

# Paul Wilcox, Equine Training Manager, A Future in Horse Racing.



# My career in Horse Racing

- ▶ I have worked in racing for 25 years. I started at the age of 13 working weekends and school holidays. Once I completed school I started full time for my first trainer where I stayed for 5 years learning everything I could. As I progressed I moved yards gaining valuable experience with top trainers such as Jonjo O'Neill, Jim Goldie and Andy Haynes. I rode as a jockey on the flat and over jumps with success, being leading jockey at Hamilton Park racecourse for 2 years in a row. I have been a stable lad, Head lad, Assistant trainer and Travelling Head Lad. I have travelled the world working in the UK, Ireland, Italy and Canada. I then went into teaching and secured a job at the Northern Racing College as an Instructor and jockey coach, where I stayed for 4 years. I went on to work as a racing assessor, travelling around the country visiting students in their workplace. I also worked as a jockey coach at the racing school in Pisa Italy. I have been teaching now for the past 12 years. Racing is in my blood and it will always be my first love. My parents didn't really want me to go into racing as they thought it had no future prospects. As you can see, I proved them wrong and I have had an amazing career in racing and still have many years ahead of me.





# Parent and Guardian information

## Working in the Racing Industry

- ▶ The racing industry offers some fantastic opportunities for young people. Your son or daughter, may be all ready to get started but it is only natural that as a parent or guardian you will have lots of questions.
- ▶ The government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training. They are now required to stay in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18.
- ▶ This does not necessarily mean staying in school. They have a choice as to how to continue in education or training post-16, this might be
  - ▶ full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider
  - ▶ full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training
  - ▶ an apprenticeship
- ▶ So if your child is desperate to start working with horses as soon as possible, leaving school at 16 and continuing to study on a Level 1 Traineeship or Level 2 Course here at Heros is an option, prior to starting their apprenticeship training with an employer.
- ▶ These will all lead on to working as a Racing Groom, working practically with horses in a racing yard.
- ▶ 98% of trainers will have onsite accommodation or nearby accommodation. This is either free or just pay bills or with minimal rent. Often it is shared and sometimes meals are provided depending on the trainer.



Myerscough  
College

**1st4sport**  
Qualifications

City &  
Guilds



Apprenticeships

**&Abingdon  
&Witney  
College**

**ABC awards**  
Qualifications for Life

**HEROS**  
A NEW LIFE AFTER RACING

# Racing Groom Daily Routine



- ▶ 06.00 - Start work - Normally you will have 4 - 6 horses to muck out in around 45 min.
- ▶ 06.45 - tack up your first lot and be pulled out and on board by 07.00am
- ▶ 07.00 - Normally each lot is 45 min and you will ride 2 lots before you have a 15-30 min breakfast break.
- ▶ 09.00- Breakfast
- ▶ 09.30 - 3<sup>rd</sup> lot to be tacked up and ready by 09.40.
- ▶ Rest of your lots ridden with about 10 -15 mins in-between lots to wash your horse off, turn out or put on the horse walker, and get your next lot tacked up.
- ▶ Racing is very high paced and you must keep up.
- ▶ All horses done up, hayed, fed, rugged up.
- ▶ 12.30 - Finish.
- ▶ 16.00 - 18.00 - Evening stables. You will normally have 4 - 6 horses that are your responsibility. You will skip them out, brush them over, hay, water and rug up. It is normally your duty to take your horses racing too.
- ▶ 16.30 - 16.45- Feed all horses, last checks.
- ▶ 18.00- Finish

# Pay, Pensions and Prospects



- ▶ The racing industry is diverse in the types and levels of roles available and as such the salaries are across a huge range. If your child is entering the industry on the administration side - perhaps as a graduate - you should expect them to be paid competitively with other industries.
- ▶ For those that are starting out in the practical side of the industry working with horses as a Racing Groom in a racehorse trainers yard, they will be protected by many of the agreements that are in place by way of the Trainer's License, issued by the British Horseracing Authority. This offers them a great deal of protection, and in that respect potentially a better working environment than that of other equestrian disciplines, such as eventing or show jumping.
- ▶ The staff union National Association of Stable Staff is key in supporting stable staff in the industry and work closely with the employers National Trainers Federation to agree terms. Under the Rules of Racing trainers have to contribute to a pension scheme for eligible employees.

## **Pool Money**

- ▶ This is essentially the distribution of a share of a percentage of the prize money won by a horse in the yard. The stable staff in the yard agree how they want this to be fairly distributed. The payment of pool money by the trainer to the staff is governed by the Orders and Rules of Racing and is paid quarterly over the year.
- ▶ Often wages are paid weekly into your bank account, including any overtime or pool money.

# WHY BECOME A RACING GROOM?

- ▶ A career path, plenty of development opportunities and industry support
- ▶ guaranteed level of income - and bonuses too
- ▶ Accommodation, sociable, part of a team and chances to travel
- ▶ Satisfaction and pride from doing the job you'll love
  
- ▶ <https://racinggroom.com/>

# Careers In Racing

- ▶ <https://www.careersinracing.com>

**careersinracing**





## The Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme (RIABS)

- ▶ **RIABS** is funded by licensed and permitted trainers and by contributions from stable staff. The scheme provides for benefits to eligible persons following accidental injury, disablement or death arising out of, whilst carrying out duties for a licensed trainer, including bona fide journeys between normal place of residence and place of work. The scheme does not cover race riding accidents or accidents, which occur while on, or travelling to and from a racecourse when engaged to ride.
- ▶ The Welfare support in the industry is second to none and by having such a strong racing community goes towards creating a safe and supporting working environment.

# NARS



- ▶ The National Association of Stable Staff, or NARS as it is commonly known is the Independent Certified Trade Union representing Stable Staff employed by Licensed Racehorse Trainers.
- ▶ NARS is committed to improving pay, conditions of service and the overall employment position of stable staff.
- ▶ It was previously called the National Association of Stable Staff (NASS), and prior to that the Stable Lads Association (SLA). The SLA was originally formed in July 1975 after the strike at Newmarket Racecourse over poor pay and conditions. The home of the SLA was based in Derby. In 2007 the organisation changed its name to NASS and became affiliated to the Trade's Union Congress. In 2013 the NASS head office moved to The Racing Centre, Newmarket, racing's headquarters and where a third of the industries staff are based. In 2017 it changed it's name to the current NARS.

# Racing welfare



- ▶ **Our mission**
- ▶ Our mission is to enhance the wellbeing of people from the horseracing and thoroughbred breeding community, by providing enabling and proactive support throughout and after their working lives.
- ▶ **Our vision**
- ▶ Our vision is that everyone from the horseracing and breeding industry and community feels supported and has the opportunity to thrive.
- ▶ Our work aims to help people, from recruitment to retirement, to thrive in day to day life and through a range of challenges specific to a career in racing.



# Injured Jockeys Fund



- ▶ The Injured Jockeys Fund was the brainchild of founding Trustee and past President John Oaksey and came about following the devastating accidents of Tim Brookshaw and, four months later, Paddy Farrell in the 1964 Grand National.
- ▶ The Injured Jockeys Fund helps any rider who holds, or has held, a Professional or Amateur licence issued by the British Horseracing Authority including Apprentice, Conditional and Point-to-Point riders, including any spouse, partner, child or dependant they may have.
- ▶ provide immediate financial assistance for things such as temporary accommodation, travel expenses, regular bills, hospital transfers, after a jockey is injured
- ▶ offer support when liaising with medical professionals
- ▶ provide immediate and timely pastoral support in the long as well as the short term
- ▶ In other cases, the beneficiary's needs may be longer lasting or may not have resulted from a recent injury ('injury' including mental as well as physical illness). Here we can:
- ▶ pay regular grants to support those needs
- ▶ provide one-off grants for a specific need
- ▶ provide rehabilitation services and guidance including physiotherapy and hydrotherapy and sports psychology most commonly offered at our own Rehabilitation Centres, Oaksey House in Lambourn and Jack Berry House in Malton.
- ▶ arrange regular home visits by respected friends of the IJF
- ▶ offer supervised race days and holidays both in the UK and abroad
- ▶ provide advice about, and liaise with other supporting agencies

# JETS



- ▶ JETS provides a range of support to aid your career development during your time as a jockey and to help prepare you for life after riding so that your JETS is a charity set up in 1995 to help current and former professional jockeys plan and achieve a secure future. It is funded by jockeys' prize money contributions and additional support from The Injured Jockeys Fund.
- ▶ Since its inception, it has helped over 800 current and former jockeys with career advice, grants and training in new skills, in order to gain employment after race-riding.
- ▶ Early retirement is inevitable for jockeys and the injury risk is high: National Hunt jockeys are 30 on average when their careers end, and flat jockeys are not far behind at 33. Statistics also show that, on average, jump jockeys experience a fall every 16 rides and, with horses travelling at speeds of more than 30mph, flat falls can be equally serious.
- ▶ JETS is here to make jockeys aware of their strengths, attributes and transferable skills from race riding to ensure they have successful second careers. JETS works with jockeys from the very start of their career through its Jockey Personal Development Plan which is structured to provide support in a range of key personal and professional areas to ensure each jockey reaches their potential and is well prepared for their lives ahead. In 2016, JETS produced a series of Jockey Matters films to help educate jockeys in key areas of jockey welfare including Mental Health, Nutrition and Injury Rehabilitation.
- ▶ JETS also offers a range of services to employers to help fill vacant positions from our candidate database and advertise suitable positions.

# World wide Racing



- ▶ **Horse Racing** is a prestigious sport enjoyed in most parts of the world. Large numbers people of all nationalities, race groups, ages and genders look forward to the thrills of racing.
- ▶ This is the thrill of the Sport of Kings. The countries with the largest activity in the horse racing industry are the **United Kingdom** and the **United States of America**. However, horse racing is far-reaching, having expanded into all continents of the earth. Horse racing varies from country to country. Some possess more tracks than others and thus enjoy a year-round racing calendar.
- ▶ Asia
- ▶ Middle East
- ▶ Australia
- ▶ Canada
- ▶ England
- ▶ Ireland
- ▶ Scotland
- ▶ South Africa
- ▶ Europe

ANY  
QUESTIONS  
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