

MONDAY
Money

TUESDAY
Build the Change

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Build a better world



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

The protestors who glue themselves to jumps

Is horse racing wrong? The Grand National's steeplechase event was interrupted last week by protestors who say the event is cruel and dangerous.

Is it wrong to make a horse jump over fences and ditches, knowing that if it falls, it will probably be killed?

Animal Rising thinks so. The animal rights protest group made itself clear when over a hundred people interrupted **steeple** chase horse racing's main event.

The Grand National, at **Aintree**, has always been **immensely** popular with the public. But this time, police had to be called and the start of the race was **postponed**.

At least nine of the protestors managed to make it onto the race course,



Beating the odds: Corach Rambler won, clearing the hurdles that some say are too dangerous.

THE STORY SO FAR

Jumps racing, such as the Grand National, has been criticised for many years. In 2022, it was banned in Southern Australia. Still, around 600 million people worldwide tune in to watch the race.

and several attached themselves to the fences the horses were supposed to jump over.

The race has come in for criticism for many years, due to the high number of **fatalities** during the race. In 2021, the horse racing world was rocked by photos

of dead horses.

While the grand national course has been **reformed** to be safer several times since 2012, animal rights charities still call for it to be banned.

The British Horse Racing association, meanwhile, **condemned** the "actions of a small number of people"

The race was won by **Corach** Rambler. During the race, one horse died, Hill Sixteen, who fell at the first hurdle.

Hill Sixteen's death followed that of Dark Raven, earlier on Saturday in another race. Another horse, Envoye Special, died in a race on Thursday.

KEY WORDS

Steeple: The tower of a church

Aintree: A racecourse near Liverpool, UK

Immensely: Very

Postponed: Delayed

Fatalities: Deaths

Reformed: Changed or improved

Condemned: Criticised strongly or express disapproval

Corach: The Welsh word for dwarf



YOU DECIDE

Is horse racing wrong?

YES. It is unacceptable to cause so much harm to living creatures for our own entertainment.

NO. Human athletes face risks when they compete, too. Racing horses live better than most farm animals.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

SPOT THE FAKE

One of these three news stories is fake.
Which one?

Ultramarathon runner disqualified for using car

Dog runs half marathon by accident, comes seventh

Marathoner denies hiding pogostick in costume

Did you know?



All thoroughbred horses can be traced back to just three stallions. These Arabian horses were imported into Britain in the late 17th Century and early 18th Century by wealthy men.

TIME TO DESIGN!

Some people want horseracing to be banned. Your challenge is to design a playground for horses instead.

Step one:

Think about your design! How do you think horses like to play? What kind of things might you find in a horse playground?

Step two:

Create your design! Draw a picture of some horses using your playground, or if you have time, make a real life model using bits of recyclable materials.



Talking point

Is it worse to harm animals for our entertainment than it is to harm them for food?

Amaze someone

Racehorse names cannot have any words for horse (such as stallion or filly) or horse racing terms in them.

Quixhall Crossett is widely seen as the least successful racehorse in history, after losing 103 races in a row.

THE EXTRA PAGE

Grand National disrupted

More than 100 animal rights protesters have been arrested after some invaded the Grand National course and forced the start of the world's most famous steeplechase to be delayed by a quarter of an hour.

About 70,000 fans were at Aintree to cheer the 8-1 favourite Corach Rambler to victory, but the day will be remembered more for the sight of dozens of protesters from Animal Rising using ladders to scale the barricades around the course before attempting to stop the race.

The group, which has pledged to "rise up and take direct action to see an end to animal suffering in all its forms", appeared to come close to succeeding with two of their members in pink T-shirts being bundled away as they attempted to use glue and locking devices to attach themselves to fences.

Merseyside police said that 118 people had been arrested for trying to delay the race and for public order offences beforehand.

The day was also marred by the death of Hill Sixteen after a first-fence fall, as well as Dark Raven in a race earlier on the card. Altogether, three horses died in the three-day meeting.

Dickon White, who runs Aintree Racecourse, said: "Hill Sixteen was



Jumping fences: Police arrested 118 people who attempted to enter the racecourse.

immediately attended by expert veterinary professionals during the Grand National, but sadly sustained a fatal injury. Our heartfelt condolences are with his connections."

Merseyside police said in a statement after the race: "Just after 5pm a large number of protesters attempted to gain entry onto the course. The majority were prevented from breaching the boundary fencing but nine individuals who managed to enter the course were later arrested by officers."

The delay meant there was no pre-parade or national anthem and the race — which was due to start at 5.15pm — only got under way at 5.29pm. However, one protester said that direct action had been taken to raise awareness of the situation animals faced.

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

"I know everyone coming to Aintree to view the races today would say they love the horses. However, the suffering experienced by them should shock us all."

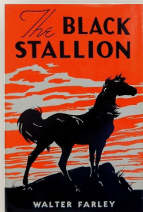
Lucinda Russell, the trainer of Corach Rambler, said that in fact the protests had negatively affected the welfare of the horses as they prepared to race. "The protesters are just doing it for themselves," she added. ■

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Answer to the spot the fake

Marathoner denies hiding pogostick in costume