

YORK RACES



BACKGROUND AND FACTS

Racing Background



Racing is an international sport that provides highlights like the Epsom Derby, the Aintree Grand National and our own Ebor Festival at York. It also provides 1,700 days of UK sport throughout the year, showcasing the talents of great jockeys like Frankie Dettori, great horses (over 75,000 runners a year), and colourful characters. There are over 5 million attendances at racing every year and the introduction of Sunday and evening meetings are widening the appeal. An average Channel 4 television

broadcast attracts 600,000 viewers and only football receives more hours of terrestrial TV coverage. For the first time in its near 300 year history Royal Ascot moved north in June 2005 and was staged at York whilst the Ascot course was redeveloped. The event was a huge success attracting over 200,000 visitors during the week.

York Background

The racecourse in York is a flat only racecourse that provides 15 days of racing from May to October, and is host to three Group One races, other Pattern races and famous handicaps (equates to 9% of the top 1.5% of all races). Many Classic winners and famous horses have run here, e.g. Benny the Dip, Mill Reef. The racecourse is widely regarded as the best in the North, only Doncaster because of the St Leger and Aintree for the National could claim to rival it. National rivals are Ascot and Epsom. The races in York attract more than 250,000 visitors a year and the prize money, in excess of £3,500,000, is the largest amount in the North (3rd nationwide).

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YORK RACECOURSE

1. The Group 1 Juddmonte International ranked number one of all thoroughbred horse races across the globe. This concluded that star horses such as Australia, Declaration of War and the mighty Frankel, combined to provide the strongest race on the planet.
2. With an extensive array of flower beds, hanging baskets, flower boxes and feature displays, the racecourse comes alive with colour, scent and summer sunshine. All plants are reared from seed or seedling from the racecourse's own floriculture unit.
3. During a memorable sporting summer, York hosted a visit from both the Olympic Torch and Paralympic Lantern. Former Olympian Harvey Smith carried the torch down the home straight in partnership with Paddy in front of over 20,000 spectators.
4. York has 180 stables, laid out in four quadrangles. The stables have been a temporary home to star racehorses from Brigadier Gerard to Sea The Stars and Frankel and one of the quads has contained the home green of Dringhouses Bowling Club since 1929.
5. The Wine List at the track won a national Award for its variety and value. Responding to customer requests for a high quality, affordable rosé wine, a member of the team visited the vineyards to help blend a rosé for the popular Duc de Richelieu range of house wines.
6. The course's Ebor Stand played Denton International Airport in a recording of the ITV detective drama A Touch of Frost. The BBC has also hosted features from the course, with former Blue Peter presenter Zoe Salmon learning to ride here.
7. York racecourse has boasted many distinguished visitors, including her majesty Queen Elizabeth and Pope John Paul II, who said open-air mass for more than 200,000 pilgrims during his visit to Britain on May 31, 1982.
8. The course has seen many memorable finishes, including that of legendary highwayman Dick Turpin, who was hanged on the Knavesmire on April 19, 1739.
9. York's highest attendance for a race meeting was recorded in 1851, when a crowd estimated at 150,000 saw The Flying Dutchman, winner of the Derby and St Leger in 1849, beat Voltigeur, who took both races the following year, in the so-called Great Match. The modern era record is the 42,586 who attended one July Saturday in 2010.
10. The Princess Royal has ridden a winner here. She won the Queen Mother's Cup on Insular on June 11, 1988. Of course, Her Majesty the Queen was present for all days of Royal Ascot at York in 2005.



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