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LOVE HORSES? FIND OUT ABOUT A CAREER IN THE HORSERACING INDUSTRY



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Did you know that there is an apprenticeship in the horseracing industry? You don't have to be able to ride but loving horses or animals and the great outdoors will help.

Racing and thoroughbred breeding offers a range of exciting and challenging roles and training opportunities. You could be involved with breeding or racing some of the best horses in the country or even the world, or pursue a career in another part of this diverse industry. From racing grooms caring for racehorses to hospitality managers at racecourses, there is something for everyone in this historic sport.

British racing is a major industry; worth over £3.45 billion annually to the national economy, it is the second largest spectator sport and is responsible for 85,000 direct and indirect full-time jobs.

It is the British Horseracing Authority's (BHA) role to ensure the continued health and successful development of the sport and its participants.

The BHA, through its brand *Careersinracing*, supports the recruitment, development and training of those

who want to work in horseracing. This work has an effect at all aspects of a horse's life and racing career. From inspiring potential stud hands who help to look after the 4,500 foals born every year to racing grooms who together care, ride and look after the 14,000 racehorses which are currently in training, right through to the teams of people that make a race day happen. *Careersinracing* provides guidance and information on the exciting and diverse career opportunities in the horseracing industry.

With over 14,000 people working directly with racehorses, many of these will be racing grooms and stud hands. They will have learnt their skills in riding and looking after horses at one of the dedicated industry training providers in Britain. The British Racing School in Newmarket and Northern Racing College in Doncaster both deliver a wide range of training courses including the apprenticeship in Racehorse Care, a common route into horseracing for young people who want to ride and look after racehorses. For those who want to explore the breeding side of the industry, looking after mares and foals, the National Stud in Newmarket offers a Racehorse Breeding apprenticeship and a Diploma course.



Laura Winstanley is a racing groom based in Newmarket. Laura says:

"I was applying for university at the time but something about it did not feel right so I decided to pursue a career in horseracing. I wanted to wake up and do something I loved every day! I found the intelligence and athleticism of thoroughbreds fascinating and I really admired the incredibly high standards of welfare and care that they receive on a racing yard.

I completed a 9 week foundation course at the British Racing School in Newmarket before being placed into a racing yard to complete my apprenticeship and Level 2 Diploma in Racehorse Care. I am currently working towards completing my Level 3 Diploma in Racehorse Care and Management. I started my current role two years ago after leaving the racing school.

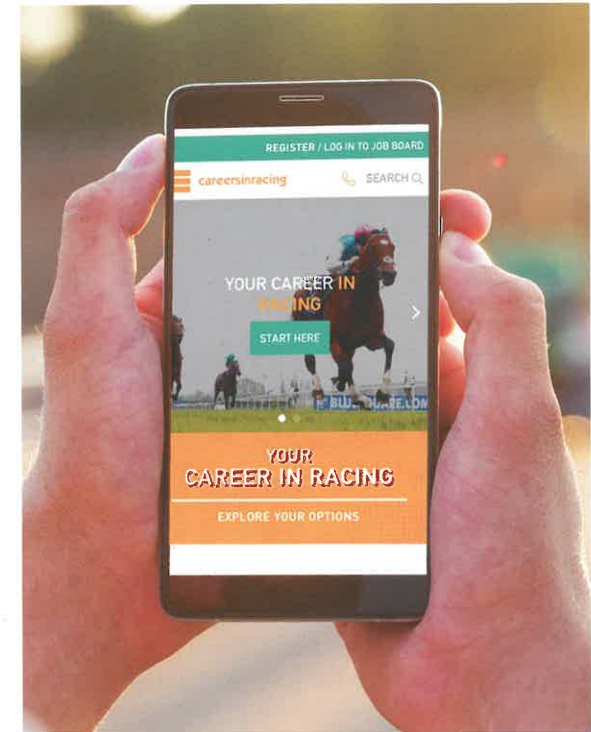
We normally ride our first horse at around 7:00am and another before breakfast. We ride to the gallops on Warren Hill or Long Hill on Newmarket Heath in a group. We then ride a further two horses, sometimes three depending on how many racing grooms have gone racing for the day. As riders we are responsible for helping to keep the horses fit and happy in their work as well as providing our trainer with feedback on how the horse is moving, how well it is going and how prepared it is for a race.

We usually have a few hours off in the middle of the day and then return to the stables at around 4:00pm to brush our horses over and take them for a pick of grass if the weather is good. Sometimes we will also be required to hold our horses for our trainer or owners to view. Evening stables is a good opportunity to bond with the horses we look after as well as to keep them looking and feeling well.

The most important thing about this job is to love horses – it makes the early mornings and the bad weather easier! If I had to pick three main qualities essential for being a racing groom I think they would be dedication, passion and patience. I've also learnt that it's very important to be able to use your initiative, have good time management but most of all to have an empathy and understanding of how horses think."

Find out more

In May, the redesigned Careersinracing.com website and job board was launched. The website is already popular and received over 600,000 visitors to the website and job board in 2016. The new website has a refreshed look with content to suit potential employees, parents, educators and employers providing a wealth of guidance and information on the exciting and diverse career



opportunities in the horseracing industry. Importantly, the new design is also mobile friendly.

The website includes:

- A video wall
- Case studies on a variety of people currently working in racing including a racing groom and stud hand who care for horses and foals on a daily basis
- An A to Z of the different careers available in horseracing
- Detail about the various training and qualification opportunities available whatever stage you are in your career
- Resources for teachers, career advisers and parents including links to 'RaceDay for Schools', an exciting, engaging and interactive web-based resource which aims to extend learning in a number of areas related to enterprise education
- Industry Job Board – THE place to find a job in horseracing – free to use for all racing employers and job seekers.

Careersinracing works closely with the industry's training providers, promoting training opportunities from apprenticeships through to an MBA in the Horseracing Industry.

It also runs several programmes for university graduates and students studying at an equine college who want to progress their career in racing. Other key work includes lecturing at equine colleges, schools and universities as well as operating a recruitment stand which attends several careers and rural events each year.

A career in horseracing offers travel, excitement and a future full of opportunity. Take a look at www.careersinracing.com for more information.

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Zoe Elliott is the Careers Marketing and Recruitment Manager, British Horseracing Authority