, looking at the horse.

There is ample time to study the runners prior to each race, but beyond a general admiration for the magnificent sight of a finely-tuned thoroughbred, what should you look for?

With horses, as with humans, beauty is in the eye of the beholder and fitness in a horse is easy to spot (as with humans, a fat tummy indicates lack of condition).

But generally, the encouraging signs in a horse before the race are a coat with a good sheen to it, an intelligent and alert countenance, high head carriage with big ears that point slightly inwards, a well-muscled body and a springy step.

A horse which is well muscled may be said to 'carry plenty of condition', while one with a lean and ribby look will have 'run up light'.

Be cautious of a horse sweating up but not necessarily dismissive, as some horses run better when they are on edge. Sweating around the ears and eyes is not a good sign.

NO NONSENSE FACTS! 11

The John Smith's website (www.johnsmiths.co.uk) offers site visitors the opportunity to view the popular Peter Kay ads and find out more about the UK's number one ale

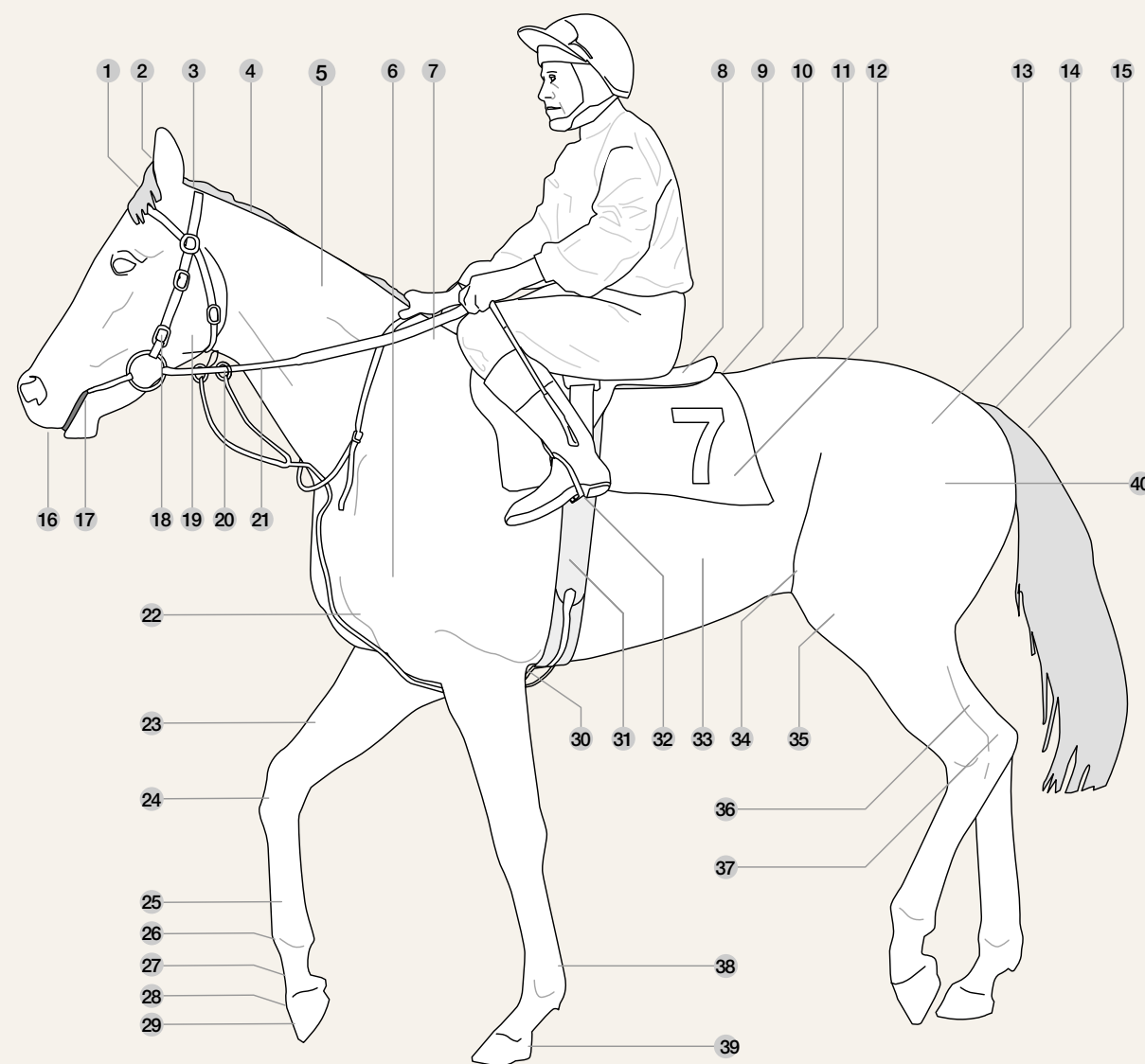
Consider how the horse walks. An easy, loose stride is ideal, and a little jig-jogging suggests that he is on good terms with himself - whereas the horse that will not be led round calmly is getting agitated and wasting valuable nervous energy.

Take account of the equipment the horse is wearing. Blinkers - hood fitted over the horse's head to prevent backward vision - focuses his concentration on what is going on ahead and can transform the performance of a horse with a short attention span.

A visor is similar to blinkers, but has a slit in each eye-shield to allow some lateral vision. It is commonly thought that the fitting of blinkers or visor suggests an ungentle horse, but this is not necessarily the case, so do not be put off if all the other factors appear to be in his favour.

Try to watch each horse cantering down to the start and have a good look at his action. If he strides out well, in an easy, flowing motion, he is comfortable on the ground, whereas if he moves to post scratchily he is not happy with the surface - and is likely to be even more unhappy at galloping speed.

But the most beautiful and sweetly moving horse in the world is not much of a betting proposition if he cannot jump well or run fast enough, so at some point you need to get to grips with the basics of that mass of information which, once interpreted correctly, should yield the winner - form.



- | | | | |
|------------|----------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1 Forelock | 11 Croup | 21 Reins | 31 Girth and Surcingle |
| 2 Poll | 12 Saddlecloth | 22 Chest | 32 Strirrups |
| 3 Crest | 13 Hip | 23 Forearm | 33 Ribs |
| 4 Mane | 14 Dock | 24 Knee | 34 Flank |
| 5 Neck | 15 Tail | 25 Cannon | 35 Stifle |
| 6 Shoulder | 16 Muzzle | 26 Fetlock | 36 Gaster |
| 7 Withers | 17 Bit | 27 Pastern | 37 Hock |
| 8 Saddle | 18 Bridle | 28 Coronet | 38 Tendons |
| 9 Back | 19 Jawl | 29 Hoof | 39 Heel |
| 10 Loins | 20 Rings | 30 Elbow | 40 Hindquarters |

What to look for in a race

Form is simply information about a horse's past performance and by amassing data from each past performance about the going, the course, weight carried, style of running, jockey, distance of the race, distances between the horses at the finish - and so on - and then relating that information to the same information about every runner in the race, the form student can work out which horse is most likely to win.

The study of every last nicety of form is highly complicated and hardly necessary for other than the most serious and dedicated punter, but it is possible to grasp the basics by considering the following -

DISTANCE OF THE RACE: Most horses have an ideal range of distances over which they run and a horse running significantly out of that range may not do himself justice, through lack of stamina or lack of speed.

GOING: The 'going' is the state of the ground - ranging from hard to heavy - and many horses run better on one particular surface than on others. It is not necessarily the case that the firm-ground specialist will never win on the soft, but the firm will suit him better.

CLASS: Form is relative, and running fourth, fifth or sixth in a steeplechase the calibre of the Cheltenham Gold Cup or gaining a similar position in the Champion Hurdle would be better-class form than winning a minor race. Is the horse you fancy going up or down in class?

COURSE: The old theory of 'horses for courses' - that is, that some horses perform particularly well at certain courses - is borne out again and again; if a horse has won before at a course, the terrain suits him and that can be an important indicator of his chance.



TRAINER AND JOCKEY: Have they been among the winners recently, and are they in form? A trainer out of form may indicate illness in the yard, while a jockey going through a purple patch can be guaranteed to have that extra ring of confidence which could make the difference between victory and defeat.

WEIGHT: Has the horse a chance 'at the weight' - that is, the weight it has to carry in relation to the weights carried by its rivals?

If all this sounds too much like hard work, you could fall back on the age-old system of choosing your fancy, simply because you like its name or its pretty colours.

NO NONSENSE FACTS!

John Smith's is enjoyed in many parts of the world - including Australia, Africa and the Arabian Gulf

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Backing your fancy

Having made your choice, how do you put your money where your mind is?

GETTING ON

There are three ways of having a bet on a racecourse:

- on the Tote
- with a bookmaker
- in the racecourse betting shop

As everyone knows, having a flutter is part of the fun of going racing. This section explains how to place a bet - firstly, with totepool. You will find their outlets located throughout the racecourse

and their staff will be happy to answer any questions you have.

Totepool offers a wide variety of popular bets that includes tote win, tote exacta and tote trifecta. Information screens near every totepool counter will give you an indication of your potential winnings from a successful bet.

One of the best ways to start your day is to have a tote placepot, which you need to do before the 1st race.

No cash? No problem! You can place a bet with totepool using your debit or credit card where you see the signs or by purchasing vouchers from the totepool information unit.

How do I place a bet?

For tote win, tote place, tote eachway, tote exacta or tote trifecta bets you need to tell the operator

Amount you want to stake	£5	£6
Type of bet	tote win	reverse tote exacta
Horse number(s)	No 2	No's 6 & 9
Race number	Race 3	Race 4
Race meeting	Ascot	Newmarket
Total spend	£5	£12

For tote placepot, tote jackpot, tote quadpot and tote scoop6 use the play slips provided at the totepool counter and tell the operator which meeting the bet is for. Please ask the Tote staff for any help you need and ensure that you check your tickets.

What sort of bet can I have?

tote win - pick the winner of the race (minimum bet £2)

tote place - pick a horse to be placed in the race (minimum bet £2).

Your selection needs to be placed as follows:

Runners Place details

Up to 4 runners	=	no place betting
5 - 7 runners	=	1st & 2nd
8+ runners	=	1st, 2nd & 3rd
Handicap 16+ runners	=	1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th

tote eachway - a very popular way of betting, this is simply a tote win bet and a tote place bet on the same horse (minimum total stake £4).

tote exacta - pick the horse to finish 1st and 2nd in the correct order. Try a reverse tote exacta or a combination tote exacta to increase your chances. This is obviously more difficult than just picking the winner, but the rewards are usually much greater! (minimum total spend £2).

Combination tote exacta permutation

Number of selections	Number of bets
3	6
4	12
5	20

continues overleaf...



tote placepot - this is racing's favourite bet -and no wonder! Just pick a horse to be placed in each of the six toteplacepot races (almost always the first six races on the card). You can choose more than one horse in any of the races to increase your chances of winning. Use a tote placepot play slip to place your bet. (minimum total spend £2)

tote trifecta - pick 1st, 2nd & 3rd in the correct order in a totetrifecta race. Get this right and you could win big! (minimum total spend £2)

tote jackpot - pick the winners of the six tote jackpot races at the nominated tote jackpot meeting each day (except Saturday). Not easy – but the potential rewards are huge! You can choose more than one horse in any of the races to increase your chances of winning. Use a tote jackpot play slip to place your bet. (minimum total spend £2)

tote scoop6 - pick at least one horse in the six nominated televised races each Saturday. Get all six winners to scoop a potentially massive dividend AND qualify for a big money bonus. Use a totescoop6 play slip to place your bet. (minimum spend £2 per line).

tote quadpot - another popular bet – especially if your toteplacepot has fallen by the wayside before the 3rd race or you missed out on doing a toteplacepot. As before, just pick a horse to be placed in each of the four tote quadpot races (which are almost always races 3, 4, 5 and 6). Use a tote quadpot play slip to place your bet. (minimum total spend £1)

Totepool dividends are declared to a £1 unit with the exception of tote scoop6 that is declared to a £2 ticket. To calculate how much your bet will return, simply multiply your stake by the dividend. For example if your stake was £5 and the dividend is £10.20 your bet will return £51.

You can also place any totepool bets other race meetings. Please make sure that you clearly state the meeting to which your bet applies. You can also place tote win, tote place and tote exacta bets on many race meetings taking place in Ireland.

The bookmakers

Betting with bookies, who are to be found in the Tattersalls/Grandstand and Paddock and Silver Ring/ Course Enclosure, is very simple, but it's as well to be aware of the basic distinction between a bet to win and an each-way bet (which some, but not all, bookmakers will take).

A bet **TO WIN** means just that: if your horse wins, you do; if it doesn't, you don't; and if it dead-heats, you receive half what you would have received for an outright win.

An **EACH-WAY** bet is in effect two separate bets: one to win, one for the horse to be placed (that is, to finish in the first two in races of five or more runners, the first three in races of eight or more runners, the first four in a handicap of sixteen or more runners). Since an each-way bet is two bets, you hand over twice the unit stake: a bet of £1 each way costs £2. The odds for a place are normally one fifth of the win odds: the bookmaker will advertise the fraction on his board.

So how do you make that bet? Go into the betting ring and 'shop around' by looking at the

boards on which the different bookmakers will be displaying the odds of each horse. Each bookmaker will advertise the minimum stake he will accept and you will soon find one happy to take even a very small bet.

Say you want to have £5 to win on Dead Cert. (Having the right money helps speed things along.) Most bookmakers have him marked up at 6-1, but one has him at 7-1, which seems to you to be a good price. Go up to that bookie and ask for 'a fiver to win on Dead Cert'. The bookmaker will call out to his clerk, poised with a ledger or computer '£35 to £5 Dead Cert.' He will then give you a coloured card or a computerised betting ticket with full details of the bet.

This is your receipt for the transaction. Whether Dead Cert's officially returned Starting Price is longer or shorter than 7-1, your bet is made at that price – so by taking longer odds than SP you can 'beat the book'.

Starting Price (SP) is the price at which the horse is returned in the betting shops. When Dead Cert scoots home in front (as he certainly will), return to the same

bookmaker as soon as the course announcer has declared

'weighed in' to indicate that the result is confirmed and you will receive £40 – seven times five for your fiver at 7-1, plus your original stake back. Easy peasy!

REMEMBER:

- with the bookmaker always shop around and aim to 'beat the book' by backing a horse at longer odds than its official SP
- state the name of the horse, not the number
- always listen to the bet called by the bookmaker to his clerk to ensure that he has understood you correctly
- always keep your card or ticket as a receipt
- never throw away what you might consider a losing bet until the 'weighed in' signal has been given



The racecourse betting shop

Betting in a racecourse betting shop (some courses have more than one) is very similar to betting in any High Street shop. You can have a variety of bets (including combination bets such as doubles and trebles) at much smaller stakes. You can also bet at the day's other meetings. As in a High Street betting shops you fill in a slip and hand it over together with your stake. The slip is receipted and you are given a duplicate, which you return to the counter for paying out should you be successful. Winnings are calculated at the Starting Price.

REMEMBER:

- in the racecourse betting shop you can bet in smaller amounts than with a course bookmaker
- the betting shop is the place to go for combination bets or wagers at the day's other meetings



The John Smith's Grand National meeting

The Aintree Festival is no longer about the Grand National alone, and all three days offer sport of the highest class. Apart from the Grand National, the big races of the meeting sponsored by Scottish and Newcastle and the UK's number one ale brand include:

THE JOHN SMITH'S AND BATLEY'S LIVERPOOL HURDLE

The opening race of the John Smith's Grand National Festival, this three and half mile Grade Two event was run at Aintree for the first time in 2004, having been transferred from Ascot.

The inaugural Aintree running saw Iris's Gift, who won the equivalent of the Ladbrokes World Hurdle the previous month at the Cheltenham Festival, produce a relentless display of galloping and an exhibition of spring-heeled jumping to master Royal Rosa by two and a half lengths.

Martin Pipe has trained five of the last thirteen winners, sending out Pragada (1992), Sweet Glow (1994), Galant Moss (1999), Maid Equal (2001) and Deano's Beeno (2003) to victory.

JOHN SMITH'S FOX HUNTERS' CHASE

Highlight of the Thursday card, the John Smith's Fox Hunters, run over 2 miles 5½ furlongs of the Grand National course, is bracketed in the racegoer's mind with the Foxhunters at Cheltenham: together they form the twin peaks of the hunter chasing season.

Most of the great hunter chasers of recent memory have won the Aintree race, and a few have won both at Cheltenham and Aintree in the same year – an elite band which includes Credit Call (who won the Aintree race three times in all), Bullock's Horn and Rolls Rambler as well as Spartan Missile, who pulled off the double in 1979 and ran second to Aldaniti in the 1981 Grand National, and Grittar, double scorer in 1981, who won the Grand National the following year. Grittar was following in the hoofprints of Merryman II, who won the Fox Hunters in 1959 and the National in 1960.

Dubbed "The Amateurs' Grand National", the race usually attracts a big field – twenty-five runners in 2004 – and provides a wonderful spectacle, a graphic reminder of what is to come with the John Smith's Grand National two days later.

JOHN SMITH'S AND SPAR TOPHAM CHASE

Traditional curtain-raiser for the following day's Grand National, this 2 mile 5½ furlong handicap chase over the Grand National fences was first run back in 1949, and named in honour of the Topham family, who for so long were responsible for the running of Aintree racecourse – though for many years it was run as the John Hughes Memorial Trophy in honour of the late and much lamented administrator and Aintree clerk of the course.

No horse has won this race and the Grand National, but the list of winners of the Topham includes several familiar names, including the Queen Mother's Inch Arran (1973), Uncle Bing (1980) and the flamboyant jumper Dublin Flyer, whose victory in 1995 provided one of the great sights of recent Aintree history.

Supporting the John Smith's Grand National on the Saturday card are:

SCOTTISH AND NEWCASTLE AINTREE HURDLE

One of the great hurdle races of the season, which usually attracts several horses who have run prominently in the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham the previous month. The race was first run in 1976, when it was won by dual Champion Hurdle-winning hero Comedy Of Errors.

At 2½ miles, this race is a half mile longer than the Champion, which can bring about a turnaround in form, but it has a consistent record of bringing together the very best hurdlers.

John Smith's will be raising money for the British Paralympic Association over the three days and look forward to receiving your support



JOHN SMITH'S HANDICAP HURDLE

Run over 2 miles and half a furlong, this is invariably a fiercely competitive handicap hurdle, which tends to bring together horses who have run prominently in recent races such as the Imperial Cup at Sandown Park and the County Hurdle at Cheltenham.

JOHN SMITH'S MAGHULL NOVICES' CHASE

With the likes of Ask Tom, Direct Route, Flagship Uberalles, Cenkos and Armaturk among recent winners, the quality of this Grade 1 novices' chase over two miles is readily apparent. Well Chief, impressive winner of the Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham in 2004, went on to take this – one of only two Cheltenham Festival winners that year to follow up at Aintree.

JOHN SMITH'S NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE

A competitive 2½-mile handicap chase confined to amateur riders – scheduled for the slot immediately after the John Smith's Grand National, to allow the professionals who have just ridden in the big race time to wipe 4½ miles' worth of mud off their faces and toast the winning jockey with champagne – or with John Smith's bitter!

JOHN SMITH'S CHAMPION STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

A "bumper" – that is, a race for jump-bred horses without putting them to the inconvenience of jumping anything – over 2 miles 1 furlong, which usually brings together some of the best young horses around. The race is confined to four-, five- and six-year-olds, and will certainly bring out some stars of the future.



How to get to Aintree

Location

Aintree Racecourse is located on the A59, just one mile from the M57 and M58, which link to the M62 and M6. Follow the A59 to Liverpool and the AA signs as you approach the Racecourse for routes to the car parks.

By Road

From South
Leave M6 at J21 A and join M62 west. Leave M62 at J6 to join M57, follow signs for the races.

From North
Leave M6 at J26 and join M58, follow signs for the races.

From Mersey Tunnel
Follow signs for Preston, then for A59, then signs for the races.

By Rail

The nearest mainline station is Liverpool Lime Street. It is a five minute walk from there to Liverpool Central where you can catch special race trains to Aintree.

Any train travelling to Ormskirk on the Northern Line will also stop at Aintree Station, opposite the main entrance to the racecourse.

Rail enquiries: **08457 48 49 50**
Merseytravel: **0870 608 2608**



Where to find a great pint of John Smith's in Liverpool



- Blue Bar & Grill** 17, Edward Pavilion, Albert Dock, Liverpool, L3 4AF 0151 702 5835
- Baby Blue** Albert Docks, Liverpool, L3 4AA 0151 709 7097
- Pan American** Unit B22, Britannia Pavilion, Albert Dock, Liverpool, L3 4AB 0151 702 5840
- Park** Dunning Bridge Road, Netherton, Bootle, L30 6YN 0151 525 7555
- Newz Bar** New Zealand House, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1QR 0151 236 2025
- Sir Thomas Hotel** Victoria Street, Liverpool L1 6JB 0151 236 1366

Points of contact

- | | | |
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