

ACTIVISM

OTHER NEWS

Animal Rebellion Moves Away From Extinction Rebellion With New Rebrand

Animal Rebellion will now be known as Animal Rising

BY POLLY FOREMAN 11TH APRIL 2023 © 2 MINUTES READ

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



Animal Rising

Animal Rebellion has rebranded

The group will lead what it says will be “the biggest campaign of animal-focussed actions the UK has seen in decades” this summer. This will be made up, organizers say, of open rescues and high-profile public-facing actions.

Animal Rising prioritizes animal rights

“Over the past four years Animal Rebellion has made untold difference to the environmental movement and raised the issue of animal farming and fishing into the public consciousness,” Animal Rising spokesperson Nathan McCgovern told *Plant Based News*. “However 2023 will see a shift in our actions and message in order to spotlight animals more than ever.”

Last year, Animal Rebellion made headlines after rescuing 18 beagles puppies from an animal testing breeding facility in Cambridgeshire in the UK. This, the group says, is the sort of action Animal Rising will prioritize in the coming months.



Animal Rising

Animal Rising activists put up posters on betting shops ahead of the Grand National

“Our action this year will be firmly centred around animals in a way they perhaps haven’t been previously,” McGovern said. “We’ll be rescuing them from factory farms whilst also occupying these facilities too. We’ll also be disrupting events that use animals for ‘sport’ to put our bodies between them and harm.”

Over the bank holiday weekend, supporters of Animal Rising spray painted the group’s logo (A) across a number of locations in London and Manchester. They also put up posters advertising their Grand National action on betting shop windows.

TAGGED Activism, Animal Rebellion, Animal Rights, Animal Rising, Extinction Rebellion



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Militant animal rights activists storm the Grand National: 'Animal Rising' protesters masquerading as fans are tackled by hero race staff and police who arrest 118 in chaos - after warning from Mail about planned sabotage

- Dozens of activists tried to disrupt the race, leading to a 12 minute delay to the start of the Grand National
- Several horses fell during the race, with Hill Sixteen becoming the third to die this meet after a broken neck
- Police arrested 118 people on suspicion of criminal damage and public nuisance offences on Saturday

By [ELIZABETH HAIGH](#) and [MATT POWELL](#)

PUBLISHED: 17:03, 15 April 2023 | UPDATED: 01:54, 16 April 2023



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Animal rights activists stormed the Grand National on Saturday after posing as racegoers, delaying the race as they were tackled by officials and officers - despite the Mail On Sunday warning police weeks ago of the plan to disrupt the event.

Animal Rising protesters, an environmental and animal rights group, were seen attempting to climb over fences to gain access to the grounds, as well as breaking onto the grass ahead of the race - only for them to be carted off to the delight of spectators. Merseyside police confirmed that 118 people have been arrested.

It came after the alleged ringleader of the protest Rose Patterson, 33, was arrested in Greater Manchester by **Merseyside Police** this morning following an investigation by the Mail On Sunday into the plot. A 25-year-old woman from **London** and a man were also arrested outside the racecourse on suspicion of conspiracy to cause public nuisance.



NT1/29



while others tried to g
to grab the protesters

ushing to the scene

The race did finally ge : the first hurdle, as
did a second at the second fence. Hill Sixteen, who was running at 66-1, took a fatal fall and sadly is confirmed to
have become the third horse to have died at Aintree this weekend after breaking his neck.



© REUTERS

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View gallery

At least two activists made it onto the racecourse and attempted to glue themselves to the second jump

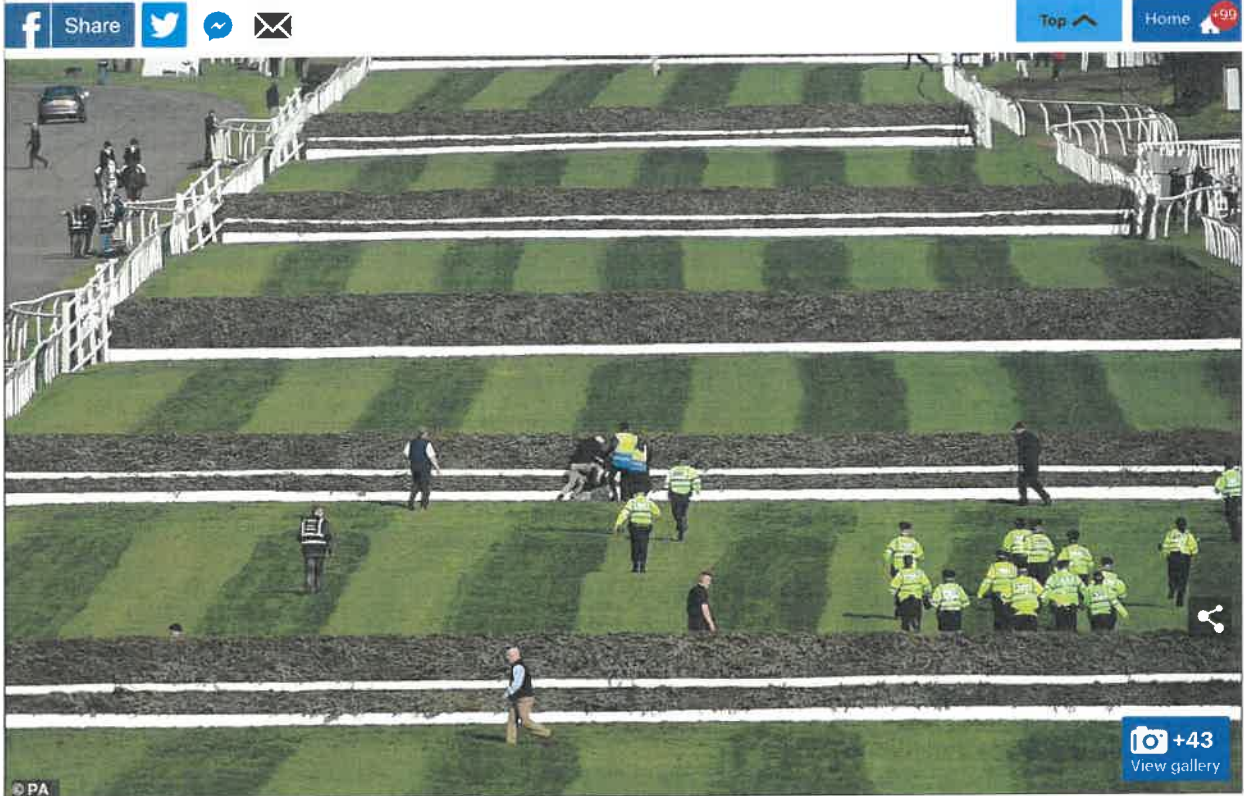


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View gallery

Police rushed to the site and carried the two protesters from the jump, reportedly removing a small part of it in order to do so

NT1/30



A massive police response was triggered after two protesters made it onto the course



Police escort an animal rights activist from the scene of the racecourse after several attempted to glue themselves to a jump

TRENDING





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neighbourhood

64k viewing now footage of 13.2k viewing now was shared 5.3k viewing now rights activists 9.2k viewing now before a 13.3k viewing now spokesperson confirmed the death.

Animal rights groups including PETA were quick to share the news on social media.

Several other jockeys also tumbled at the early stages but their horses continued. Two then left the main track but continued to run alongside the other steeds.

As the race went on, more horses fell to the ground. Two other horses have been rushed away in horse ambulances with life-threatening injuries.

The winner of the Grand National was Corach Rambler, at odds of 8-1.

After the conclusion of the race, Animal Rising posted a video of one of the jumps on social media which showed a horse crashing into the ground at high speed, before lying there unmoving. This is believed to be of Hill Sixteen. Two jockeys were also unseated in the video, but appeared to be unhurt.

The organisation said: 'THIS IS WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO STOP FROM HAPPENING. Several horses fell during this race - how many will be killed due to their injuries? Absolutely heartbreaking chaos for horses that never got a choice in the matter. MAKE SURE THE GRAND NATIONAL NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.'

Activists are protesting against horseracing over animal welfare concerns, as multiple horses often die at major meets such as Aintree each year.

Three horses have **so far been put down following injuries at the course this weekend**. Horse Dark Raven died after racing on Saturday, the second death at the three-day festival after Envoye Special fell on Thursday.

The League Against Cruel Sports described the death toll at the Grand National Festival as 'bleak' following the deaths.

Emma Judd, head of campaigns and communications at the charity, said: 'The tragic death of Dark Raven at the Randox Grand National Festival on Saturday - the second death in only three days - shows entertainment and gambling taking precedence over animal welfare and the lives of these horses. >

The League said the death toll at the Aintree Festival was now 61 horses since 2000 - with 15 killed in the Grand National, including two last year.

At the National a fire engine was briefly spotted at the scene before the race got underway, but exited the course after police were able to secure the area. Before police reached the protesters, several members of the public appeared to try and remove the activists from the track themselves.

The other activists, most of whom wore pink T-shirts emblazoned with slogans, seemed to have been prevented from getting into Aintree after attempting to use ladders and their hands to climb barriers.

But many of the racegoers didn't notice the disruption. Christine Maybin, 29, from Antrim, Northern Ireland, at the races with Dwayne McGurk, 31, said: 'We noticed the delay but we didn't know it was because of protesters, we thought they were fixing the fences. We only noticed the protesters when we were coming in from the train.'

Mr McGurk said: 'The delay didn't affect us, we just got another drink in. We've had an unbelievable day here.'

Others in attendance expressed anger at the delay.

Ex-Tory MP Matt Hancock, who was not at Aintree, tweeted after watching the race: 'What a race! Glad the attention-seeking protestors trying to ruin the #GrandNational completely failed.'

Now militant animal rights activists close the M57 motorway near Aintree by gluing themselves to road after 'Animal Rising' protesters masquerading as fans stormed the Grand National



© @davverplatt



In a statement Merseyside Police said: 'Just after 5pm, a large number of protesters attempted to gain entry on to the course. The majority were prevented from breaching the boundary fencing, but the nine individuals who managed to enter the course were later arrested by officers.'

Merseyside Police Assistant Chief Constable Paul White said a total of 118 people have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and public nuisance offences.

He said: 'Today [Saturday], as you've seen, there's been a significant protest in relation to the running of the Grand National.'

'This began earlier this morning, there's been a number of protests outside and then that resulted earlier on today at about 5pm with numerous people trying to incur onto the course, which we, in partnership with the event organisers, and members of the public as well, have managed in the main to stop and and ultimately the event took place - albeit with a slight delay.'

He said protesters tried to access the course from a number of points at the far side of the track.

He continued: 'There were significant numbers. What I can tell you is 118 people have been arrested today in relation to both criminal damage and public nuisance offences - and obviously we'll process them.'

He said the number included pre-emptive arrests before the race and arrests relating to the protest on the M57, **where activists glued themselves to the carriageway.**

Shortly after the scheduled race time of 5.15pm, the jockeys walked out into the paddock, where the horses were walked around for public display.

By 5.25pm, the horses headed out to the gates with their jockeys ahead of the start of the race. Commentators announced plans to cut the usual parade and national anthem in order to begin as soon as possible.



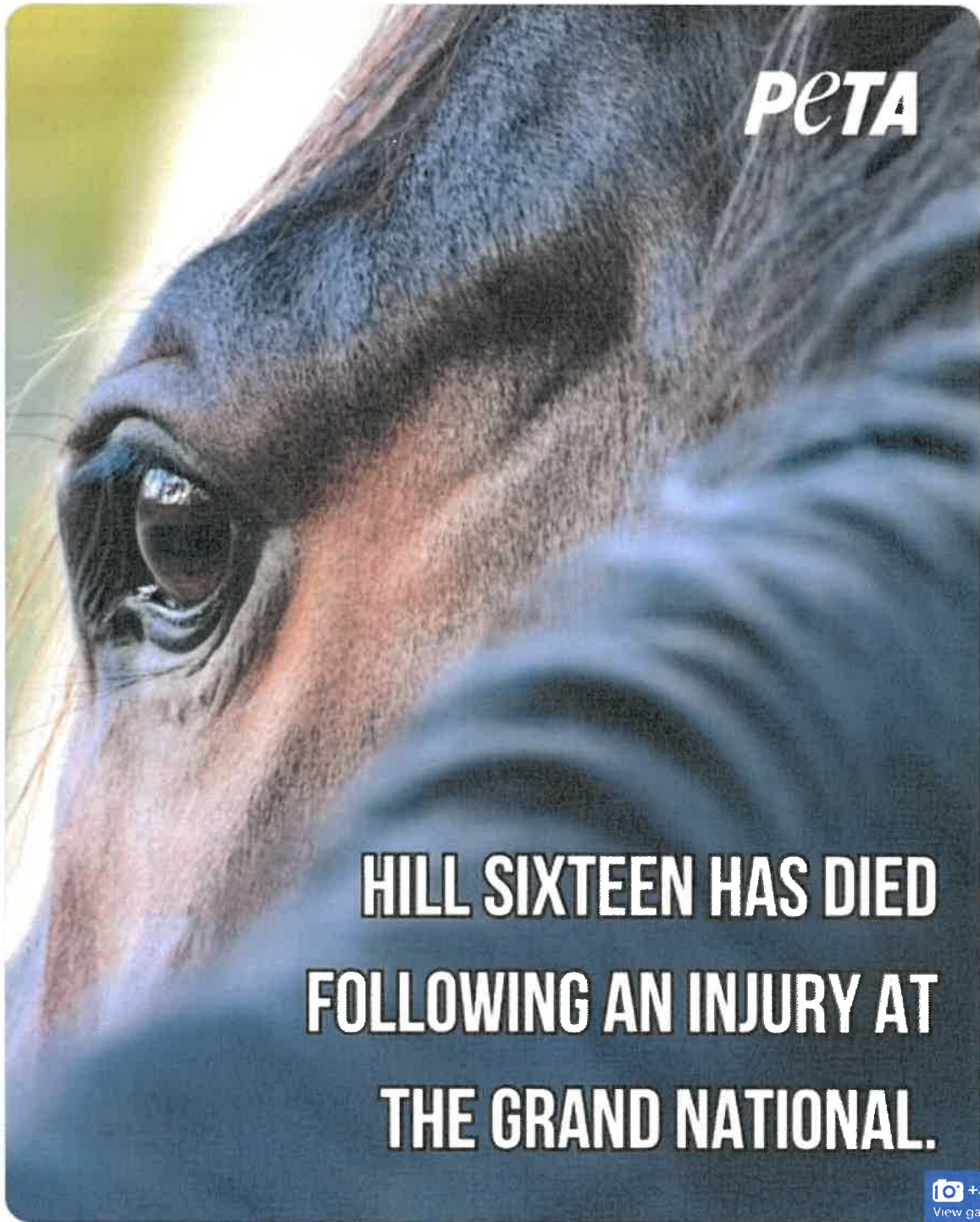
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BREAKING ⚠️

Hill Sixteen is the third horse to die at [#GrandNational2023](#)

[#GrandNationalDisgrace](#)
[#YouBetTheyDie](#) 🐎



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Matt Hancock
 @MattHancock

What a race!
 Glad the attention-seeking protestors trying to ruin the [#GrandNational](#) completely failed
 Thanks to Merseyside Police and the Jockey Club for keeping people safe. A great result for wonderful British racing 🌞

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Two activists are arrested by police outside Aintree's grounds



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 View gallery



part for any sign of protesters before the beginning of the race



t to pull protesters from the second fence

NT1/36



Members of the public applauded police officers from inside the course as they disrupted the protest

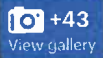


Members of the police detain protester as activists tried to block the start of the Grand National

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© AFP via Getty Images



A woman who attempted to prevent the start of the race is arrested by police



Roi Mage ridden by Felix de Giles, Corach Rambler ridden by Derek Fox and Our Power ridden by Sam Twiston-Davies in action



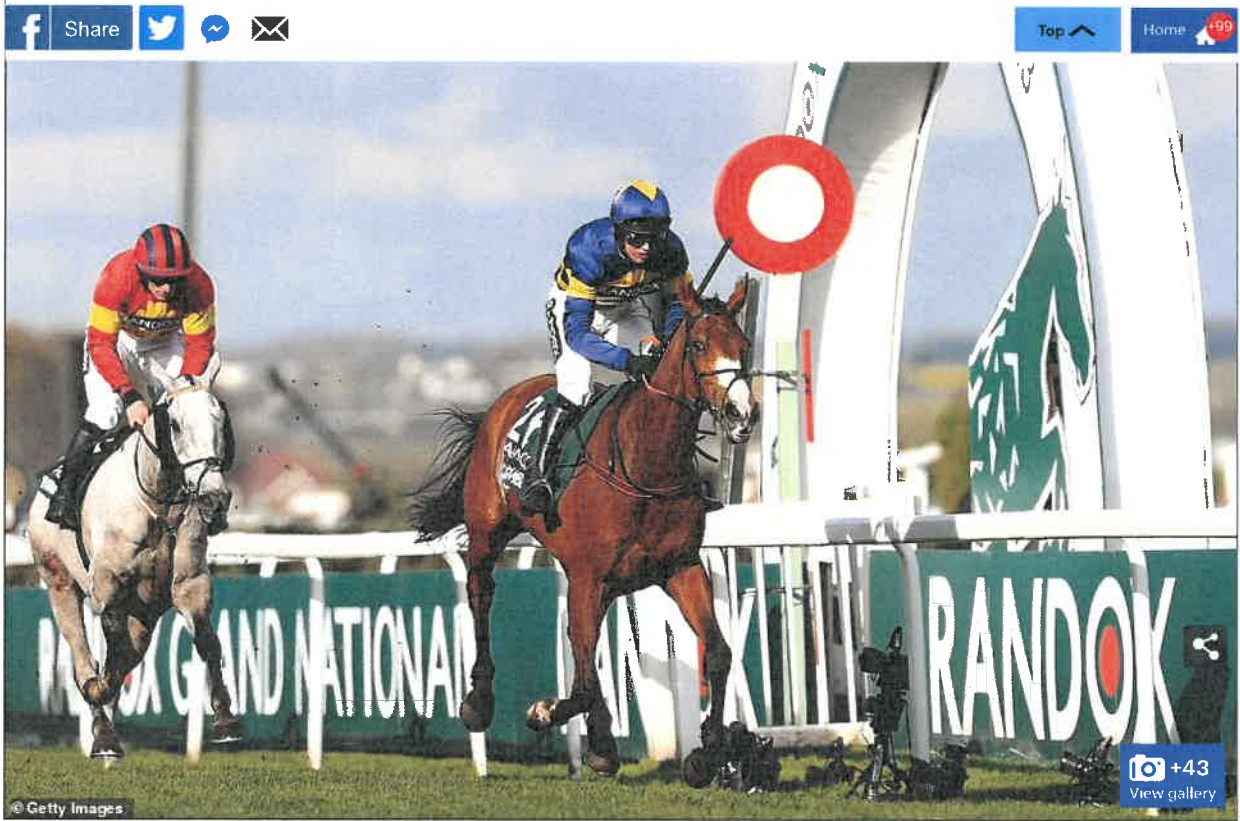


A man dressed in a suit is arrested after attempting to storm the Grand National



Handcuffed activists are guarded by police officers during the Grand National at Aintree

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Corach Rambler ridden by Derek Fox wins the Randox Grand National on April 15, 2023



Animal Rising
@AnimalRising

...

THIS IS WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO STOP FROM HAPPENING.

Several horses fell during this race - how many will be killed due to their injuries?

Absolutely heartbreaking chaos for horses that never got a choice in the matter.

MAKE SURE THE GRAND NATIONAL NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.

Sign our petition - this absolute disgrace of a "sport" should never, ever be allowed to continue.

actionnetwork.org/petitions/canc...

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Animal Rising said dozens of supporters had climbed fences at Aintree, with at least two affixing themselves to a jump.

Sarah McCaffrey, a shopworker and student - and one of those disrupting the track, said: 'Whether it's for food or for fun, our use of animals and nature is symbolic of a relationship beyond broken.'

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

Read more: Undercover investigation exposes plan by up to 100 Animal Rebellion activists to storm the event and glue themselves to the course



view the races today would say they love the horses; however, the suffering experienced by them should shock us all. That's why I've decided to put my body between those horses and death on the racecourse, rather than gamble with their lives.

'An alternative to the way we stand in relation to non-human animals exists. We can all build a world and society that we are proud to be part of, rather than one plagued by suffering and hurt. An end to horse racing is a clear part of this kinder future.'



Dickon White, who runs Aintree Racecourse as North-West Regional Director for Jockey Club Racecourses, said:

'There was a short delay to the start time for the Grand National, due to the reckless actions of a small number of individuals.

'The Police and our security teams, who form part of a strong visible presence on course, dealt with the incident swiftly and decisively. The pre-race parade was cancelled as a result of the short delay.



'The Randox Grand National Festival sees thousands of people come to enjoy racing and a great atmosphere, with millions following on television, radio and online.

'While the actions of a small number of individuals were intended to disrupt the event, the safety and security of everyone on course will always be our number one priority.'

Aintree Racecourse confirmed that while racing in the sixth race, Hill Sixteen was immediately attended by expert veterinary professionals.

White said: 'Hill Sixteen was immediately attended by expert veterinary professionals during the Grand National, but sadly sustained a fatal injury. Our heartfelt condolences are with his connections.'

'Recite a Prayer and Cape Gentleman were assessed on course by veterinary teams in race six. Both horses walked onto the horse ambulance for further assessment in the stables. Further updates will be provided in due course.'

At the same time as disrupting the racetrack, activists from Animal Rising also stopped traffic on nearby motorway the M57 in protest against the use of animals for sport.

North West Motorway Police said on Twitter: 'We have a number of people sat on the M57 at junction 2 northbound - motorway is closed.'

National Highways said traffic was stopped in both directions on the motorway - between junctions one and two - shortly before 5.15pm, but by 6pm the southbound carriageway was reopened and northbound traffic was being diverted via a slip road.

There were delays of more than an hour on the road, which runs from the M62 to Aintree. Pictures showed protesters wearing pink T-shirts on the carriageway.

Their bold protests come just two weeks after **The Mail On Sunday** uncovered their grand conspiracy that was plotted in a secret meeting.

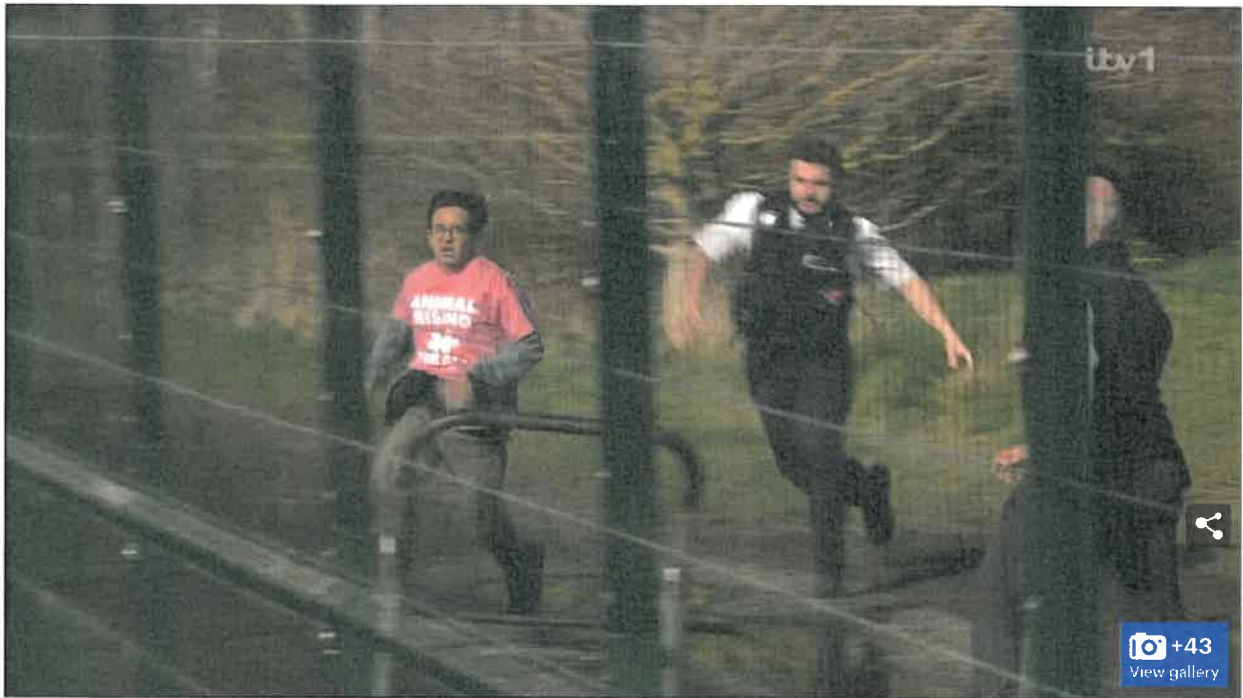
The three arrests by police this morning in connection with the plan are thought to have been a result of the Mail's dossier of information which they handed over to Merseyside Police. But despite officers being tipped off as to the nature of the plans, activists still succeeded in causing disruption.

Former jockey Peter Scudamore said: 'Racing should be grateful that the Mail On Sunday's excellent journalism alerted us of the plans to disrupt the race.'





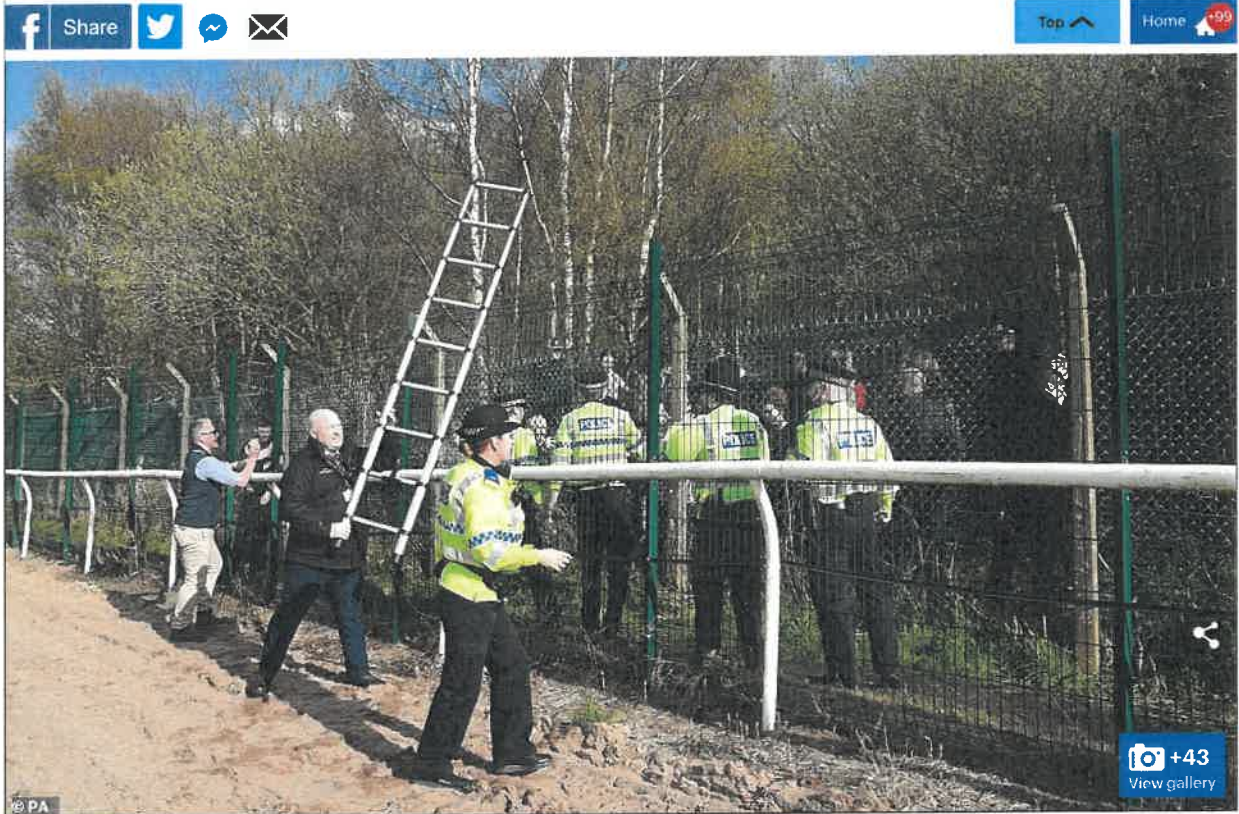
care and attention we lavish on our horses.'



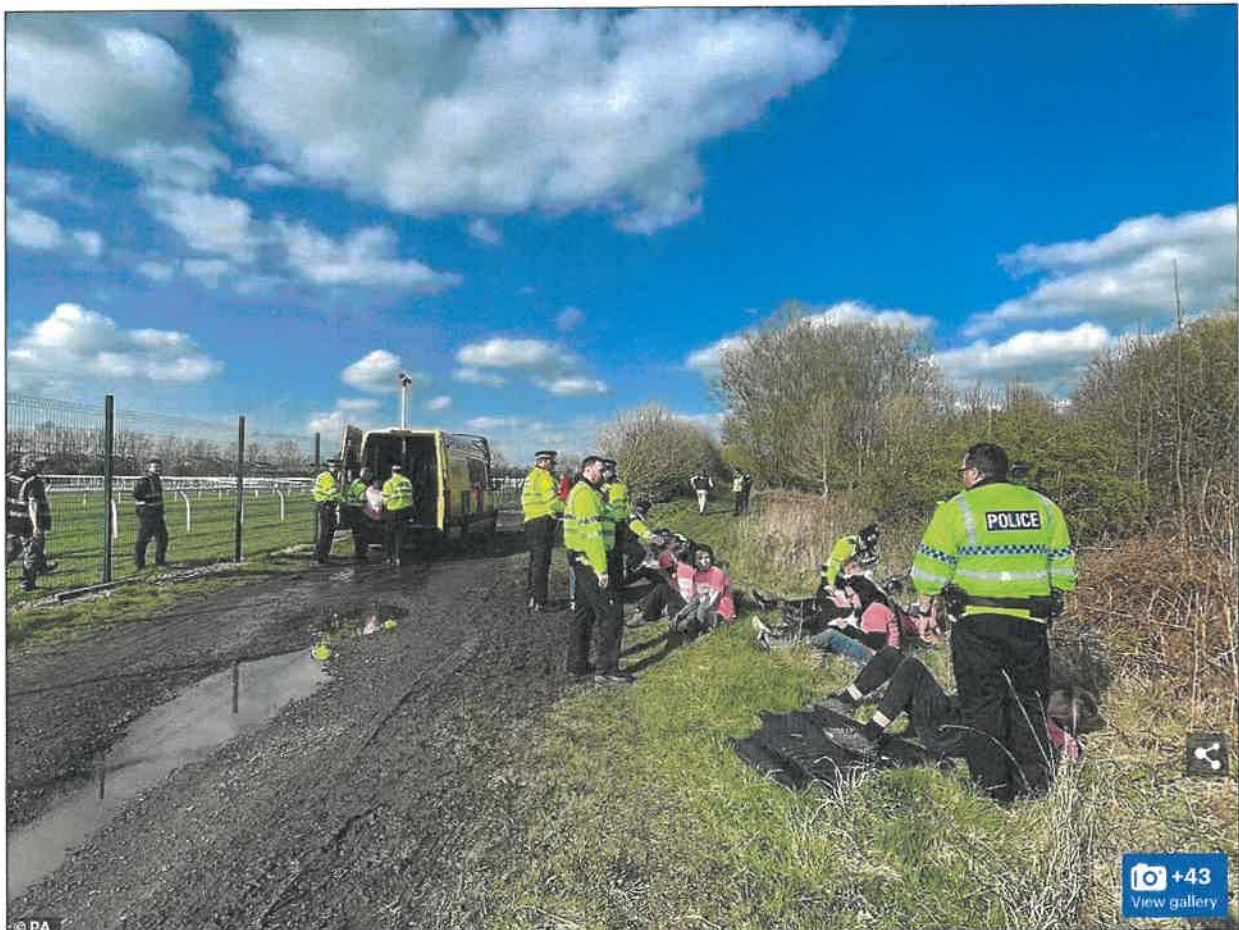
A protester runs towards the exterior fence to break into the course



Police officers restrain several protesters who were foiled in their plan to enter Aintree



Police and race officials confiscate ladders which protesters attempted to use to get inside Aintree on Saturday



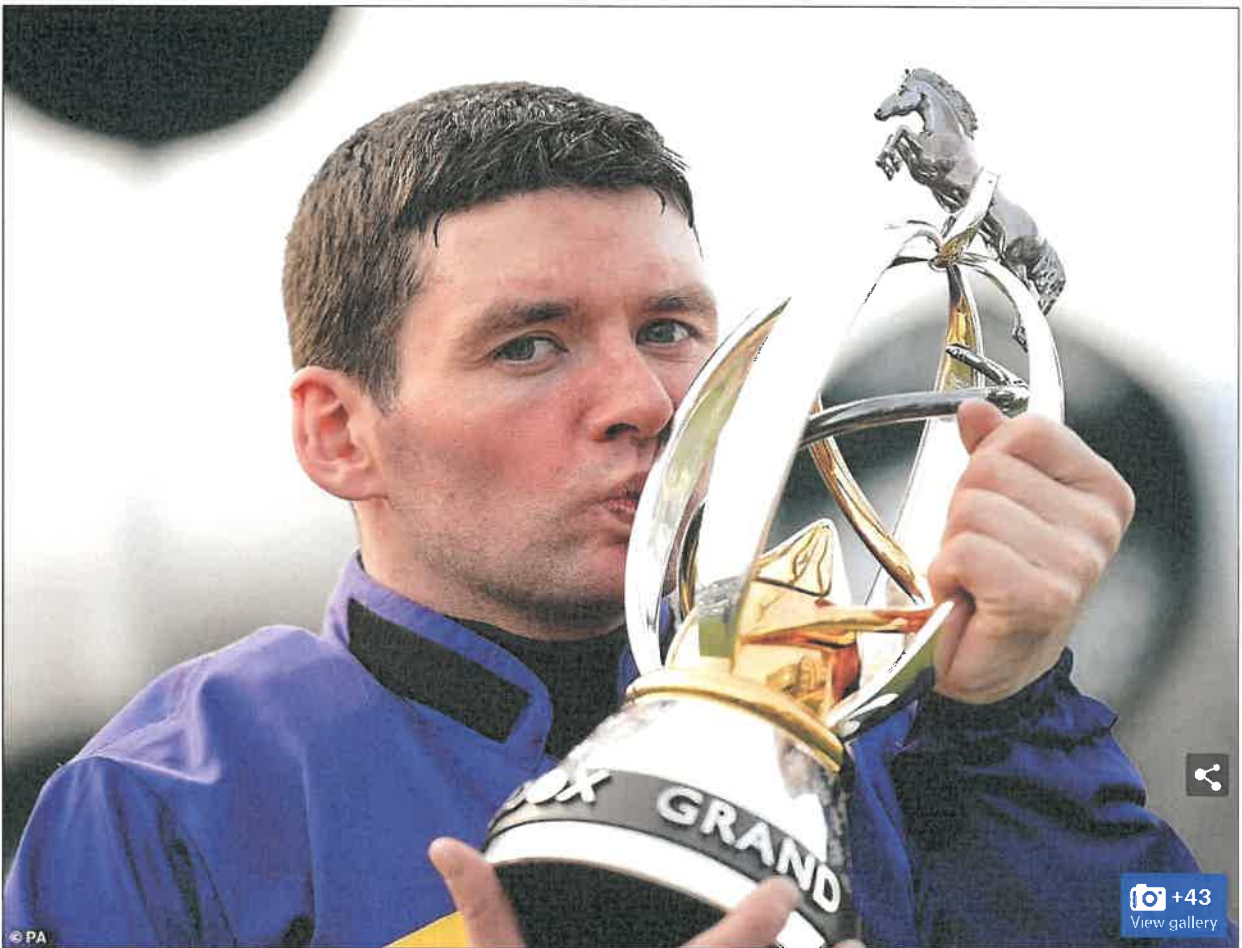
Protesters are detained outside the racecourse by police, wearing Animal Rising t-shirts



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The entrants prepare to begin racing at Aintree after a 12-minute delay to their scheduled race time



Derek Fox poses with the trophy after winning the Randox Grand National Handicap Chase on Corach Rambler

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Trainer of winner Corach Rambler Lucinda Russell also took victory in 2017 with her horse One For Arthur.

Corach Rambler cost only £17,000, chicken feed in racing terms, and Russell admits she only agreed to buy him to 'indulge' her partner and assistant trainer Peter Scudamore, who had taken a shine to him at the sales.

Still, the successful purchase nearly never happened. Russell and Scudamore had to leave the sale and the bidding was left to Scudamore's youngest son, Michael.

He forgot and, having gone for a cup of coffee, needed to make a mad dash back to the auction ring after taking a call from his motorway-bound father asking if he had secured Corach Rambler.

Luckily, Michael got there in time to lodge the successful bid, but Russell admits thoughts of Aintree and Cheltenham had never crossed her mind for the gelding.

She hoped he might win a few small chases at the northern tracks.

What Corach Rambler has achieved for the seven-strong syndicate — including a 21-year-old Edinburgh University student — who paid £3,000 each has far exceeded expectations.

The MoS revealed two weeks ago how militant vegans and animal rights campaigners planned to storm security fences before the race at Aintree, then glue themselves together as a human barricade and sit across the course.

Previously the police announced they would 'robustly' defend the races and its main event, which should have started at 5:15pm, from the militant vegans and animal rights campaigners.

A MoS undercover journalist secretly filmed as Patterson, 33, allegedly boasted that the stunt by the Animal Rising campaign group, which was previously known as Animal Rebellion, would have a worldwide impact.

'We have 600million people viewing this horse race worldwide, we've got £300million of bets on the horse race, and we're just going to ruin it,' she said.

The MoS understands that Patterson was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to cause public nuisance as she and other activists made their way to Aintree on Merseyside.

Sources at Animal Rising believe her arrest was linked to the MoS handing over a dossier of evidence to Merseyside Police.

Crowds turned out to enjoy a day at the races despite fears of disruption. Racegoers made their way into Aintree Racecourse past about 50 protesters, holding Animal Rising banners and flags.

NT1/45



At around 2:35pm a group of Animal Rising supporters started slowly marching on the roads around Aintree Racecourse to disrupt access to the venue.

Animal Rising spokesperson Claudia Penna Rojas was pictured being carried away by four policemen outside Aintree Racecourse.

A video shows her talking to an officer and then sitting down and shaking her head.

The video then cuts to the activist refusing to stand up and walk, instead going limp so that several officers have to carry her away.

The surrounding activists cheer and clap as she is carried away.

Earlier she told Sky News: 'At some point we will peacefully and non-violently try to make our way to the track.'



Rose Patterson, 33, was arrested at the Grand National on Saturday after she was identified in a Mail on Sunday undercover exposé



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Animal Rising spokesperson Claudia Penna Rojas was arrested by several officers outside Aintree Racecourse



© EPA

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Animal Rising protestors have brought banners outside of Aintree Racecourse



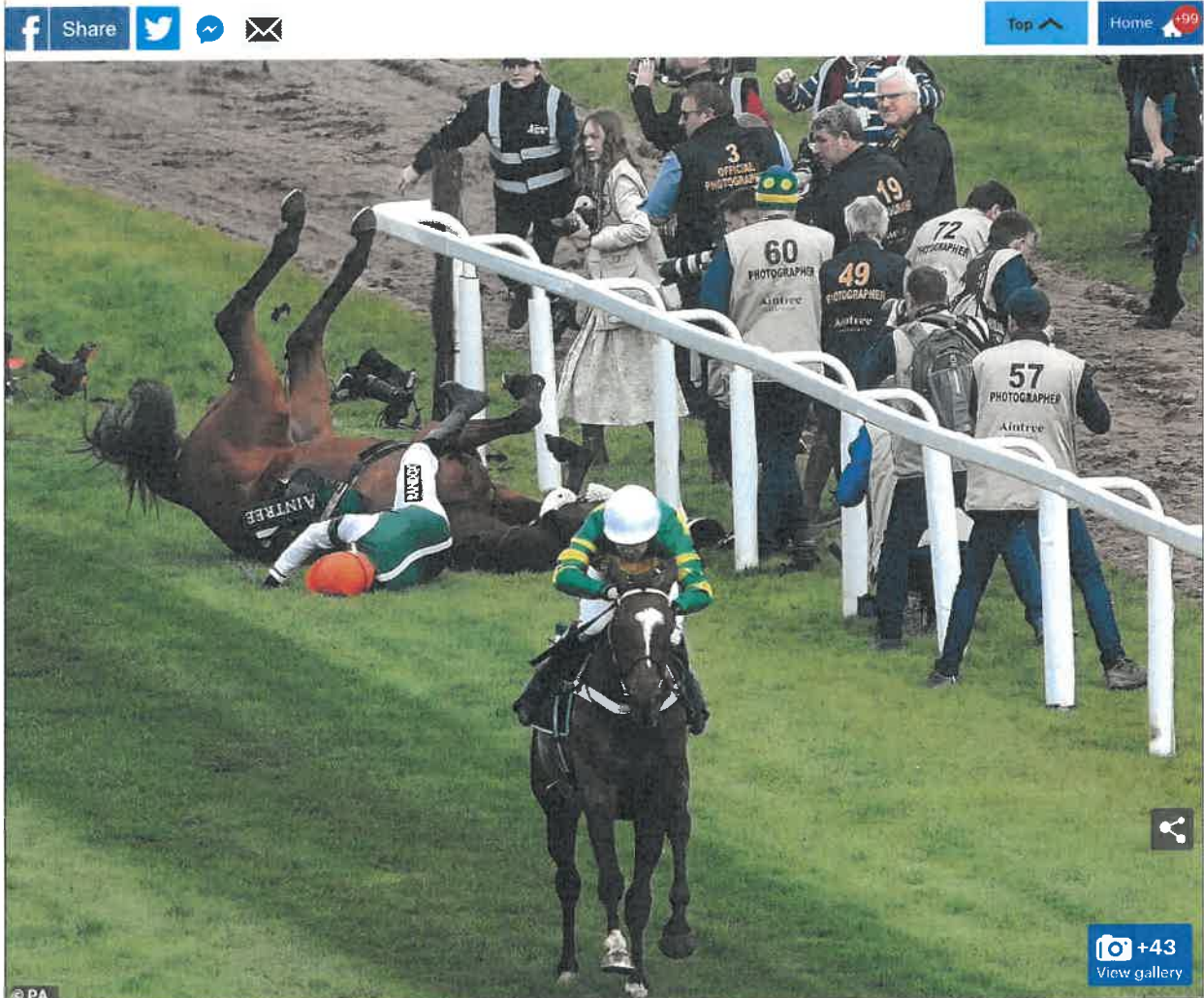


© Twitter:Animal Rising

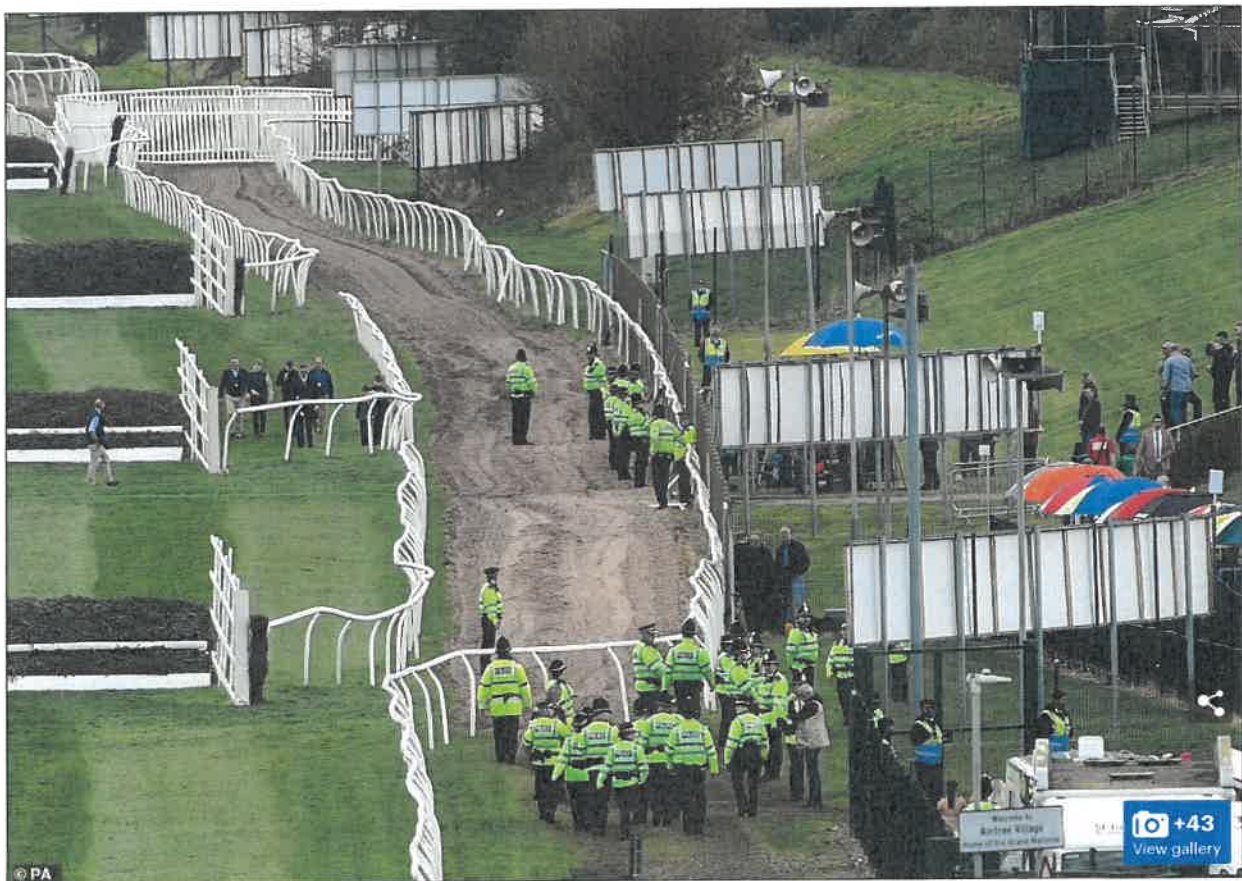
© Twitter:Animal Rising

Claudia Penna Rojas can be seen standing and speaking to police (left), before she employs the commonly used tactic going limp - requiring several officers to carry her away





Harry Skelton fell from Calico during a race, both the rider and horse were back up shortly after



There is a large police presence down by the racetrack at Aintree, in case of any disruption from activists

NT1/49



While the cancellation of races is an extremely rare occurrence, some have been known to be postponed since the Grand National first began in 1839.

The First World War:

During the First World War period, Aintree Racecourse was utilised by the War Office - meaning that the races did not go ahead as usual.

Instead, the event was moved to Gatwick Racecourse - now known as Gatwick Airport - during the years 1916, 1917 and 1918.

These races were known by different names, the first one was the Racecourse Association Steeplechase, whilst the latter two were given the title of the War National Steeplechase.

The Second World War:

Again, Aintree was commandeered during the Second World War.

However, this time the races were not hosted anywhere else like during the First World War and they were cancelled between 1941 and 1945.

The IRA bomb scare:

While thousands travelled to Aintree for the big event in 1997, Merseyside Police received a phone call at 2.52pm from the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) informing them that a bomb had been planted at the Racecourse.

The call came three minutes after a call had been made informing police of another bomb in place at Aintree University Hospital in the Fazakerley district of the city.

More than 60,000 people were made to leave as police evacuated the area.

The event eventually took place two days later on April 7.

The 1993 Race That Never Was:

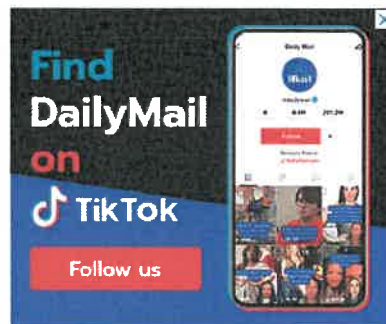
This is another example of a Grand National that was not technically cancelled but also did not take place on its scheduled date.

It took place on the 3rd of April in 1993 and was intended to be the 147th running of the race.

However, it was not able to count as an official running because a false start was declared, only for 30 of the 39 horses taking part to not realise and continued racing.

The reason it makes the list here is that the Jockey Club decided not to re-run the race at a later date, meaning that no race result is noted for the year 1993.

Source: Grand National Betting



A press release from Animal Rising said that just 100 supporters gathered outside the racecourse, though they expect more to arrive later.

Miss Penna Rojas said: 'This summer Animal Rising will be taking action to protect animals from harm by openly rescuing them from factory farms and putting ourselves between these beautiful creatures and harm.'



Patterson, who joined Animal Rebellion in 2020 and now masterminds the group's protests, released a video on Instagram last week announcing the group's name change.

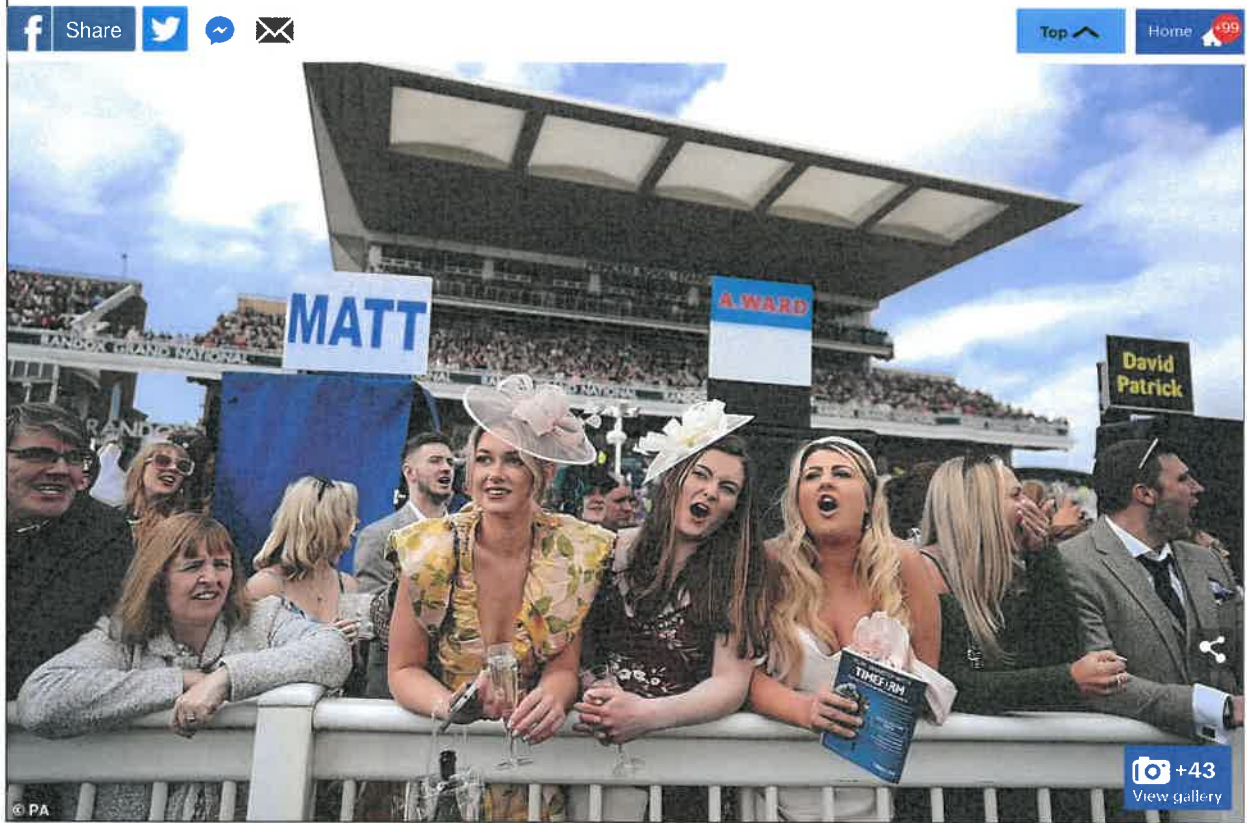
'We feel that the change we need will come through our connection with animals by challenging those industries that exploit them, from our food system to animal testing to zoos to horse racing,' she said.

'Our actions this year are going to be bigger than ever. This summer will be the summer of Animal Rising.'



Police said they respect the right to peaceful protest, but stated 'criminal offences will not be tolerated and will be dealt with robustly'. Pictured: outside Aintree Racecourse



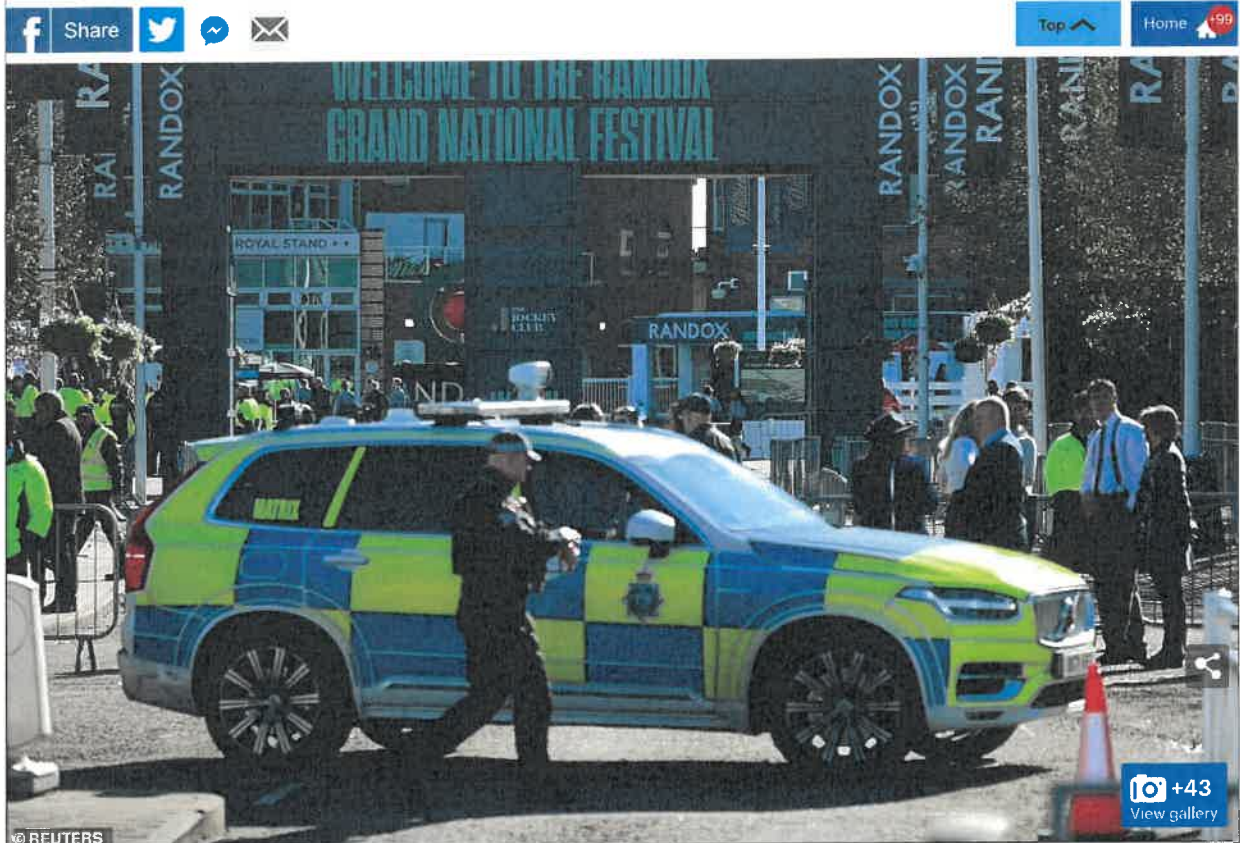


Racegoers enjoying day three of the Randox Grand National Festival at Aintree Racecourse



Animal Rising have vowed that their 'biggest action yet' will 'cancel the Grand National' at Aintree Racecourse





The militant animal rights campaigners said up to 300 activists will flood Aintree Racecourse where they intend to prevent the main race at 5:15pm from starting



Animal Rising
@AnimalRising

Imagine a world where horses and other animals are able to live free from harm and exploitation. This is the world we are going to create. It's time to rise up and demand animal justice, for all life.

Tomorrow will be our biggest action yet! We will be taking direct action to protect the horses at Aintree - but this is just the beginning of the Summer of Animal Rising.

It's not too late to turn up from 9:30am onwards outside Aintree Racecourse to help us to cancel the Grand National, and end horseracing, along with all forms of animal cruelty.

The animal activist group announced their intention to stop the races going ahead

'We'll be doing open rescues, farm factory occupations and highly disruptive mass-participation actions.'

Earlier this week Animal Rising claimed that up to 300 activists would try to prevent the Grand National from starting, with some expected to block traffic by performing a slow march along Ormskirk Road, the main access route.

Around 80 protesters gathered outside the racecourse's entrance this morning. By midday on Saturday one man and one woman had been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit a public nuisance.

Some activists chanted at race-goers entering the course: 'Shame on you.'

READ MORE HERE: The business guru turned eco-activist plotting to wreck the Grand National

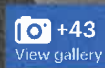
NT1/53

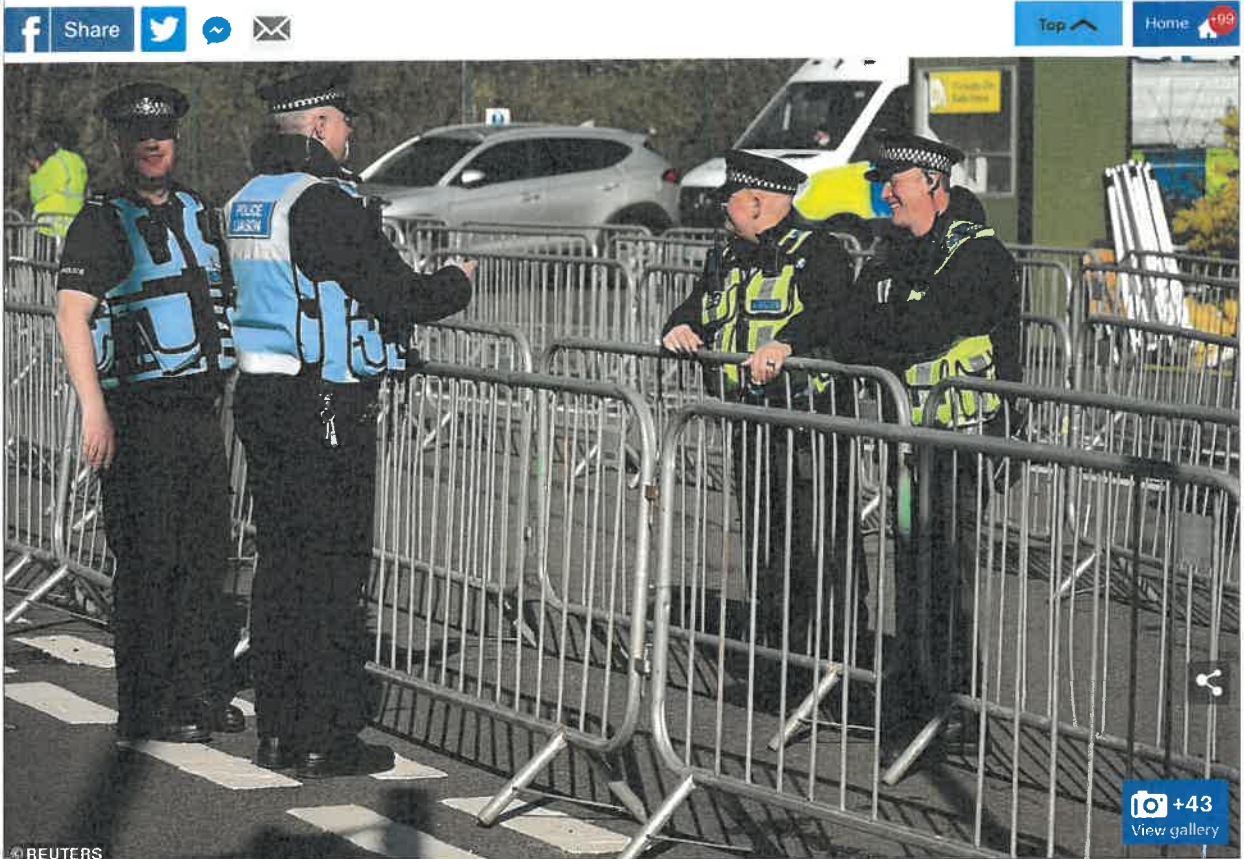


The MoS investigation earlier this month revealed how ringleaders had already conducted two secret reconnaissance missions of the racecourse to pinpoint security weaknesses and how a network of safe houses was being arranged to accommodate protesters before the race.



Jim Edwards (pictured), the former founding editor of the UK website of Business Insider, is involved with militant Animal Rebellion





Merseyside Police has vowed to deal 'robustly' with any protesters. Pictured: Officers at the entrance of Aintree Racecourse



Armed police are present at the Aintree Racecourse for the Grand National Festival on Saturday

A spokesperson for Merseyside Police said the force 'has been working with the Jockey Club and other partners to keep people safe during the Grand National Festival.





'This has been factored into our plans. We respect the right to peaceful protest and expression of views, but criminal behaviour and disorder will not be tolerated and will be dealt with robustly.'

An Aintree Racecourse spokesperson said: 'We respect the right to peaceful protest, but sincerely hope that Animal Rising reflects on whether their proposed actions are legitimate and responsible.'

'Their actions could endanger the horses they purport to protect, as well as jockeys, officials and themselves.'

The British Horseracing Authority said: 'While we respect the rights of anyone to protest safely and legally, we condemn any action which is illegal, especially if it puts at risk the safety of horses, jockeys, officials or fans.'

Two horses have now died at this year's three-day Grand National Festival.



Activists outside the gates ahead of day three of the Randox Grand National Festival at Aintree Racecourse