

*The* LITTLE  
BLACK BOOK *of*  
HORSE RACING



DOWN ROYAL  
*Racecourse* EST'D 1685



**DOWN ROYAL**  
*Racecourse* EST'D 1685

Since the 17th Century Down Royal Racecourse has brought the “Sport of Kings “ to generations of people in Northern Ireland – it’s a race course steeped in history. Racing horses isn’t just something we do at Down Royal, it’s a part of our culture, our heritage and our spirit. We live, breathe and sleep it!

We’ve put together this Little Black Book of Racing with all you need to know on the basics of racing, perfect race day style, insider know-how, racing jargon and top tips all in one handy, pocket-sized place to make sure your day at Down Royal is one to remember.

## TOP TEN FAQ's

### 1. Where is Down Royal Racecourse?

Down Royal is conveniently located off the A1 and is well signposted. Go to page 19 for a map and full directions.

### 2. What do you wear to the races?

There is no dress code at Down Royal however go to pages 8-11 for a guide on what to wear at the racecourse and our fixture list on page 16 has a quick and easy dress code reference beside each of the fixtures.

### 3. What food is available on the day?

There are a number of food outlets at the racecourse; page 17 contains a breakdown of all your eating options.

### 4. What is a racecard and where can you get one?

Your racecard is your guide to the day’s racing, go to page 6 for everything you need to know.

### 5. Can you use a credit card at the racecourse?

You can use your credit or debit card to pay in at the turnstiles and there is a cash point at the racecourse as both the bookies and the Tote take cash only.

### 6. How and where can I place a bet at the racecourse?

There is a full guide to your betting options at Down Royal on page 12.

### 7. What facilities are available to the public?

The site plan on page 17 will give you the layout of the racecourse and all facilities marked with P are open to the public. The race course has full disabled access.

### 8. What is a furlong?

Racing has a language all of its own so go to page 14-15 for some useful definitions.

### 9. What hospitality options are available?

One of our hospitality packages can really enhance your day’s racing, for details of the packages available on each race day contact Vicki Moody on 028 9262 1256 or [vicki@downroyal.com](mailto:vicki@downroyal.com).

### 10. How do I get in contact with the racecourse?

Full contact details are on page 17.

# TYPES OF RACES

You just can't beat a day at the races - thundering hooves pounding on the track, the multicoloured flash of jockeys charging towards the finish line and the roar of a crowd rising from their seats to spot the winner. But what about the meeting itself - flat races and steeple chases? If its all Double Dutch to you, don't worry, our handy guide explains it all in black and white.

**There are two different types of races run at Down Royal:**

## FLAT RACING

These races are run over distances ranging from 5 furlongs (5/8 mile or 1000 metres) to 20 furlongs (2 ½ miles or 4000 metres) and are started from stalls. As the name suggests, there are no obstacles in flat racing. The flat racing season runs from mid-March to mid-November. Flat horses mature quickly and start running as 2 or 3-year-olds.

## NATIONAL HUNT OR 'JUMP' RACING

All jump races are contested over at least 2 miles and the horses have to jump over a number of obstacles. This makes for spectacular viewing. These races are started from a tape barrier. Jump horses mature more slowly and don't run until they are 4 or 5-year-olds. Jump racing goes on all year round but its main season runs from November until the end of April. Some flat horses also run in jump races when they get older.



**The two types of jump race run at Down Royal are:**

## STEEPLECHASE

Run over 'fences' which vary in size. The word steeplechase was coined in County Cork in 1752. Two gambling men, Edmund Blake and Cornelius O'Callaghan wanted to settle a bet as to whose horse was faster. So they organised a race across country from the steeple of the church in Buttevant to that of St. Mary's in Doneraile. Hence the name, which is shortened to "chase".

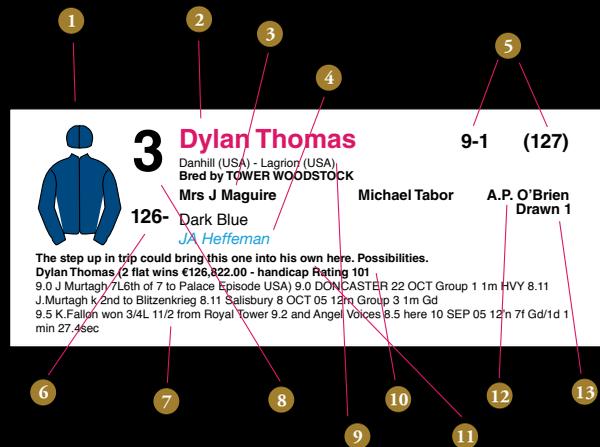
## HURDLE

Run over obstacles measuring about 3 feet 1 inch in height.

The highlights of the racing year at Down Royal are the **NORTHERN IRELAND FESTIVAL** of Racing in November which attracts the top class National Hunt horses and jockeys over two days of excellent racing and the **SUMMER FESTIVAL** in June with both Hurdles and Flat Racing which run over three days. It is a great day out for both racing novices and aficionados.

# READING & UNDERSTANDING YOUR RACE CARD

Once you make it through the turnstiles at Down Royal, the first thing you should do is purchase a Racecard. Sold to the left of the entrance, this will be your guide to the day's races, horses and jockeys. Understanding a race card can seem like an impossible feat but with our handy race card diagram it will be a breeze.



**3 Dylan Thomas** 9-1 (127)

Danhill (USA) - Lagrion (USA)  
Bred by TOWER WOODSTOCK

Mrs J Maguire Michael Tabor A.P. O'Brien  
Drawn 1

126- Dark Blue  
JA Heffernan

The step up in trip could bring this one into his own here. Possibilities.  
Dylan Thomas (2 flat wins €126,822.00 - handicap Rating 101  
9.0 J Murtagh 7/16th of 7 to Palace Episode USA) 9.0 DONCASTER 22 OCT Group 1 1m HVY 8.11  
J. Murtagh 1/2nd to Blitzkrieg 8.11 Spaisbury 8 OCT 05 12m Group 3 1m Gd  
9.5 K Fallon won 3/4L 11/2 from Royal Tower 9.2 and Angel Voices 8.5 here 10 SEP 05 12m 7f Gd/1d 1  
min 27.4sec

- 1 Owner's colours, also known as silks
- 2 Name of horse
- 3 Owner
- 4 Jockey
- 5 Weight to be carried by horse as stated by race conditions and assigned by handicapper (stones and pounds)
- 6 Numbers indicate where horse finished in last 3 races
- 7 Recent form summary from last 3 races incl. Sp and handicap rating
- 8 Horses number to be used when making a bet
- 9 Year of foaling horses, colour, sex, name of sire & dam
- 10 Course & distance winner
- 11 Form content
- 12 Trainer
- 13 Draw position (Flat races)





# RACING STYLE

*for her.*

Horses and jockeys aren't the only ones to enjoy a bit of decoration at a race meeting; quite often the ladies' style stakes are just as high.

The first rule is to dress for daytime and don't show too much flesh. The best way to go when choosing a dress is with a style that suits your shape rather than something trendy, as nothing says fashion victim quite like a lady wearing something trendy that isn't right for her figure. Flirty dresses are best kept for warmer weather while wool can be more practical in cooler months. And as for shoes, heels are almost *de rigueur* at the races, but the long days can mean they're not practical so it pays to be sensible about your shoe selection. Select a pair that you have already broken in, or go for a slightly thicker heel, as sinking into the grass in your stilletoes is not a glamorous way to spend the day. Those in the know often take a pair of flats with them and change halfway through the day to save on their feet.

A hat or head piece of some kind is a must for the races, no-one ever wins best dressed without one. If you are not keen on wearing a hat, a simple fascinator with feathers can look amazing with the right outfit.

And, as old fashioned as it sounds, one of the most effective ways to look really well turned out at the races is to match your head piece with your bag and shoes. If you don't want to look too 'match-y match-y' then go for contrasts of a colour.

It is also vital to plan ahead and dress with the weather in mind. Take a jacket, a pashmina or at the very least a brolly because chances are you'll be outside for most of the day and you don't want to be caught shivering in your dress if the wind picks up or it rains.

# RACING STYLE

*for him.*

It's very easy for men to wear the same thing to the race track that they would to the office, but the most stylish gents take a more inspired approach to race wear - experimenting with colours and patterns in their suits and ties, or adding cool touches like cufflinks or hats. If you want to join the racing style set but need a few pointers, there are a couple of things you can try to spice up what you are wearing.

The cut of your suit or trousers can make all the difference to how together you look at the races. Tailored or bespoke suits are always the optimum choice, however a flattering suit can be found in many a department store or independent retailer. Try shapes that mould to the body without restricting your movement. Single breasted is generally the way to go, and remember, slim fitting trousers are only for the slim.

Footwear is vital as cheap or grubby shoes can ruin an outfit just as much as statement shoes can make one. But nothing too clown like - try to stay away from chunky platforms unless you really need those extra few centimetres. Real leather is definitely the way to go here, but whatever you choose, make sure they are clean and polished and that they look good with your clothes.

Don't be afraid to add colour in your cufflinks and tie clips, hat, belt and tie. You could even pin a flower to your buttonhole to add a touch of style to what you are wearing and you can always give it away to a lucky lady if you happen to meet one! Your tie should be an expression of you and it is a great place to use patterns and colour to draw the eye in.

And one final tip from the Little Black Book, try to avoid wearing black. Grey, navy, brown and beige are much better - and less formal - alternatives.



# BETTING

All the action before a race takes place in the Paddock. The runners are paraded around so that you can see for yourself which one you think is going to be a winner. There's no real guaranteed winning formula - a first timer could easily pick a whole host of winners and a seasoned racegoer pick none - that's the fun of it all! No one is to know until the race is run!

At Down Royal you have two options when it comes to placing a bet:

## TOTE

### WIN

Simply pick the horse you think will win the race.

### PLACE

A safer bet, you pick a horse you think will be placed.

- \* If there are 5-7 runners your horse can come 1st or 2nd.
- \* 8-15 runners and your horse can come 1st, 2nd or 3rd.
- \* And if there are 16 runners or more, we'll even pay if your horse comes 4th!

### EACH-WAY

This popular bet is a win and place bet combined.

### EXACTA

A little more challenging, you need to pick the horses you think will come 1st and 2nd in the correct order. You can

come 1st or 2nd in any order. Pick more than two horses, but the more you pick the more it costs.

### PLACEPOT

This is a fun, good value for money bet. Pick horses to be placed in all races 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. You can pick as many horses in each race as you want to increase your chances but the more you pick, the more it will cost.

### JACKPOT

The small stake, big win bet! Pick the winners of all of races 3, 4, 5 and 6. Pick as many horses in each race as you want to increase your chances, but the more you pick, the more it will cost.

**thetote.com**  
**1850 238 669**

## BOOKIES

This type of betting is also very straightforward. Having decided which horse you fancy, go into the betting ring and scrutinise the various bookmakers' boards. There will be differences in their prices so look for the one who's giving the best price on your horse. When you find one giving good odds declare your stake, the horse's name and the price on the board. You will then be issued with a ticket which you must present to collect the winnings. Your stake is also returned with your winnings.



# RACING SPEAK

**AMATEUR:** These jockeys mostly ride in bumper races. Their name is always prefixed by Mr, Ms or Mrs. They can claim a weight allowance of up to 7lbs depending on the number of winners they have ridden.

**APPRENTICE:** Young professional jockeys who can also claim a weight allowance of up to 10lbs, dependent on the same parameters as above.

**BANKER:** Slang word for a horse that is guaranteed to win; i.e. money in the bank. A mythological concept, preached by dedicated but misguided believers because there is no such thing. Anything can happen in horse racing. That's what makes it so exciting.

**BEST DRESSED LADY:** This competition is held on most major race days. Is sometimes as competitive as the action on the course. So ladies, if you want to show off that new outfit, go racing. There is often a separate competition for men.

**BEST TURNED OUT:** Not to be confused with the above. This is a prize given to the groom of the horse that is judged to look the best in the parade ring. Often a good pointer to a horse's chance.

**COLOURS (OF HORSES):** There are 5 colours. B=Bay, Bl=Black, Br=Brown, Ch=Chestnut, Gr=Grey.

**COLT:** Male horses aged up to 4 years old.

**DRAW:** Flat races are started from stalls and the draw number designates which stall each horse starts from. At some tracks certain positions are advantageous so check what draw your horse has.

**FILLY:** Female horse aged up to 4 years old.

**FURLONG:** 1/8 of a mile. Equal to 220 yards or 200 metres.

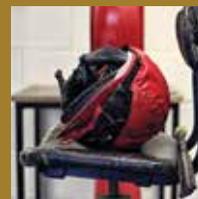
**GELDING:** A male horse that has been neutered because it is not required for breeding purposes. Most jump horses are geldings because they're seldom used as stallions. (There are plans to introduce it for some tipsters in the near future!)

**GREEN:** The colour of grass! But also used to describe a horse that is very inexperienced.

**LENGTH:** The approximate length of a horse: about 8 feet. Winning margins are measured in lengths, ranging from ½ a length to a distance (more than 20 lengths). Smaller winning margins are a short-head, head or a neck.

**MARE:** Female horse aged 5 years or over.

**MARE'S ALLOWANCE:** In non-handicap races fillies and mares get a weight allowance. 3lbs on the flat, 5lbs over jumps. (So much for equality of the sexes!)



**ODDS ON:** Sometimes confusing – a bookmaker price. Eg. At '6 to 4 on' you have to stake 6 to win 4. This will appear as 4/6 on bookmakers' boards but is referred to as 6 to 4 on.

**ON THE BRIDLE/ON THE BIT:** A horse going the pace seemingly without much effort or need for its jockey to push it. Can be deceptive as sometimes these horses will not find extra speed when their jockeys do push them.

**OFF THE BRIDLE:** A horse being pushed along by its jockey to keep up with the pace. Doesn't necessarily mean it is beaten as some horses are a bit lazy and need to be roused to get into gear.

**PHOTO FINISH:** In a close race, a photo finish is required to decide which horse has won.

**PULLING:** A horse pulling on the bit: i.e. wanting to go too fast too soon so the jockey tries to restrain it by pulling back on the reins leading to a tug of war effect. This is necessary because horses that go too fast early in a race are usually burnt out before the finish.

**STEWARDS:** Representatives of the Turf Club who regulate every race-meeting, maintaining fairness and integrity for everyone involved. There are also several stewards' secretaries to assist them, who are paid professionals.

**TIPS:** Information about a horse you sometimes get from people at the races. Usually comes from somebody who knows somebody else whose uncle's best friend knows the owner of a horse that should win. Of course, sometimes they win but bear in mind the 'banker' theory if you do get a tip.

**TURF CLUB:** The regulatory body in charge of the rules and regulations, maintaining the integrity of Irish racing.

**VALET:** People employed by jockeys to assist them in their preparations for each race, checking and cleaning equipment, etc.

**WEIGHT:** The amount the horse has to carry in the race. Shown in stones and pounds (lbs) on the racecard. There are 14 pounds in a stone.

**WEIGHT FOR AGE:** A weight allowance younger horses get from older ones.

**WEIGH OUT/WEIGH IN:** Weighing a jockey and saddle before and after a race to make sure the correct weight is carried.

**WINNER ALL RIGHT:** An announcement that confirms the result is official. You can now collect your winnings.

**WHOOHOOO/YEAAAHEY:** Exultant sound made when the horse you backed has won. You won't notice yourself doing it, but you will! Tune the frequency and decibel level to suit your vocal chords.

# RACING FIXTURES

2013 / 2014

Dress Code	Date	Raceday	Price	Time (Approx.)	Card Type
WCR	Wed 6th Feb	February Race Day	£10	1.05-4.05pm	NH
RFD	Sat 16th Mar	Daily Mirror St Patrick's Day Race Meeting	£10	2.00-5.00pm	NH
WWH	Mon 6th May	Daily Mirror May Day Meeting	£10	2.15-5.20pm	NH
WWH	Fri 31st May	Barclay Communications Race Evening	£10	5.30-8.30pm	Mixed
WWH	Fri 21st Jun	Summer Festival - Day 1	£10	6.00-9.00pm	NH
BDC	Sat 22nd Jun	Magners Ulster Derby - Summer Festival - Day 2	£15	2.20-5.20pm	Flat
RFD	Fri 26th July	Magners Race Evening	£10	5.45-8.45pm	Flat
RFD	Fri 30th Aug	Musgrave Retail Partners NI Race Day	£10	4.40-7.40pm	NH
BDC	Fri 13th Sep	Victoria Square Race Day	£10	4.00-7.00pm	Flat
WCR	Fri 1st Nov	Down Royal Festival of Racing - Day 1	£12	1.05-4.15pm	NH
BDC	Sat 2nd Nov	Down Royal Festival of Racing - Day 2	£15	12.50-4.15pm	NH
RFD	26th Dec	Boxing Day Race Meeting	£12	12.30-3.30pm	NH

BDC - Best Dressed Competition  
WCR - Warm Clothing Recommended  
RFD - Relaxed Family Day

UMN - Umbrellas Maybe Needed  
WWH - Worth Wearing a Hat

# RACECOURSE FACILITIES



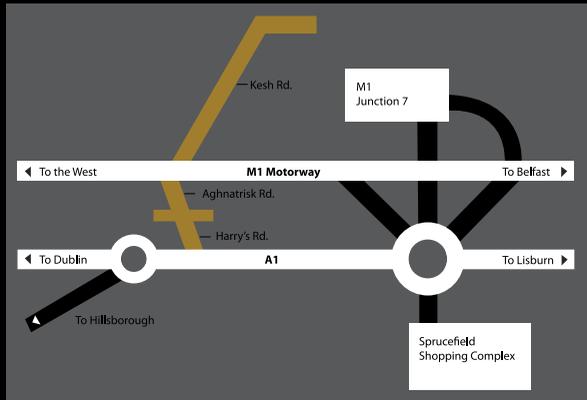
- 1 Turnstiles
- 2 Racecards
- 3 Hospitality
- 4 Beef or Salmon Suite
- 5 Kauto Star Suite
- 6 Private Suites
- 7 Toilets
- 8 Paddock
- 9 Champagne Bar (Festival Only)
- 10 Grandstand
- 11 Grandstand Bar
- 12 Tote
- 13 Moscow Flyer Suite & Private Boxes
- 14 Bookmakers' rings
- 15 Giant Screen
- 16 Dark Horse Café, Governor's Stand and Freemans Lounge
- 17 First Aid Room
- 18 Weigh Room
- 19 Secretary's Office
- 20 Members, Owners' & Trainers' Lounge

Food outlets include: The Dark Horse at Down Royal wine bar and café with seasonal fayre, seating, hot and cold food. Hot Beef Roll stand, fast food outlet in the main public bar, food court with seating and coffee trailer beside the Paddock.

Go to [www.downroyal.com](http://www.downroyal.com) to book tickets or call +44 (0)28 9262 1256

For more information on racing throughout Ireland go to [www.goracing.ie](http://www.goracing.ie) or contact Horse Racing Ireland Ballymany, The Curragh, County Kildare, Ireland. Tel: +353 (0)45 455 455.

# HOW TO GET THERE



## FROM BELFAST

M1 to The South and Dublin exit (Junction 8). At roundabout take first exit A101 past B&Q and Sainsburys on left hand side. At roundabout junction with A1 take second exit towards The South and Dublin. Travel up A1 Dual Carriageway to top of hill. Turn right across carriageway (to follow brown heritage signs) before the Hillsborough roundabout. Continue down Harry's Road to crossroads and go straight through. Continue on the Aghnatrisk Road to next crossroads and turn right onto Kesh Road. Racecourse is about 2 miles further down the road.

## FROM DUBLIN

Road to Newry (N1 South of the border) then onto the A1 Dual Carriageway to Belfast. At Hillsborough Roundabout continue as for Belfast and take the first turn to left on Harry's Road and directions are same as above.





DOWN ROYAL  
*Racecourse* EST'D 1685