

Transcript – BBC Radio Surrey, Interview with Ben Newman, 2 June 2023

- Speaker 1** Thanks to Ben Newman from the Animal Rising group. First of all, Ben, good morning. Thank you for joining us.
- Ben Newman** Good morning. Thanks for having me.
- Speaker 1** Erm, there's an injunction to prevent a repeat of what happened at the Grand National, so um are your plans still gonna go ahead?
- Ben Newman** Yes. So after the Gr- yes so after the Grand National um people left crying er and the whole country was shocked. And really, they lost the argument, and now they have brought out er some private laws, which are quite concerning, the use of injunctions. Erm but yes, the protest will still be going ahead, yes.
- Speaker 1** Erm you mentioned you you're planning disruption between races. So tell us about that?
- Ben Newman** Erm so I mean it's much the sum... there is two things going on there, there's one there protest erm family fun family friendly protest out the front, er which invites anyone to go down to, and also some people will be er putting their bodies ... get- getting on the tracks er and er disrupting the race, and you know maybe delaying it for a bit, but I don't think it is the erm... yep
- Speaker 1** So sorry, can I just clarify the the second part you talked about, is that going to happen between races or during races?
- Ben Newman** Oh, no one is going to be running in front of horses for the running, no
- Speaker 1** You said it would be up to the race organisers to decide whether a race is actually safe to run, er however. So, so what does that mean?
- Ben Newman** Erm so if the if the h-... if the w- the, the... Epsom Derby decide when to run the race ... and erm sorry, I didn't say that, but I mean they they can decide to run the race. If the race seems unsafe, erm... they certainly shouldn't run the race, no.
- Speaker 1** Erm so.. so fr- from your point of view, what what actually declares as a race safe to run then, if if you are going to be protesting at the same time?
- Ben Newman** Where we have the the ... after the ... if the horses are, if the horses are skittish or anything like that, but I mean, I, I do not actually host. I do not actually host horse races, but I would say all horse races all horse races are not safe for horses, and that is the whole point of this of this protest, it or at least part of the point is is that a- you may have seen at the Grand National, a horse went over the first jump, died and broke their neck on the spot. So horse racing is not safe to horses at all, and and that is the point, that we are treating them like property and and making them run. So I would... so our position is that it is not safe for horses to run the race at all, hence why we are trying to stop it.
- Speaker 1** Erm how er confident are you that your actions won't put the horses in danger as well?
- Ben Newman** Well, we are doing it for two reasons, and one is to to stop the horses running. So in the case of the Grand National, for example, that that is the most recent example. Three horses died that that erm that weekend and the first horse went over and died as soon as as soon as the race started, a horse died. It is shocking, erm but we are also doing it to create erm a massive erm conversation and and we did create that. So for example,

the British Veterinary Association said they are considering changing their position on horse racing after what erm we brought attention to. So... erm...

Speaker 1 Yes can I, sorry, sorry, Ben, I am going to press you on this. Can I just ask you again, how confident are you that your actions tomorrow aren't going to put horses in danger?

Ben Newman It's not our actions putting; what is putting horses in danger, is the is the running, that horse are being made to run er a race with a jockey on their back and being whipped and being dragged around by a metal bit in their mouth. That, that is what puts horses in danger. Erm... pe-... we, so ... and and the precaution ... I suppose in answ- in direct answer to your question is people aren't going to be running out, directly in front of horses running it, yeah.

Speaker 1 OK. For the moment, thank you very much indeed. That is er Ben Newman from Animal Rising group. So the er Derby ... taking place, the oaks is taking place today, of course actually and the Derby takes place tomorrow. Let us go live ...

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Sport

Police arrest 19 animal rights activists ahead of Epsom Derby

The group Animal Rising accused Surrey Police of 'abusing' their powers

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The arrests come after activist group Animal Rising vowed to "cancel or severely delay" the race – despite a High Court injunction banning them from doing so. Photograph: Victoria Jones/PA

Sat Jun 3 2023 - 11:51



Nineteen activists have been arrested ahead of plans to disrupt the Epsom Derby on Saturday, police said.

The group Animal Rising accused Surrey Police of “abusing” their powers after the activists were arrested on Saturday morning based on intelligence received by officers.

A spokesman for the force said 11 people were arrested at addresses in Mitcham and Byfleet in the early hours and a further eight people were arrested after their vehicle was stopped on Canons Lane in Burgh Heath at around 10.20am.

It comes after activist group vowed to “cancel or severely delay” the race – despite a High Court injunction banning them from doing so.

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Last week, the Jockey Club, which owns Epsom Downs, was granted the injunction against the group, claiming it had made “explicitly clear” it intended to breach security at the Surrey racecourse.

And on Friday, Surrey Police warned they “will not tolerate” risks to public safety after an Animal Rising member told Sky News she would do “what’s necessary”, including breaking the law, to protect the animals.

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There was disruption at the Grand National at Aintree in April when the race was delayed by just over 10 minutes after demonstrators made their way on to the track and had to be removed by police.

In a defiant announcement following the arrests, Animal Rising said police would not stop them from disrupting the Derby.

They said: “Earlier this morning, at least 10 arrests were made by Surrey Police, allegedly in connection with the Epsom Derby.

“This comes after reports of facial recognition camera around Epsom Downs Racecourse.

“Police heavy-handedness and intimidation tactics will not prevent a national conversation about our animals and the natural world

“It restates its commitment to protect horses and disrupt the Derby.”

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Superintendent Michael Hodder of Surrey Police said: “We have been clear in our approach that criminal activity will not be tolerated at the Epsom Derby Festival.

“As a result of intelligence, we have arrested 19 people who we believe were intent on illegally disrupting today’s events.

“Our officers will be at the event throughout the day to continue in keeping the public safe and preventing criminality.”

Jockey Club officials fear the protest will endanger participants, racegoers and horses, although they said they do not dismiss the right to peaceful protest and have offered Animal Rising an area near the racecourse’s entrance to demonstrate.

The injunction granted by High Court judge Sir Anthony Mann bans people from going on to the racetrack and carrying out other acts with the intention and/or effect of disrupting the races.

Those breaching the court order may be subject to contempt of court proceedings and fined or jailed.

Surrey Police have been approached for comment.

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Grand National 2023: 'Animal Rising' plead for people to join protest amid plan to sabotage race

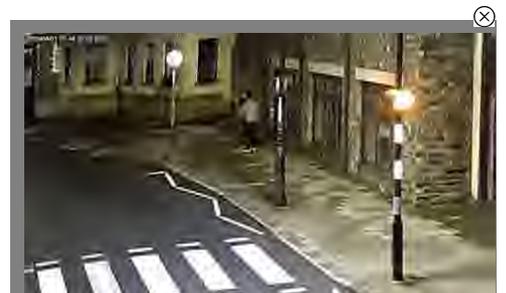


By Samuel Meade, Sports Brand Writer
13:47, 11 Apr 2023

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The protest group Animal Rising have called on animal lovers to join them this Saturday as they bid to sabotage the Grand National.

The steeplechase over more than four miles is the race that captures the imagination of the country more than any other. Punters flock to betting shops around the nation before the Aintree showpiece, with thousands more in attendance at the racecourse.



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As a result it has been the platform for protests in the past as animal rights activists take issue with the treatment of horses. This year is no different and on Saturday Animal Rising, who've had their plans exposed by the national press, are looking to make a point at Aintree and want to further increase their numbers.

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Volunteer Orla Coghlan appeared on **GMB** and spoke about their motivations: "We're trying to do two main things by disrupting this race. We care very much about animals and we're trying to protect those horses by being there on the tracks. Secondly we want to have this public conversation - I'm sure million families are having these conversations around breakfast - so I think it is quite an effective way to protest."



Mirror

She went on to say: "We know every other day a horse dies in horse racing in the UK. Also since, I year 2000, 50 horses have died at Aintree alone." Orla questioned why, given the obvious affection public has for horses, why they have to be enjoyed in an arena where they face harm.

Animal Rising spokesman Ben Newman told **GB News** : "Yes, so horse racing is wrong and we can much better than using animals for food or fun and we just don't need to. We're inviting everyone

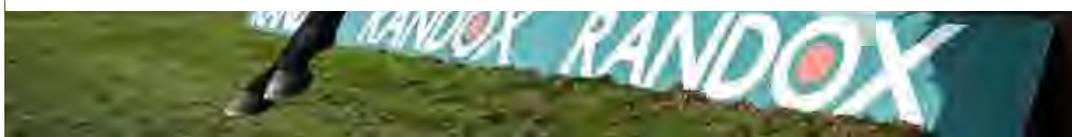
PRIVACY Jam on the 15th to Aintree racecourse and hope to stop the race.



"Come on down if you'd like to know more. Protest is a fairly common thing in a democracy and there's nothing new about it. We'll be using our bodies and that's all there is to it really."



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Orla admitted that, beyond their intention to disrupt, no exact plans had been made as she was questioned on whether the group would invade the track. "We're going to be turning up outside the gates at Aintree at 9.30am on Saturday and we'd encourage any other animal lovers to be there with us," she added.

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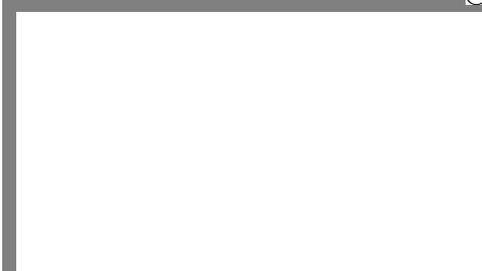
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ence. In 2021 the Long Mile died whilst in 2012 the much-loved synchronised, **navy blue** Tony McCoy, was a fatality just weeks after claiming the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

The three-day festival at Aintree begins on Thursday and features several Grade 1 races including the Aintree Bowl and the Melling Chase. Last year's Grand National winner Noble Yeats is aiming to emulate the likes of Red Rum and Tiger Roll as a multiple winner, but Corach Rambler currently heads the betting.

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MG11(P)

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WITNESS STATEMENT			
(Criminal Procedure Rules R16.2, Criminal Justice Act 1967 S9)			
		URN	05B20042123
Statement of	SALISBURY, LEWYS H		
Age if under 18	Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')	Occupation	Police service
This statement (consisting of 3 page(s)) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.			
Signature 	#055389 SALISBURY, L.	Date	16/04/2023 09:09
Name / Rank / No	Constable 055389 L H SALISBURY		

I am Police Constable 5389 SALISBURY currently based at the Operational Command Centre in Speke as of part of Matrix Disruption in the role as Operational Specialist. I am trained in Police search techniques.

I was deployed to Aintree Racecourse from April 11th to April 15th 2023 as part of the callsign XU91. This callsign was a dedicated protestor removal capability for the Aintree Racecourse footprint. Over the 3 days of racing, it attracts over 100,000 members of public to the racecourse, with the majority of public attending on the final day, The Grand National.

On the day of The Grand National, April 15th 2023, I was in company with PC PARRY and SGT REILY as the only protestor removal capability on the steeple chase side of the Racecourse. Our task was monitoring the jumps and outer fences near to the Liverpool Leeds Canal. This side of the race course is out of bounds to members of public whilst the race day has begun. Only members of public that have valid tickets and who have parked vehicles / or their coaches are parked there, have a valid reason to attend this side of the course. Whilst the racing is on, this area is locked down. Members of public must be in possession of a valid ticket / pass to be able to attend the race course.

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At around 16.45 hours large numbers of people were sighted in the woods near to jump 8 and 7. I sighted multiple people wearing pink T shirts and holding extendable ladders, attempt to scale the outer and inner fences of the racecourse. I could hear screaming and shouting coming from all directions as Private Security staff and members of public confronted them. Private Security and members of public were taking the ladders off the people and throwing the ladders onto the racecourse in an attempt to slow down and disrupt them. Additional Police Officers attended my location both inside and outside of the racecourse to assist however there were too many people running from all directions, and all climbing the fences.

I believed that these people were attempting to gain entry to the race course to conduct a protest in order to disrupt or delay the Grand National Race, which was in fact the next race due to be started at 17.15 hours.

I sighted a male wearing a pink t shirt scale the green inner fence at incredible speed. I was at least the width of the race track away from him as I was close to the road that runs alongside the race track. I crossed the race track towards him and as he negotiated the top of the fence, he rips the front of his t shirt, lands on the floor and runs away from me to my left, towards jump 8 "CANAL TURN". I attempted to trip him but just missed his left ankle. I continued to chase the male and I saw him reach into his pocket and pour something into his hands and he dropped a white lid in the process.

I believed that he had super glue and was going to attempt to glue himself onto or around the CANAL TURN jump. If successful, this could have caused significant disruption to the race event and the tens of thousands of public in attendance, as the Grand National Race could possibly be delayed or even cancelled.

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As he stopped next to the right hand side of the jump, he placed his hands together with his arms around the fence structure. This allowed me to catch the male and I wrapped my arms around him and pulled him off fencing. We both fell onto the grass floor and I was quickly surrounded by racecourse staff and official photographers who assisted me control the male whilst we both caught our breath.

I pointed out the offences of aggravated trespass and causing a public nuisance. At 17.00 hours I cautioned the male. He made no reply and I informed him that I was placing him under arrest. I told the male that his arrest was necessary to verify his name and address, prevent damage to property and to prevent harm to himself.

I handcuffed the male to the rear and double locked them for safety. I searched the male and found only a phone and a bank card under the name Benjamin NEWMAN. The male refused to confirm his name and date of birth. The male did not have a valid ticket or pass for the days racing.

The male had a ripped pink t shirt on with Animal Rising in white writing. He had dark hair with light highlights. He had blue jeans and light suede trainers on.

I remained with the male until 2 Special Constables took over in order to transport the male to a Custody Suite on my behalf at around 18.45 hours. I did not see the male again and I had no further dealings with him. I was deployed to another area within the race course in order to deal with further protesters.

These are my original notes.

Crime

Six arrested after animal rights protesters blockade McDonald's depot in Hemel Hempstead

They are demanding the fast food chain commits to becoming fully plant-based

By Holly Patel

Published 24th May 2021, 14:37 BST - 1 min read

Updated 24th May 2021, 14:44 BST



Six people have been arrested following an animal rights protest outside a McDonald's depot in Hemel Hempstead at the weekend.

Animal Rebellion activists staged a 24-hour protest outside the distribution centre in Hemel Hempstead as part of their demands for the fast food giant to become fully plant-based by 2025.

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Protesters were also outside the depots in Basingstoke, Coventry and Heywood, Greater Manchester.



Police

Hertfordshire Police confirmed that six people have each been charged with:

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- Use violence or intimidation on person, family or property to compel activity or abstention from lawful activity - Contrary to section 241(1)(a) and (2) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

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- Obstruct / disrupt person engaged in a lawful activity - Contrary to section 68(1) and (3) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

Those charged are:

- > A 17-year- old boy from Denham
- > Rachel Graham, 31, of Bushell Close, Leighton Buzzard
- > Michelle MacDonagh, 33, of Hazel Way, Surrey
- > Benjamin Newman, 30, of Kyverdale Road, Hackney
- > Annabel Bewick, 19, of no fixed abode
- > A 17-year-old person from Oxford.

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A spokesperson for Hertfordshire Police said: "All have been given strict bail conditions and will appear at St Albans Magistrates' Court on Friday 2 July."



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Animal protestors occupy Dorset Dairy Farm

The group that previously disrupted the Grand National demonstrated at a farm in Dorset.



Animal Rising

Author: George Sharpe

Published 20th May 2023

Animal activists have descended on a dairy farm in Dorset protesting conditions.

Animal Rising was responsible for disruptions at the Grand National.



Debbie Mac
Greatest Hits Radio

Around 30 demonstrators occupied the farm and comforted calves kept in pens there. They also demanded the release of one calf as a good will offering.

They claim calves should not be kept in pens separate from their families.



No arrests were made and everyone left safely after discussions with farm managers.

The group says it is trying to start a conversation with the farming industry.

Ben Newman, one of those taking action said:

"Just like every other animal in farms across the UK, the baby cows here just



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environment, destroying our rivers, and it's killing billions of innocent individuals each year. We need a safe and secure food system and that can only come once we all truly consider how to mend our shattered connection with all animals and create a world that is kinder to us all."

But, a spokesperson for farm owners JF Cobb and Sons said:

"I don't need to tell you how disappointing this is for all of us. As a family farming business, we care passionately about our livestock and all our energy is focused on keeping our cattle comfortable and healthy. We work closely with vets and industry welfare experts to establish the best approach to looking after our animals and our health and welfare performance is industry-leading. Our animals are under close veterinary supervision and there is no suggestion that the health and welfare of our animals has been compromised.

"We have been in liaison with Marks & Spencer and our milk buyer over this matter and last week spot audits were undertaken, including from Trading Standards. All of these audits were passed successfully, with no concerns over animal welfare."

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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9

URN

45EP0609823

Occurrence Number: 45230060343

Statement of: KATHERINE STEVENS

Age if under 18: Over 18 *(if over 18 insert 'over 18')* Occupation: POLICE CONSTABLE

This statement (consisting of THREE page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:  #P4541191 STEVENS, K.

Date: 07/06/2023 14:12

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded

This statement is made in relation to assistance I have provided during my deployment EPSOM DERBY, EPSOM RACECOURSE on SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 2023. I was deployed as a forwards intelligence officer under call sign INDIA 1 with PC 41540 KING, and we were tasked with watching members of the public in case any protest was to take place. I was in full uniform and wearing police issued PPE.

Within this statement I will discuss attempting to intervene when a male who I now know to be a Ben NEWMAN who trespassed onto a live track at EPSOM DOWNS. I was part of a team managing the LONSDALE ENCLOSURE which was situated opposite the Grandstand and had a large number of members of public in it with coaches parked inside the enclosure. This enclosure was directly opposite the Grandstand and I was tasked with observing this area for the day. From my viewpoint observing the LONSDALE ENCLOSURE I was stood between the public barrier which I would describe as a full white fence with no open points to get through, and the race lining barrier which I would describe as a single white length of plastic. This meant I had easy access onto the race course if needed.

At approximately 1333 HRS I have been stood between the main public barrier and the track lining barrier. The horses had all made their way to the start of the Derby Main race and regular updates were given over loud speakers that the horses were being loaded into the starting stalls. There was a general buzz as everyone in the LONSDALE Enclosure was excited for the main race of the day. This was visible over in the Grandstand area as well. Members of public began approaching the public barrier so they could get a better view of the race track. The loud speaker has then announced that the main race has started. I was not aware of the exact timing that the race had started but the cheering of the public had started and the race was being shown on large screens in the LONSDALE Enclosure so it was clear that the race had started. I have kept constant observations on the crowd as I was concerned that public may attempt to access the track due to the briefing we had received at the start of our shift regarding potential track incursions. I was closely watching

members of public and facing away from the race track in order to get the best view of persons attempting to climb over the barrier. I have then heard shouting of "ON TRACK". As I have turned round I have seen a male I now know to be a Ben NEWMAN [REDACTED] running from the Grandstand side of the race track into the middle of the live racing track. I was incredibly concerned as the main Derby race had started and horses would be coming towards NEWMAN at high speeds. I was aware that the main Derby race is a longer race so I knew that I had enough time to get onto the track and attempt to get NEWMAN off the track for his safety. He seemed to be smiling as he ran and I do not believe he had any care for his own safety, the horses who would be coming towards him or the jockeys riding the horses. I have seen that he has attempted to dodge a steward and has successfully done this and kept running. It was clear that NEWMAN was not aware of his own personal safety and the risk he was putting on those trying to get him off the course. Due to a concern for his safety I have run onto the main track during the live track. I have seen my colleague PC 40632 HODGKINS standing in the middle of the track and have seen him manage to rugby tackle NEWMAN to the ground where a racecourse steward has joined him. This was during the live race and I believe it was near the 1/2 furlong marker. I have immediately run towards my colleagues PC 40632 HODGKINS, the steward and NEWMAN who was detained on the floor. I have started shouting "GET HIM OFF THE TRACK. HORSES ARE COMING" as I could hear my colleague PC 40632 HODGKINS stating he was going to handcuff NEWMAN. I had real concerns for the safety of everyone dealing with NEWMAN and the risk he had put on himself, my colleagues and the racecourse steward. I have then assisted with carrying NEWMAN off towards the LONSDALE Enclosure side as I knew that prisoner transport vans had been sat up on standby at the entrance to the enclosure. I have turned my body worn video on at this point as I had previously forgotten to do this when running onto the track. I exhibit the body worn video KS/BWV/01 "Body Worn Video Footage from Epsom Derby". I have been holding NEWMAN's leg as he had refused to walk off the track by himself. He was a heavy weight and had gone all floppy. We have carried NEWMAN towards a gate exit through the public into the LONSDALE Enclosure. Members of the public were shouting and swearing at NEWMAN and we managed to clear a way through to keep NEWMAN safe from the public. The stewards attempted to help us with this. I have been saying "GET BACK GET BACK" to the public who have been booing. During this I have heard the racehorses come galloping past and they were clearly at maximum speed due to being near the finish line. We have walked NEWMAN towards the prisoner transport unit and stood him next to the van in a sterile area. NEWMAN has tried to get onto the van and I have asked him to stay outside until we had searched him. I had concerns that he may have items on him which may be used for locking on or glue items for sticking himself to the van. NEWMAN has given me his details and also to PC 2511 AINSWORTH. I have asked my male colleagues to search NEWMAN as per force policy to ensure that a same gender search was conducted. My colleague PC 41190 BALFOUR has searched NEWMAN. PC 40632 HODGKINS has asked whether NEWMAN had taken anything and he said he hadn't. I have then been handed four receipts by my colleagues PC 41529

COLESHILL which were four £60 transactions for the day. I was not sure whether these were betting slips or tickets. They have shown differing transactions for £60. I have handed these back to officers transporting NEWMAN and they have put these into NEWMAN's property. I have remained with NEWMAN until his search was complete whereby I have returned to track side in case.

I would describe NEWMAN as an IC1 male of around 30 years of age. He was of small stature and had skinny legs. He had a gaunt appearance to his face and had blonde highlighted streaks through darker hair. His hair was longer on the top and gelled to the left whilst the sides were shorter. He had the appearance of a race goer and was dressed in a dark long sleeved shirt with grey smart trousers and black trainers. I had observations of NEWMAN for around ten minutes in total and during the majority of this time I had no obstructions to my view and was looking at him directly. The closest I have got to NEWMAN was very close as I have been carrying him and the furthest was when I have seen him first running on the track. The weather was bright and sunny with good lighting. NEWMAN had distinctive blonde highlights and this would mean I would be able to easily identify him again. It has been four days since the incident when I have written this statement. I had not seen NEWMAN prior to this incident.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9

URN

Occurrence Number: 45230060343

Statement of: Mark Hodgkins

Age if under 18: Over 18 *(if over 18 insert 'over 18')* Occupation: Police Constable 40632

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:  #P4540632 Hodgkins, M.

Date: 03/06/2023 21:13

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded

On Saturday 3rd June, 2023 I was on duty in full police uniform paired with PS 4871 BAKER. We were deployed as an Evidence Gather Team under the call sign 'EG4' to the annual Epsom Derby (horse racing) event in Surrey.

Following information that a group called 'ANIMAL RISING' were planning to disrupt and cause issues during the races were situated ourselves on the 'GRANDSTAND' side of the racetrack. Our role was to look out for any suspicious activity, prevent persons from entering the track and to capture evidence of any offences.

At approximately 13:35 hours the main derby race (THE BETFRED DERBY) started and the horses began racing down the back end of the track. I knew this due to the big screen opposite the GRANDSTAND showing the race live and the crowd noise from people cheering.

A short while into the race I could hear a lot of the crowd shouting and booing. I looked down the track towards 'TATTENHAM CORNER' (last corner before the home straight to the finish line) and could see a male (NEWMAN) in the middle of the track running down towards the finish line being chased by a steward.

I now know this male to be BEN NEWMAN [REDACTED] (32). I would describe NEWMAN as a white male, slim build with medium length brown with some blond highlights hair and was clean shaven. He was wearing a navy shirt, grey trousers with a black belt, black shoes, and black sunglasses.

NEWMAN was running away from stewards down the track towards the finish line in front of the main 'GRANTSTAND' and the 'TATTEHAM MQ' area

Due to the race being on and the risk of horses coming down the home straight at any moment I decided to enter the race track to remove NEWMAN. I ran towards NEWMAN who was still running away from stewards and I tackled him to the floor to prevent his escape.

At 13:36 hours I said to NEWMAN 'YOU ARE UNDER ARREST ON SUSPICION OF CAUSING A PUBLIC NUISANCE'.

A colleague has then joined and shouted 'QUICK WE NEED TO GET OFF THE TRACK THE HORSES ARE COMING'. Along with other police colleagues we have dragged NEWMAN off of the track. Whilst at the side of the track NEWMAN was restrained on the floor. I have then applied handcuffs to him in the rear stack position, double locking and checking for tightness.

I have then said to NEWMAN 'IN CASE YOU DIDN'T HEAR, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST ON SUSPICION OF CAUSING A PUBLIC NUISANCE FOR RUNNING INTO THE TRACK LIKE THAT'

I cautioned NEWMAN fully to which he made no reply.

I then said 'YOUR ARREST IS NECESSARY SO WE CAN INTERVIEW YOU AND PREVENT FURTHER HARM'

We kept NEWMAN restrained at the side of the race track on the grass till all of the horses raced passed us towards the finish line. Along with other policing colleagues we have carried NEWMAN down the race track to an exit gate to a prisoner transport unit.

NEWMAN was then searched under Section 32 PACE, only thing of note was that he had a ticker that was 1 of 6 booked together.

At 13:42 hours I further arrested NEWMAN on conspiracy to cause public nuisance. I cautioned him to which he gave no

reply.

NEWMAN was then transported to a custody centre by PC 41263 and I had no further dealings.

It was evident to me that NEWMAN's actions created a serious risk to the horses, the jockeys, myself and other colleagues working at the event who had to enter the live race track. NEWMAN's actions also caused significant distress and annoyance to the thousands of members of the public in attendance at the event.

When I had tackled NEWMAN to the floor and my female colleague shouted at me that the horses were travelling down the home straight we were on I suddenly realised the severity of the situation. I was in genuine fear for my safety at the thought of 10+ horses travelling directly towards us (near the finish line) at around 40 mph. I was really scared that I was going to be seriously injured by the on coming horse, I extremely grateful that other officers arrived so we were able to get NEWMAN off of the track before the horses came racing down.

OFFICIAL (when complete)

Case Classification:		Public order			
Surname: NEWMAN		Custody Number:		CR4523012868	
Forename(s): BEN		URN:		45EP0609823	
Address: WINTERGREEN COURT, HOMERTON HIGH STREET, # 5, HACKNEY, LONDON, HACKNEY UK E9 6FU		First Arrest Date:		03/06/2023 13:39	
Gender: Male		A/S No.:		23/0000/00/638378N	
Contact Tel No:		Date of birth:		[REDACTED]	
		Ethnicity Code: PNC:		1	
		16-point (self-determined) system:		W01	
		Interpreter: language/dialect:			
		Name of interpreter:			
YO	<input type="checkbox"/>	DYO	NO	PPO	NO

You are charged with the offence(s) shown below. You do not have to say anything. But it may harm your defence if you do not mention now, something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence.

If you are a personal licence holder with any local authority in the UK, authorising you to sell alcohol you must produce your personal licence at court. You commit a further offence if you fail to do so.

If you have been charged with any offence(s) under the Road Traffic Act, you MUST take your driving licence to court

Charge(s)
(1) Intentionally / recklessly cause a public nuisance 2023/06/03 -- on 03/06/2023 at Epsom in the county of surrey, without reasonable excuse, did an act, namely entered a horse racing track intending to cause disruption to the racing programme, and that created a risk or caused serious harm by serious annoyance to the public or a section of the public intending or being reckless that it would have such a consequence.
'Contrary to section 78(1) and (4) of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.'

Reply (if any): (1)

Signed (person charged):	Signed (appropriate adult):
Officer charging Surname: ANDERSON	Rank: Constable No. P4540497
Station: SYP WEST CA TEAM	
Officer in case Surname: GRAY	Rank: Detective Sergeant No. CG452
Station: SXP SCC SOCU	
Charge accepted Surname: GARDINER	Rank: Sergeant No. P453357 Date/ Time: 04/06/2023 06:34

COURT APPEARANCE DETAIL

SYP GUILDFORD REMAND COURT			
GUILDFORD MAGISTRATES COURT, MARY ROAD, GUILDFORD, SURREY UK GU1 4PS			
at (full address)	(THE LAW COURTS)		
on (date)	05/06/2023	at (time)	10:00
		Room	2

OFFICIAL (when complete)

Date signed:	04/06/2023 06:41	Name of HUB:	SYP TWIF PRE-CHARGE
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File copy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Court copy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Custody record	<input type="checkbox"/>	Person charged	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Filed on behalf of the Applicant

Witness Statement of Amy Starkey

Statement No. 1

Date: 22 May 2023

Exhibits: AS1

**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

WITNESS STATEMENT OF AMY STARKEY

I, **AMY STARKEY**, of the Jockey Club Racecourses Limited, 75 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS, **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I am the Managing Director of the Applicant (the “**Jockey Club**”). I have worked for the Jockey Club for 18 years and have been in my current role for approximately 2 ½ years.
2. In my current role, I am directly responsible for a collection of racecourses, including Epsom Downs, Sandown Park, Kempton Park, and Newmarket, as well as some smaller ones. Prior to this role, I was Regional Director of the East Region for the Jockey Club, in which I was responsible for Newmarket, Huntingdon, Market Rasen and Nottingham racecourses; I was in that role for almost 10 years.
3. I make this statement specifically in relation to the interactions that the Jockey Club has had with Animal Rising in relation to the Epsom Derby. I am duly authorised to make this statement on behalf of the Jockey Club and in support of its application for injunctive relief.
4. 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.
5. Throughout this statement, I will refer to certain documents, copies of which are exhibited in a paginated bundle marked ‘**AS1**’ which accompanies this witness statement.

Initial communications with Animal Rising

6. By way of brief background, Animal Rising is an animal activist movement based in the United Kingdom. It is my understanding that it was founded approximately four years ago; it is not a corporate entity and rather, is a collection of members who all share a common purpose. I understand that that purpose is to “repair” what they consider is society’s broken relationship with animals. They consider that this can only be repaired by creating a completely plant-based food system, and bringing an end to farming and

fishing, as well as horse racing. I refer to the Witness Statement of Nevin Truesdale for further detail on what is known by the Jockey Club in respect of Animal Rising.

7. On 2 May 2023, at 11:11am, the Jockey Club received an email from a member of Animal Rising, Kerri Waters. Ms Waters advised that she was writing on behalf of Animal Rising, noting that they were the group responsible for disrupting the Grand National at Aintree and the Scottish Grand National at Ayr, on 15 and 22 April 2023, respectively. Ms Waters advised that the purpose of the email was to inform the Jockey Club that Animal Rising had that day announced plans to mobilise 1000 people to disrupt the Epsom Derby, due to be held on 3 June 2023 (the “**Derby**”)¹. She proposed that the Jockey Club and Animal Rising hold an in-person meeting, to better understand one another and our respective aims [page 7 of AS1].
8. Nevin Truesdale responded on behalf of the Jockey Club on 3 May 2023 at 13:30, confirming that the Jockey Club would be happy to meet with Animal Rising ahead of the Derby, suggesting that the meeting be in London and that it would be sensible for representatives of the British Horseracing Authority also to be in attendance [pages 6-7 of AS1].
9. Several further emails were exchanged between 5 May 2023 and 10 May 2023 arranging the logistics of the meeting, which were all good-natured, positive, and welcoming [pages 1-6 of AS1]. The Jockey Club proposed that the meeting be held in a neutral location, and Animal Rising agreed. Accordingly, we booked a private meeting at a co-working space, LABS, 90 High Holborn for 11 May 2023. We also confirmed and agreed the attendees in advance, which were, in addition to me, as follows:
 - A. Stuart Williamson – Chief Corporate Affairs Officer (the Jockey Club);
 - B. Simon Knapp – Senior Veterinary Officer for London Region Races (the Jockey Club);
 - C. Greg Swift – Director of Communications & Corporate Affairs (British Horseracing Authority);
 - D. Kerri Waters (Animal Rising); and
 - E. Dan Kidby (The First Respondent, Animal Rising).

The Meeting

¹ The Epsom Derby forms part of the Epsom Festival, for further information in this respect I refer to the Witness Statement of Nevin Truesdale.

10. The meeting took place as intended on 11 May 2023 at 12pm. It was a small, private meeting room and quite intimate. Mr Kidby advised us that he lived in the UK and co-founded Animal Rising (then known as Animal Rebellion) approximately four years ago. Ms Waters advised that she had been recruited by Animal Rising as an activist, and that she lived in France on a farm and owned two thoroughbred horses and several ponies.
11. I exhibit a minute of the meeting at **pages 8-9 of AS1**.
12. During the meeting, both sides were clear and direct in their position. In respect of the Derby, Animal Rising confirmed that there were two strands to the action they were intending to take, the first, being a peaceful protest to be led by Ms Waters, (the "**Peaceful Protest**") the purpose of which was to inform and raise awareness of Animal Rising's cause, and the second, a non-violent disruption of the race to be led by Mr Kidby, (the "**Disruption**") the purpose of which was to prevent the Derby from taking place at all.
13. In respect of the Peaceful Protest, we outlined our respect and support for this within the limits of the law. We advised that we were supportive of a Peaceful Protest at the Derby and offered to create a space for the protestors participating in the Peaceful Protest; we have since further arranged this directly with Animal Rising (see paragraphs 20-23 below).
14. In respect of the Disruption, Animal Rising said that their aim was to stop the race but that they did not plan to interrupt during the running of the race. We requested details of their plans, but they would not disclose these to us.
15. The Jockey Club outlined that the welfare and safety of all participants (including the horses) and those present at the Derby was our top priority, and the high risk that is posed to the safety of the horses, jockeys, public attendees, and protestors if the Derby is disrupted. Simon Knapp highlighted the differences between jump and flat horses and the routine and conditions that needed to be created for the welfare of the horse, explaining that any delay on a race day, poses a risk to the welfare of the animals. I refer to these matters set out in Simon Knapp's Witness Statement.²
16. We asked whether there were any alternative means of Animal Rising achieving its objectives (particularly given our clear offer to accommodate the Peaceful Protest). They told us that our comments in respect of the welfare of the horses and all

² For further information of the impact on horse welfare and safety generally, I refer also to the Witness Statement of Nevin Trusedale.

participants, did not change their position, and that they did not consider there to be any alternatives to the plans they had in place.

17. They told us that they considered themselves to be a non-violent movement and believed in creating a positive environment during protests. The Jockey Club challenged this, noting that the movement, and particularly the Disruption, attracts a more radical type of protestor, and queried how they intended to control this.
18. Whilst the meeting was helpful to understand each other's positions and good-natured throughout, ultimately, it was apparent to me that Animal Rising were intent on going ahead with the Disruption.

Communications with Animal Rising following the Meeting

19. Following the meeting on the evening of 11 May 2023, Ms Waters sent an email thanking us for the meeting and the opportunity to share our respective views. She advised that she would send a follow up email the week commencing 15 May 2023 to provide us with details of the Peaceful Protest, so that we could assist in arranging this [page 2 of AS1]. Stuart responded on behalf of the Jockey Club, reciprocating our thanks and our appreciation for the chance to hear their perspective [page 1 of AS1].
20. On 18 May 2023, I sent a follow up email as we had by then, not then heard further from Ms Waters or Mr Kidby [pages 11-12 of AS1]. I advised that the Jockey Club remained deeply committed to accommodating their right to peaceful and respectful protest. I advised that we were content to offer a dedicated location for the Peaceful Protest, located opposite the Main Entrance Pavilion with availability from 10am on the day of the Derby, and Oaks Day (on 2 June - although we understand that Derby Day is the focus for the protesters). I attached a copy of an aerial photograph showing the location [page 13 AS1]. I also outlined that the Jockey Club had an obligation to ensure that we protect all those attending the Derby, with safety and enjoyment of everyone, human or equine, being our number one priority. I strongly requested that any individuals within Animal Rising refrain from any illegal activity or other disruptive and dangerous behaviour at the Derby, highlighting the risks and relevant criminal offences, as well as the fact the Jockey Club and the police would not hesitate to take any action necessary to protect the Derby and the horseracing industry.
21. On 19 May 2023, Ms Waters responded on behalf of Animal Rising, accepting the offer of a dedicated area outside of the racecourse. She advised that Animal Rising were planning a "*family-friendly event*" which is to include soapbox racers, competitions, an open mic session, music and arts and crafts. I am aware that this has also been

publicised on their social media channels,^{3,4} and in Ms Waters email she provided a link to a Facebook event for the same, which shows that, at the date of this statement, 44 guests were confirmed as going and 174 were interested⁵ [page 11 of AS1].

22. In respect of the disruption, Ms Waters confirmed Animal Risings “*unwavering intention*” to stop the Derby by getting on the racecourse, and she invited the Jockey Club to cancel the Derby [page 11 of AS1].

23. On 20 May 2023, I responded to Ms Waters on behalf of the Jockey Club [page 10 of AS1]. I reconfirmed the Jockey Club’s commitment to accommodating the Peaceful Protest and advised that one of my colleagues from the Operations Team would be in touch to discuss and arrange logistics of this. I thanked Ms Waters for Animal Risings’ transparency in respect of their unwavering intention to cause a Disruption, noting that they themselves recognised that such action may include conduct which is unlawful. I confirmed that the Jockey Club would work with Surrey Police to take any action necessary to ensure that any protest which caused a disproportionate disruption or risks to the Derby would be dealt with swiftly and decisively. The Jockey Club remains committed to accommodating the Peaceful Protest.

Conclusion

24. Unfortunately, it is clear to me that Animal Rising has no intention of cancelling the intended Disruption, which, for the reasons set out in more detail in the Witness Statements of Nevin Truesdale and Simon Knapp, is of great concern to the Jockey Club, given that the welfare and safety of the horses and all those attending and participating in the Derby is of paramount importance to the Jockey Club.

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...  DBDCEBA513094F4...

Amy Starkey

Date... 21/05/23

³ <https://twitter.com/AnimalRising/status/1659608417101664256?s=20> pages 14 of AS1
⁴ <https://www.instagram.com/p/CsWtnQPKeZj/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D> pages 15-16 of AS1
⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/epsom-for-all-a-vegan-alternat/6128105467244449/> page 17 of AS1

Archived: 21 May 2023 15:59:23

From: [Starkey, Amy](#)

Sent: 12 May 2023 10:40:02

To: [Stollard, Rachel](#)

Subject: FW: CHANGE OF ATTENDEES: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

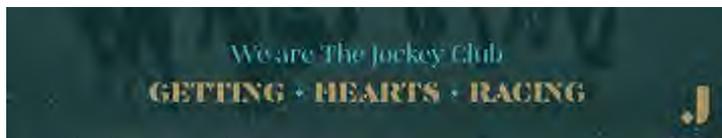
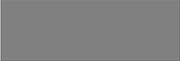
Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

AMY STARKEY | MANAGING DIRECTOR, JOCKEY CLUB RACECOURSES

+44 (0) 7901 716233

thejockeyclub.co.uk



From: Williamson, Stuart

Sent: 11 May 2023 20:34

To: Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>; Fitzgerald, Jenna <Jenna.Fitzgerald@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Cc: Daniel Kidby <d.f.p.kidby@outlook.com>; Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Subject: RE: CHANGE OF ATTENDEES: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

Dear Kerri

Many thanks to you and Dan for taking the time to meet with us today and for the doughnuts. We equally appreciated the chance to hear your perspectives.

Thank you for the respectful and candid conversation.

Best wishes

Stuart

Stuart Williamson | Chief Corporate Affairs Officer

Corporate Affairs Team

+44 (0) 7368 499629

thejockeyclub.co.uk



We are The Jockey Club
GETTING • HEARTS • RACING

From: Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:05 PM

To: Fitzgerald, Jenna <Jenna.Fitzgerald@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Cc: Daniel Kidby <d.f.p.kidby@outlook.com>; Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Williamson, Stuart <Stuart.Williamson@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Subject: Re: CHANGE OF ATTENDEES: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kerri_waters@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear all,

Just a quick message to say thank you for meeting us today. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to express our opinions. We also appreciated learning from your experience in the industry and hearing how much you love working and caring for horses.

I'll send a follow up email next week and, in the meantime, if you have anything else you'd like to discuss please feel free to reach out to me.

Best wishes,

Kerri Waters

(P.S. hope you enjoyed the doughnuts!)

On 10 May 2023, at 16:43, Fitzgerald, Jenna <Jenna.Fitzgerald@thejockeyclub.co.uk> wrote:



Hi Dan & Kerri,

A quick note to inform you of a change to the attendees; Paul Johnson can no longer make the meeting so we have asked Simon Knapp, our Epsom vet to attend.

Please see a revised attendee list below:

Amy Starkey – Managing Director, East Region (Jockey Club)

Stuart Williamson – Chief Corporate Affairs Officer (Jockey Club)

Greg Swift – Director of Communications & Corporate Affairs (British Horseracing Authority)

Simon Knapp – Epsom Vet

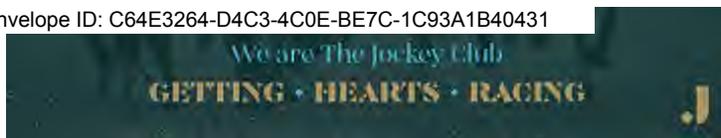
All other arrangements remain the same.

Very best regards,

Jenna

JENNA FITZGERALD | EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Chief Executive & Senior Steward's Office

+44 (0) 7811 013297
thejockeyclub.co.uk



From: Daniel Kidby <d.f.p.kidby@outlook.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:50 PM

To: Fitzgerald, Jenna <Jenna.Fitzgerald@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>

Cc: Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Williamson, Stuart <Stuart.Williamson@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

Hi Jenna,

Thank you very much for booking this space.

We look forward to meeting everyone there.

Best wishes,

Dan

Dan Kidby
Co-Founder Animal Rising (formerly Animal Rebellion)

"The times are urgent, let us slow down" ~ Bayo Akomolafe

"These cows seem as rebellious to their owners as the people are to their kings" ~ Fynes Moryson

From: Fitzgerald, Jenna <Jenna.Fitzgerald@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, 9 May 2023, 16:18

To: Daniel Kidby <d.f.p.kidby@outlook.com>; Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>

Cc: Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Williamson, Stuart <Stuart.Williamson@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Subject: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

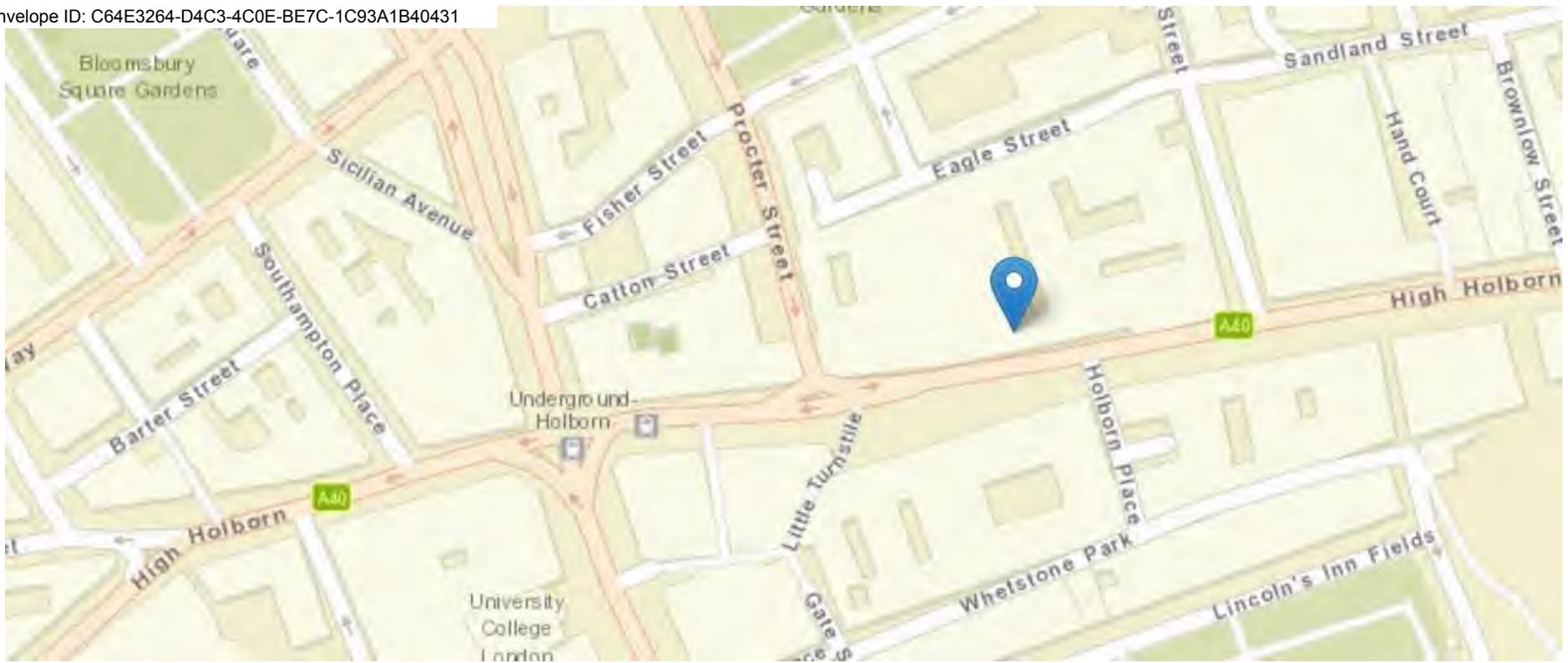
Good afternoon Dan,

Great to be in touch.

I have booked The Quartz Meeting Room, 4th Floor, at LABS 90 High Holborn:

https://labs.com/location/labs-90-high-holborn/?utm_source=google%20my%20business&utm_medium=direct&utm_campaign=labs90hh

11th May – 12h00 – 14h00



If your plans should change, please do let us know at your earliest convenience.

Best regards,

Jenna

JENNA FITZGERALD | EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Chief Executive & Senior Steward's Office

+44 (0) 7811 013297
thejockeyclub.co.uk



Sent: Saturday, May 6, 2023 6:08 PM

To: Fitzgerald, Jenna <Jenna.Fitzgerald@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>

Cc: Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Williamson, Stuart <Stuart.Williamson@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

Hi everyone,

Further to Kerri's introduction, my name is Dan Kidby and I'm a Co-Founder of Animal Rising. I really appreciate your willingness to meet with us and look forward to speaking with you in person.

Kerri doesn't have access to her emails today, but I've spoken with her and can confirm that the 11th of May at 12pm in Holborn area works well for us.

Thank you as well, Jenna, for organising a meeting space for us all.

Best wishes,

Dan

Dan Kidby
Co-Founder Animal Rising (formerly Animal Rebellion)

"The times are urgent, let us slow down" ~ Bayo Akomolafe

"These cows seem as rebellious to their owners as the people are to their kings" ~ Fynes Moryson

From: Fitzgerald, Jenna <Jenna.Fitzgerald@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Sent: Friday, 5 May 2023, 17:46

To: Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>

Cc: Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Williamson, Stuart <Stuart.Williamson@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Daniel Kidby <d.f.p.kidby@outlook.com>

Subject: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

Dear Kerri,

Further to your note below, I have checked diaries our end and we can make 11th May at 12pm work centrally in London.

I can book a meeting space around Holborn area if that should work for you and Dan?

Attendees as follows:

Amy Starkey – Managing Director, East Region (Jockey Club)
Stuart Williamson – Chief Corporate Affairs Officer (Jockey Club)
Greg Swift – Director of Communications & Corporate Affairs (British Horseracing Authority)
Paul Johnson – Chief Executive (National Training Federation)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very best regards,

Jenna

JENNA FITZGERALD | EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Chief Executive & Senior Steward's Office

+44 (0) 7811 013297
thejockeyclub.co.uk



From: Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 1:31 PM

To: Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Cc: Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Williamson, Stuart <Stuart.Williamson@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Fitzgerald, Jenna <Jenna.Fitzgerald@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Daniel Kidby <d.f.p.kidby@outlook.com>

Subject: Re: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kerri_waters@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Nevin,

Thank you for getting back to me quickly.

I have talked to my colleague, Dan, and we would be happy to meet you in London at a date that suits all involved. We would prefer to avoid the 10th, 16th, 19th, 22nd, 24th or 25th May, if possible, due to prior appointments. Please do let me know if there are any arrangements we can help with.

Looking forward to meeting in person.

Best Wishes,

Kerri

On 3 May 2023, at 13:30, Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Kerri

Thank you very much for your email and we have seen the Animal Rising media releases regarding your plans for the Epsom Derby yesterday.

We would be happy to meet with you in the coming weeks and ahead of the 3rd June. I have asked my colleagues Amy Starkey, managing director for Epsom Downs racecourse in addition to a number of our other major racecourses and Stuart Williamson our chief corporate affairs officer to represent the Jockey Club at this meeting.

It would also make sense to include a representative from the British Horseracing Authority as we are aware that you have also invited them to meet with you. Greg Swift, director of

In terms of dates and location, I will ask Jenna and Stuart to help with diaries and a location. I think London would best for the team.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards
Nevin

NEVIN TRUESDALE | CHIEF EXECUTIVE

<image001.jpg>

<image002.jpg>

From: Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>
Sent: 02 May 2023 11:11
To: Dudgeon, Sandy <Sandy.Dudgeon@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>
Cc: The Jockey Club <info@thejockeyclublive.co.uk>
Subject: Animal Rising notice of action and offer to meet

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kerri_waters@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sandy and Nevin,

My name is Kerri and I am writing to you as a representative of Animal Rising, we are the movement who nonviolently disrupted the Grand National and Scottish Grand National earlier this month.

I am writing to you out of respect to you, the Jockey Club, and those you represent, to personally inform you that today we have announced plans to mobilise 1,000 people to disrupt Epsom Derby as we continue our campaign to protect horses and create a national conversation about our broken relationship with animals.

I would also like to propose that we have an in-person meeting, in private and away from the media circus, so we can all get around the table in an effort to understand one another a bit better.

If you are interested in meeting then please let us know what dates might work for you. My colleague, Dan Kidby, and I would be willing to travel up to a place which is convenient for you.

I look forward to hear back from you,

Kerri Waters
Animal Rising

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Jockey Club / Animal Rising – 11 May 2023

Greg Swift (BHA); Amy Starkey (Jockey Club), Simon Knapp (Epsom Vet and WHB) and Stuart Williamson (Jockey Club) met with Dan Kidby and Kerri Waters, Animal Rising in London.

The meeting was arranged following an invitation from KW to the Jockey Club and presented an opportunity for those from racing to better understand the intentions and plans of AR in relation to the Derby.

Summary:

The meeting was good natured and respectful with both parties clearly setting out their respective positions. Both sides were also clear and direct in their position in relation to the Derby with the Jockey Club underlining its respect and support for peaceful protest within the limits of the law and Animal Rising clearly stating their intent to disrupt the race. Despite this there is no change to plans from Animal Rising who remain committed to their campaign of disrupting the Derby. We feel on balance that this was a worthwhile meeting.

Impact on the Derby:

We asked AR about the intent and plans to disrupt the Derby. They have confirmed their aim is to stop the race but do not plan to interrupt during racing. We directly asked for the specifics of their plans but AR would not disclose this detail. We underlined our respect for peaceful protest and offered to create a space for protestors.

Impact on welfare of all involved:

We outlined the high risk to the safety of equine and human participants with SK explaining the difference between jump and flat horses and the routine and conditions that need to be created for the welfare of the horse. He explained that delay to the race poses a risk to the welfare of the animals. We asked AR to take this into consideration in their plans and they said they will feed all comments back to their teams. In response, they challenged us to cancel the race if it is disrupted. We said we would not be cancelling the race but underlined the veterinary and medical support for all participants around the course and that welfare and safety of all was our first aim.

Alternative means of achieving objectives:

We asked AR whether there were alternative routes to achieving their aims and outlined some insights we saw from our own consumer polling showing little sympathy for the cause. This did not change their position.

Issues with racing:

The conversation turned, prompted by AR, to some of issues they have with horse racing including breaking in, breeding to race an animal and the financial gain. We were able to robustly push back on all points. We challenged around some of the issues they raised particularly around horse ownership.

Summary of AR:

AR outlined some of the philosophies behind their campaigns at the heart of which is a desire to surface some of the inherent tensions and conflicts around animal welfare. They stressed they are a non violent movement and believe in creating a positive environment when protesting. We challenged the risk that their movement attracts more radical protesters to the race day and racecourse and asked them how they control this. They confirmed that they are looking for the end of horseracing (as well as animal farming and fishing) and believe that the means through legal and non-legal means will help bring this about. It was clear that they are prepared to break the law to bring about change.

We strongly underlined the fact that while we respect their right to protest as legitimate, means legally, they should be very mindful of the fact that horseracing is a legitimate past time for millions of people, and we challenged their motives in this respect.

Iona Wilson

From: Iona Wilson
Sent: 21 May 2023 13:39
To: Iona Wilson
Subject: FW: Meeting follow-up

From: Starkey, Amy
Sent: 20 May 2023 20:05
To: Kerri Waters <kerri_waters@hotmail.com>
Cc: Daniel Kidby <d.f.p.kidby@outlook.com>; Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Williamson, Stuart <Stuart.Williamson@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Durrant, Simon <Simon.Durrant@thejockeyclub.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Meeting follow-up

Dear Kerri,

Many thanks for your email and for confirming your plans for the event you are looking to stage outside the racecourse. As we discussed in our meeting and continue to reference publicly, we believe it's really important that everyone has the right to protest in a peaceful and law-abiding way, so we're pleased that you'll be taking up our offer of a space to use for this purpose. In terms of logistics, I will ensure that Simon (copied) from our Operations Team is in touch to discuss the transportation, drop-off and collection of the equipment you will need on the day and any other information we'll find useful to help us plan ahead.

I would also like to thank you for your transparency when highlighting Animal Rising's determination to disrupt The Derby by breaching security and gaining access to the race track. As you reference yourself, this course of action is unlawful and compromises the safety of everyone at the event, including equine and human participants, members of the public and yourselves. As such we make no apology for having to consider every option available to us to ensure that the event goes ahead safely. With this in mind we would like to take this opportunity to repeat our plea to Animal Rising not to engage in any form of protest which significantly risks the safety of yourselves and others, including by seeking to prevent or delay the races. We will have security measures in place on and around the site and will be working closely with Surrey Police to ensure that any protests which cause disproportionate disruption or risks, are dealt with swiftly and decisively.

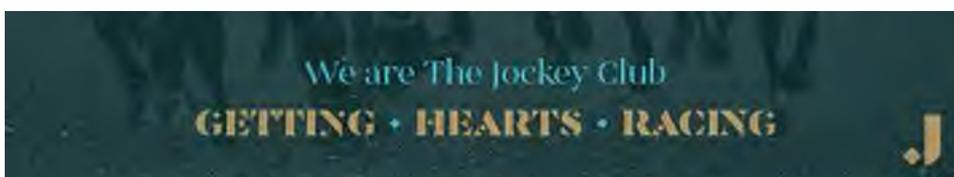
I also appreciate you referencing your conversation with the Mail on Sunday this week. Sabrina Miller has indeed been in touch with our Communications Team and we have provided a short statement reiterating our commitment to staging the event and prioritising the safety of everyone in attendance.

We remain grateful for your continued communication and respect for our own views – as we are of yours. If you have any further information you believe we should know or if your plans develop between now and the event please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks and best wishes
Amy

AMY STARKEY | MANAGING DIRECTOR, JOCKEY CLUB RACECOURSES

+44 (0) 7901 716233
thejockeyclub.co.uk



From: Kerri Waters [mailto:kerri_waters@hotmail.com]

Sent: 19 May 2023 23:21

To: Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Cc: Daniel Kidby <d.f.p.kidby@outlook.com>; Truesdale, Nevin <Nevin.Truesdale@thejockeyclub.co.uk>; Williamson, Stuart <Stuart.Williamson@thejockeyclub.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Meeting follow-up

You don't often get email from kerri_waters@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Amy,

I'd like to pass on a huge thank you from our team and we gladly accept your kind offer of a dedicated area outside the racecourse. We are planning a family-friendly event that includes soapbox races, competitions, an open mic session, music and arts and crafts. Far from a traditional 'protest', we want to show an alternative and encourage the public to join in the fun. That invitation is extended towards you and the rest of the team at Epsom, who would be warmly welcomed by us in the spirit of friendship. Here is the Facebook event for the day with more information and for you to share: <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/epsom-for-all-a-vegan-alternat/6128105467244449/>

Logistically, we will need to drop off our equipment that morning in our van. Is this something you could help facilitate in order to reassure the police and comply with any traffic restrictions in place for race day?

I completely understand your motivations in protecting the race and also share your concerns for the consequences we face in taking disruptive action due to the Public Order Act. A 10 year sentence for being an 'annoyance' is wildly disproportionate for nonviolent protesters!

At this juncture, I hope we've convinced you of our integrity and commitment to being openly honest with you. That is why I can confirm we are unwavering in our intention to stop the race by getting on the race course using nonviolent means, no matter the sacrifice we make to our own personal liberty and comfort.

To be further transparent with you and return the respect you've shown us, I want to give you a heads up that our media team has spoken to the Mail On Sunday about our plans. They passed on a quote from an unnamed source inside the Jockey Club given to the team from a trusted journalistic source. I believe the source said the race is "unpoliceable". I can assure you we have not told the media about our meeting last week and continued dialogue as we stand by our promise to keep this out of the press. It's likely you'll have been approached for comment, but if not then please reach out to Sabrina Miller of the Mail on Sunday as you have the right to reply. Let me know if you need her contact details.

After listening to your points of view last week, it is clear your team is deeply and emotionally invested in the welfare of horses. I recognise your sincere plea for us to reconsider was rooted in genuine care for every human and horse involved. The same compassion for life means we are bound by conviction to do what is right and stop the race. Our sincere plea to you is to cancel the Derby to eliminate all risk and reconcile our shared desire for a just and peaceful outcome. There really isn't that much that divides us.

In the knowledge that this situation is both conflictual and unifying, I am wishing your team all the best for the work ahead in the next few weeks and hope this discussion continues.

Kerri Waters

On 18 May 2023, at 15:01, Starkey, Amy <Amy.Starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Dan and Kerri,

Thank you for meeting with us last week and for explaining to us your position.

As I explained at the meeting, we remain deeply committed to accommodating your right to peaceful and respectful protest, which does not interfere with the event. In this regard, we would like to

dedicate a particular area for the purpose of peaceful protest. This will be located opposite the Pavilion Entrance of the racecourse - please see an aerial photo of the location attached. The area is located opposite our Main Entrance Pavilion and will be available for you from 10am - there won't of course be vehicles parked there as per the photo. Please let us know if you require anything further.

As we also stated, we have an obligation to ensure we protect all those attending our racedays with the safety and enjoyment of everyone, human or equine, our number one priority. We and the police will not hesitate to act to ensure that disruptive behaviour is prevented and dealt with appropriately.

Please be clear, it is a criminal offence for anyone intentionally to obstruct, endanger or give reasonable cause for annoyance to any other person in the proper use of the Downs, which may result in a fine or summary conviction. In addition, we understand that a conviction for intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance may lead to imprisonment of up to 12 months (on summary conviction) or 10 years (on indictment), as well as a fine.

We implore you that you and other individuals refrain from any such forms of illegal activity or other disruptive and dangerous behaviour, and stress that we intend to take action as is necessary in order to protect the race and the industry.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks and best wishes
Amy

AMY STARKEY | MANAGING DIRECTOR, JOCKEY CLUB RACECOURSES

+44 (0) 7901 716233
thejockeyclub.co.uk

<image002.jpg>

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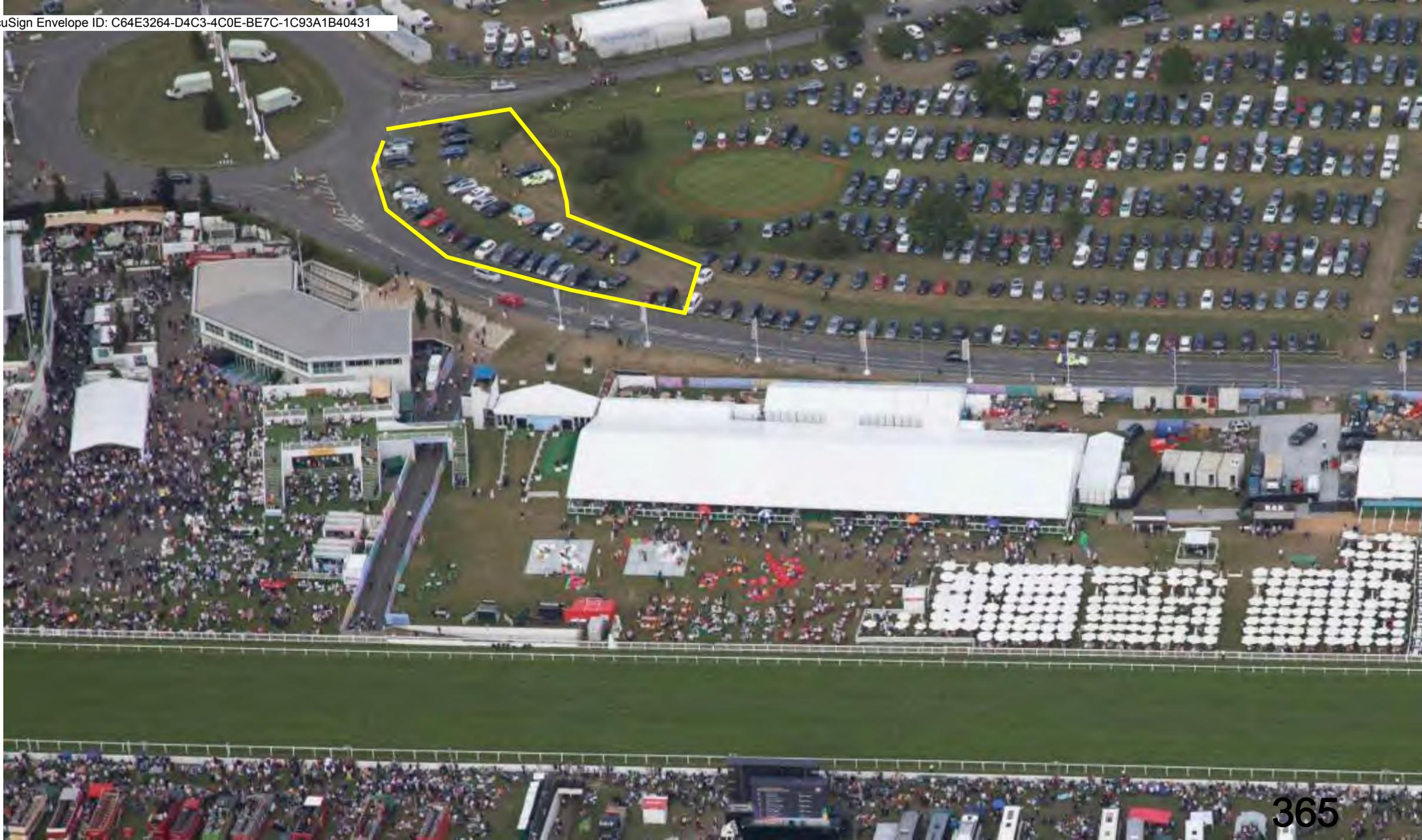
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Thread

7

11

77

2,803



Animal Rising ✓

@AnimalRising

⚠️ Get Involved with our next actions!

Come to the Epsom Derby!

You can either:

❤️ Meet us out the front for 'Epsom For All', a day of family-friendly fun.

OR

🐾 Join us to disrupt the race...

EPSOM FOR ALL: fb.me/e/FXVFdNqL

DISRUPT THE RACE:

Join us on the tracks of the Epsom Derby!

docs.google.com

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 ...

6:14 pm · 19 May 2023 · 2,162 Views

9 Retweets 31 Likes



Maurice forster @Mauriceforster8 · 19 May

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Relevant people



Animal Rising ✓

@AnimalRising

Follow

Join us to take action for animals, nature and climate justice. 🐾🌱

What's happening

NBA · Last night

Nuggets at Lakers



Trending in United Kingdom

Thogden

2,680 Tweets

Trending in United Kingdom

#NonLeagueFinalsDay

Trending with [Ascot United](#), [FA Vase Final](#)

Trending in United Kingdom

Saville

1,576 Tweets

Trending in United Kingdom

ANIMAL.RISING
Posts

Follow



animal.rising
Epsom Downs Racecourse



366 likes

animal.rising 🎉🏁 Epsom For All! 🏁🎉

On the 3rd of June we will be gathering outside the front of Epsom Derby Racecourse for a day of family fun events and entertainment! As animal lovers we know there are plenty of ways to enjoy a weekend without exploiting animals, and that's exactly what we intend to do.



ANIMAL.RISING
Posts

Follow

3RD JUNE 2023

10AM - 4PM



366 likes

animal.rising 🎉🏁 Epsom For All! 🏁🎉

On the 3rd of June we will be gathering outside the front of Epsom Derby Racecourse for a day of family fun events and entertainment! As animal lovers we know there are plenty of ways to enjoy a weekend without exploiting animals, and that's exactly what we intend to do.

This is a day out for everyone, as we lead by example and protest in style! Join our facebook event to stay in the loop with all the pre race excitement. If you're interested in being part of the disruption, fill out the form linked in our bio.

Events:

- 🏃 Running Races
- 🚗 Soapbox Race
- 🥄 Eggless Spoon Race
- 🦵 Three legged Race
- 🎩 Fancy Hat Competition
- 🎤 Open Mic
- 🎨 Arts and Crafts and much more!

Time: 10am-4pm

Location: Epsom Derby Racetrack!

#epsomderby #animalliberation #animalfreedom

View all 11 comments

4 days ago



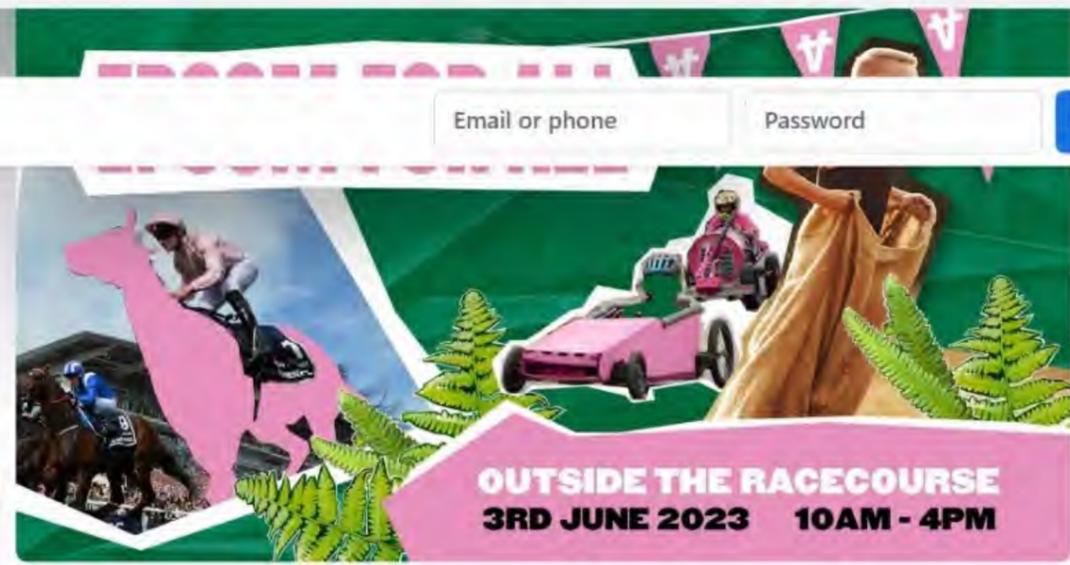
Events

Search events

Home

Categories

- Classics
- Comedy
- Crafts
- Dance
- Drinks
- Fitness & workouts
- Foods
- Games
- Gardening



3

SATURDAY, 3 JUNE 2023 AT 10:00 UTC+01

Epsom For All: A Vegan Alternative to the Epsom Derby Festival

Epsom Downs Racecourse

About Discussion

Invite

Details

- 218 people responded
- Event by Animal Rising
- Epsom Downs Racecourse
- Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

🎉🏁 Epsom For All! 🏁🎉
JUST TURN UP!

Meet us on the 3rd June outside the front of Epsom Derby Racecourse for a day of family fun events and entertainment, free from animal exploitation!

🕒 10am - 4pm

This will be a peaceful and joyful demonstration, bringing attention to the suffering and exploitation of the animals in the horse racing industry, whilst actively demonstrating an alternative 🌱

Events:

- Running Races
- Soapbox Race
- Eggless Spoon Race
- Three legged Race
- Fancy Hat Competition (no feathers, of course!)
- Open Mic
- Arts and Crafts and much more!

Join the WhatsApp broadcast for the day
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CIFbWMOkrUGKajdWWk2dcS>

ATTENTION!!!

🚨 Want to step up and be a part of disrupting the Epsom Derby? 🚨
Sign up here!
<https://forms.gle/9Ebs9aDZ5A23zyei6> See less

Causes Epsom



Epsom Downs Racecourse

Epsom Downs Racecourse, Tattenham Corner Road, Epsom

Official page of The Jockey Club's Epsom Downs Racecourse.

Guests

See All

44 GOING

174 INTERESTED

Host

Animal Rising

Event transparency

Facebook is showing information to help you better understand the purpose of this event.
[See More](#)

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: C64E3264D4C34C0EBE7C1C93A1B40431	Status: Completed
Subject: Complete with DocuSign: Witness Statement of Amy Starkey and Exhibit (For Signing) 22 May 2023 ...	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 23	Signatures: 1
Certificate Pages: 2	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Enveloped Stamping: Enabled	Liz Falk
Time Zone: (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London	30 Crown Place
	Earl Street
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	liz.falk@PinsentMasons.com
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Status: Original	Holder: Liz Falk	Location: DocuSign
22 May 2023 09:27	liz.falk@PinsentMasons.com	

Signer Events

Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Iona Wilson iona.wilson@pinsentmasons.com Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	Completed Using IP Address: 155.190.33.6	Sent: 22 May 2023 09:28 Viewed: 22 May 2023 09:29 Signed: 22 May 2023 09:29

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Amy Starkey amy.starkey@thejockeyclub.co.uk Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Amy Starkey</i> DBDCEBA513094F4...</p>	Sent: 22 May 2023 09:29 Viewed: 22 May 2023 09:30 Signed: 22 May 2023 09:50
	Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 31.94.16.240 Signed using mobile	

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

Iona Wilson iona.wilson@pinsentmasons.com Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	Completed Using IP Address: 155.190.33.6	Sent: 22 May 2023 09:50 Viewed: 22 May 2023 09:51 Signed: 22 May 2023 09:52
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In Person Signer Events

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Editor Delivery Events

Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Agent Delivery Events

Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Intermediary Delivery Events

Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Certified Delivery Events

Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Carbon Copy Events

Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
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Witness Events

Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	22 May 2023 09:28
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	22 May 2023 09:51
Signing Complete	Security Checked	22 May 2023 09:52
Completed	Security Checked	22 May 2023 09:52

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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**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

WITNESS STATEMENT OF DICKON WHITE

I, **DICKON WHITE**, of Jockey Club Racecourses Limited, 75 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6LS **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I am the Aintree and North-West Regional Director for the Applicant. I am currently based at Aintree Racecourse, Ormskirk Rd, Aintree, Liverpool L9 5AS (the "**Racecourse**"). I have worked for the Applicant for approximately 25 years and have been in my current role since September 2018.
2. I am responsible for the management and performance of the three racecourses owned by the Applicant in the North-West of England, namely the Racecourse, Haydock Park Racecourse (located in Newton-le-Willows), and Carlisle Racecourse (located in Cumbria). Between them, these three venues stage approximately 65 racing fixtures a year, including some of the Applicant's most prestigious races. One such race is the Grand National, which is a national hunt horse race held annually at the Racecourse (the "**Grand National**").
3. First run in 1839, the Grand National is one of the most watched sporting events on television in the United Kingdom, regularly attracting millions of viewers. In 2022, the Grand National attracted a peak audience of 7.9 million. It is broadcast in over 140 countries across the globe.
4. The Grand National is a handicap steeplechase that covers a distance of approximately 4 miles and 2.5 furlongs, with horses jumping 30 fences over two laps (the "**Racetrack**").
5. The Grand National is part of a three-day race meeting, with more than 150,000 people regularly in attendance over its duration (the "**Festival**").
6. At this year's Festival – which took place between Thursday 13 April and Saturday 15 April inclusive (the "**2023 Festival**") – certain incidents took place involving groups of protestors. It is my understanding that the protestors involved were affiliated with Animal Rising, an animal activist movement based in the United Kingdom ("**AR**"). It is also my understanding that AR is not a corporate entity and that it has no particular hierarchical structure. Rather, AR is a collection of members who all share a common purpose. I do not know the names of any of the protestors who engaged in the incidents I describe below but I am confident that those involved were associated with,

or are members of AR. As set out below, many of them were wearing AR t-shirts, and AR has widely publicised its involvement in disrupting the Grand National [pages 1 to 7 of DW1]. Therefore, from hereon I shall refer to them as the “**AR Protestors**”.

7. Within this witness statement, I wish to provide details of incidents that affected the 2023 Festival, and in particular the commencement of the Grand National, which took place on Saturday 15 April (the “**2023 Grand National**”).
8. Save where stated to the contrary, the facts and matters contained in this witness statement are within my own knowledge and are true. Where facts and matters are outside my knowledge, the source is stated, and I believe those facts to be true.
9. During the course of this statement, I will refer to certain documents, copies of which are exhibited in a paginated bundle marked 'DW1' which accompanies this statement.
10. I make this witness statement in support of the Applicant's claim for an interim injunction against the Respondents.

Background to the 2023 Festival

11. As part of my role, I have overall responsibility for the security and safe running of all events held at the Racecourse, including the Festival. In advance of racing fixtures, my team and I liaise closely with Merseyside Police, in order to co-ordinate our plans to ensure the safety of those in attendance. 'Safety' involves planning for the safe operation of the whole Festival with due consideration to the substantial number of racegoers attending and those who are part of the Festival itself – e.g., the Applicant's staff, suppliers, owners of horses, trainers and all of their support staff, as well as the horses themselves.
12. Ahead of a Festival, given the number of those expected to attend, planning and preparation is paramount. This year's event – the 2023 Festival – was no different.
13. For each Grand National Festival, the Applicant – on behalf of the Racecourse – enters into what is known as an Agreement for Special Police Services, which is a private contract that provides for the provision of special services by a police force – i.e., beyond that which the police would consider necessary to meet their public duty obligations (the “**ASPS**”). In or around February 2023, we began to hold fortnightly meetings with Merseyside Police to discuss:
 - 13.1 the Racecourse's security plans;
 - 13.2 what Merseyside Police was intending to provide by way of personnel at the 2023 Festival, per the terms of the SPSA and otherwise; and

- 13.3 how we would work together to ensure that those in attendance were safe.
14. As part of our security planning for the 2023 Festival, we recruited three, private security services providers to provide complementary services alongside the police services that we had contracted, per the ASPs. They were G4S, who are the Applicant's main provider of security services at its racecourses, Provide, and WH Security (together the "**Private Security Providers**").
15. On 1 April 2023, an article was published in the Mail on Sunday with the title '*Vegan mob plots to sabotage the Grand National: undercover investigation exposes plan by up to 100 Animal Rebellion activists to storm the event and glue themselves to the course*' (the "**Article**") [pages 8 to 17 of DW1]. The Article alleged that a journalist working for the Mail on Sunday had infiltrated AR¹ and had discovered that, *inter alia*:
- 15.1 its ringleaders had conducted two secret reconnaissance missions of the Racecourse to pinpoint security weaknesses;
- 15.2 a fleet of minibuses was being hired to ferry protesters and equipment to the Racecourse;
- 15.3 more than 100 activists had signed up to the plan, which was being organised via the encrypted mobile phone application 'Signal';
- 15.4 some activists planned to use ladders to scale the Racecourse's security fence, while others would be tasked with cutting holes in the fences using bolt cutters; and
- 15.5 once in the Racecourse itself, protesters planned to glue themselves together and sit down, forming a human barrier across the Racetrack.
16. The content of the Article, and the exposure of AR's intentions, caused us to significantly review our plans to take into account the threat of disruption. In response, alongside our Private Security Providers, we held an urgent meeting with Merseyside Police to discuss how to respond to AR's plans. We reviewed our policies and procedures and decided to increase the amount of daytime and overnight security we had on site from Monday 10 April onwards – i.e., four days in advance of the start of the 2023 Festival. We increased both the number of security personnel and the number of security dogs. The overall cost to the Applicant for this additional security – which continued throughout the 2023 Festival – was approximately £70,000 +VAT.
17. In the week preceding the 2023 Festival, I was advised by Merseyside Police that they had obtained intelligence that suggested protestors were intending to disrupt the

¹It is my understanding that AR and 'Animal Rebellion' (who are named in the Article) are one and the same organisation, and that following publication of the Article, Animal Rebellion simply changed its name to AR [pages 18 to 21 of DW1].

event, as had been alleged in the Article. While Merseyside Police could not provide me with any further information on what was planned, it was made clear to me that we, alongside our Private Security Providers, needed to be on high alert. Merseyside Police informed me that, whilst they would do everything they could to support the Racecourse, we had to be extremely vigilant, and that the threat of disruption was serious and credible.

18. In light of this, in the days before the start of the 2023 Festival, we worked extremely closely with Merseyside Police to ensure that the event could proceed as planned, and in the safest manner possible. There was a sense of collective responsibility to deliver the 2023 Festival.

Incidents at the 2023 Festival

19. As above, the 2023 Festival is a three-day event. The opening two days – Thursday 13 and Friday 14 April – proceeded as planned, and there were no significant security issues to report.
20. The 2023 Grand National took place on Saturday 15 April, with the race scheduled to commence at 5.15pm. That morning, at around 9:30am, AR began a demonstration at the front of the Racecourse. Every year, the Racecourse provides a space for peaceful demonstration. Indeed, peaceful protests on the day of the Grand National are relatively common. Over the years, many such protests have taken place on or around the Racecourse and neither I, nor the Racecourse, have any issues with such protests, so long as they are conducted in a lawful and peaceful manner.
21. In respect of AR's protest at that time, information was being relayed to me that approximately 20 to 30 AR Protestors were in attendance and that, on the whole, their protests were good natured.
22. As the morning progressed, and as spectators started to enter the Racecourse, the number of AR Protestors outside the Racecourse began to steadily increase. Around this time, I was told that several people had been apprehended by Merseyside Police off-site. It was my understanding that those individuals were also affiliated to AR and that it was their intention to travel to the Racecourse to disrupt the 2023 Grand National.
23. Alongside the protest at the front of the Racecourse, certain AR Protestors began to conduct a slow march around the Racecourse's perimeter. The Racecourse is surrounded by a metal fence that is approximately 10ft in height (the "**Perimeter Fence**"). Next to the Perimeter Fence are public footpaths, and it is possible to walk around the entire perimeter of the Racecourse along these pathways. The AR

Protestors had commenced a slow march next to the Perimeter Fence, and at certain points had staged various 'sit-downs' close to the Racecourse.

24. At or around 4:45pm, approximately 30 minutes before the start of the 2023 Grand National, I travelled to an area of the Racecourse called the 'side-on box' (the "**Box**"). The Box overlooks a large part of the Racecourse and is where the racing is managed. Alongside me in the Box was a representative of Merseyside Police. Upon my arrival at the Box, I was told that our CCTV cameras – which are located throughout the Racecourse – had identified a number of vehicles dropping-off protestors at the far side of Racecourse near to the Canal Turn, which is a notable area of the Racetrack. Upon exiting the vehicles, the AR Protestors were proceeding to climb the Perimeter Fence using ladders and rubber matting similar to that used in the footwells of cars. The AR Protestors placed the ladders against the Perimeter Fence and were throwing the rubber matting on the barbed wire that protects the top of the Perimeter Fence, to stop themselves from being cut by the sharp edges. It appeared that the AR Protestors had brought these items with them, with the intention of attempting to scale the Perimeter Fence and gain access to the Racecourse. I was subsequently told by Merseyside Police that, as well as being armed with ladders and rubber matting, many of the AR Protestors were carrying bottles of glue. It is my understanding that the purpose of the glue was to allow the AR Protestors to stick themselves to objects, such as the fences over which the horses jump.
25. In total, approximately 100 AR Protestors were attempting to gain access to the Racecourse by climbing over the Perimeter Fence. It was an incredibly tense period of time and the AR Protestors' actions became increasingly disruptive. Merseyside Police – alongside our Private Security Providers and several of the Racecourse's employees – were engaged in an ongoing battle to prevent the AR Protestors from accessing the Racecourse. Despite their efforts, several of the AR Protestors were successful in gaining access to the Racecourse and, once over the Perimeter Fence, were attempting to get onto the Racetrack (the "**First Unauthorised Access**").
26. In addition to the First Unauthorised Access, at approximately 5:05pm, I was informed that three other AR Protestors had gained access to the Racetrack via the Embankment Enclosure, which contains one of the main spectator stands. It is my understanding that these individuals had purchased valid tickets to enter the Racecourse, and that during the build-up to the start of the 2023 Grand National, they had mingled with the regular spectators. The three AR Protestors were dressed in normal, civilian clothing. These individuals then proceeded to access the Racetrack by running underneath the fencing that skirts its edge. It is my understanding that the three AP Protestors were attempting to reach the second fence, over which the horses would jump. Upon gaining access to the Racetrack, the three individuals removed

some of their clothing, revealing pink t-shirts with AR's name and logo emblazoned on them (the "**Second Unauthorised Access**").

27. Before they could reach the second fence, officers from Merseyside Police and the Private Security Providers managed to apprehend the three AR Protestors. It is my understanding that their intentions were to affix themselves to the second fence, as they were each carrying bottles of glue.

Consequences of the AR Protestors' Actions

28. Like any sporting event, there is a timed programme that we work to before a race. Normally, horses and their jockeys would have a reasonable period of time to prepare ahead of the Grand National. In the half hour leading up to the race this would normally see horses in the parade ring (approximately 15-20 minutes before the start of the race), jockeys then mounting (approximately 5-10 minutes before the start of the race) and exiting on to the Racecourse to head for the start line.
29. In light of the First and Second Unauthorised Accesses, however, we had no choice but to delay the start of the 2023 Grand National. The safety of the racehorses, jockeys, spectators, and the AR Protestors themselves was paramount. Until the AR Protestors had been cleared from the Racetrack, and it had been determined that there was no risk of other protesters accessing the Racecourse, the Grand National simply could not commence. As above, the police and our Private Security Providers were engaged in an ongoing battle to prevent the AR Protestors from accessing the Racecourse and potentially causing significant harm, or even death, to the horses, jockeys, and themselves. The threat of injury, or worse, is very real – at the Grand National, approximately 40 horses are moving at over 40mph. If something, or someone, gets in the way, it would be very difficult to stop the horses when they are in motion.
30. As a result of the delayed start to the 2023 Grand National, the horses waiting to race had to be held in the paddock, and they became agitated because of this. The horses had to alter their whole routine, effectively halting preparation. The horses were kept waiting for a substantial period of time.
31. The 2023 Grand National commenced at 5:30pm, after the AR Protestors involved in the First and Second Unauthorised Accesses had been removed from the Track. This was 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.

Impact of the AR Protestors' Actions

32. I have worked in horseracing since 1998 and the staging of the 2023 Grand National was, without question, the most challenging day of my career. The disruption caused by AR was significant. Not only did the AR Protestors' actions impact the start of the race, they also:

32.1 caused the horses waiting to run to become agitated, to which Mr. Sandy Thomson, the trainer of Hill-Sixteen, the horse that tragically died having fallen at the first fence, alluded to in his interviews following the 2023 Grand National [pages 22 to 24 of DW1];

32.2 put the horses, jockeys and themselves in serious danger of harm;

32.3 required the Applicant and Merseyside Police to expend an enormous amount of time and resource in dealing with the disruption that occurred on the day, and the fallout of the AP Protestors' actions. There is no doubt that the actions of the AP Protestors diverted the attention of Merseyside Police, along with our Private Security Providers and several of the Racecourse's employees, away from their regular, general safety duties; and

32.4 required the Applicant to spend a considerable amount of money obtaining additional security for the event (see paragraph 16 above).

The Applicant's Claim

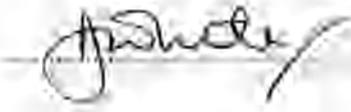
33. It is my understanding that AR have been vocal in their desire to stop the forthcoming Derby race at Epsom Downs, another of the Applicant's racecourses (the "**2023 Derby**"). Indeed, the landing page of AR's website states: *'Join us on the tracks of the Epsom Derby! We'll be disrupting the Epsom Derby to continue the conversation we started at the Grand National'* [page 25 of DW1]. Further, as is set out in Ms. Amy Starkey's statement, during recent meetings between AR and the Applicant's representatives, including Ms. Starkey, it is AR's intention to prevent the 2023 Derby from taking place.

34 It appears clear, therefore, that those who caused such significant disruption at the 2023 Grand National are seeking to do exactly the same at the 2023 Derby. It is with this in mind, given that I have had first-hand experience of the impact of the AR Protestors' actions, I fully support the Applicant's claim for an interim injunction against the Respondents.

Statement of Truth

35 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 

DICKON WHITE

Dated: 22 | 5 | 23

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Opinion

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Why did we protest at the Grand National? To finally make Britain talk about our treatment of animals

Alex Lockwood



Society is wedded to a belief that it is OK to control animals for profit. We hoped halting the race would make people stop and think

Sun 16 Apr 2023 14.45 BST



A

s a country of people who love animals, it shocks and saddens many of us that watching a horse break their neck on national TV is still considered entertainment. That's why 300 people from Animal Rising went to Aintree on Saturday to **stop the Grand National**.

We did not fully succeed, and - like last year - more horses died. Hill Sixteen fell at the first fence and died of its injuries. Hill Sixteen's death followed those of two others at **Aintree** last week. We mourn the loss of these animals.

These deaths are par for this course, and for racing events overall. The horse racing authorities and betting industry defend slow incremental "welfare" improvements, and yet horses continue to die with awful regularity: **50 so far on the tracks in 2023**. On average, a horse dies every other day on the tracks, over jumps and on the flat, with many more dying in training and the paddock. The dangerous institution of the Grand National should have been retired long ago.

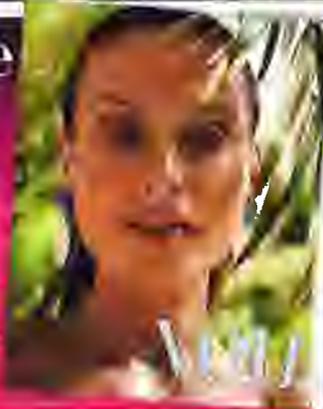
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After being alerted by our undercover team's investigation, police make 118 arrests and foil vegan mob trying to ruin People's Race

MoS SAVES THE GRAND NATIONAL!

By **Mark Hookham, Sabrina Miller** and **Richard Marsden**

A PLOT to wreck the world's favourite horse race was sensationaly foiled by police yesterday thanks to an undercover spy by The Mail on Sunday. Dozens of animal rights campaigners attempted to storm security fences at Aintree before the start of the Grand National, but were repelled by police and security guards who were on standby after being alerted by this newspaper. Nine protesters managed to get to the track, including one who attempted to glue himself to the fence for hours. Dozens of other protesters were taken away to court.

Police were aided by spectators who

The Mail COMMENT

ON SUNDAY

UNDOUBTEDLY it was only because The Mail on Sunday infiltrated an animal activist group planning to sabotage the Grand National that the authorities were prepared and able to foil the People's

Race' plans ahead. Let's hope yesterday's success is the first victory in society's war against all those outrageous anarchists who are wreaking chaos on the lives of millions of law-abiding people.

...and others to be the first activists to storm the fences at Aintree. All the protesters were taken away to court.

The dramatic thwarting of the conspiracy

...and others to be the first activists to storm the fences at Aintree. All the protesters were taken away to court.

Turn to Page 2



BAD NEWS: Victoria Beckham's sister Sophie Raworth

EXCLUSIVE

Redundancy letters shock for BBC's top presenters

SEE PAGE 7

📷 The Mail on Sunday's front page today. Photograph: Henry Nolan/Mail on Sunday

Where we did succeed is in showing that this is a much bigger problem than just one race. We protested because everywhere we look we see a broken relationship with animals and the natural world.

This broken relationship is at the heart of our climate and nature crisis. We're devouring nature through animal farming and fishing, killing our rivers with slurry from industrial chicken and pig farms, and watching our beloved wildlife disappear in front of our eyes. All because we are stuck in a pattern of outdated beliefs that it is OK to control animals, using them for profit. The **Grand National** is emblematic of this uncomfortable and one-sided dominance - that's why we tried to stop it.

There is a solution: repairing this broken relationship, beginning where most harm is done, in our food system. A food system without animals is already known to be safer, more secure and more sovereign, providing all the calories and nutrients we need and, in fact, using less land. This freed-up land could be rewilded for nature to recover, and we could see wildlife - including wild horses - return and flourish.

It shouldn't take a committed bunch of caring individuals to put this solution at the centre of national debate. But it has. Up and down the country, everyone is talking about our treatment of animals. This national conversation is essential to challenge the fast decline into climate inaction.

Some prefer to focus on the protests rather than the issues. So let's talk about them. Animal Rising is a peaceful movement; our actions are focused on stopping harm, particularly in the food system, where we **breed and kill more than 1.2bn animals** in the UK every year. All of our planned actions on Saturday were nonviolent. That's different from being disruptive, of course, but the two have long been compatible: just look at Gandhi or Martin Luther King.



📷 'On average, a horse dies every other day on the tracks, over jumps and on the flat.' The water jump at the Grand National. Photograph: Paul Greenwood/Shutterstock

We are a movement for all life and that includes animals exploited elsewhere such as in sports and animal testing. The aim was to stop the race before it began. But sadly it was deemed more important for people to have a bit of fun and a flutter than to stop animals from dying.

For those few claiming that our actions affected the horses and outcome, we point to the fact we were not taking action for the other 2,601 deaths since 2007. Direct action has been part of a healthy democracy for as long as there has been democracy, especially when it is obvious that “business as usual” does not represent the values of most of us. In the UK, according to research by the University of York, more than **80% of people under 40 do not want to attend horse racing events** because they know it is unethical.

Returning to the bigger picture, has anyone yet taken any action that is proportionate to the coming social and economic collapse that is likely to result from the climate crisis? Have we persuaded our climate-insane government to take proportionate action? Not yet - if we had, it would have already ended animal farming and fishing and supported farmers into safer, more sustainable practices.

That's why we'll be taking more action this year, along with all those acting to challenge the existential threat. We're not against those who attended Aintree, or the trainers or jockeys. But we accept Saturday was the biggest challenge to horse racing in this country for more than a decade.

Let's hope that we've begun the process of having this crucial conversation about our treatment of animals and the natural world, and that others - our government, and all those who say they love animals - stand with us to tackle the mounting crises we face.

This article was amended on 18 April 2023 to clarify that Hill Sixteen was not put down or euthanised, but died of its injuries.

Alex Lockwood is an Animal Rising spokesperson and volunteer

Do you have an opinion on the issues raised in this article? If you would like to submit a response of up to 300 words by email to be considered for publication in our **letters** section, please **click here**.

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The free press is under attack from multiple forces. Media outlets are closing their doors, victims to a broken business model. In much of the world, journalism is morphing into propaganda, as governments dictate what can and can't be printed. In the last year alone, hundreds of reporters have been killed or imprisoned for doing their jobs. The UN reports that 85% of the world's population experienced a decline in press freedom in their country in recent years.

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EXCLUSIVE: Vegan mob plots to sabotage the Grand National: Undercover investigation exposes plan by up to 100 Animal Rebellion activists to storm the event and glue themselves to the course

- More than 100 eco-activists secretly plan to sabotage the Grand National
- Militant vegans and animal rights campaigners want to disrupt races at Aintree

By [SABRINA MILLER](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:00 1 April 2023 | UPDATED: 23:55 1 April 2023

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A secret plot by more than 100 eco-activists to sabotage the **Grand National** has been exposed by an undercover Mail on Sunday investigation.

Militant vegans and animal rights campaigners plan to use ladders and bolt cutters to storm security fences before the race at Aintree, then glue themselves together as a human barricade and sit across the course.

The conspiracy – revealed just two weeks before the race meeting – was uncovered by an MoS reporter posing as a member of the Animal Rebellion campaign group.

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How your ex will KNOW if you've been stalking

Last night we handed over our dossier of evidence to **Merseyside Police**.

Our journalist secretly filmed as the activists, who include a former top financial journalist and a nurse, simulated charging at security guards and boasting they would 'ruin' this year's event – which has a TV audience of up to 600 million across more than 140 countries as well as tens of thousands of spectators at the course.

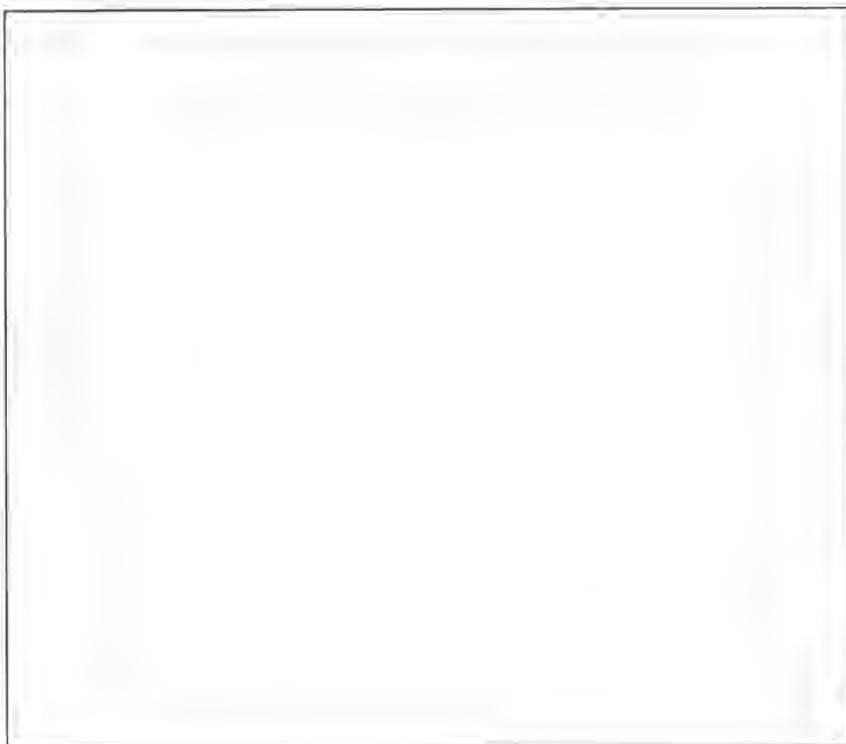
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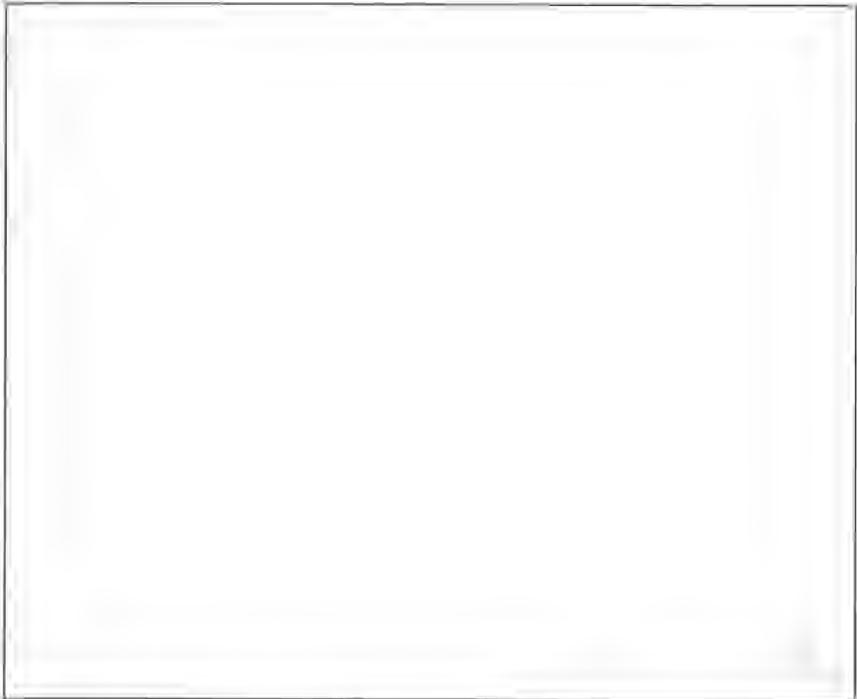
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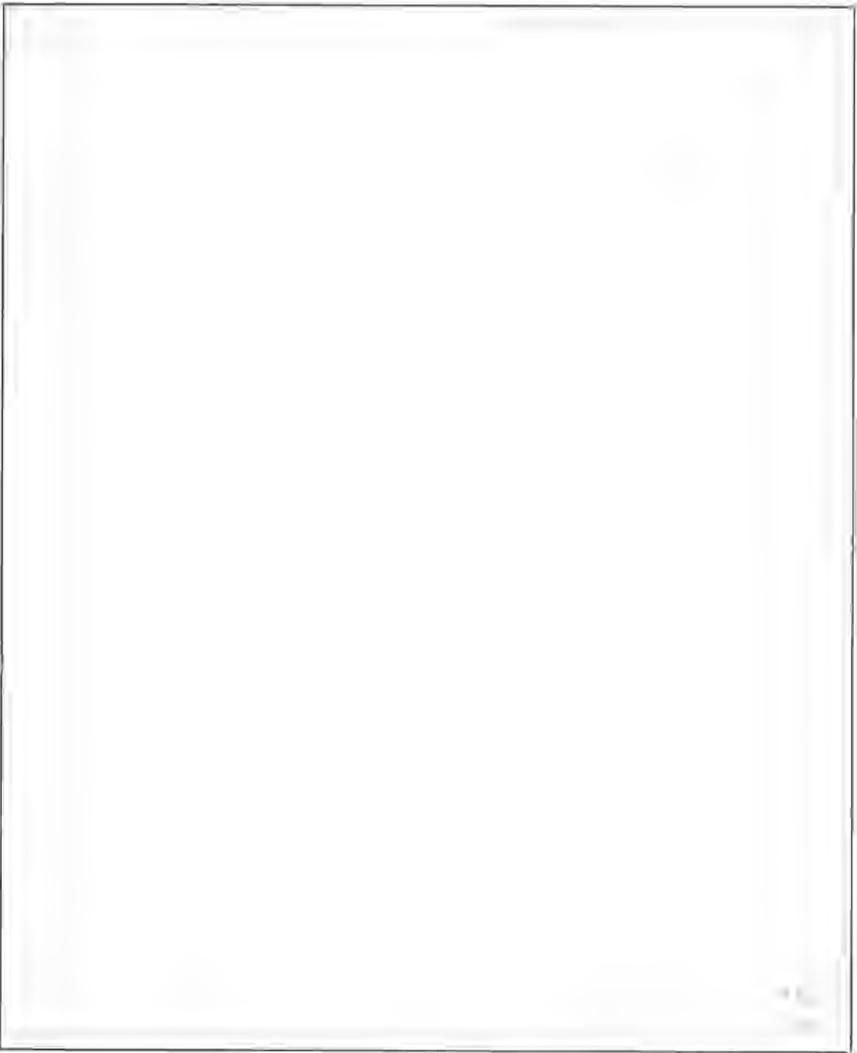
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One of the plot ringleaders, Rose Patterson, 33, (pictured) boasted that the Grand National stunt would have worldwide impact



A secret plot by more than 100 eco-activists to sabotage the Grand National has been exposed by an undercover Mail on Sunday investigation

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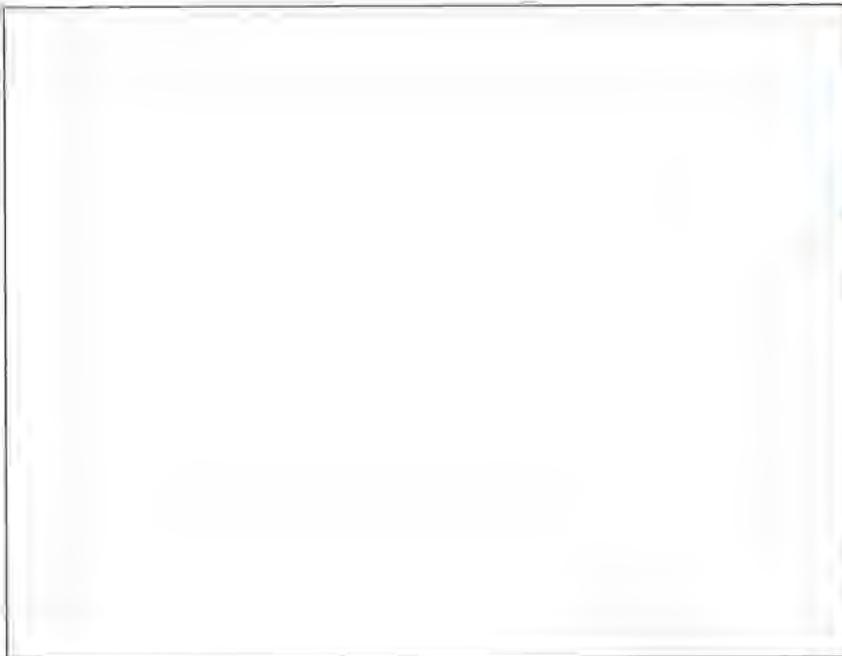
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The conspiracy - revealed just two weeks before the race meeting - was uncovered by an MoS reporter posing as a member of the Animal Rebellion campaign group



This evening the Mail on Sunday handed over our dossier of evidence to Merseyside Police. Pictured: Horses race away from the start during the Grand National Steeple Chase on the final day of the Grand National Festival horse race meeting at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool, north west England on April 9, 2022

Our investigation reveals how:

- Ringleaders have already conducted two secret reconnaissance missions of the racecourse to pinpoint security weaknesses
- A network of safehouses is being arranged to accommodate protesters before the race
- A fleet of minibuses is being hired to ferry protesters and equipment to the racecourse in Merseyside

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- **More than 100 activists have signed up to the plot, which is being organised via the encrypted app Signal**
- **Some activists plan to use ladders to scale Aintree's security fence, while others will be tasked with cutting holes in it using bolt cutters**
- **Once on the racecourse, protesters plan to glue themselves together and sit down, forming a human barrier across the course**

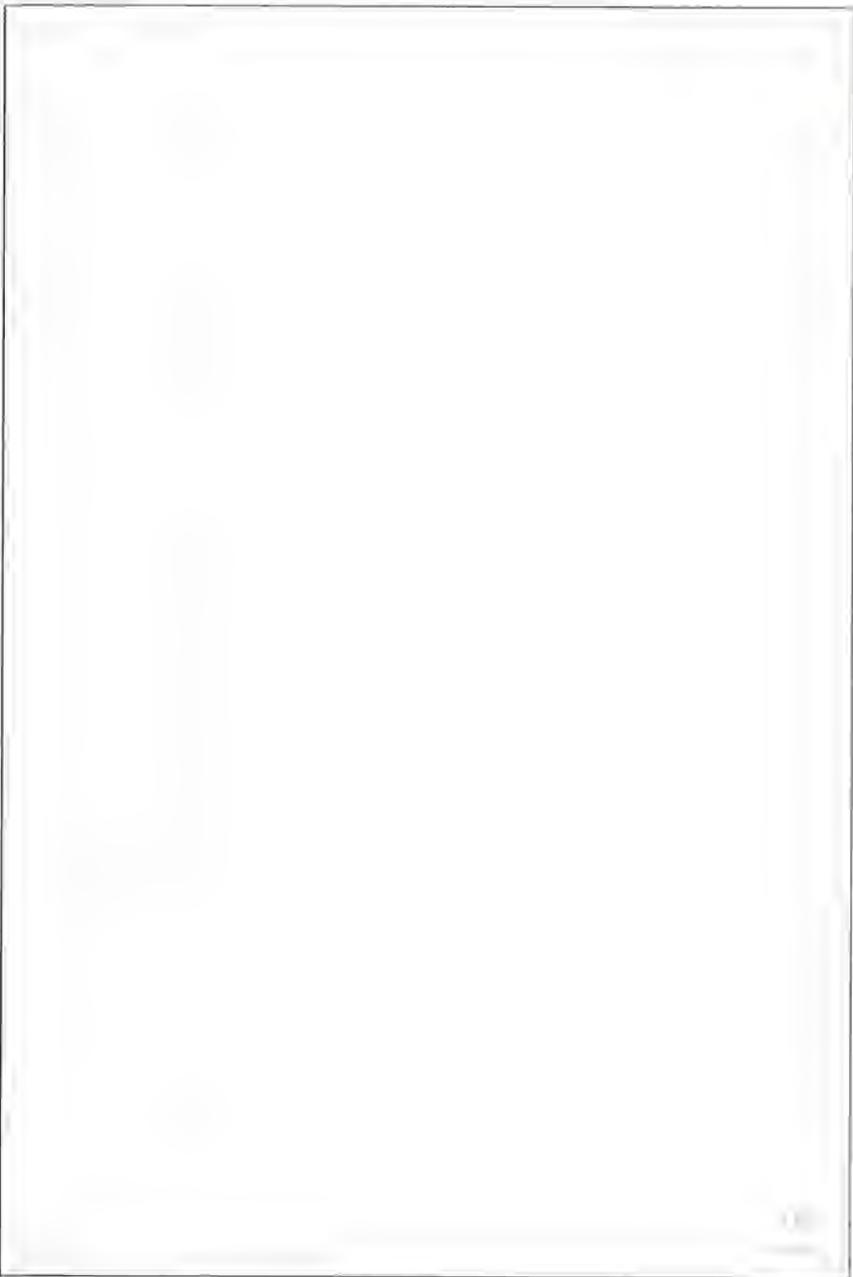
Any delay or cancellation of this year's Grand National would provoke an international outcry and cost the horse racing and betting industries millions of pounds.

The plot echoes the so-called 'Race that Never Was' in 1993, when 15 animal rights protesters stormed the course near the first fence and delayed the start by eight minutes. It was then declared void after two false starts. Four years later, the race was postponed for two days after an IRA bomb threat led to the course being evacuated.

Alarming, those behind the latest plot claim it will 'kick-start' further protests at prestigious horse races this summer - raising the prospect that the first Royal Ascot of King Charles's reign could be targeted in June.

Animal Rebellion - an offshoot of the militant environmental protest group Extinction Rebellion - was founded in 2019 and wants all animal farming and fishing banned. It also wants to end horse racing, branding it 'animal abuse'.

The group came to prominence last year after activists dumped cartons of milk on the floors of top stores and supermarkets including Harrods and Fortnum & Mason.



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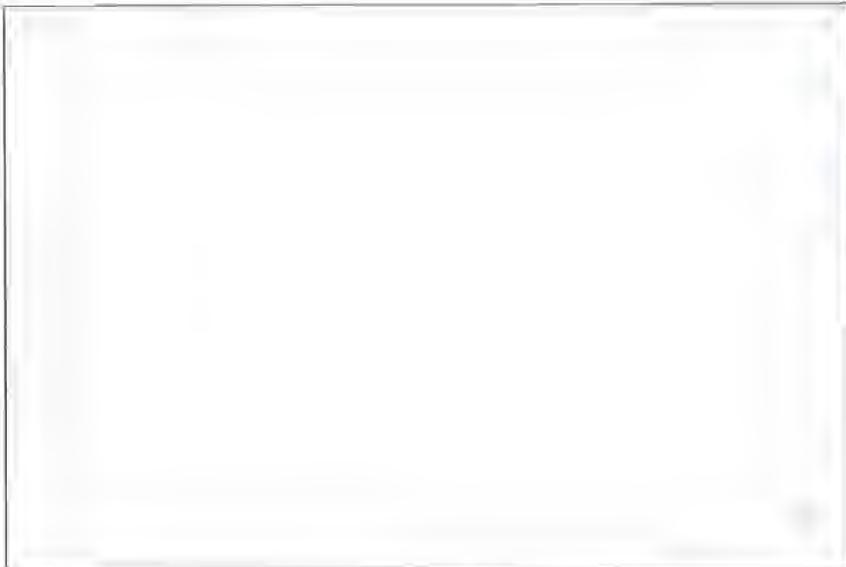
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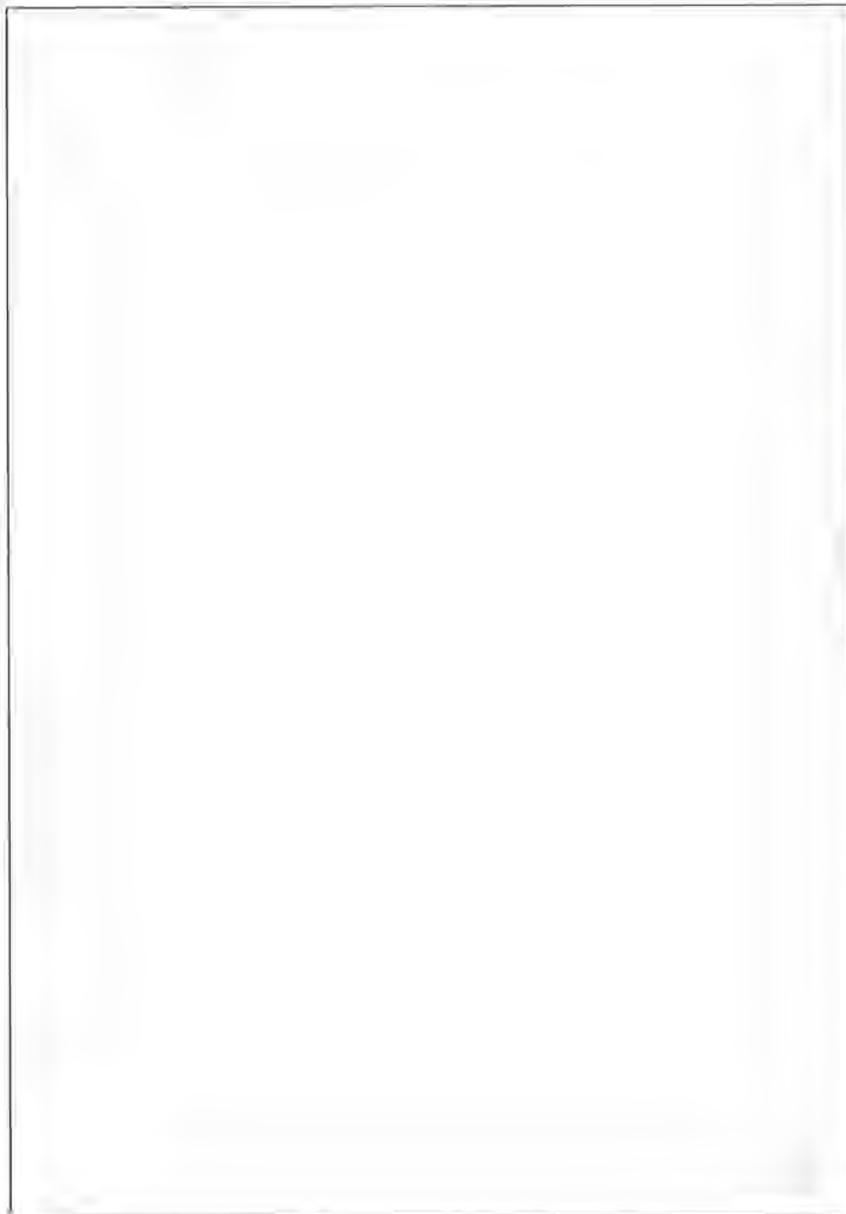


'Every parent's worst nightmare': Scottish trans butcher admits

In 2018 Jim Edwards was pictured alongside London Mayor Sadiq Khan at a reception



He now advises Animal Rebellion on its media strategy. Outlining the conspiracy, he said: '...The thing we're recruiting for is to get as many people as possible to Liverpool on April 15... We will be booking a bunch of houses so all the activists can stay together'



Last week our reporter joined ten others at a training day in an office in Dalston, a trendy enclave of East London, to prepare for the protest

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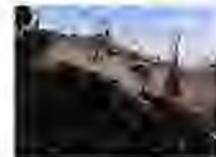
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Its fanatical members have also conducted a campaign of sit-ins at high-end restaurants. Former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan and his wife were caught up in a protest last month after Animal Rebellion targeted seafood restaurant Scott's in Mayfair, London.

The MoS first infiltrated the group in November last year.

It quickly became apparent to our reporter that a major plot was brewing and that the restaurant protests were simply the precursor to a more dramatic action.

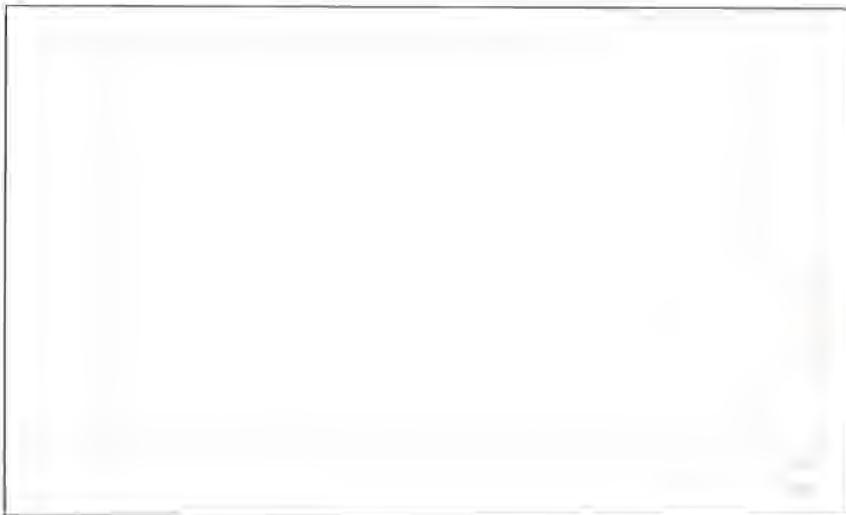
For weeks Animal Rebellion's leaders have been careful to keep the conspiracy under wraps, but earlier this month an activist who called himself 'Jim' phoned our reporter with a startling announcement.

Describing a forthcoming protest as 'our biggest spectacular one to date', he asked: 'Have you heard of the Grand National?'

'That will not be happening this year,' he added. 'We're hoping to gather 300 activists to occupy that course and stop it.' The MoS can today reveal that 'Jim' is in fact award-winning business journalist Jim Edwards, the former founding editor of the UK edition of financial news website Business Insider.

In 2018 he was pictured alongside London Mayor Sadiq Khan at a reception organised by the website. He quit last year and now advises Animal Rebellion on its media strategy.

Outlining the conspiracy, he said: '...The thing we're recruiting for is to get as many people as possible to Liverpool on April 15... We will be booking a bunch of houses so all the activists can stay together.'



Noble Yeats ridden by jockey Sam Waley-Cohen (no.28) clear a fence on their way to winning the Randox Grand National Handicap Chase on Grand National Day of the Randox Health Grand National Festival 2022 at Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool

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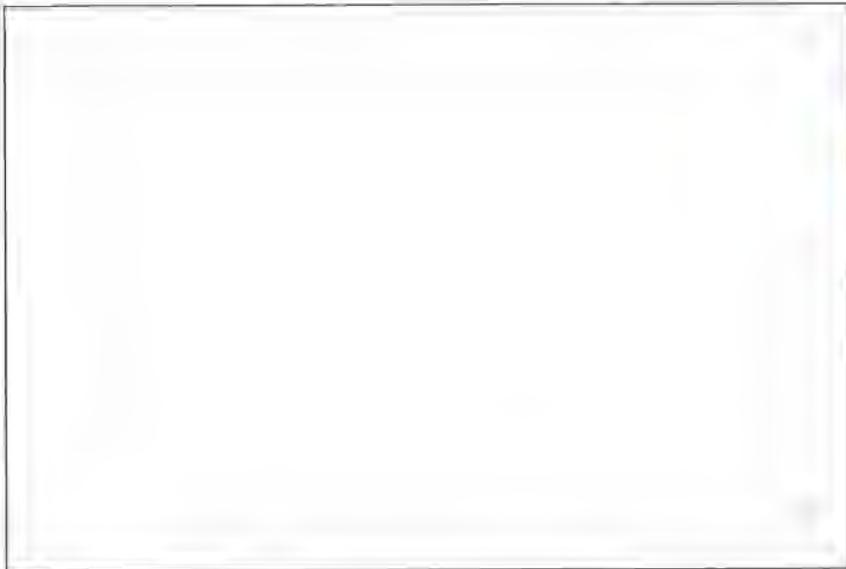
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Racegoers watch a race on the second day, 'Ladies Day', of the Grand National Festival horse race meeting, at Aintree Racecourse on April 8, 2022

Last week our reporter joined ten others at a training day in an office in Dalston, a trendy enclave of East London, to prepare for the protest.

One of the plot ringleaders, Rose Patterson, boasted that the Grand National stunt would have worldwide impact.

The 33-year-old was arrested in February after she and four others blocked Westminster Bridge. She was also one of several activists carried out of Scott's last month.

Stressing the information was 'secret', she said: 'Basically the kick-off action for this whole campaign is going to be at the Grand National. The biggest horse race in the world... We have 600 million people viewing this horse race worldwide, we've got £300 million of bets on the horse race and we're just going to ruin it.'

After clearing away the office chairs, the group were instructed to sit on the wooden floor with their eyes closed and link arms. Ms Patterson then began reading from a script in an exercise designed to prepare the protesters for the intensity of holding a hugely disruptive protest in front of a hostile crowd.

As she described how the Aintree protest would unfold, a soundtrack of rowdy spectators was played in the background.

'You feel the nerves in your stomach and feel butterflies and anxious and sick as the minibus is driving to the final location,' Ms Patterson said. 'After about an hour ... it's time to get out of the bus. You put on your pink animal-rising T-shirt and all your fellow [protesters] get out of the truck.'

She then revealed how some of the demonstrators would use ladders to scale Aintree's perimeter fence, while others would use bolt cutters to cut a hole in the fence to crawl through. 'There are like 100 of you now at the fence. You get the ladders out. Put them against the fence and you're the first one over,' she said. 'You start climbing that fence and you see security on the other side. You don't care. You know you're doing the right thing. And others cutting through the fence and climbing through.'

The activists were told that once on the course they would glue their hands together before sitting down to form a human barrier.

As Ms Patterson continued her description, loud jeering and booing erupted on the crowd noise recording.

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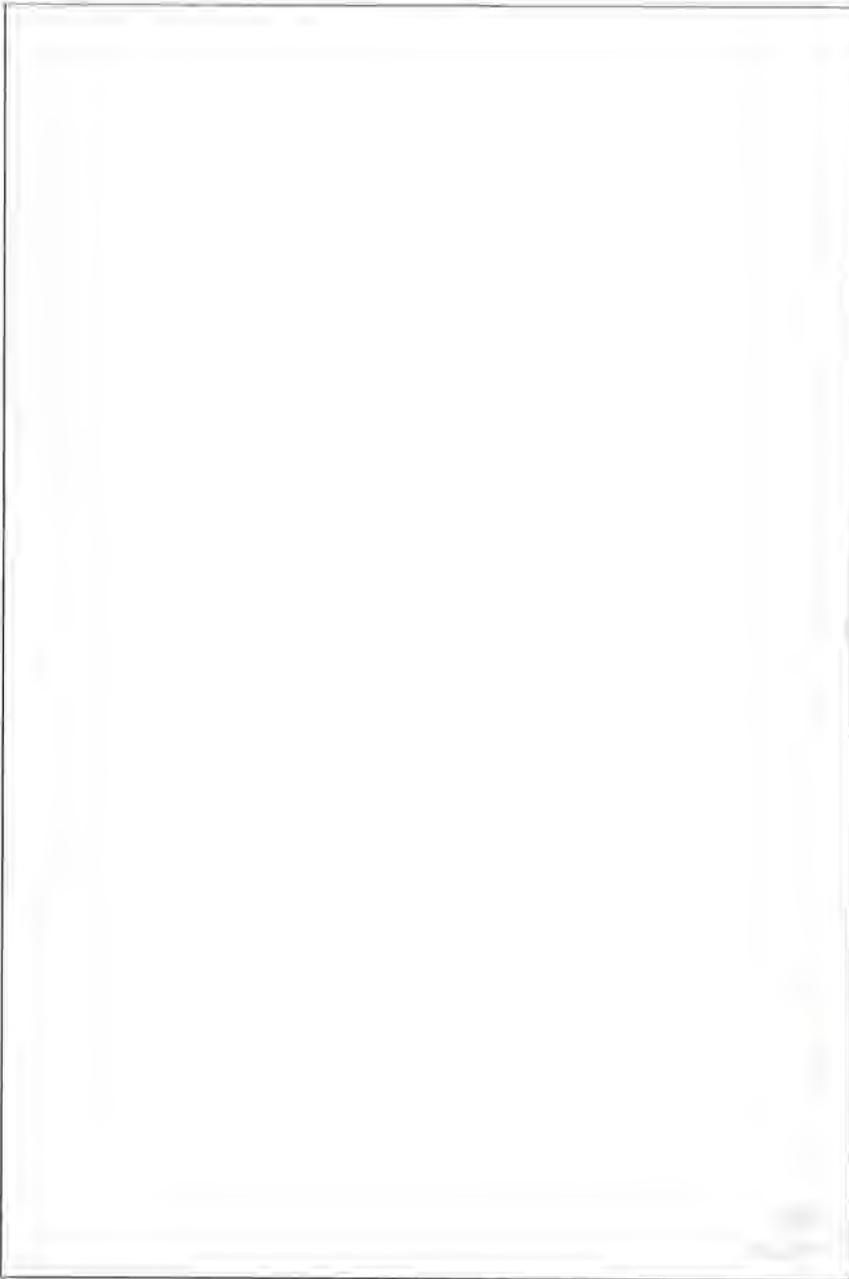
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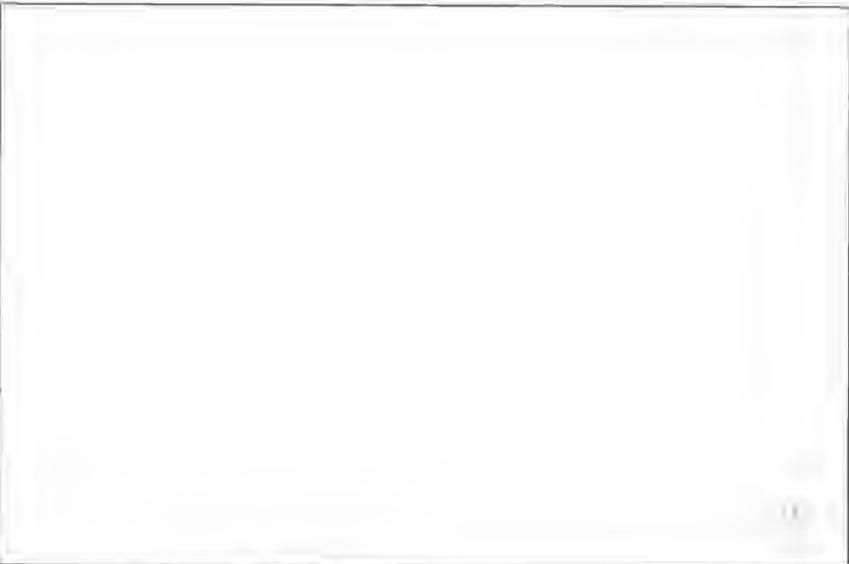
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Winning jockey Sam Waley-Cohen celebrates with the Grand National Trophy after riding Noble Yeats to victory in the Grand National Steeple Chase at Aintree Racecourse on April 9, 2022

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Minella Times and jockey Rachael Blackmore during the Randox Grand National Handicap Chase during Grand National Day of the Randox Health Grand National Festival 2022 at Aintree Racecourse

'You're all on to the track now and you start... gluing your hands to each other and walking towards the crowd and you can see 50,000 people screaming and shouting at you and they're getting quite mad and security [are] running towards you,' she added. 'You keep walking and you feel fearless and powerful and then you sit down and you're all in line together. You feel so excited and proud to stand alongside individuals making history.'

Ms Patterson revealed how Animal Rebellion's leaders had previously planned to sneak on to the course the night before the race and dig up the turf. That plan, however, was ditched because it was decided it would be 'way more powerful' for hundreds of people to storm on to the course.

Ms Patterson also disclosed that the plot ringleaders have already visited Aintree twice to identify weak spots, adding: 'We walked round the perimeter and on the track as well.' She added that some stretches of the fence are only 5ft 5in high.

'The track is huge, so security focus on where the spectators are but we are not going to go over there - it'll be further down.'

The group will do a final reconnaissance mission once the three-day race meeting has started to identify exactly where security guards and police officers have been positioned.

Activists involved in the protest will be split into small teams known as 'pods' and managed by one team leader, known as 'the stem', who will be issued with a so-called 'burner phone' - a mobile phone bought for a specific use that can be discarded.

One of the activists, who has taken part in a string of Animal Rebellion stunts, said that the protesters should remain on the course until they are either arrested or dragged away.

'The aim is to stop the event from happening and so we wouldn't want to give them the visual of us standing up and walking away at any point,' she said.

Those who wanted to take part in the action were asked to join a group on the encrypted app Signal entitled 'The Race'. Last night it had 120 members.

The final exercise of the training day involved the activists simulating trying to force their way through a line of security guards. 'This is private property, call the police,' shouted one of the ringleaders as he pretended to be a security guard.

Some of those at the training voiced their reservations about breaking the law, with one activist named Liam saying he was 'not thrilled about getting arrested'.

Last night Tory MP Damian Green, acting chairman of the Commons Culture Select Committee, condemned the 'appalling' plot.

He said: 'I'm glad this has been exposed by The Mail on Sunday. Millions of people love the Grand National and love horses as well. I can't think of a worse way of advertising your campaign, if you claim to love horses.'

Tory MP Alicia Kearns said: 'Using these sorts of tactics to impose their militant opposition to meat-eating will only backfire. At least hopefully less police time will be wasted thanks to the Mail on Sunday's investigation.'

Merseyside Police said it has 'a robust policing plan in place for Aintree', adding: 'We respect the right to peaceful protest and expression of views, but public order or criminal offences will not be tolerated and will be dealt with robustly.'

The Jockey Club, which owns Aintree racecourse, declined to comment last night.

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Animal Rising will focus more on animal rights - Media Credit: William Barton / Alamy Stock Photo

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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.