

## **Invisible Access Statement**

This Invisible Accessibility Statement provides information for those wishing to visit Newbury Racecourse that may have, or be attending with, a person of any age living with an invisible illness or disability, or if you wish to come racing alone.

This has been produced as part of the #GoRacingGreen initiative, in partnership with Unibet, which was introduced to support better mental health awareness within the race-going community, and support those with a varying range of conditions which include, but are not exclusive to, dementia, autism, ADHD, social anxiety and general anxiety disorder, as well as be welcoming to those people who would like to come racing but have no one to accompany them.

Whilst we are certainly not experts, our key race day staff have become Dementia Friends, and also attended an awareness session on general anxiety and sensory conditions. They have also been working closely with someone who suffers from social anxiety, general anxiety disorder and various other social triggered phobias, and who also has extensive experience in accessible and dementia tourism.

The #GoRacingGreen initiative is now recognised by The British Horseracing Authority, The Racecourse Association and VisitEngland as “Best Practice”.

Behind the #GoRacingGreen initiative is a community of thousands of people that live with various conditions that make coming to a day at the races difficult for them. They have provided feedback which we have used throughout the initiative and will continue to do so going forward.

Here at Newbury Racecourse we will provide a “safe and quiet space” at every race meeting for anyone who wishes to use it or is encouraged to come racing simply by knowing that it is available to them should they need it.

## **What is a #GoRacingGreen Area?**

- We have dedicated an area of the garden to the rear of the Pre-Parade Ring/Winner's Enclosure to offer a safe and quiet space for anyone who needs to seek respite during a race day.
- It is situated just to the right-hand side of the North entrance to the racecourse, so there is not far to go in order to access it once inside the racecourse. We advise that you pre-book your tickets in advance to save additional queuing on the day. You can also exit the racecourse via this gate.
- **If on approach to the racecourse, or whilst experiencing the queuing and bag check process, you feel uncomfortable at any time, please make yourself aware, or ask someone you are with to make themselves aware, to a steward who will assist you in entering the racecourse.**
- The area is a simple, landscaped, space that provides benches, bottled water, and in addition also aims to provide a gazebo unless adverse weather prevents, particularly strong winds.
- Adjacent to the area, you will find toilets and The Paddock Bar, where you will be able to buy refreshments, however, please note that the area itself is an alcohol-free zone.

- There is level access to various catering options without the need to go inside or to the busier areas of the racecourse if unable to do so. You are welcome to take a picnic into the area.
- The area is branded with a #GoRacingGreen Quiet Zone banner, but please do ask a member of staff if you are unsure when you arrive, or at any time of the day should you need to access it.
- You will have a clear view of the horses parading from this area, but in addition should you not wish to go to the front to watch the racing, screens are available in the Paddock Bar, and there is a big screen available by the Parade Ring/Winner's Enclosure.
- There is flat, wheelchair access to this area, however, if you wish to come racing and have a physical disability please see our disabled access statement, a link to which can be found here: <https://newburyracecourse.co.uk/racing/accessibility/>
- The area will be staffed by a steward throughout the day who will be able to assist you should you need any support.
- Please note, if you are using the area and have children or are attending with a vulnerable adult, these must be accompanied at all times.
- **Wristbands are available, should you wish to collect one, if you feel it may be useful to wear one yourself, or if the adult or child you are accompanying may be at risk of getting lost and confused. Please know we do not wish to make anyone stand out, so this is entirely at your discretion and we are happy to provide one to every member within your group so as not to single out anyone.**

Members of the #GoRacingGreen community may be wearing green ribbons or branded hats. These people may be living with an invisible condition, or they may be out and about around the racecourse because they support the initiative and want you to know they are happy for you to say hello to them or join them.

Please note that safeguarding is our priority at all times, and we ask that anyone travelling to the racecourse alone does not put themselves in a vulnerable position.

**Should you be alone and feel it would help to be escorted back to your car, please ask the steward who is manning the area, and he will arrange this for you. Please note there may be a wait for this.**

We know we cannot tick all the boxes, but we are always open to feedback on anything we can do to improve the race day experience for anyone living with an invisible illness, or their friends, carers or family members accompanying them.

If you are visiting the course and have a physical disability, please read our Access Statement here <https://newburyracecourse.co.uk/racing/accessibility/>

If you are at the racecourse and feel physically unwell at any time, injure yourself, or need medical assistance please notify a member of staff who will be able to direct you to the First Aid room.

If you have any queries prior to the race day, please contact our team on:

**Email:** [agray@newburyracecourse.co.uk](mailto:agray@newburyracecourse.co.uk)

**Phone:** 07584 543784