



MANCHESTER Beer & Cider Festival

Manchester Beer and Cider Festival – Access Statement

Aim

This statement is intended to provide information to our customers who have disabilities, mobility issues, difficulty in climbing and descending stairs, or simply wish to understand what facilities the Velodrome venue has to cater for those who have some kind of mobility impairment. We aim to give enough information to allow potential visitors to self assess if the event is suitable for them and their requirements and what is available within the festival itself.

The Venue

The National Cycling Centre (The Velodrome) was Britain's first indoor Olympic standard cycling track. Since it opened in 1994, has become one of the world's finest and fastest tracks. The track is in constant use seven days a week and, thanks to the comprehensive programme of activities for all levels of ability, it is one of the busiest in the world.

Getting There

The National Cycling Centre (NCC) is two miles from the city centre and full details of how to get there can be found on the festival or NCC websites.

The centre is served by it's own Metrolink stop, Velopark and is well served by buses which stop on Ashton New Road or Alan Turning Way. The entrance to the festival is the Velodrome main entrance on Stuart Street and not via the NCC reception. The route to the entrance will be signed from Velopark station.

Visitors should note that the entrance to the Festival is around seven minutes walking at a normal pace from public transport stops and is not sheltered in any way. There are some inclines which may present challenges for those with walking difficulties. There is little by way of shelter from the elements and you may wish to consider the weather when making your decision to attend. There are no toilet facilities between the public transport stops and the inside of the event.

The following are estimates for guidance only, to allow individuals to assess how they might be affected:

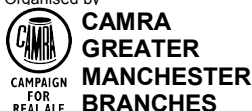
Metrolink Velopark station to Festival Entrance: *Traffic free route via bridge and ramp. Approx one third of a mile 600 yards / 550 metres. Some small upwards inclines.*

Alan Turing Way Bus Stops to Festival Entrance: *Approx 500 yards / 440 metres. Some small upwards inclines. Involves crossing public roads.*

Ashton New Rd Bus Stops to Festival Entrance: *Approx 600 yards / 550 metres.. Some small upwards inclines.*

Several hundred steps are therefore needed from each public transport stop to the Festival Entrance. Customers with walking difficulties will therefore wish to take this into account.

Organised by



Manchester Beer & Cider Festival
21st - 24th January 2015

Campaign For Real Ale Ltd. 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.
Tel: 01727 867201. Company No. 1270286

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The Festival Venue

The Velodrome building was specifically built for International and other Cycling events, rather than as a multi purpose arena and is therefore likely to present a challenge to some customers that wish to use the main exhibition area dedicated to non cycling events such as this beer festival.

The venue consists of a concourse which runs round the outside of the track and underneath the grandstands and the floor area in the centre of the track. The entrance to the festival is on the concourse level. The concourse level is flat and suitable for wheelchairs. The Velodrome track is 250 metres long inside. Walking round the concourse is a distance of approximately 300 metres.

Access between the floor & concourse is via a tunnel which runs under the cycling track.

There are limited facilities to enable those with walking difficulties to access floor from the concourse. A number of stairs and landings need to be negotiated with a total of 62 stairs. From the concourse these consist of a total of 45 stairs downwards (five flights of 9 steps, 10 steps, 9 steps, 8 steps, 9 steps) followed by 17 steps upwards (three flights of 3 steps, 7 steps, 7 steps). To access the concourse from the floor involves the same stairs in reverse.

The Festival

The festival will take place on both concourse and floor level.

Approximately half the beer, cider & perry will be available on the entry level concourse including UK cask beer, cider and perry and foreign beers.

The majority of food outlets will also be on the concourse level.

The organisers believe that customers with mobility difficulties can choose to remain on the concourse level and still enjoy an excellent choice of over two hundred beers & ciders while having level access to toilet facilities, food and seating in the grandstands.

Toilets

All toilet facilities are on the concourse level. There are no toilet facilities on the floor level.

There are four toilets suitable for wheelchair users located on the concourse level.

Seating

Grandstand style seating overlooking the track can be accessed from the concourse level. The capacity of the grandstands exceeds the capacity of the festival so there will always be available seats in the grandstands. Note that depending on availability, access to free seats in the grandstand may involved climbing up or down a number of stairs.

A small number of tables and chairs will be provided on the concourse level. These are primarily intended for those dining from the nearby food stalls.

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Limited seating will be provided on the floor level. Subject to safety considerations we aim to provide approximately 400 chairs on the floor, approximately ¼ of the capacity of the floor area. Seating is provided in a first come first served so it is not possible to guarantee a seat on the floor area. Customers are requested to give up seats to customers with mobility difficulties on request.

Access to floor for wheelchair users and those with severe walking difficulties.

There are no publically accessible lifts between the floor & concourse.

Wheelchair users and those with severe walking difficulties wishing to access the festival floor must be escorted through restricted areas by a member of the festival customer service team. Please note that customers wishing to use this facility may have a significant wait for a customer service team member to be available. Note also that there are no toilet facilities at floor level and that seating cannot be guaranteed.

The customer service team can be identified by sky blue shirts. They will be based near the festival entrance.

Help and Advice

Our small customer service team will be pleased to give directions and advice.

General

The Organising Committee of Manchester Beer and Cider Festival has taken the decision to have fifty percent of the beer and cider available on a level that does not involve using stairs and where toilet and eating facilities will ensure not only a great selection of beers and ciders, but a more comfortable visit for those for whom the stairs present difficulties.

Customers should consider their own circumstances and choose the area they visit on that basis.

We hope customers will understand that we are limited by the design of the building and that distance to and availability of public transport is not within our control.

The Organisers
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