

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
THE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
CHANCERY DIVISION
BETWEEN:**

JOCKEY CLUB RACECOURSES LIMITED

Applicant

-and-

- (1) DANIEL FRANK PETER KIDBY**
- (2) PERSONS UNKNOWN INTENTIONALLY OBSTRUCTING THE 7 HORSE RACES ON 2 JUNE 2023 AND 8 HORSE RACES ON 3 JUNE 2023 AT THE LOCATION DESCRIBED BELOW AS THE "EPSOM RACECOURSE"**
- (3) PERSONS UNKNOWN ENTERING THE AREA DESCRIBED BELOW AS THE "RACE TRACK" EXCEPT AT SPECIFIC "CROSSING POINTS" AND WITH "AUTHORISATION", AS DESCRIBED BELOW**
- (4) PERSONS UNKNOWN ENTERING AND/OR REMAINING ON ANY "CROSSING POINTS" WITHOUT "AUTHORISATION", AS DESCRIBED BELOW**
- (5) PERSONS UNKNOWN INTENTIONALLY CAUSING ANY OBJECT TO ENTER ONTO THE "RACE TRACK" WITHOUT "AUTHORISATION", AS DESCRIBED BELOW**
- (6) PERSONS UNKNOWN ENTERING THE AREA DESCRIBED BELOW AS THE "PARADE RING" WITHOUT "AUTHORISATION", AS DESCRIBED BELOW**
- (7) PERSONS UNKNOWN ENTERING AND/OR REMAINING ON ANY PART OF THE AREAS DESCRIBED BELOW AS THE "HORSES' ROUTE TO THE PARADE RING" AND/OR THE "HORSES' ROUTE TO THE RACE START", WITHOUT "AUTHORISATION", AS DESCRIBED BELOW**
- (8) PERSONS UNKNOWN INTENTIONALLY ENDANGERING ANY PERSON AT THE LOCATION DESCRIBED BELOW AS THE "EPSOM RACECOURSE"**

Respondents

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF NEVIN TRUESDALE

I, **NEVIN TRUESDALE**, of the Jockey Club Racecourses Limited, Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, England, KT10 9AJ, **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I am the Group Chief Executive of the Applicant. I have held this position since the end of August 2020.
2. I joined the Applicant in 2013 as Group Finance Director from Centrica, where I was Finance Director for British Gas's Residential Energy division. I previously worked at The AA and Ernst & Young and I am a graduate of the University of Cambridge. I am a qualified Chartered Accountant since 1998 and a Full Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.
3. I report to the Board (in the Applicant's case, known as the 'Stewards') and have overall management responsibility for the business of the Applicant, which includes all aspects of the Group's activity including the racecourses operations, gallops, national stud and racing welfare. I am also a non-executive director of Sports United Against Dementia, a charity with senior leaders across the sports industry using their contacts and influence to find a cure and fundraise for dementia.
4. I am duly authorised by the Applicant to make this statement on its behalf and in support of its application for injunctive relief.
5. Unless stated otherwise, the facts and matters set out in this Witness Statement are within my knowledge and are true. Where any facts or matters are not within my own knowledge, the source of the information is identified and those facts and matters are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
6. There is now produced and shown to me marked exhibit "NT1" a bundle of true copy documents to which I refer in the course of this Witness Statement. Save where stated otherwise, references below to page numbers are to the pages of exhibit "NT1".

The Parties

7. The Jockey Club's (the Applicant's parent company incorporated by Royal Charter) existence dates back to the Eighteenth Century. The Applicant is now the largest commercial horseracing organisation in the United Kingdom. It owns and operates a number of well-known racecourses, as well as owning and exploiting the commercial

rights associated with those courses and the races which they host. It is governed by a Royal Charter and all of its profits are recycled into the sport. The Applicant runs over 340 racing fixtures a year across 15 different racecourses. Queen Elizabeth II was a patron of both the Applicant and the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association.

8. The Applicant is a limited liability company registered in England and Wales with the number 02909409 and whose registered address is Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, England, KT10 9AJ. It has at all material times carried on the business of owning and operating horse racecourses, organising race meetings at such racecourses, owning and exploiting the commercial rights associated with such meetings and racecourses and related activities.
9. The Applicant employs more than 600 permanent staff and more than 3,000 people on an event basis throughout the UK across a diverse range of roles.
10. The known Defendant/Respondent is the co-founder of Animal Rising¹, an animal activist movement based in the United Kingdom (“AR”). It is my understanding that AR is not a corporate entity and that it has no particular hierarchical structure. Rather, AR is a collection of persons who all share a common purpose. I know very little of the other members of AR, or how many there may be, save that: i) the group has large followings on each of its social media accounts (65.5 thousand followers on Instagram, and 23.7 thousand on Twitter; and ii) it has been suggested to the Applicant that the group has over 1,000 active participants².
11. At the time of signing this witness statement, it appears that AR recruits new members via its website, <https://www.animalrising.org/>, where it encourages people to: i) join weekly talks, via Zoom, to learn about the group; ii) attend training courses run by AR, to engage in ‘*non-violence training*’; and iii) sign-up for its local groups. In respect of the latter, those interested are asked to complete a registration form that asks for, *inter alia*, the person’s name, their email address, their mobile phone number and, particularly relevant for the purposes of this application, whether the interested individual would ‘*like to disrupt the races at Epsom Derby (03/06)*’.³ Further, at the time of writing this, there is a banner at the top of the AR website stating “TAKE ACTION FOR ALL LIFE: DISRUPT THE EPSOM DERBY. JOIN US ON THE TRACKS”. Clicking on the link behind the wording “JOIN US ON THE TRACKS” takes one to a form⁴ which states *inter alia* “Join us on the tracks of the Epsom Derby! We’ll be disrupting the Epsom Derby to continue the conversation we started at the Grand

¹ <https://www.instagram.com/p/CrJfJV9Klo7/> - page 1 of NT1

² <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12106435/Militant-animal-rights-activists-vow-sabotage-Epsom-Derby-target-unpoliceable-racetrack.html> - page 2 of NT1

³ <https://www.animalrising.org/get-involved> pages 3 - 8 of NT1

⁴ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvckRfv8DggBBphqtMuh98Y2X_UKU6_Nwohz9jLS1uWJm1RA/viewform pages 9-11 of NT1

National. Be one of those to make history and achieve meaningful change for all life, join us on the tracks.”

12. What is known about AR and the known Respondent is that they are actively seeking to disrupt horseracing. This is abundantly clear from the website and social media per the above and:
 - 12.1 the actions of AR and the known Respondent at Aintree Racecourse (operated by the Applicant) ahead of the 2023 Grand National, which took place on Saturday 15 April 2023 (the “**2023 Grand National**”). I briefly address the incidents that took place at the 2023 Grand National at paragraphs 38 to 41 below, but a more detailed account is provided in the witness statement of Dickon White, the Applicant’s Aintree and North-West Regional Director, who manages Aintree Racecourse and who witnessed the actions of AR and the known Respondent first hand;
 - 12.2 the meetings and conversations the Applicant’s representatives have had with the known Respondent and members of AR, during which it has been made clear to the Applicant that AR’s intention is to disrupt horseracing and to prevent races from going ahead, in particular a forthcoming race at Epsom Downs Racecourse, Tattenham Corner Rd, Epsom KT18 5LQ (the “**Racecourse**”). I briefly address these communications at paragraphs 49 to 51 below, but a more detailed account is provided in the witness statement of Amy Starkey, the Applicant’s Regional Director – East, who has had several interactions with the known Respondent and AR; and
 - 12.3 A Mail on Sunday article dated 21 May 2023 (page 2 of NT1), amongst other things, reports that AR will try to break on to the Racetrack in an attempt to delay or cancel the Derby.

The Racecourse and Derby Festival

13. In 1994, the Applicant purchased the Racecourse. The key race in the calendar at the Racecourse is the Derby (also known as the Epsom Derby) which takes place on the first Saturday of June each year (the “**Derby**”). The Derby was first run in 1780 and is widely regarded as the World’s most prestigious flat horse race.
14. It is known as the People’s Race as it embraces people from all walks of life offering free access to the Derby from the Epsom Downs. Queen Elizabeth II rarely missed a Derby.
15. The Friday before the Derby is known as Ladies Day and features the Oaks, another of Britain’s five classic races. Both days are known together as the “**Derby Festival**”.

16. This year’s Derby Festival will take place between Friday 2 and Saturday 3 June 2023 (the “**2023 Derby Festival**”), with the Derby scheduled to commence at 1:30pm on the second day (the “**2023 Derby**”).
17. Approximately 100,000 people attend the Derby, with millions watching around the world including in Japan, Hong Kong and Australia.

The Racecourse – Proprietorship

18. An ownership plan is at page 12 of NT1, which is summarised as:

| Land Description | Freehold / Leasehold | Title number |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Land being Epsom Racecourse, Epsom Downs (but excluding any roads) | Leasehold | SY645094 |
| Land being Epsom Downs and land lying to the South of Epsom Downs, Epsom | Freehold | SY229932 |
| Land adjoining Golf Cottage, 84 Longdown Lane South, Epsom KT17 4JR | Freehold | SY691867 |
| Land being Derby Stables, Derby Stables Road, Epsom | Freehold | SY640786 |
| Land known as the Paddock, Langley Vale Road, Epsom KT18 5NQ | Freehold | SY251358 |
| Land at Derby Arms Paddock, Downs Road, Epsom | Freehold | SY840946 |

19. While the Applicant owns the Racecourse, the land within it and around it is managed by the ‘Conservators’ pursuant to the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984 (the “**1984 Act**”) and Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators Byelaws (the “**Byelaws**”). The Conservators were incorporated by the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1936 with powers to regulate, preserve and control the Epsom Downs and Walton Downs. There are ten Conservators of which the Applicant holds three places.

The Racecourse – Geography

20. The Racecourse is split into various zones. The racetrack itself is unlike other racetracks as it is a horseshoe shape. The start line for the Derby is at the southwest corner, it then extends eastwards before turning northwards and finally westwards to the final straight in front of the grandstands. The racetrack is approximately 1 mile and 4 furlongs in length (the “**Racetrack**”).

21. The area within the horseshoe is referred to as the “**Hill**”. When the Derby Festival is on, the Hill is split into various sections including areas for parking, a funfair, a heliport and various enclosures.
22. Six aerial images are at pages 13 to 18 of NT1. Page 15 of NT1 shows the position of the stables marked at point ‘a’. This is where the horses will start their ‘journey’ on their race day. They will then proceed along the yellow marked route, which is a dedicated ‘horse walk’ to point ‘b’ which is the Parade Ring. All horses entered for a particular race tend to go at the same time albeit in a “train” fashion. Occasionally, if requested by their trainer a horse may come later or earlier than the main bunch. The horses walk this journey, controlled by their handlers (stable staff), which is not always an easy task as the horses are highly strung athletes and are keen to race. The horses walk around the Parade Ring and wait for the jockeys to enter it. Once inside, the jockeys mount their horse and continue to circle in the Parade Ring for normally around 10 – 20 minutes. At page 17 of NT1 the next part of the journey, which is from the Parade Ring to the Racetrack is marked in yellow with point ‘c’ indicating the horse’s entrance to the Racecourse.
23. When the horses leave the Parade Ring they cross over a short area of rubber horsewalk. Most of this pathway has fencing installed on either side. There are gaps in the fencing, such that when the horses are not walking through this area, spectators can pass through. When the horses are brought out, the pathway is closed off entirely by stewards holding up rope. At this point, no spectators are allowed within the horses’ pathway. This is important to protect the spectators from the horses (which are at this point, ready to race), and the horses from the spectators (for example, from contamination risks if spectators try to touch the horses). The horses then go onto the grass “shute” area that is protected by crowd barriers on either side, before entering the Racetrack itself. Aerial photographs of this are at pages 16 and 18 of NT1.
24. Once on the Racetrack the horses canter to the Derby start, which is marked at ‘d’ on the aerial photograph at page 13 of NT1. The aerial photograph at page 14 depicts crossing points in blue. Spectators are only allowed to pass over these crossing points when given special authorisation to do so by stewards or representatives of the Jockey Club, for example, for limited periods between races. Ensuring that no one is on these crossing points other than at carefully prescribed times, is crucial for the safety of all those involved in the event, not least spectators, horses and jockeys.
25. The highest point of the Racetrack is at the top of end of the Racetrack, around the halfway point. The climb from the start of the Derby to the highest point is equivalent to the height of Nelson’s Column, having reached this point the Racetrack then descends steeply around to the finish line. This, coupled with the geography of the Racecourse more generally, means that there are numerous points where it is

impossible to see all of the Racetrack. This presents a particular, additional danger for those intent on coming onto the Racetrack as it may be impossible for them to tell whether the race is underway. For example, if someone was stood on the far side of the grandstand, beyond the winning post, you would not be able to see the start.

26. On 4 June 1913, Emily Davison tragically lost her life at the Derby. She had entered the Racetrack at Tattenham Corner after some horses had already passed. Tattenham Corner is a blind corner, on a camber, and, therefore, of particular danger for those who enter the Racetrack at that point.
27. Unlike other racecourses, it is possible for the public, with no requirement for a ticket, to enter the Hill and other areas to watch the Derby. The Racecourse is notable in this regard and poses a unique set of challenges come the Derby Festival.

Horse Welfare

28. Equine safety is fundamental to everything the Applicant does and to the sport of horse racing. Everyone involved in horse racing loves horses and wants to see them properly looked after.
29. British Racing is one of the world's best regulated animal activities, with more than 6,000 people employed to look after the 15,000 horses in training, providing them with a level of care and a quality of life that is virtually unsurpassed by any other domesticated animal.
30. The Applicant continues to invest in its facilities to make sure that it offers equine participants the best possible experience. This ranges from investments in safe racing surfaces and cushioned horsewalks to state-of-the-art misting fans and washdown areas. Every aspect of care and safety is considered. The racing industry has heavily invested in statistical analysis of falls and fatalities in order that we can understand where the risks are and improve safety. 99.5% of horses that race finish safely.
31. Horse racing is usually only part of the full life of a thoroughbred racehorse. The Applicant supports Retraining of Racehorses (British horseracing's official charity for the welfare of former racehorses). There are currently more than 10,000 horses registered with Retraining of Racehorses as active in other equine disciplines outside of racing, including Polo, Showing, Dressage and Eventing, as well as those horses engaged in hacking and exercising.
32. The British Horseracing Authority (the "**BHA**") is the Government-recognised body responsible for the independent regulation of horseracing and welfare of participants is an important part of its work. In addition to the BHA, the Applicant works with an

independent board (the Horse Welfare Board) that advise and lobby on further improvements to equine welfare, holding the industry to account.

33. None of the fixtures held annually in Britain could take place unless key BHA welfare criteria have been satisfied. From a purely commercial point of view, we would not have a business if safety standards were not being met.
34. In relation to the Derby specifically, as I understand from discussing with Amy Starkey the Managing Director of Applicant, neither I nor Amy (during our combined 28 years of employment with the Applicant) has ever been questioned by the media in relation to the safety of horses at the Derby. It is a flat race and I understand that no horse has died at the Derby since 2006 – 16 runnings. On the day of the Derby, there is a full veterinary team on site, provided by the Racecourse. Further, the BHA also provide their own veterinary team. These teams are present at every point during the horses' journey and remain in close proximity throughout. They provide a high level of veterinary care.

Incidents Involving the Known Respondent and/or AR

2022 Derby

35. The 2022 running of the Derby took place on 2 June 2022 (the “**2022 Derby**”).
36. Ahead of the 2022 Derby, approximately six protestors affiliated to the activist group ‘Animal Rebellion’ evaded the Racecourse’s security and ran on to the Racetrack.⁵ According to Animal Rebellion’s website, the purpose was to ‘*disrupt the race.*’ The group also called for ‘*an end to horseracing*’⁶ (the “**2022 Derby Incident**”).
37. It is my understanding that Animal Rebellion and AR are one and the same organisation, and that Animal Rebellion simply changed its name to AR in or around in April 2023.⁷

Aintree Racecourse

38. The Applicant also owns Aintree Racecourse, which is located on Ormskirk Rd, Aintree, Liverpool L9 5AS (“**Aintree**”). I was at Aintree on Saturday 15 April 2023, where the Grand National was scheduled to commence at 5:15pm (the “**2023 Grand National**”). Shortly prior to the commencement of the race, however, the following incidents occurred:

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/04/animal-rebellion-protesters-run-on-to-track-before-epsom-derby> pages 19 to 20 of NT1

⁶ <https://animalrebellion.org/protestors-disrupt-epsom-derby-in-a-call-for-an-end-to-animal-exploitation/> pages 21 to 24 of NT1

⁷ <https://plantbasednews.org/news/activism/animal-rebellion-rebrand-rising/> pages 25 to 28 of NT1

- 38.1 approximately 100 protestors affiliated with AR (the “**AR Protestors**”) began scaling the 10ft fence that surrounds Aintree’s perimeter (“the “**Perimeter Fence**”). The AR Protestors used ladders and various other tools in an attempt to gain access to the racecourse. For the avoidance of doubt, the AR Protestors had no legal right to access the Applicant’s property. The police and members of Aintree’s security team were engaged in an ongoing battle with the AR Protestors for a substantial period of time. Despite this, several of the AR Protestors were successful in gaining access to the racecourse and managed to get onto the racetrack (the “**First Unauthorised Access**”); and
- 38.2 a further three AR Protestors were able to gain access to the racetrack via the Embankment Enclosure, which contains one of the main spectator stands at Aintree. It is my understanding that these individuals had purchased tickets for the 2023 Grand National. Prior to the commencement of the race, they had accessed the racetrack by running underneath the fencing that skirts its edge. It is my understanding that these individuals were attempting to reach the second fence, over which the horses jump, in order to glue themselves to the fence (the “**Second Unauthorised Access**”). For the avoidance of doubt, the AR Protestors had no legal right to access the racetrack.
39. As a result of the First and Second Unauthorised Accesses (together the “**Aintree Incidents**”), the start of the 2023 Grand National was delayed. The consequences of the AR Protestors’ actions, and further information on what occurred, are set out in Mr. White’s witness statement that supports this application.
40. I am confident that those involved in the Aintree Incidents were affiliated with AR as:
- 40.1 several of the AR Protestors were wearing AR t-shirts; and
- 40.2 AR has widely publicised its involvement in disrupting the 2023 Grand National.⁸
41. In respect of the known Respondent, AR’s account on Instagram posted a video of the known Respondent on 17 April 2023 with the message: ‘*Hear from Animal Rising co-founder Dan Kidby about his actions on the track at Aintree...*’⁹ In the video, the known Respondent states: “*I was the person in the grey suit who made his way onto the tracks to try and stop the Grand National from happening.*” This suggests that the known Respondent was involved in the Second Unauthorised Access.

Ayr Racecourse

42. On Saturday 22 April 2023, Ayr Racecourse, which is located on Whitletts Rd, Ayr KA8 0JE (“**Ayr Racecourse**”) and is not owned by the Applicant, hosted the

⁸ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11976413/Grand-National-DELAYED-Animal-Rising-protesters-storm-Aintree-course.html> page 29 to 57 of NT1

⁹ <https://www.instagram.com/p/CrJfJV9Klo7/> page 1 of NT1

annual Scottish Grand National. According to reports in the press, protestors affiliated to AR stormed onto the racetrack, without permission, in an attempt to stop the race from happening¹⁰ (the “**Ayr Incident**”).

43. The same day, AR’s account on Instagram posted a video on their actions at Ayr Racecourse with the message: ‘*Supporters of Animal Rising have made it onto the track at the Scottish Grand National. They are trying to attach themselves to jumps and gates to remain in position, in an attempt to cancel the big race. Last week at Aintree was just the beginning. The Summer of Animal Rising is upon us.*’¹¹

44. I do not know whether the known Respondent was involved in the Ayr Incident.

Doncaster Racecourse

45. On Saturday 6 May 2023, Doncaster Racecourse, which is located on Bawtry Rd, Doncaster DN2 6BB (“**Doncaster Racecourse**”) and is not owned by the Applicant, hosted a racing fixture. The final race of the day was scheduled to commence at 7:55pm but it was delayed after three protestors were spotted sitting in the middle of the racetrack (the “**Doncaster Incident**”).¹²

46. Later that day, AR’s posted an article on its website titled: ‘*Coronation Royal Race Evening Disrupted At Doncaster: Animal Rising Occupy Track.*’¹³

47. I do not know whether the known Respondent was involved in the Doncaster Incident.

The Incidents

48. The 2022 Derby, Aintree, Ayr and Doncaster Incidents show a clear and consistent pattern of behaviour and intent on AR’s part. Further, there has been nothing to suggest that AR’s campaign against racecourses is over. Rather, AR’s website lists three ‘*streams of actions... that will continue throughout the summer.*’ The second of those ‘streams’ is: ‘*Mass trespass onto animal racing events.*’¹⁴

Communications Between the Applicant, the Known Respondent and AR

49. It is my unequivocal view that the known Respondent and AR are seeking to disrupt – and, ultimately, stop – the 2023 Derby. This is based on multiple factors:

¹⁰ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12002363/Animal-protesters-strike-rush-racecourse-bid-delay-Scottish-Grand-National.html> page 58 to 65 of NT1

¹¹ <https://www.instagram.com/p/CrV4WMFKFj0/> page 66 to 67 of NT1

¹² <https://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/horse-racing/animal-rights-protest-doncaster-races-29914141> page 68 to 70 of NT1

¹³ <https://www.animalrising.org/post/coronation-royal-race-evening-disrupted-at-doncaster-animal-rising-occupy-track> page 71 to 73 of NT1

¹⁴ <https://www.animalrising.org/how-we-achieve-change> page 74 of NT1

- 49.1 AR have clearly set out their intentions on their own website. The heading on their landing page states: *'Take action for all life: disrupt the Epsom Derby - join us on the tracks.'* In addition, it says: *'Join us on the tracks of the Epsom Derby! We'll be disrupting the Epsom Derby to continue the conversation we started at the Grand National'*¹⁵; and
- 49.2 as is set out in detail in Ms. Starkey's witness statement, during a meeting on 11 May 2023 between AR, including the known Respondent, and the Applicant's representatives, including Ms. Starkey (the "**11 May Meeting**"), the known Respondent set out AR's clear intent that they would disrupt the 2023 Derby in an attempt to stop the race from happening.
50. As detailed in Ms. Starkey's statement, the Applicant made every effort to dissuade the known Respondent and AR from pursuing such action, including:
- 50.1 offering them the opportunity to have a dedicated position on-site to hold a peaceful protest; and
- 50.2 describing the potential dangers of their proposed disruption, not just to the horses, but to the jockeys and the general public.
51. Notwithstanding this, it is my understanding that the known Respondent and AR remain committed to their plans to disrupt the 2023 Derby.

The Impact of the known Respondent and AR's Actions and Threatened Actions on the Derby and Beyond

52. The impact of the known Respondent and AR's actions and threatened actions are significant and span a number of issues and stakeholders as I set out below.

The Horses and the Jockeys

53. The impact of the threatened action on the horses and jockeys is profound. In this regard I refer the Court to the first witness statement of Simon Knapp, the Senior Veterinary Officer for London Region Races, at the Applicant.

The Breeding Industry

54. It is no exaggeration to say that the Derby defines the breed, it is not just about the racing. It is only 3-year-old colts that race in the Derby and the majority of the leading horses are often retired to stud after that season. If the Derby was cancelled the effect not just on those horses, but on the whole breeding and racing industry would be very

¹⁵ <https://www.animalrising.org/> page 76 to 79 of NT1

significant. The racing industry was concerned with this issue when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

The Protestors

55. As I have set out above in relation to Ms. Davison, the protestors are putting themselves at significant risk. In addition to the risk of entering the Racetrack there is also the risk of violence to the protestors should sections of the crowd become hostile to the protestors' actions.

The Public

56. Approximately 100,000 people attend the Derby Festival. They attend knowing it is safe and entertaining. Should the race be delayed, cancelled, or its safety threatened by protestors, then there are increased risks relating to crowd control and anti-social behaviour.

Additional Event Costs and Organisation

57. I have seen the witness statement of Mr. White that refers to the additional measures that were put in place at Aintree in respect of the 2023 Grand National in response to the threat from AR. They include additional security personnel and dogs, at the cost of approximately £70,000 plus VAT.
58. Additional security measures that the Applicant is putting in place for the 2023 Derby Festival, will cost around £150,000.
59. In addition to the direct, additional costs of putting on the 2023 Derby Festival, significant organisational and management time has already been (and will continue to be) diverted to operational matters in order to minimise the threat posed by AR. This includes additional discussions with: i) safety personnel; ii) security personnel; iii) the police; iv) the Applicant's staff; v) the Applicant's commercial partners; vi) the media; vii) suppliers to the Racecourse; viii) jockeys, trainers and owners; ix) the Local Authority; x) the Conservators; and xi) the Applicant's legal team.
60. The Applicant has been in constant dialogue with Surrey Police surrounding the 2023 Derby Festival. The Police have indicated their support for this injunctive action.

Wider Impact on the Applicant's Business – Management Time

61. It is not just in relation to the 2023 Derby Festival that the Applicant is having to divert management time away from the normal running of the business of the Applicant. It is wider and includes speaking to all of those listed at paragraph 59 above in relation to

all future events, and the future of horse racing generally. This is having a direct effect on the commerciality of the Applicant.

Wider Impact on the Applicant's Business – Commercial

62. The commercial success and longevity of the Applicant, and horse racing more widely, directly depends on the revenue from sponsors, audiences and broadcast partners and all commercial activity.
63. As set out above, the Applicant invests significantly in equine welfare, which is critical to its reputation and therefore commercial longevity. The actions of AR threaten to damage that reputation.
64. If horse racing is no longer seen as safe and entertaining, then people may no longer pay to watch it, either in person or broadcast. This would reduce gate receipts as well as TV broadcast fees.
65. Further, disruption to events has the potential to cause significant reputational harm to the Applicant and also to racing more widely. Approximately 85,000 people are directly and indirectly employed in horse racing in Britain. The industry contributes approximately £4.1 billion to the economy in the United Kingdom.
66. As a result of the Aintree Incidents and the 11 May Meeting, the Applicant engaged Pinsent Masons LLP (“PM”) and Counsel.
67. PM has obtained witness statements from Mr. White and Ms. Starkey, which records their respective experiences of the Aintree Incidents and the various meetings and discussions that have taken place with the known Respondent and AR, including the 11 May Meeting.

Service of Documents

68. The Applicant also seeks an order against persons unknown. As I have already said, other than Daniel Kidby, the Applicant does not know the identities of the individuals who affiliate themselves with AR, or who intend to carry out the specific acts the Applicant seeks to prevent from happening.
69. On this basis, it is not possible for the Applicant personally to serve the relevant documents on the Second to Eighth Defendants (i.e. the Persons Unknown), and the Applicant has made an application for permission to serve those Defendants by alternative means.

70. The Applicant will, before 4pm on Monday 22 May 2023, carry out the following steps in respect of the Claim Form, Application Notice and the Witness Statements on which it relies for this application (“**the Claim Documents**”):
- 70.1 post the Claim Documents on its website and the website for the Derby Festival;
- 70.2 affix copies of the Claim Documents in transparent containers in at least 2 conspicuous locations at each public entrance to the Epsom Racecourse; and
- 70.3 provide digital copies to AR by email.
71. If an order granting an injunction is made by the Court, the Applicant will carry out the same steps in relation to the Order, to bring it to the attention of the Second to Eighth Defendants as Persons Unknown.
72. The Applicant believes that the Claim Documents and Order, if an injunction were granted, would be likely to come to the attention of the individuals who affiliate themselves with AR and/or who intend to carry out the acts the Applicant seeks to injunct, in view of the following:
- 72.1 As noted above, AR has a strong online presence. The Applicant knows that it has a mailing list by which it contacts individuals who are interested in being involved with its protests. The Applicant also knows that AR publicises its plans widely on social media and across traditional media channels. As such, The Applicant considers it very likely that, once it sends the relevant documents to AR by email, that AR will disseminate it widely, reaching those who intend to be involved in the planned Disruption.
- 72.2 The Applicant also considers that individuals intending to take part in protest action are likely to visit the Applicant’s website and/or the Epsom Racecourse as part of their planning of the protest action, in the run up to the race days. As such, the Applicant considers it likely that the relevant documents will come to the attention of the Second to Eighth Defendants in these ways.
- 72.3 Those attending the Epsom Racecourse on the days in question can see the relevant documents affixed to the public entrances. Accordingly, the Applicant considers it likely that the Application and the Order (if granted) will be brought to the attention of the relevant Persons Unknown, before they proceed to commit any of the acts which the Applicant seeks to injunct.
73. In respect of the First Defendant, the Applicant will effect personal service on him in the usual manner, and also intends to notify him of the Application and of any Order granted, by email.

Cross-undertaking

74. Should the Court deem it necessary then I can confirm that the Applicant is willing to give a cross-undertaking in damages in respect of any losses which may be suffered by the Respondents should the Court subsequently find that the proposed Order should not have been made.
75. Exhibited at page 80 to 118 of NT1 is a copy of the Applicant's most recent accounts filed at Companies House.

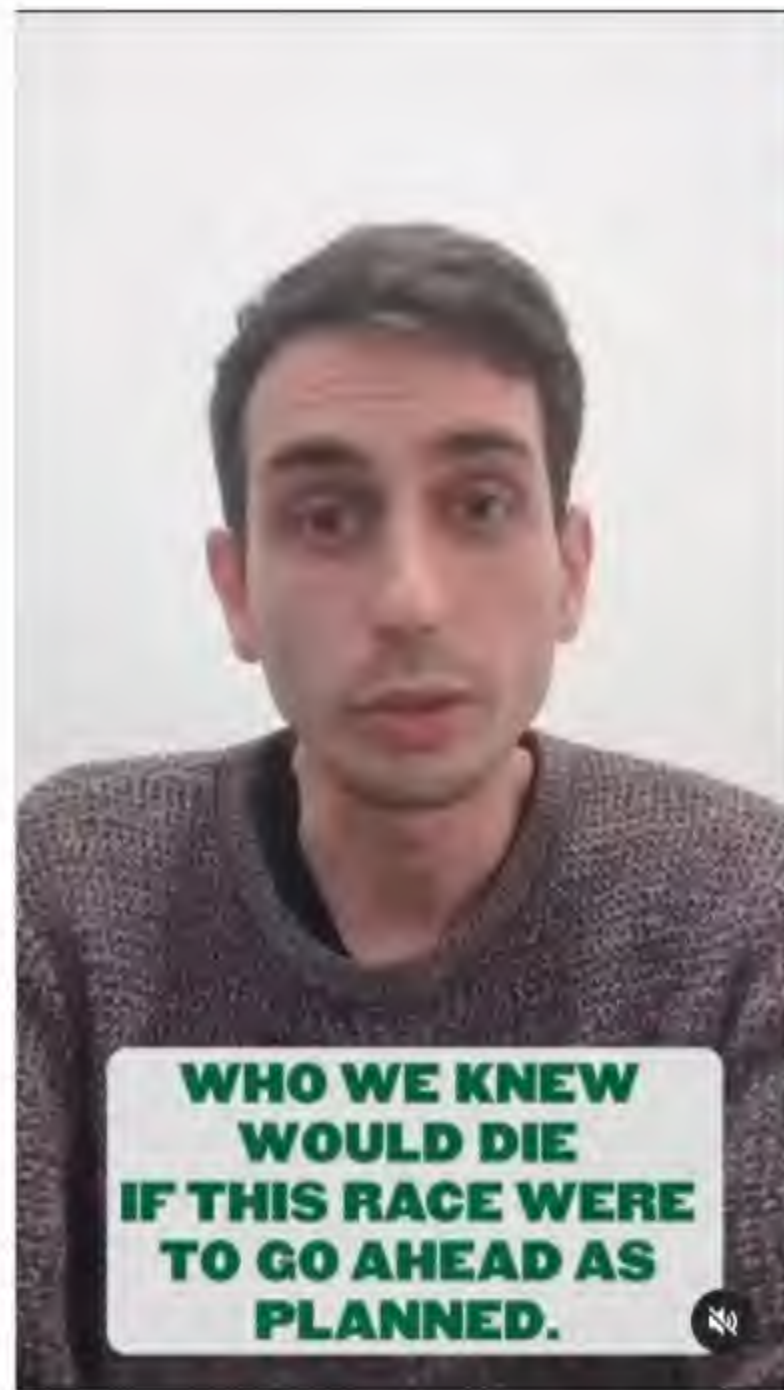
Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed 

NEVIN TRUESDALE

Dated: 22/5/23



animal.rising • Follow

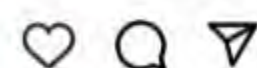
Original audio



Hear from Animal Rising co-founder Dan Kidby about his actions on the track at Aintree. He extends an invitation to Sandy Thomson - the trainer of horse Hill Sixteen, who tragically died on the first hurdle during the Grand National - for an open and honest conversation about Saturday's events. It's time we reach common ground on our love for other animals, so that we can repair the broken relationship we currently have with animals and the natural world.

Help us to continue to take action to protect animals by donating to support the Summer of Animal Rising.

Sign and share our petition to make sure no more horses are killed on the

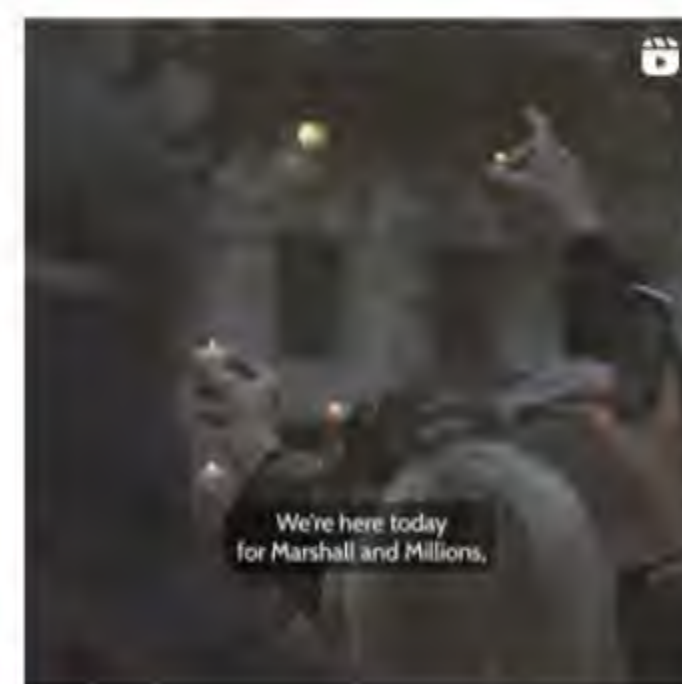
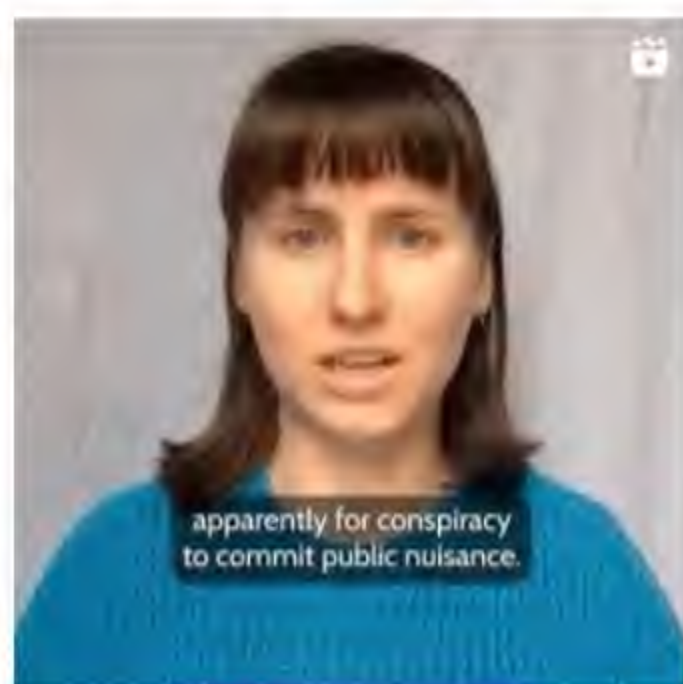


1,669 likes

APRIL 17

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More posts from animal.rising



See more posts

By Sabrina Miller

MILITANT animal rights activists who tried to halt the Grand National are now planning to sabotage the Epsom Derby, The Mail on Sunday can reveal.

Campaigners from Animal Rising boasted that they are planning to use glue and 'lock-on devices' to secure themselves to the perimeter fencing at the famous racecourse on June 3.

The organisers said they have already conducted secret reconnaissance missions of the track to pinpoint security weaknesses. They boasted that Epsom is 'almost unpoliceable' because some sections of the course are freely open and accessible to members of the general public.

Like at Aintree, some campaigners will attend a legal demonstration outside the venue, while a smaller group will try to break on to the track in an attempt to 'delay or cancel' the race.

Animal Rising spokesman Nathan McGovern said: 'We are just over two weeks away from the Epsom Derby and we have already made it very public that we intend to cause disruption. Epsom racetrack is very vast – I think it is the biggest perimeter that they

'Their actions could threaten the lives of the horses'

have – and there is a non-ticketed public access area, too.

'Police and The Jockey Club are very worried about their ability to secure the course and prevent disruption from happening. You could say they have almost admitted that the racetrack is unpoliceable.'

The group is encouraging people to sign up for non-violent direct action training days around the country ahead of the spectacle, one of the biggest race days of the year, which will be watched by thousands.

Six female Animal Rising protesters, donning sashes with the words 'Animal Justice', were arrested after they clambered on to the Epsom Derby racetrack last year.

But Animal Rising predicts that 'up to 1,000' protesters will attend the race this year and said: 'We'll be disrupting the Epsom Derby to continue the conversation we started at the Grand National.'

The vegan group advertised the protest as a 'day of family fun, free from animal exploitation' and are organising activities including an eggless spoon race.

This latest stunt comes after Animal Rising's plot to wreck the Grand National was sensationally foiled by an undercover reporter at The Mail on Sunday.

Police arrested 118 protesters after dozens of activists tried to storm the security fences and stop the world-famous event from taking place.

Remarkably, the race was delayed by just 14 minutes after security guards, who had been forewarned by this newspaper, acted swiftly to



HAULED AWAY: Police drag protesters from the racecourse at last year's Epsom Derby, after they clambered on to the track. Six women were arrested

After failed bid to ruin Grand National... Animal rights mob boasts: We have got hundreds ready to sabotage the Derby



FANS: Mike and Zara Tindall at Epsom last year. Right: Our story last month

remove protesters from the track. Animal Rising has warned it plans to disrupt horse races throughout the summer, which could include targeting the first Royal Ascot of King Charles's reign.

Tim Bonner, chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, said: 'Animal Rising are desperate attention-seekers whose actions could threaten the welfare of horses.'

'Now that Surrey Police are aware



of their dangerous plans, it is vital they police this event robustly.'

A police spokesman said: 'The Epsom Derby is one of the largest events we police in Surrey and thorough planning takes place to ensure we keep the public safe.'

'The guiding principles of policing protests are the safety of protesters, the public and police officers involved, preventing crim-

inal behaviour or disorder and de-escalating tensions. We will seek to facilitate peaceful protests but any criminal activity or risk to public safety will not be tolerated.'

Nevin Truesdale, chief executive of The Jockey Club, which runs Epsom Downs Racecourse, said: 'We have been working with Surrey Police to ensure we have robust security measures in place.'

'While we respect anyone's right to peaceful and lawful protest, we would condemn illegal and reckless plans to breach security in an effort to disrupt action on the track and endanger the safety of the participants in the strongest possible terms.'

Animal Rising, founded in 2019, is an offshoot of the militant eco-group Extinction Rebellion. Earlier this month, five activists from the group also disrupted races at Doncaster by climbing over the fences.

Builders' radio demolishes the competition!

A BUILDERS' radio station launched by a graduate has become the fastest-growing radio station in the UK.

Fix Radio, which entertains tradespeople, grew by nearly 250 per cent since its national launch in May last year, reaching just under 300,000 listeners.

The station's popular segments include The Bald Builders Breakfast, The Plastering Show and What's In Your Skip?, where callers

By Natasha Livingstone

ring in about the strangest items dumped onsite. Its success bucks a wider trend, with audiences for BBC network radio shrinking by four per cent in the same period.

Last week, industry figures revealed that Radio 4 has suffered its lowest listening figures in 16 years, while Radio 2 has shed 121,000 weekly listeners. Fix Radio

was built by Leeds University graduate Louis Timpany, 30.

When he was doing some construction work he noticed that his fellow workers listened to the radio from dawn to dusk but were infuriated by repetitive music. Within six months, the idea for Fix Radio was born – and in 2016 the station launched in London by delivering 30,000 bacon butties to builders.

'We visited several thousand construction sites, giving out bacon

sandwiches and swapping their radios,' said Mr Timpany.

The station kept growing and last year crowdfunded £1 million to launch nationally.

A year on, Fix Radio's average listener tunes in for 23 hours per week. Audiences for BBC radio listen for just 13.9 hours and commercial radio 9.8 hours per week. The station is also a commercial success.

Broadcasting from Vauxhall in

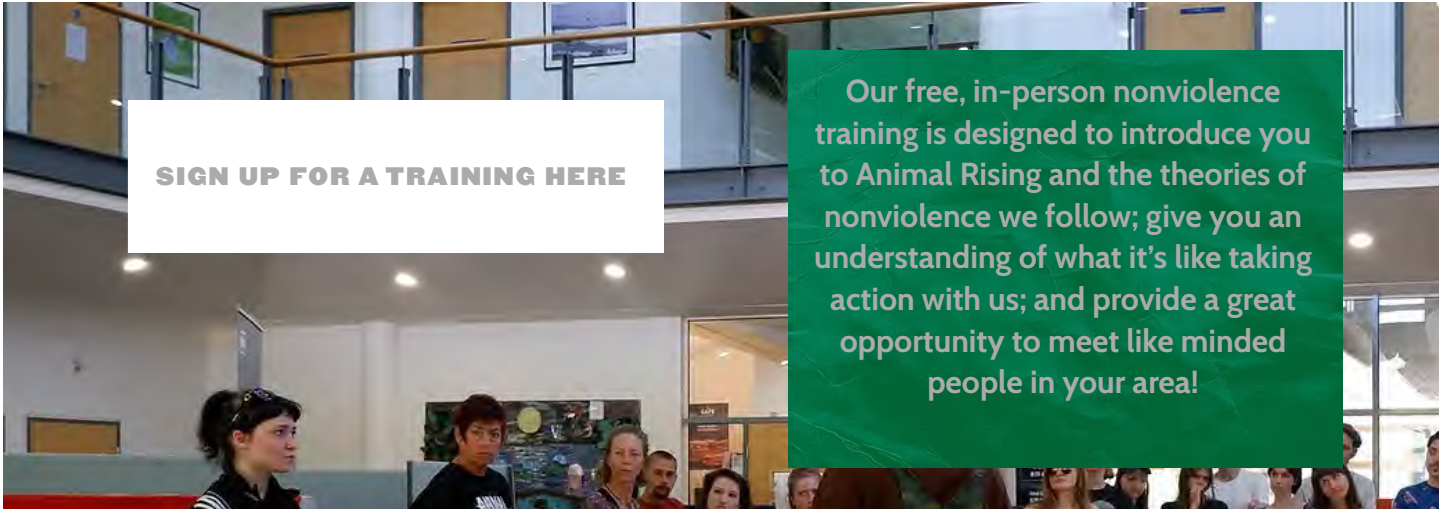
South London, Fix Radio focuses on providing upbeat, varied music that builders can sing along to.

Its most popular songs include Sex On Fire by Kings Of Leon, Modjo's Lady (Hear Me Tonight) and Coldplay's Viva La Vida.

The station covers topics from tool theft to mental health, with its shows fronted by tradesmen turned radio presenters who were hand-picked and trained by the radio station.

TAKE ACTION FOR ALL LIFE: DISRUPT THE EPSOM DERBY JOIN US ON THE TRACKS





3. TAKE ACTION

Animal Rising is nationwide and regionally organised. Sign up now to be put in contact with a local organiser and join the community!

Take Action with Animal Rising

SIGN UP NOW

ADD YOUR NAME

First Name *

Last Name *

Opt in to email updates from Animal Ri

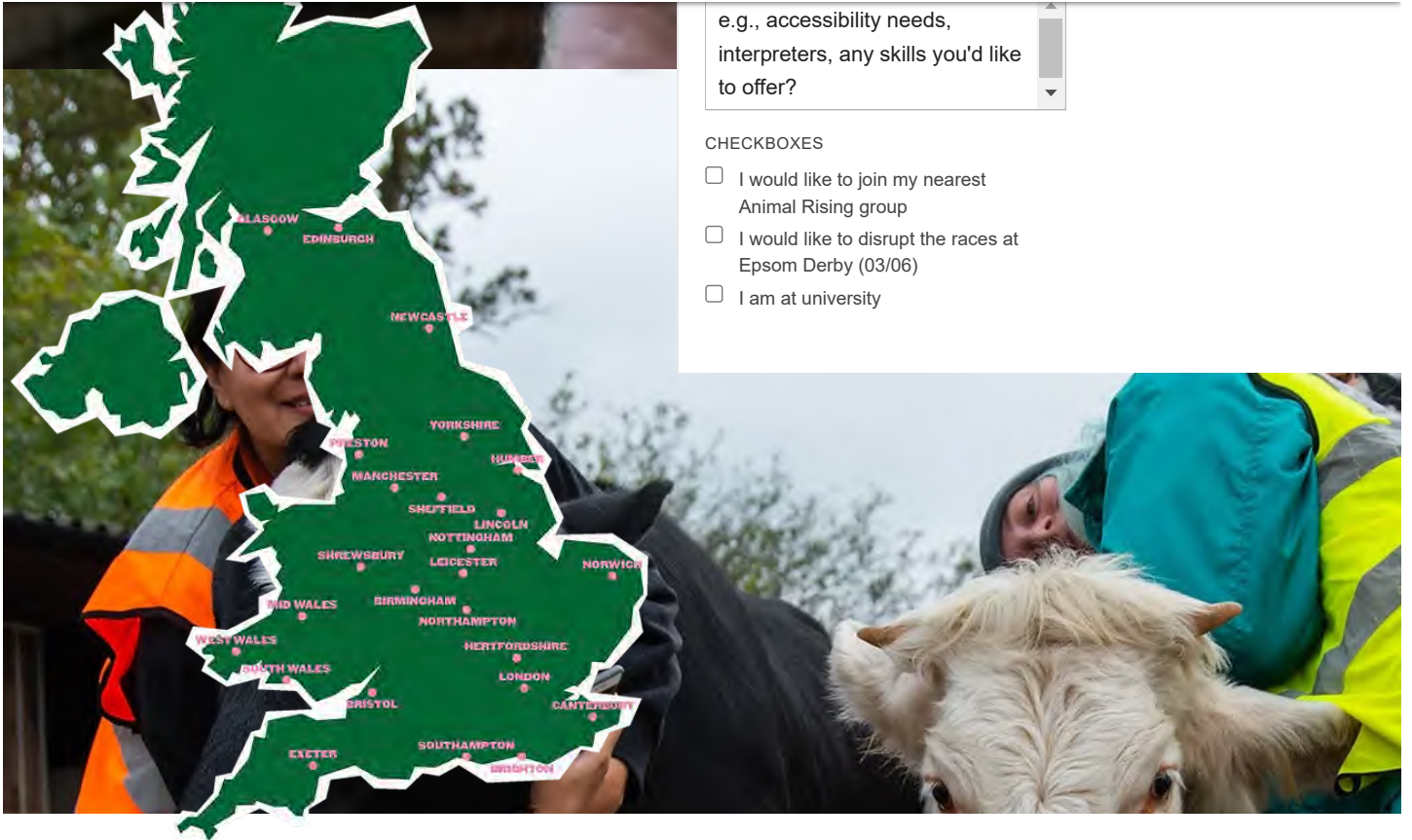
PREFERRED PRONOUNS *

IF YOU SELECTED OTHER, SPECIFY HERE

Mobile Number *, 07400 12345

Email *

REGION *



e.g., accessibility needs, interpreters, any skills you'd like to offer?

CHECKBOXES

- I would like to join my nearest Animal Rising group
- I would like to disrupt the races at Epsom Derby (03/06)
- I am at university

Not from the UK?

Let us know on the sign-up form and we will reach out to you. Animal Rising won't have international chapters but we will get in touch to discuss other ways we can collaborate.

[Get in touch](#)

SUPPORT US BY DONATING

In Animal Rising, we all give monthly to create a movement owned by us all.

We're asking people to donate **1 hour's wage once a month** to support our work for animals.

This allows us to rescue more animals, take high profile actions, and create a national conversation about our relationship with the natural world.

DONATE

Thank you so much.

We couldn't do this without people like you supporting us with regular donations. Your money goes a long way - it is spent on supporting our activists, getting the materials we need to make an action a success, and ensuring the welfare of all rescued animals both in our care and beyond.

OUR OTHER CAMPAIGNS

PLANT-BASED COUNCILS

74% of councils have declared a climate emergency, yet few are taking steps to reduce emissions embedded within our food system.

We are demanding that councils:

1. Go fully plant-based in any future catering for meetings & events
2. Increase the number of [plant-based meal options in schools](#) or insist catering suppliers do so (if an education authority)
3. Promote & normalise plant-based eating to residents

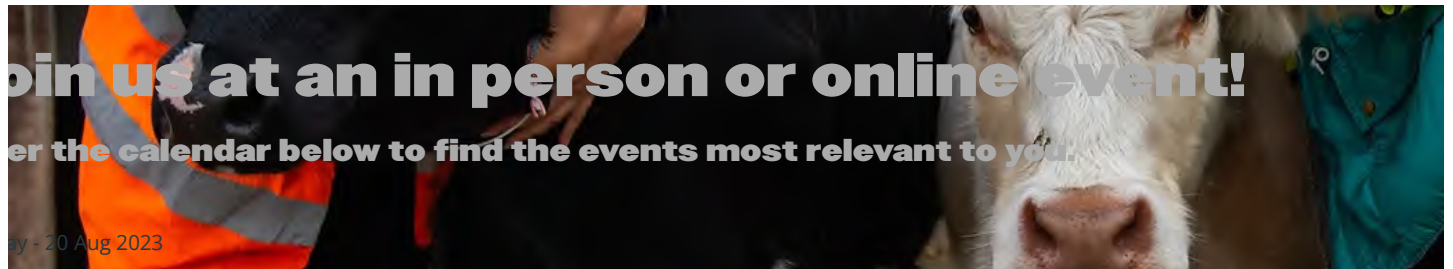
[READ MORE](#)

PLANT-BASED UNIVERSITIES

A student-led campaign for all university catering facilities to end the sale of animal products and make 100% of their menus plant-based.

Universities must reduce their contribution to the climate and ecological emergency and shift public opinion in favour of a plant-based food system. This campaign is supported by Animal Rising.

[READ MORE](#)



May - 20 Aug 2023

May 2023

| | | |
|--------|---------------|--|
| 21 May | 10:00 - 17:00 | Nonviolence training day (Lincoln) |
| 24 May | 19:00 - 20:15 | Summer of Animal Rising - introduction zoom call |
| | 19:00 - 20:00 | Midlands Meeting (weekly zoom) |
| 7 May | 10:00 - 17:00 | Nonviolence training day (London) |
| | 10:00 - 17:00 | Nonviolence Training (Leicester) |
| | 10:00 - 17:00 | Nonviolence training day (Brighton) |
| 29 May | 10:00 - 17:00 | Nonviolence training day (London) |
| | 10:00 - 17:00 | Nonviolence Training (Birmingham) |
| | 10:00 - 17:00 | Nonviolence training day (Durham) |
| | 12:00 - 15:00 | October Books Social |
| | 19:00 - 20:00 | Midlands Meeting (weekly zoom) |
| 30 May | 18:30 - 19:30 | Northern Hub Meeting (Fortnightly Zoom) |
| 31 May | 19:00 - 20:15 | Summer of Animal Rising - introduction zoom call |

June 2023

4 Jun [Contact us - info@animalrising.org](mailto:info@animalrising.org)

7 Jun [Join our mailing list](#)

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Join us on the tracks of the Epsom Derby!

We'll be disrupting the Epsom Derby to continue the conversation we started at the Grand National.

Be one of those to make history and achieve meaningful change for all life, join us on the tracks.

After signing up you'll be contacted by a volunteer and we'll get you ready for action.

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

* Indicates required question

Name *

Your answer

Pronouns

Choose

Phone *

Your answer



Email *

Your answer

Region *

Choose

Country

Your answer

I have attended a nonviolence training *

Yes

Not yet

Next

Clear form

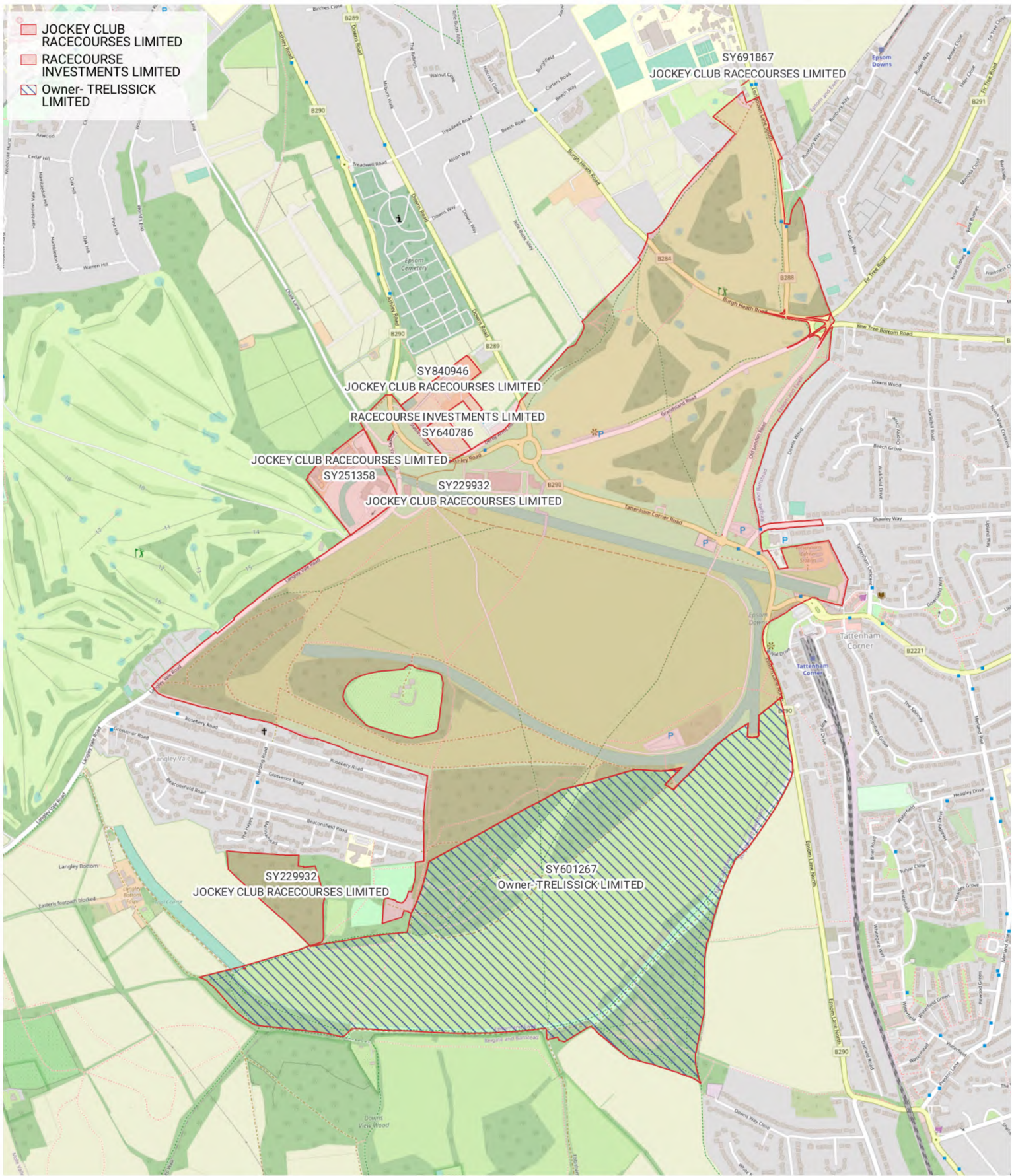
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Epsom Racecourse

a Stables

b Parade Ring

c Horse & Jockey
Entrance to
Race Track

d Derby Start

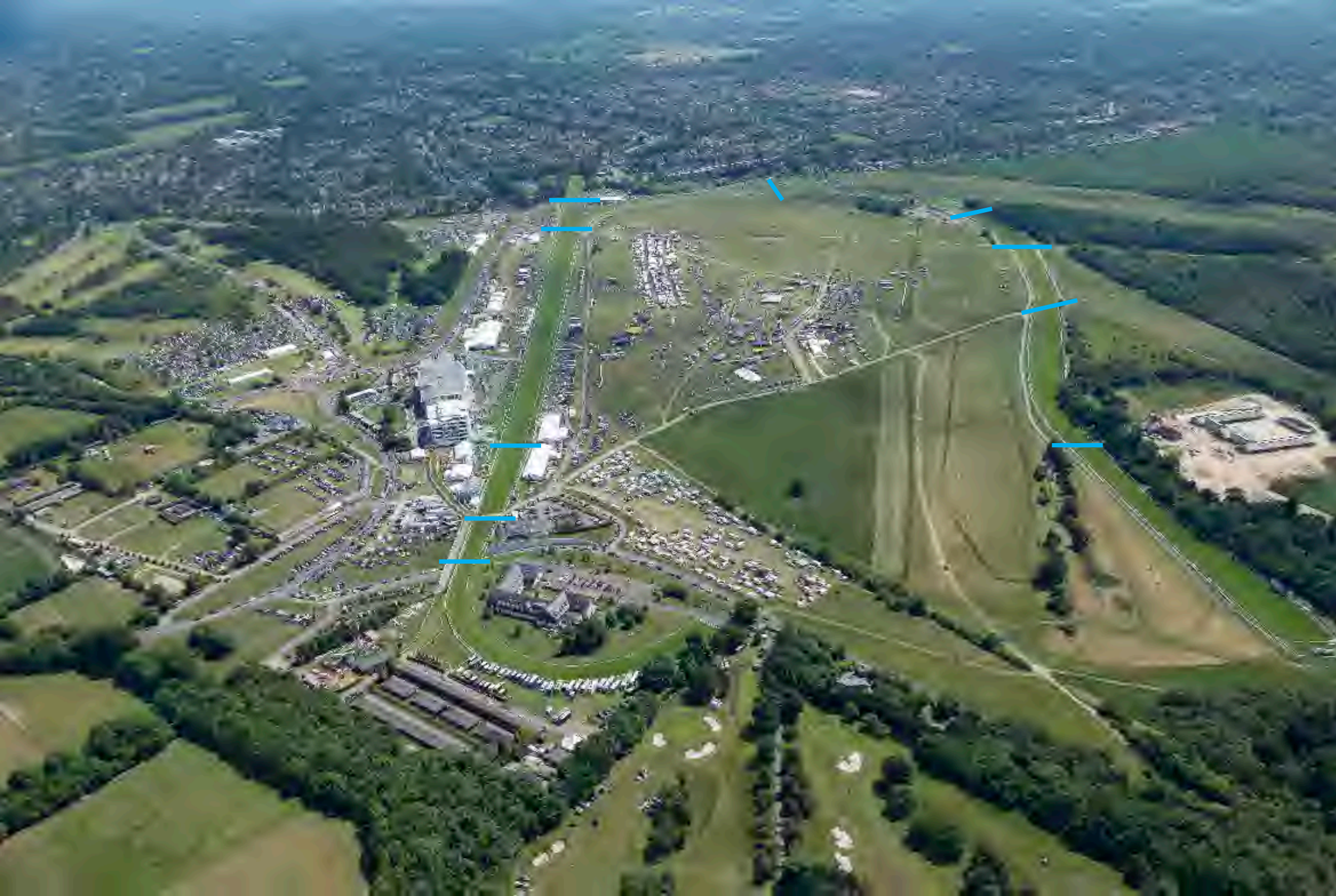
e Race Finish

Horses will leave the stables (a) and make their way to the Parade Ring (b).

Jockeys will mount their horses in the Parade Ring (b) and walk their horse to the Race Rack (c).

Jockeys will canter their horse to the Derby Start (d) where they will enter the starting stalls and the race will commence.

Crossing Points
on the Race
Track



Access to
Parade Ring
from Stables

- a Stables
- b Parade Ring



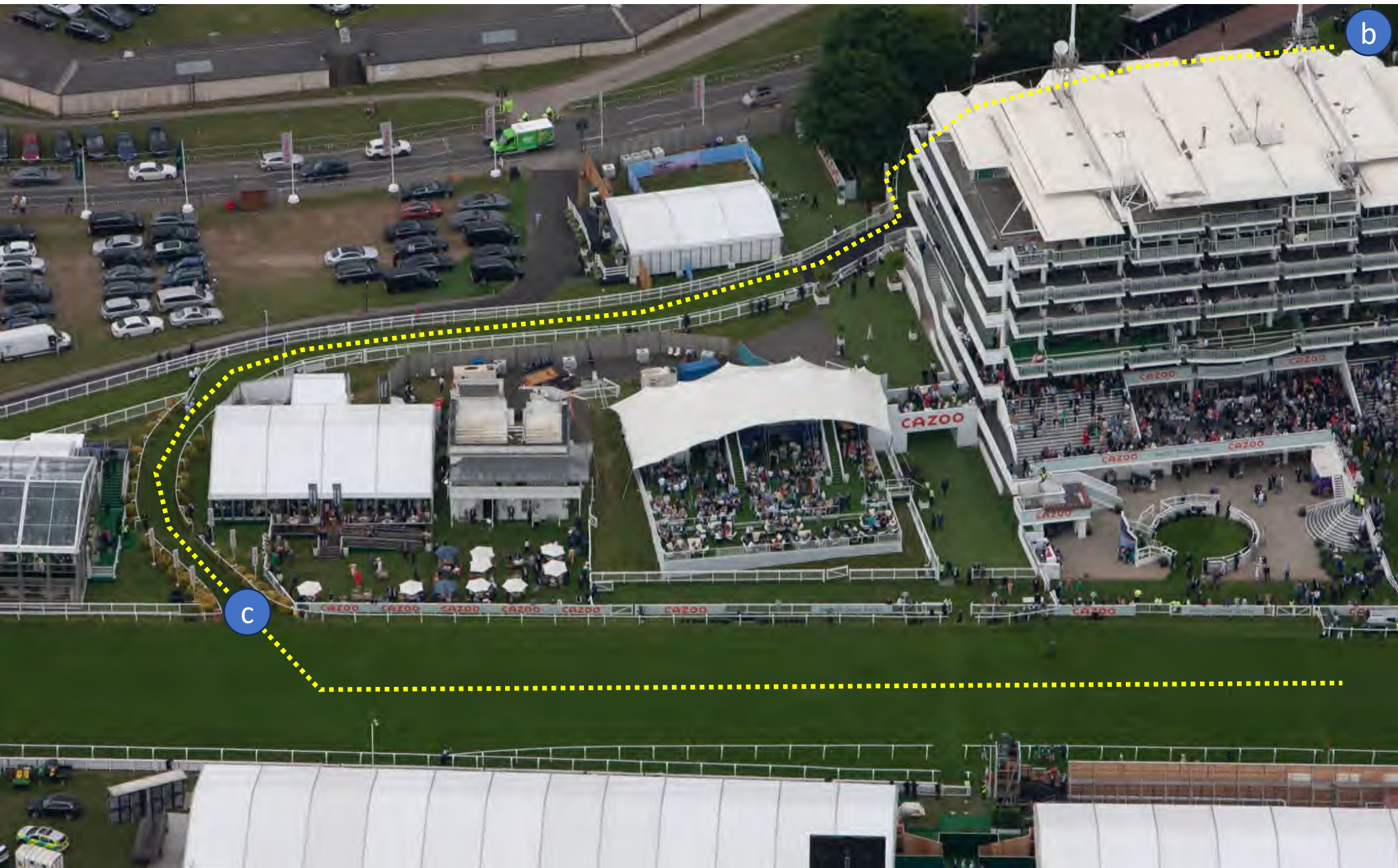


When the horses parade out, rope is held up by stewards to close off the areas of the Horses' Routes to the Parade Ring and to the Race Start which are not fenced off, so as to separate horses from spectators.



Access from
Parade Ring to
Race Track

- b** Parade Ring
- Horse & Jockey
- c** Entrance to Race Track



Access from
Parade Ring to
Race Track

b Parade Ring

Horse & Jockey
c Entrance to
Race Track



Animal welfare

● This article is more than 11 months old

Animal Rebellion protesters run on to track before Epsom Derby

Dozens of police officers remove six female campaigners wearing sashes reading 'Animal Justice'

PA Media

Sat 4 Jun 2022 18.37 BST

Six female protesters from the Animal Rebellion campaign group ran on to the track before [the Epsom Derby on Saturday](#) afternoon and were removed by police.

Dozens of police officers could be seen working to remove the protesters, who were wearing sashes reading “Animal Justice”.

The protest came on the 109th anniversary of the suffragette Emily Wilding Davison throwing herself in front of a horse at the same course.

Some spectators cheered as the protesters were taken away, with a voice on a loudspeaker apologising to spectators.

On Thursday, other members of Animal Rebellion were arrested after they [entered the ceremonial route](#) on the Mall before trooping the colour.

The group said the protest was aimed at making “a definitive statement, and act, against the cruelty and harm the horseracing industry represents”.

It describes itself as a “mass movement using nonviolent civil disobedience to call for a just, sustainable plant-based food system”.



📷 An animal rebellion activist is arrested after running on to the racecourse on day two of the Epsom Derby. Photograph: Leon Neal/Getty Images

The group is demanding “an end to horse racing, all forms of animal exploitation, and instead a transition towards a plant-based food system and animal justice”.

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Orla Coghlan, one of those at Epsom, said: “Horse racing took the lives of 220 animals on racecourses in the UK last year, and this is just the tip of the iceberg.

“In this country over a billion land animals are killed for food each year. Exploitation of, and violence against, animals is fuelling the climate emergency and suffering across the globe.

“It is obvious we must choose life over death and stop animal exploitation.”

The Queen’s daughter Anne was there at Epsom alongside husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence and children Peter Phillips and Zara Tindall, who was with husband and former rugby player Mike.



Protestors Disrupt Epsom Derby In A Call For An End To Animal Exploitation

Home > Press > Protestors Disrupt Epsom Derby In A Call For An End To Animal Exploitation



2 Comments Posted in Press By Press & SM Posted on 4th June 2022

Tagged Animal Justice, Animal Rebellion, Animals, Plant-based

- At approximately 4:25 pm 6 women, protestors from the group Animal Rebellion, entered the course at Epsom with sashes reading “Animal Justice”.
- They do so on the 109th anniversary of the suffragette Emily Wilding Davison throwing herself in front of a horse at the same course.
- Animal Rebellion is demanding an end to horse racing, all forms of animal exploitation, and instead a transition towards a plant-based food system and animal justice.

Protestors from Animal Rebellion stormed the Epsom Derby to disrupt the race and urge for an end to animal abuse and, instead, a transition to a fair and compassionate plant-based future. This comes just 2 days after the group disrupted the Platinum Jubilee in an effort for Royal land to move to plant-based production and rewilding. [1]

Orla Coghlan, one of those at Epsom today, said **“Horse racing took the lives of 220 animals on racecourses in the UK last year, and this is just the tip of the iceberg. In this country over a billion land animals are killed for food each year. Exploitation of, and violence against, animals is fuelling the climate emergency and suffering across the globe. It is obvious we must choose life over death and stop animal exploitation.”** [2]
[3]

Today’s disruption is a definitive statement, and act, against the cruelty and harm the horse-racing industry represents. Riding horses damages their skeleton, spinal nerves and skin. Whilst horses used in races commonly suffer from heart failure, bleeding lungs and gastric ulcers. Most people recognise the cruelty of bullfighting in Spain [4] and, therefore, should also stand against other forms of animal exploitation.

Currently in The UK around 1.9 million dairy cows [5] are in a constant cycle of artificial insemination, pregnancy, birth, their baby calves being taken and killed, and being repeatedly milked beyond their natural capacity due to selective breeding and artificial hormones. All this whilst industries like meat, fish, and dairy directly contribute to climate breakdown and loss of nature [6].

Emma De Saram, spokesperson for Animal Rebellion, said **“Whether it’s horse racing, dairy, or the meat industry, animal exploitation has no part in our world. By moving beyond this and into a plant-based future we can ensure happiness and justice for all life. Transition into a plant-based future would offset 68% of carbon emissions this century, whilst also putting an end to the horrendous suffering animals face right now.”** [7]

Moving to a plant-based food system would free valuable land that could, instead, be rewilded. This would bring forests, woodlands, nature, and life back to land across the UK. Rewilding has the potential to absorb

massive amounts of carbon from the Earth's atmosphere and form a key solution to the climate and ecological emergency. [8]

The action today comes as part of Animal Rebellion's demands for a plant-based future, which were announced on Monday 23rd of May. [8] The group is urging for wholesale governmental support for a transition to a plant-based food system and programme of rewilding that will secure a future for generations to come.

Animal Rebellion is a mass movement using nonviolent civil disobedience to call for a just, sustainable plant-based food system.

ENDS

High-quality pictures and videos: <http://show.pics.io/epsom-04-06-22>

Featured image from Press Associated

For interviews or further comment please contact:

Oliver (Press Back Office): 07706 066859

press@animalrebellion.org

[1] <https://animalrebellion.org/animal-rebellion-disrupts-platinum-jubilee-to-demand-a-plant-based-future-and-rewilding-of-royal-land/>

[2] <https://www.animalaid.org.uk/record-numbers-of-race-horses-killed-in-britain-in-2021/>

[3] <https://viva.org.uk/animals/number-animals-killed/>

[4] <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/bullfighting-spain>

[5] <https://viva.org.uk/animals/cows/dairy-cows/>

[6] Jia. G, Shevliakova. E et al, "Chapter 2: Land-Climate Interactions" in UN Special Report: Climate Change and Land (2019.) <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>

[7] <https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pclm.0000010>

[8] <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00431-5>

[9] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOq2Jqqga9E&t=5s>

◀ [Animal Rebellion Disrupts Platinum Jubilee To Demand A Plant-Based Future And Rewilding Of Royal Land](#) [Animal Rebellion plans to cause "Large scale material disruption to the supply of dairy"](#) ▶

2 thoughts on "Protestors Disrupt Epsom Derby In A Call For An End To Animal Exploitation"

Pingback: [Animal Rebellion claim they're going to cause "Large scale material disruption to the supply of dairy" - Animal Rebellion](#)

Pingback: [Animal Rebellion Occupies RSPCA HQ - Animal Rebellion](#)

Comments are closed.

ACTIVISM

OTHER NEWS

Animal Rebellion Moves Away From Extinction Rebellion With New Rebrand

Animal Rebellion will now be known as Animal Rising

BY POLLY FOREMAN 11TH APRIL 2023 Ⓒ 2 MINUTES READ

SHARE

COMMUNITY



Animal Rebellion has officially relaunched with a new name in a “firm” step away from the Extinction Rebellion umbrella.

The group is now known as Animal Rising. It has described its rebrand as a “new era of action for animals,” and comes just days before their [planned disruption of the Grand National horse race](#) in Aintree, Liverpool, on Saturday, April 15.

While [Animal Rebellion](#) traditionally focused more on the environmental impact of animal farming, Animal Rising will put animal rights front and center.



Animal Rising

Animal Rebellion has rebranded

The group will lead what it says will be “the biggest campaign of animal-focused actions the UK has seen in decades” this summer. This will be made up, organizers say, of open rescues and high-profile public-facing actions.

Animal Rising prioritizes animal rights

“Over the past four years Animal Rebellion has made untold difference to the environmental movement and raised the issue of animal farming and fishing into the public consciousness,” Animal Rising spokesperson Nathan McCgovern told *Plant Based News*. “However 2023 will see a shift in our actions and message in order to spotlight animals more than ever.”

Last year, Animal Rebellion made headlines after rescuing [18 beagles puppies](#) from an animal testing breeding facility in Cambridgeshire in the UK. This, the group says, is the sort of action Animal Rising will prioritize in the coming months.



Animal Rising

Animal Rising activists put up posters on betting shops ahead of the Grand National

“Our action this year will be firmly centred around animals in a way they perhaps haven’t been previously,” McGovern said. “We’ll be rescuing them from factory farms whilst also occupying these facilities too. We’ll also be disrupting events that use animals for ‘sport’ to put our bodies between them and harm.”

Over the bank holiday weekend, supporters of Animal Rising spray painted the group’s logo (∇) across a number of locations in London and Manchester. They also put up posters advertising their Grand National action on betting shop windows.

TAGGED Activism, Animal Rebellion, Animal Rights, Animal Rising, Extinction Rebellion



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[OPEN](#) SpotDif

Militant animal rights activists storm the Grand National: 'Animal Rising' protesters masquerading as fans are tackled by hero race staff and police who arrest 118 in chaos - after warning from Mail about planned sabotage

- Dozens of activists tried to disrupt the race, leading to a 12 minute delay to the start of the Grand National
- Several horses fell during the race, with Hill Sixteen becoming the third to die this meet after a broken neck
- Police arrested 118 people on suspicion of criminal damage and public nuisance offences on Saturday

By ELIZABETH HAIGH and MATT POWELL

PUBLISHED: 17:03, 15 April 2023 | UPDATED: 01:54, 16 April 2023

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Free Solar Panels for UK Homes [OPEN >](#)

Animal rights activists stormed the Grand National on Saturday after posing as racegoers, delaying the race as they were tackled by officials and officers - despite the Mail On Sunday warning police weeks ago of the plan to disrupt the event.

Animal Rising protesters, an environmental and animal rights group, were seen attempting to climb over fences to gain access to the grounds, as well as breaking onto the grass ahead of the race - only for them to be carted off to the delight of spectators. Merseyside police confirmed that 118 people have been arrested.

It came after the alleged ringleader of the protest Rose Patterson, 33, was arrested in Greater Manchester by Merseyside Police this morning following an investigation by the Mail On Sunday into the plot. A 25-year-old woman from London and a man were also arrested outside the racecourse on suspicion of conspiracy to cause public nuisance.

Top Stories
by Daily Mail



while others tried to g
to grab the protesters

ushing to the scene

The race did finally ge
the first hurdle, as
did a second at the second fence. Hill Sixteen, who was running at 66-1, took a fatal fall and sadly is confirmed to
have become the third horse to have died at Aintree this weekend after breaking his neck.



© REUTERS

+43
View gallery

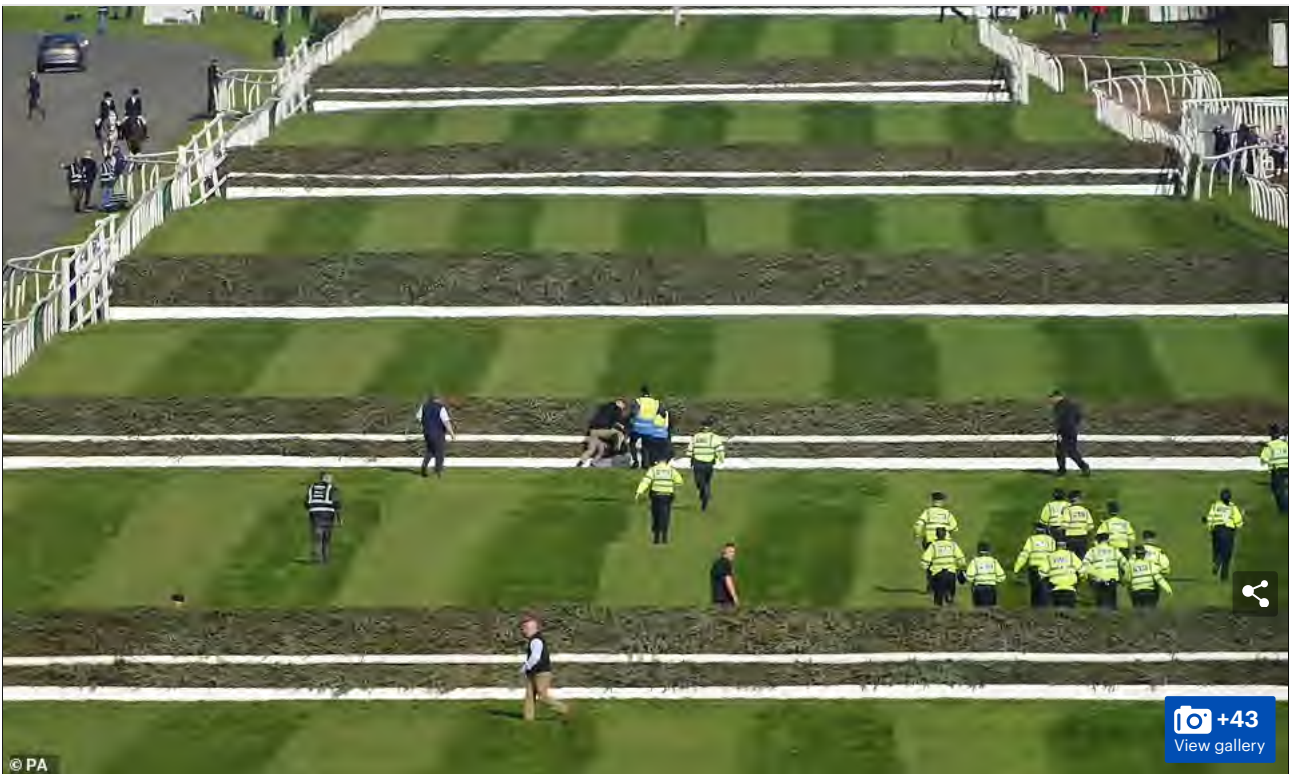
At least two activists made it onto the racecourse and attempted to glue themselves to the second jump



© REUTERS

+43
View gallery

Police rushed to the site and carried the two protesters from the jump, reportedly removing a small part of it in order to do so



© PA

+43
View gallery

A massive police response was triggered after two protesters made it onto the course



© CHRIS NEILL

+43
View gallery

Police escort an animal rights activist from the scene of the racecourse after several attempted to glue themselves to a jump

TRENDING





Top

Home

99

neighbourhood

Distressing footage of Hill Sixteen's fall was shared by animal rights activists online, before a Jockey Club spokesperson confirmed the death.

Animal rights groups including PETA were quick to share the news on social media.

Several other jockeys also tumbled at the early stages but their horses continued. Two then left the main track but continued to run alongside the other steeds.

As the race went on, more horses fell to the ground. Two other horses have been rushed away in horse ambulances with life-threatening injuries.

The winner of the Grand National was Corach Rambler, at odds of 8-1.

After the conclusion of the race, Animal Rising posted a video of one of the jumps on social media which showed a horse crashing into the ground at high speed, before lying there unmoving. This is believed to be of Hill Sixteen. Two jockeys were also unseated in the video, but appeared to be unhurt.

The organisation said: 'THIS IS WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO STOP FROM HAPPENING. Several horses fell during this race - how many will be killed due to their injuries? Absolutely heartbreaking chaos for horses that never got a choice in the matter. MAKE SURE THE GRAND NATIONAL NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.'

Activists are protesting against horseracing over animal welfare concerns, as multiple horses often die at major meets such as Aintree each year.

Three horses have **so far been put down following injuries at the course this weekend**. Horse Dark Raven died after racing on Saturday, the second death at the three-day festival after Envoye Special fell on Thursday.

The League Against Cruel Sports described the death toll at the Grand National Festival as 'bleak' following the deaths.

Emma Judd, head of campaigns and communications at the charity, said: 'The tragic death of Dark Raven at the Randox Grand National Festival on Saturday - the second death in only three days - shows entertainment and gambling taking precedence over animal welfare and the lives of these horses.'

The League said the death toll at the Aintree Festival was now 61 horses since 2000 - with 15 killed in the Grand National, including two last year.

At the National a fire engine was briefly spotted at the scene before the race got underway, but exited the course after police were able to secure the area. Before police reached the protesters, several members of the public appeared to try and remove the activists from the track themselves.

The other activists, most of whom wore pink T-shirts emblazoned with slogans, seemed to have been prevented from getting into Aintree after attempting to use ladders and their hands to climb barriers.

But many of the racegoers didn't notice the disruption. Christine Maybin, 29, from Antrim, Northern Ireland, at the races with Dwayne McGurk, 31, said: 'We noticed the delay but we didn't know it was because of protesters, we thought they were fixing the fences. We only noticed the protesters when we were coming in from the train.'

Mr McGurk said: 'The delay didn't affect us, we just got another drink in. We've had an unbelievable day here.'

Others in attendance expressed anger at the delay.

Ex-Tory MP Matt Hancock, who was not at Aintree, tweeted after watching the race: 'What a race! Glad the attention-seeking protesters trying to ruin the #GrandNational completely failed.'

Now militant animal rights activists close the M57 motorway near Aintree by gluing themselves to road after 'Animal Rising' protesters masquerading as fans stormed the Grand National





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In a statement Merseyside Police said: 'Just after 5pm, a large number of protesters attempted to gain entry on to the course. The majority were prevented from breaching the boundary fencing, but the nine individuals who managed to enter the course were later arrested by officers.'

Merseyside Police Assistant Chief Constable Paul White said a total of 118 people have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and public nuisance offences.

He said: 'Today [Saturday], as you've seen, there's been a significant protest in relation to the running of the Grand National.'

'This began earlier this morning, there's been a number of protests outside and then that resulted earlier on today at about 5pm with numerous people trying to incur onto the course, which we, in partnership with the event organisers, and members of the public as well, have managed in the main to stop and and ultimately the event took place - albeit with a slight delay.'

He said protesters tried to access the course from a number of points at the far side of the track.

He continued: 'There were significant numbers. What I can tell you is 118 people have been arrested today in relation to both criminal damage and public nuisance offences - and obviously we'll process them.'

He said the number included pre-emptive arrests before the race and arrests relating to the protest on the M57, **where activists glued themselves to the carriageway.**

Shortly after the scheduled race time of 5.15pm, the jockeys walked out into the paddock, where the horses were walked around for public display.

By 5.25pm, the horses headed out to the gates with their jockeys ahead of the start of the race. Commentators announced plans to cut the usual parade and national anthem in order to begin as soon as possible.





PETA UK
@PETAUK

BREAKING

Hill Sixteen is the third horse to die at [#GrandNational2023](#)

[#GrandNationalDisgrace](#)
[#YouBetTheyDie](#)








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Matt Hancock
@MattHancock


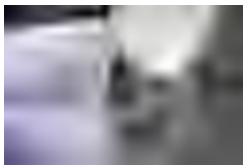
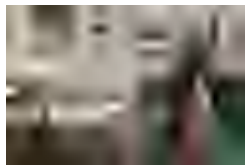
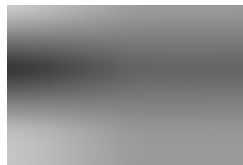
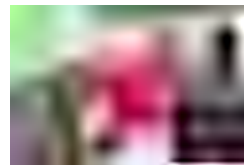
What a race!

Glad the attention-seeking protestors trying to ruin the [#GrandNational](#) completely failed

Thanks to Merseyside Police and the Jockey Club for keeping people safe. A great result for wonderful British racing 🌞

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MORE TRENDING

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Two activists are arrested by police outside Aintree's grounds





Police officers were on high alert for any sign of protesters before the beginning of the race



Members of the public attempt to pull protesters from the second fence





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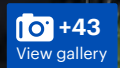
Members of the public applauded police officers from inside the course as they disrupted the protest



Members of the police detain protester as activists tried to block the start of the Grand National



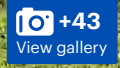
© AFP via Getty Images



A woman who attempted to prevent the start of the race is arrested by police



© REUTERS



Roi Mage ridden by Felix de Giles, Corach Rambler ridden by Derek Fox and Our Power ridden by Sam Twiston-Davies in action



A man dressed in a suit is arrested after attempting to storm the Grand National



Handcuffed activists are guarded by police officers during the Grand National at Aintree



Corach Rambler ridden by Derek Fox wins the Randox Grand National on April 15, 2023

 **Animal Rising**
@AnimalRising

THIS IS WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO STOP FROM HAPPENING.

Several horses fell during this race - how many will be killed due to their injuries?

Absolutely heartbreaking chaos for horses that never got a choice in the matter.

MAKE SURE THE GRAND NATIONAL NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.
Sign our petition - this absolute disgrace of a "sport" should never, ever be allowed to continue.
actionnetwork.org/petitions/canc...

Animal Rising said dozens of supporters had climbed fences at Aintree, with at least two affixing themselves to a jump.

Sarah McCaffrey, a shopworker and student - and one of those disrupting the track, said: 'Whether it's for food or for fun, our use of animals and nature is symbolic of a relationship beyond broken.'

'We're a nation of animal lovers, but the pain these beautiful creatures experience daily does not do that label justice. We need to find ways of loving animals that don't hurt them.'

Read more: Undercover investigation exposes plan by up to 100 Animal Rebellion activists to storm the event and glue themselves to the course



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view the races today would say they love the horses; however, the suffering experienced by them should shock us all. That's why I've decided to put my body between those horses and death on the racecourse, rather than gamble with their lives.

'An alternative to the way we stand in relation to non-human animals exists. We can all build a world and society that we are proud to be part of, rather than one plagued by suffering and hurt. An end to horse racing is a clear part of this kinder future.'

Dickon White, who runs Aintree Racecourse as North-West Regional Director for Jockey Club Racecourses, said:

'There was a short delay to the start time for the Grand National, due to the reckless actions of a small number of individuals.

'The Police and our security teams, who form part of a strong visible presence on course, dealt with the incident swiftly and decisively. The pre-race parade was cancelled as a result of the short delay.

'The Randox Grand National Festival sees thousands of people come to enjoy racing and a great atmosphere, with millions following on television, radio and online.

'While the actions of a small number of individuals were intended to disrupt the event, the safety and security of everyone on course will always be our number one priority.'

Aintree Racecourse confirmed that while racing in the sixth race, Hill Sixteen was immediately attended by expert veterinary professionals.

White said: 'Hill Sixteen was immediately attended by expert veterinary professionals during the Grand National, but sadly sustained a fatal injury. Our heartfelt condolences are with his connections.'

'Recite a Prayer and Cape Gentleman were assessed on course by veterinary teams in race six. Both horses walked onto the horse ambulance for further assessment in the stables. Further updates will be provided in due course.'

At the same time as disrupting the racetrack, activists from Animal Rising also stopped traffic on nearby motorway the M57 in protest against the use of animals for sport.

North West Motorway Police said on Twitter: 'We have a number of people sat on the M57 at junction 2 northbound - motorway is closed.'

National Highways said traffic was stopped in both directions on the motorway - between junctions one and two - shortly before 5.15pm, but by 6pm the southbound carriageway was reopened and northbound traffic was being diverted via a slip road.

There were delays of more than an hour on the road, which runs from the M62 to Aintree. Pictures showed protesters wearing pink T-shirts on the carriageway.

Their bold protests come just two weeks after **The Mail On Sunday** uncovered their grand conspiracy that was plotted in a secret meeting.

The three arrests by police this morning in connection with the plan are thought to have been a result of the Mail's dossier of information which they handed over to Merseyside Police. But despite officers being tipped off as to the nature of the plans, activists still succeeded in causing disruption.

Former jockey Peter Scudamore said: 'Racing should be grateful that the Mail On Sunday's excellent journalism alerted us of the plans to disrupt the race.'





care and attention we lavish on our horses.'



A protester runs towards the exterior fence to break into the course



Police officers restrain several protesters who were foiled in their plan to enter Aintree



Police and race officials confiscate ladders which protesters attempted to use to get inside Aintree on Saturday



Protesters are detained outside the racecourse by police, wearing Animal Rising t-shirts



The entrants prepare to begin racing at Aintree after a 12-minute delay to their scheduled race time



Derek Fox poses with the trophy after winning the Randox Grand National Handicap Chase on Corach Rambler



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Trainer of winner Corach Rambler Lucinda Russell also took victory in 2017 with her horse One For Arthur.

Corach Rambler cost only £17,000, chicken feed in racing terms, and Russell admits she only agreed to buy him to 'indulge' her partner and assistant trainer Peter Scudamore, who had taken a shine to him at the sales.

Still, the successful purchase nearly never happened. Russell and Scudamore had to leave the sale and the bidding was left to Scudamore's youngest son, Michael.

He forgot and, having gone for a cup of coffee, needed to make a mad dash back to the auction ring after taking a call from his motorway-bound father asking if he had secured Corach Rambler.

Luckily, Michael got there in time to lodge the successful bid, but Russell admits thoughts of Aintree and Cheltenham had never crossed her mind for the gelding.

She hoped he might win a few small chases at the northern tracks.

What Corach Rambler has achieved for the seven-strong syndicate — including a 21-year-old Edinburgh University student — who paid £3,000 each has far exceeded expectations.

The MoS revealed two weeks ago how militant vegans and animal rights campaigners planned to storm security fences before the race at Aintree, then glue themselves together as a human barricade and sit across the course.

Previously the police announced they would 'robustly' defend the races and its main event, which should have started at 5:15pm, from the militant vegans and animal rights campaigners.

A MoS undercover journalist secretly filmed as Patterson, 33, allegedly boasted that the stunt by the Animal Rising campaign group, which was previously known as Animal Rebellion, would have a worldwide impact.

'We have 600million people viewing this horse race worldwide, we've got £300million of bets on the horse race, and we're just going to ruin it,' she said.

The MoS understands that Patterson was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to cause public nuisance as she and other activists made their way to Aintree on Merseyside.

Sources at Animal Rising believe her arrest was linked to the MoS handing over a dossier of evidence to Merseyside Police.

Crowds turned out to enjoy a day at the races despite fears of disruption. Racegoers made their way into Aintree Racecourse past about 50 protesters, holding Animal Rising banners and flags.



At around 2:35pm a group of Animal Rising supporters started slowly marching on the roads around Aintree Racecourse to disrupt access to the venue.

Animal Rising spokesperson Claudia Penna Rojas was pictured being carried away by four policemen outside Aintree Racecourse.

A video shows her talking to an officer and then sitting down and shaking her head.

The video then cuts to the activist refusing to stand up and walk, instead going limp so that several officers have to carry her away.

The surrounding activists cheer and clap as she is carried away.

Earlier she told Sky News: 'At some point we will peacefully and non-violently try to make our way to the track.'



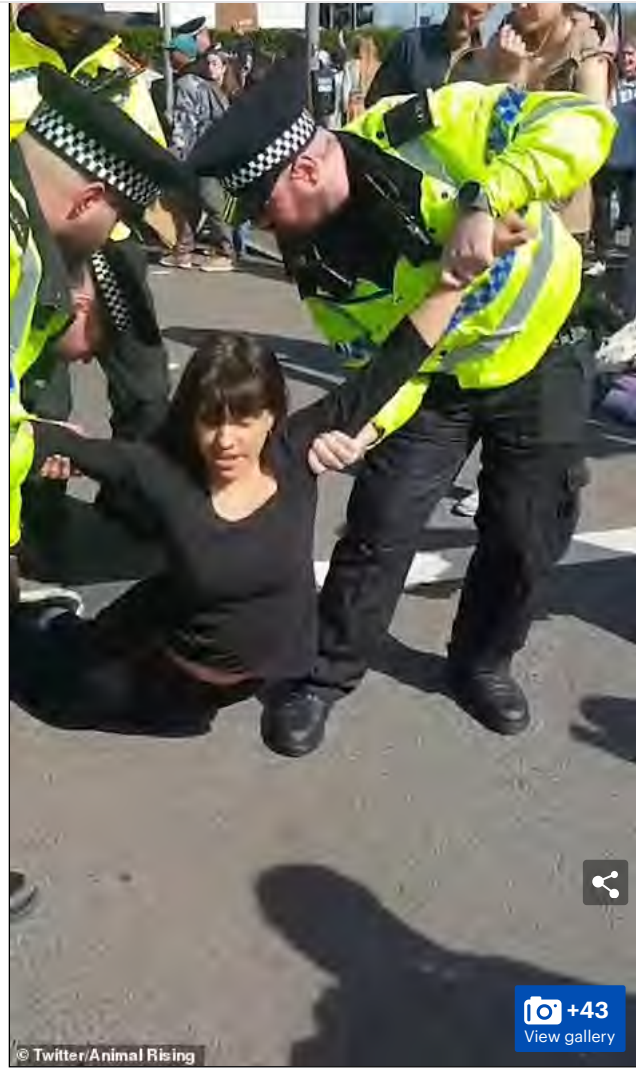
Rose Patterson, 33, was arrested at the Grand National on Saturday after she was identified in a Mail on Sunday undercover exposé



Animal Rising spokesperson Claudia Penna Rojas was arrested by several officers outside Aintree Racecourse



Animal Rising protesters have brought banners outside of Aintree Racecourse



© Twitter/Animal Rising

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View gallery

© Twitter/Animal Rising

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Claudia Penna Rojas can be seen standing and speaking to police (left), before she employs the commonly used tactic going limp - requiring several officers to carry her away



Harry Skelton fell from Calico during a race, both the rider and horse were back up shortly after



There is a large police presence down by the racetrack at Aintree, in case of any disruption from activists



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While the cancellation of races is an extremely rare occurrence, some have been known to be postponed since the Grand National first began in 1839.

The First World War:

During the First World War period, Aintree Racecourse was utilised by the War Office - meaning that the races did not go ahead as usual.

Instead, the event was moved to Gatwick Racecourse - now known as Gatwick Airport - during the years 1916, 1917 and 1918.

These races were known by different names, the first one was the Racecourse Association Steeplechase, whilst the latter two were given the title of the War National Steeplechase.

The Second World War:

Again, Aintree was commandeered during the Second World War.

However, this time the races were not hosted anywhere else like during the First World War and they were cancelled between 1941 and 1945.

The IRA bomb scare:

While thousands travelled to Aintree for the big event in 1997, Merseyside Police received a phone call at 2.52pm from the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) informing them that a bomb had been planted at the Racecourse.

The call came three minutes after a call had been made informing police of another bomb in place at Aintree University Hospital in the Fazakerley district of the city.

More than 60,000 people were made to leave as police evacuated the area.

The event eventually took place two days later on April 7.

The 1993 Race That Never Was:

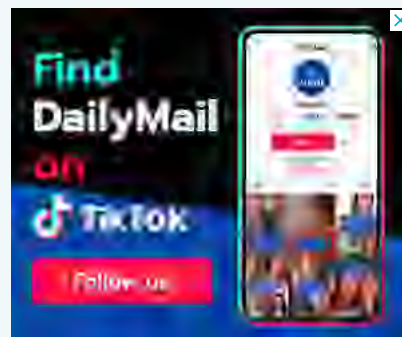
This is another example of a Grand National that was not technically cancelled but also did not take place on its scheduled date.

It took place on the 3rd of April in 1993 and was intended to be the 147th running of the race.

However, it was not able to count as an official running because a false start was declared, only for 30 of the 39 horses taking part to not realise and continued racing.

The reason it makes the list here is that the Jockey Club decided not to re-run the race at a later date, meaning that no race result is noted for the year 1993.

Source: Grand National Betting



A press release from Animal Rising said that just 100 supporters gathered outside the racecourse, though they expect more to arrive later.

Miss Penna Rojas said: 'This summer Animal Rising will be taking action to protect animals from harm by openly rescuing them from factory farms and putting ourselves between these beautiful creatures and harm.'



Patterson, who joined Animal Rebellion in 2020 and now masterminds the group's protests, released a video on Instagram last week announcing the group's name change.

'We feel that the change we need will come through our connection with animals by challenging those industries that exploit them, from our food system to animal testing to zoos to horse racing,' she said.

'Our actions this year are going to be bigger than ever. This summer will be the summer of Animal Rising.'



Police said they respect the right to peaceful protest, but stated 'criminal offences will not be tolerated and will be dealt with robustly'. Pictured: outside Aintree Racecourse



Racegoers enjoying day three of the Randox Grand National Festival at Aintree Racecourse



Animal Rising have vowed that their 'biggest action yet' will 'cancel the Grand National' at Aintree Racecourse



The militant animal rights campaigners said up to 300 activists will flood Aintree Racecourse where they intend to prevent the main race at 5:15pm from starting

 **Animal Rising**
@AnimalRising

Imagine a world where horses and other animals are able to live free from harm and exploitation. This is the world we are going to create. It's time to rise up and demand animal justice, for all life.

Tomorrow will be our biggest action yet! We will be taking direct action to protect the horses at Aintree - but this is just the beginning of the Summer of Animal Rising.

It's not too late to turn up from 9:30am onwards outside Aintree Racecourse to help us to cancel the Grand National, and end horseracing, along with all forms of animal cruelty.

The animal activist group announced their intention to stop the races going ahead

'We'll be doing open rescues, farm factory occupations and highly disruptive mass-participation actions.'

Earlier this week Animal Rising claimed that up to 300 activists would try to prevent the Grand National from starting, with some expected to block traffic by performing a slow march along Ormskirk Road, the main access route.

Around 80 protesters gathered outside the racecourse's entrance this morning. By midday on Saturday one man and one woman had been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit a public nuisance.

Some activists chanted at race-goers entering the course: 'Shame on you.'

READ MORE HERE: The business guru turned eco-activist plotting to wreck the Grand National



The MoS investigation earlier this month revealed how ringleaders had already conducted two secret reconnaissance missions of the racecourse to pinpoint security weaknesses and how a network of safe houses was being arranged to accommodate protesters before the race.



Jim Edwards (pictured), the former founding editor of the UK website of Business Insider, is involved with militant Animal Rebellion



© REUTERS

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Merseyside Police has vowed to deal 'robustly' with any protesters. Pictured: Officers at the entrance of Aintree Racecourse



© REUTERS

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Armed police are present at the Aintree Racecourse for the Grand National Festival on Saturday

A spokesperson for Merseyside Police said the force 'has been working with the Jockey Club and other partners to keep people safe during the Grand National Festival.