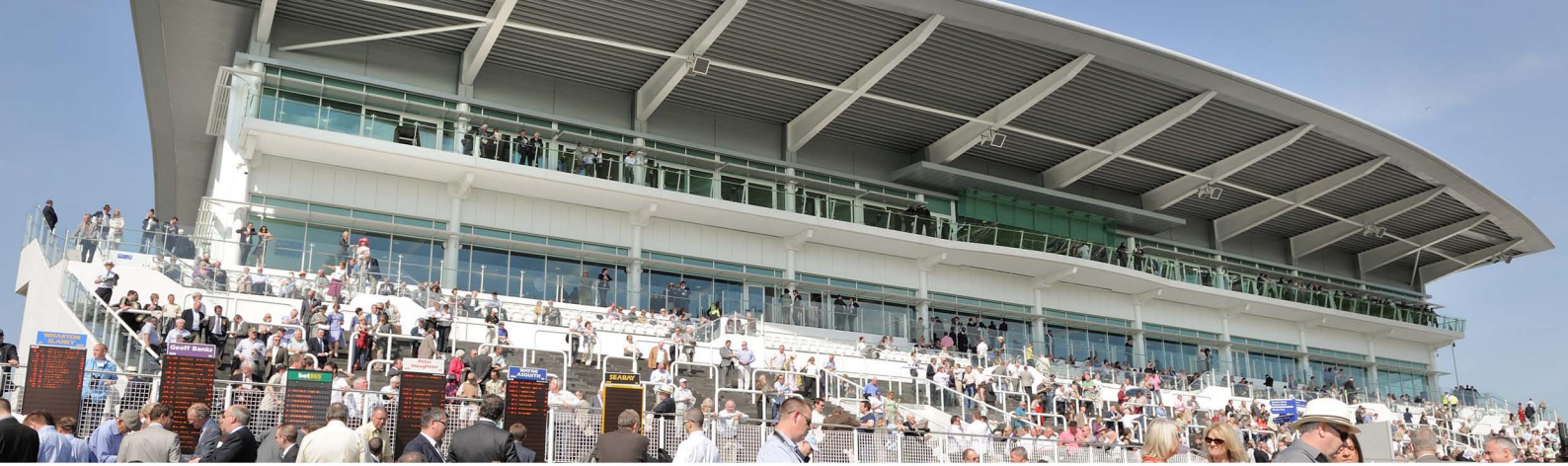


The Duchess Stand, Epsom Downs Race Course



Delivered for The Jockey Club

11,000 seat capacity grandstand, 600 seat function room and 14 private boxes
April 2009 | Value: £25 million



Introduction Willmott Dixon were employed to undertake the design and construction of a new 11,000 seat capacity stand at Epsom Downs racecourse to replace the old 1914 building. The Grandstand is the culmination of an ambitious redevelopment programme that includes a new entrance pavilion and hotel, which were also built by Willmott Dixon.

Key Facts The project was handed over a week early and defect free

Details The building features a new main betting hall with bars and catering, which can also host conferences, banqueting and events. Three first floor function rooms with seating for up to 600 people have flexible uses for conferences and functions, and the second floor comprises 14 private boxes plus a 'Super Box' for just over 100 people for smaller events and race days.

Successes A crucial element was to partially rebuild the grandstand in time for the 2008 Derby Festival, which was achieved by completing the 4000 capacity terrace area. The event is attended by around 100,000 people, and Willmott Dixon worked closely with the racecourse management to ensure the event went without a hitch.

Sustainable achievements Energy efficiencies include a ground source heat pump, solar control glass, PIR lighting controls, aerated taps and low flush toilets. In addition, the remains of the demolished old stand were crushed and incorporated as fill for the new Grandstand, preventing significant amounts of waste to landfill.

Relationship Fortnightly and monthly project meetings, day-to-day interaction and frank ongoing discussions meant changes could be accommodated without fuss and issues were fairly addressed on both sides. Work was also carefully choreographed to ensure that the 2008 Derby Festival went ahead as normal, and with minimal impact on the existing facilities, activities within the Queen's Stand continued uninterrupted.

Epsom Racecourse also has a massive effect on the local economy, with the investment in the racecourse an investment in the community too. Consequently consultation during the planning process by the Racecourse's management showed huge support locally for the project, with the community kept well informed on progress at every stage.

Testimonial **Nick Blofeld, Managing Director, Epsom Downs Racecourse**

"The project went very smoothly from the beginning. Willmott Dixon was flexible and accommodating with a very open style, and we were felt very much part of the team from the start. I am a great believer in strategic partnerships and that's how it was on this project."

Contact Adrian Hill, leisure sector manager, 07773 422064



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