

## Nottingham (Colwick Park)

In 1970 the White City track in Nottingham had closed down leaving the city without greyhound racing. Some year's later plans for a new track within the Nottingham horse racing course began to surface. The site of the racecourse was east of the village of Colwick and the racecourse had opened way back in 1892 and had been extended in 1896 following the purchase of the Colwick Hall and its Estate (1° 6' 37.658"W 52° 56' 58.073"N).

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 1980 the Colwick Park greyhound track opened, it was situated on the north side of the race course where a car parking area had stood and previous to that had been an old bed of the River Trent. The county had strong greyhound racing ties and could now celebrate the opening of a new track. Members of the Severn and Trent greyhound clubs had maintained a presence in the council's thoughts ever since the closure of White City.

The circumference of the track was 442 metres and was described as a very good galloping track with long straights and the sand used was Worksop Grey. The Managing Director Jon Carter announced that there were over 2,000 attending the first meeting which consisted of eight races, six over 500m and two over 295m. The very first winner was greyhound called Tartan Al trained by W Horton who won in 32.98sec at odds of 7-1. An initial investment of £250,000 included the Panorama Room with a state of the art restaurant and totalisator. The first Racing Manager was Jim Woods, the Director of Racing was Terry Meynell and the first trainers were Bill Horton, Christine Lawlor, A Coppin, T Smith and one Charlie Lister. Lawlor claimed the first ever big winner for the track when Hopalong Dandy won the Ebor Stakes in 1982.

Another trainer that appeared on opening night was Geoff DeMulder and he joined the track in 1984. DeMulder was responsible for training Nippy Law who won the Greyhound Derby Consolation and Oxfordshire Stakes. Rita Hayward won the Steel City Cup two years later with Well Rigged in 1986.

Racing took place on Monday, Thursday and Saturday evenings and the nature of the large track soon attracted some of the sports best greyhounds. Nottingham was lucky to experience two of the greatest, starting with Scurlogue Champ who broke the track record in October 1985 and then Ballyregan Bob. Bob won two races here that formed part of his world record breaking run during November 1985 & April 1986 with the first run creating a new track record.

It was also in 1986 that Coventry closed resulting in the Eclipse competition finding a new home at Nottingham. In April 1989 the 'Outside Sumner' hare was replaced by the Bramich and race distances were re-measured as 310, 500, 700 & 747m.

In 1988 Terry Corden took over Nottingham from Wiseville Ltd, Corden had recently sold Derby and had been successful during the property boom. Jim Woods left to join Monmore and was replaced by Mick Smith before Peter Robinson took the hot seat. One of the first tasks of the new owners was to invest in new facilities and in 1989 the track underwent a considerably upgrade.

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***Major track improvements in March 1989  
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A new competition to the track in 1990 was the National Sprint, the important race had struggled to find a home since the closure of Harringay but the management decide they needed another race in addition to the Eclipse. The event would be held towards the end of the year and was known as the Peter Derrick Christmas Cracker for a few years.

In 1995 Spring Rose trained by Charlie Lister finished second by Elliots Gem in the inaugural Puppy Classic with punters quickly realising that the white and fawn bitch would be a special stayer. This was proven to be the case the following year when Spring Rose won the Grand Prix. Wembley also closed in 1996 and Nottingham was awarded the prestigious Select Stakes as a consequence. It was clear that Nottingham's stature was growing and now hosted four major competitions.

The Nottingham trainers were also making their mark on the open race circuit with Dawn Wheatley nearly claiming the English Derby in 1994 with Ayr Flyer. With Charlie Lister representing the track at various times it was inevitable that a classic success would soon arrive and that success was the ultimate prize when the phenomenal Some Picture won the 1997 Greyhound Derby and Scottish Derby.

Nottingham was now well established and regarded as an excellent track, Terry Corden had brought his family into the fold, daughter Rachel and son Nathan were now both heavily involved in the running of the track.

Nottingham remains a successful stadium and the only disappointing fact for them in the since the turn of the century is the lack of major open race wins. The likes of Toms View (Phil McComish), Tuftys Pearletta (Laurence Tuffin), Salacres Polizzi (Peter Harnden) and Romeo recruit (David Firmager) have all won big races but it is little reward for a 15 year period. However the prestige of the track remains high with a fifth event (the British Breeders taken from Hall Green) now run at the track and selection as the host track for the 2015 BAGS championship, a competition that produced the closest finish possible.

### Selected Track Records

Distance	Name	Time	Date	Notes
255m	Skate On	14.84	18.08.2014	
295m	Tims Crow	17.45	24.11.2003	
	Laser Beam	17.43	26.08.2005	
300m	Nervous Paddy	17.81	24.12.2001	
	Hawk I Hunt	17.68	02.06.2003	
305m	Laser Beam	17.77	14.11.2005	
	Carrib Prince	17.73	12.12.2005	National Sprint heats
	Ningbo Jack	17.73	12.12.2005	National Sprint heats
	Ballydaniel Bozz	17.73	09.01.2006	
	Ballydaniel Bozz	17.57	20.02.2006	
	Ningbo Jack	17.55	29.05.2006	
	Against the Lead	17.55	18.07.2006	
	Against the Lead	17.51	21.08.2006	
	Rotar Wing	17.47	13.12.2010	National Sprint semi-final
	Jumeirah Dubai	17.45	03.12.2012	
	Target Harris	17.34	02.06.2014	
310m	Yellow Jersey	18.58	1989+	
	Cocktail Darkie	18.18	04.09.1989	
312m	Fagans Friend	18.41	24.01.1987	
460m	Myth Maker	28.01	20.08.1990	
	Carmels Prince	27.75	01.10.1990	
	Stop To Conquer	27.75	20.06.1991	
	Almost New	27.66	31.10.1992	
480m	Tullerboy Lass	28.83	12.06.2001	
	Larkhill Lo	28.82	26.11.2002	
	Baliff Spring	28.71	27.07.2004	
	Pennys Shakira	28.60	23.07.2007	
	Lively Arthur	28.59	21.08.2007	
	Farloe Reason	28.39	21.12.2007	
	Bit View Micko	28.32	22.10.2012	
	Diesel Blue	28.31	21.01.2013	
	Bower Stone	28.25	30.07.2013	
	Swift Hoffman	28.07	15.07.2014	
485m	Sun Ging	29.50	26.12.1986	
	Fearless Ace	29.26	1987+	
500m	Holyhill Way	30.35	10.03.1987	
	Drumgoon Swallow	30.53	1989+	
	Fires of War	30.00	30.07.1990	
	World Wind	29.98	29.10.1990	
	Westmead Merlin	29.65	17.10.1994	
	Droopys Rhys	29.77	23.04.2001	
	Top Savings	29.67	30.08.2001	
	Top Savings	29.43	14.04.2003	
	Droopys Shearer	29.34	04.08.2003	
	Fear Me	29.45	14.11.2005	Eclipse heats
	Shelbourne Rene	29.28	18.09.2006	
	Ballymac Eske	29.28	22.10.2012	
	Ballymac Eske	29.21	29.10.2012	
	Sawpit Sensation	29.16	28.11.2012	Eclipse final
530m	Decoy Gold	32.03	16.10.1980	
680m	Ballyregan Bob	41.87	09.11.1985	Part of the 32 world record
	Wailea Flash	41.67	1987+	
	Wentworth Which	41.36	09.07.2007	
	Aero Rebel	41.26	19.11.2012	
	Fabulous Shanty	41.06	04.03.2013	

700m	Hot News	44.24	1989+	
	Doves Delight	43.50	18.09.1989	
	Mobile Magic	43.06	28.01.1993	
	Lavally Pete	43.43	29.04.1999	
	Sexy Delight	42.73	11.09.2000	
	Top Plan	42.66	09.06.2003	
	Tinrah Lad	42.87	11.04.2005	
722m	Farloe Bonus	42.89	24.05.1999	
	El Poker	45.38	28.08.2000	
	Farloe Bonus	43.70	27.11.2000	
730m	Droopys Kenny	45.36	04.11.2005	
	Gunner Black	45.00	09.01.2006	
	Fabulous Sophie	44.99	30.01.2006	
	Blonde Pearl	44.19	20.02.2006	
	Romantic Rambo	44.11	15.07.2014	
747m	Manx Marajax	47.03	1989+	
	Road Princess	46.87	27.08.1990	
	Penny I Am	46.50	16.09.1991	
	Miss Piggy	46.12	26.09.1994	
754m	Scurlogue Champ	47.30	17.10.1985	
	Change Guard	47.02	1987+	
885m	Lisnakill Cathal	55.68	27.07.2004	
900m	Easy Field	57.76	27.08.1990	
	Clonbrin Basket	57.52	11.07.1991	
	Clonbrin Basket	56.91	08.08.1991	
	Red Arrow Lady	56.76	24.10.1991	
902m	Let Us Know	57.25	11.03.2002	
905m	Ziggy Girl	57.56	12.01.2004	
	Flying Winner	56.99	20.11.2008	
	Art Banksy	56.90	15.07.2014	
	Mays Petal	56.58	28.10.2014	
925m	Seathwaite Robby	58.13	20.11.2006	
	Fearsome Liberty	57.86	18.11.2013	
927m	Limekiln Pearl	59.60	25.08.1987	
937m	Deenside Fire	59.74	30.08.1993	
485mH	Distant Echo	30.15	24.08.1987	
500mH	Speedy Tiger	30.99	17.10.1985	
	El Tenor	30.71	21.06.1999	

+ Date when record was held, not necessarily the year it was set.