

THE AINTREE GRAND NATIONAL MEETING

Andy Stansfield

Aintree has been a race venue for a very long time and will continue to thrill its visitors for many years to come. This collection of images, sometimes serious sometimes amusing but always fascinating, will help readers to relive some of those precious moments experienced in the company of friends, family and colleagues. Setting out to capture the spirit of the event, spread over a three day period, the author conveys some of the atmosphere and excitement of Aintree during a Grand National meeting from a spectator's perspective. The result is a book which will be valued equally by both occasional and regular visitors to this three-day meeting, regardless of how much or how little they know about the sport of kings.

From punters pouring off the trains into Aintree station which handles 30,000 passengers a day during the meeting, to sombre reflection over Red Rum's grave, and from the tipster to the tipsy, Andy Stansfield's lens picks out with unerring accuracy those little cameos which make a day memorable. Ladies Day in particular provides a fascinating diversion from equine matters as glamour and glitz compete with colour clashes and costume jewellery.

Then there's Grand National day itself, with Aintree's inescapable and colourful past echoed in the names of fences, stands and complementary facilities which make up the huge complex bordering the historic track. If you are as amused by people watching as you are by the racing, you'll find this book contains a treasure trove of human interest images as well as capturing the spirit of Aintree.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andy Stansfield is a Lancashire-based photographer and author who specialises in travel, outdoor leisure and events. He has written and illustrated numerous titles for Halsgrove as well as a number of photography books.

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There are plenty of opportunities to pick up a Racing Post or form guide.



Red Rum. This world famous racehorse was the only one ever to win the Grand National three times.



As the riders approach the finish, excitement levels are raised to new heights.



Right: The huge overhanging roof of the Earl of Derby Stand juts out prominently on the left.



Example of a double-page spread.



Opposite: Princess Royal Stand
This is one of three stands providing a huge overhanging roof to protect spectators from the worst of any bad weather.



Parade ring. This is a glorious sight in the spring sunshine, with the blossom out on the trees behind the grassy bank which makes a perfect viewing area.