

THE BRITISH RACING SCHOOL



Newsletter Issue 2



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The British Racing School has made enormous progress since the first edition of our Newsletter at the end of 98.

The new training theatre, new accommodation, new ante room and the refurbishment of the entrance foyer and offices have all been completed on time and budget. Quite simply they are all superb and will greatly enhance our ability to train to the highest standards in a modern environment. We are enormously indebted to those who contributed so generously to our Special Appeal Fund.

We have continued to develop and improve all the training courses that we offer as well as developing a number of new initiatives. These

include pilot courses for head lads and tailor made courses for apprentices from Sweden and Germany.

The continuing aim of this Newsletter is to help explain and promote to the industry and the world in general what we do here at the B.R.S. We are in no way complacent and remain keen to improve every aspect of our performance and we therefore welcome constructive comment and suggestions. If you have never visited the school or have not done so recently, please come and see the training in progress; the team are proud of what they do.

P D Player, Chairman

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE BRITISH RACING SCHOOL

The redevelopment of The British Racing School was formally opened by Rob Hughes, the Chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board on 2nd May. The £1.1 million project was completed on time and on budget.

The main feature of the redevelopment is the Moller Training Theatre. This has a 72 seat auditorium with modern audio visual aids. The seating is retractable which allows great flexibility in the use of space. The Theatre is named after the late Eric and Budgy Moller who between them had a long and distinguished connection with racing, and since their deaths continued through Moller Racing and horses such as Pentire, First Trump and First Island.

The accommodation has been extended to create the Elizabeth Hitchins Wing. This comprises 18 single rooms with en-suite shower/bathrooms. This accommodation will be used by the increasing number of courses and training provided for trainers, jockeys and others. The Wing is named after the late wife of the well known owner Robert Hitchins. The reception and administrative areas have also had a substantial refurbishment. The aim is to provide a modern and strong image when visitors arrive at the School. The reception features large black and white photographs by Trevor Jones of the trainees undergoing various aspects of their training, and is named after the Sunley Charitable Trust.

A new lounge has been created called The Gordon Richards Room. The Room acknowledges the achievements of the greatest jockey of the twentieth century and includes a large number of photographs of some of his important winners. The room is used by those using the Elizabeth Hitchins Wing and the Moller Training Theatre.

The last ingredient of the redevelopment is the Newmarket Technology Centre. This is a state of the art computer training facility to cater primarily for the computer training that all

trainees have to do as part of the National Traineeship qualification. The centre was made possible thanks to a donation from The Tote.

The redevelopment is the first major building at the School since it was opened in 1983. In his opening speech, Rob Hughes said that it was symbolic of the emphasis and importance now attached to training and the confidence with which racing was facing the future. The significant feature of all the new parts of the redevelopment is that when not required for their primary purpose supporting racing, they can be hired out to outside users and thereby bring in additional income. The cost of the redevelopment has been met by a Special Appeal and a bridging loan from the Levy Board.

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The Moller Training Theatre

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Wing*

Did you know?

The British Racing School has produced a steady stream of successful apprentices and jockeys who started their careers in racing at the School. In past years this has included Royston Ffrench, Stephen Davies, Seb Saunders, Jason Weaver and David Harrison. Amongst the current crop of apprentices, names include Neil Pollard, Paul Doe, Richard Mullen and Adrian McCarthy.

The Special Appeal

The Special Appeal, launched in June 1998, has raised £850,000 towards the cost of the redevelopment. The Appeal was aimed primarily at those with a connection to racing and included donations both large and small. The School, and all those connected with it, are indebted to them for their generosity.

RECRUITING NEWS

Since 1 April, the School has taken on front line responsibility for recruiting. The aim is to encourage young people to come and work in racing. The message is simple; if you want to work with horses, racing can offer you the best training, the best horses, the best opportunities and the best pay.

The mainstay of the plan is to ensure that the Careers Organisations throughout the UK are fully informed about what the industry, and specifically, The British Racing School, has to offer. The careers organisations are responsible for providing advice to young people both in and out of school about their career options and therefore it is important that they are fully updated with a video and written material about what is on offer. As part of this, the School is running six careers days around the South of England to which Careers advisers and teachers are being invited so that they can be briefed first hand. Careers Days have already taken place at Arundel and Lambourn and have been very well received.

The plan also includes getting out and attending shows, open days and other events. As part of this exercise, we are experimenting with events where there is a high concentration of young people, to establish the response.

In support of this exercise, we now have a highly visible exhibition trailer and a state of the art exhibition display stand. If we are to compete for young people and attract them into racing, it is vital that we portray a positive and professional image. However, if you know of anyone who might be interested in working in racing, please contact the School and we will send them details (call Carol Denson on 01638-665103).

List of Events:

Lambourn Open Day	2 April 1999
J Dunlop Open Day	30 May 1999
Arundel Careers Day	2 June 1999
Lambourn Careers Day	10 June 1999
The Royal Show	5 - 8 July 1999
Epsom Open Day	17 July 1999
Epsom Careers Day	22 July 1999
Newmarket Open Day	15 August 1999

Church Farm Junior Derby	August 1999
Newmarket Careers Day	28 September 1999
Burghley Horse Trials	September 1999
School Show Jumping Championships	Sept.
Countryside Careers Day	October 1999
South West Careers Day	6 October 1999
Wolverhampton (with Northern Racing College)	Date t.b.c.
Equine Event Stoneleigh	Nov
National Stud Trade Fair	3 - 5 December 1999

MODERN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Introduction

The Modern Apprenticeship is a training programme designed for those who are seeking to establish a career in a racing yard or Thoroughbred stud.

It is based on work and training in the industry and is open to young people aged 16-23 years old (but may be open to those aged up to 25). It offers an excellent opportunity to embark on a good wage and gain a recognised qualification.

What is involved?

The Modern Apprenticeship offers an exciting and challenging opportunity to those who can show dedication and a commitment to training and working with racehorses. A training plan will be developed at the beginning of the apprenticeship and forms part of the agreement between the candidate, the employer and the training provider. The training is delivered both at an approved centre and in the workplace, ensuring that all parts of the qualification are thoroughly covered.

Modern Apprenticeships will normally last about two years and will need commitment from everyone involved. There will be a firm agreement between each apprentice and his/her employer, setting out what is expected.

What will be achieved?

The Modern Apprenticeship programme offers an opportunity to achieve a Level 3 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in Racehorse Care and Management (racing or breeding option). This NVQ has been developed specifically for those working in senior positions in racing yards or studs and is recognised throughout the industry. From November 1998, all those wishing to be granted a licence to train racehorses by the Jockey Club, must have completed NVQ Level 3 Racehorse Care and Management.

Modern Apprentices will also develop other skills, like team working and problem solving, and learn a wider range of skills, which will enhance future career prospects.

How to become a Modern Apprentice

Modern Apprenticeships are aimed at young people who can demonstrate the potential to become a senior member of staff in a demanding industry. Potential candidates should normally have one or more of the following:

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Frankie Dettori presents the Investors in People recognition together with courses 115 & 116.

Rhys Hughes, Daniel Cammack, Gavin Hardisty, Gareth Foster, Michelle Penman, Sam Harding, Ian Craven, Mike Bax, Frankie Dettori, Hannah Watkins, Rory MacDonald, Natasha Tarrant, Becky Quorn, Kerrie Begley, Craig Harris, Anna Layton, Stan Brookes, Andrew Brimble, Teresa Logan.

Gino Gibbs, Rachel Moxom, Carol Packer, Louise Westaby, Stephen Spooner, Gemma Clark, Nick Farmer, Kerry Banning.

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- > Experience of working in the horseracing industry
- > Completed appropriate training at an approved centre
- > NVQ Level 2 Racehorse Care and Management or Horsecare

Benefits to employers

Based on training in the workplace, the Modern Apprenticeship offers employers the chance to give young people a structured career path, a wage and a recognised qualification. It can help employers to:

- > Improve performance
- > Motivate employees
- > Reduce staff turnover
- > Develop adaptable staff
- > Establish a training structure
- > Recognise employees achievements

Meanwhile, it will help the individuals they employ to:

- > Work to their full ability
- > Become confident in their work
- > Take on more responsibility
- > Become competent in their work

Who pays?

Pupils wishing to undertake Modern Apprenticeship training will not be charged. Funding is provided by Suffolk Training and Enterprise Council. Travelling expenses to and from the British Racing School will be refunded, within reason. Where possible, pupils will be expected to share transport. The cost of the St. Johns Ambulance one-day first aid course will also be refunded. You must produce receipts for all expense claims prior to payment being made.

How To Start?

If you are interested, contact Phillipa Parry at The British Racing School. She will explain further details and answer any further questions that you have.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety has recently been given a much higher profile within the racing industry. Under the BHB organisation, a series of seminars has taken place for trainers or their representatives across the country. The aim of these seminars has been to explain to trainers the extent of their obligations under the law and to emphasise that the law applies just as much to racing as it does to every other industry.

The subject of Health and Safety is of particular importance to The British Racing School. Under the terms of the contract under which we obtain Government funding, we are required to ensure that the trainees on the two year training scheme, work in an environment which is made as safe as possible and where risks exist, they are effectively managed. It is acknowledged that working with thoroughbreds is a dangerous environment but the emphasis of the legislation is avoiding unnecessary accidents. It is also acknowledged that health and safety adds to the growing number of administrative tasks required by the trainer, but the fact remains that it is laid down in law and applies equally to every employer in the land.

From the British Racing School's point of view, we have no option other than to fully comply with the obligations placed on us. However, our aim is to discharge these obligations in a sensible manner with a large dose of common sense. We see our role as helping and supporting trainers to meet their statutory duties.

Over the next six months, a British Racing School assessor will visit trainer's yards and carry out a Health and Safety check. We are required to do this to ensure that trainees on the Government training scheme are working in an environment that meets the current legislation. Trainers who attended one of the BHB seminars this year will hopefully be familiar with what is required of them and a simple to follow work book was issued to all those who attended explaining what they have to do. However, if any trainer requires any help, please call us and we will do whatever we can to help. Whilst the obligations placed on employers are not going to go away, we want to work with trainers to ensure that where they affect trainees on the Government training scheme, we cooperate and work together in a sensible and constructive manner.

BRS HORSES

Ebony and Dougal are our two much loved and inseparable Welsh ponies. 18 year old Ebony was donated in 1986 by Claire Byrne, an ex trainee, whilst Dougal, 12, was loaned to us in 1997 by Mrs S Walls.

More tolerant in the stable than ex-racehorses, they are also, at 13.2 hands and 14 hands respectively, an ideal size for lightweight beginners to learn on.

However, they would not be Welsh ponies without their bit of mischief. Though impeccably behaved at the trot, many an otherwise dull lesson has been considerably brightened when they go out together for their first canters!



STAFF PROFILE

The BRS member of staff in the spotlight in this issue is our Instructor Sue Donnelly.

Name	Susan Jane Donnelly
Job	Instructor
Date of Birth	November 6th, 1958
Experience	Racing Career. After leaving school, Sue completed BHSAL, then went to Canada for 6 years working with show horses, rehabilitating racehorses and breaking yearlings.



Sue spent 1 year with Ben Hanbury followed by 1 year in Provence, France with Henri Ross. Following this she returned to England and spent 1½ years with Olivier Davies, then 9 years with Clive Brittain where she was a prominent work rider and also repaired tack.

Sue has been at the BRS in her current position for four years and also does a bit of freelance journalism.

CHANGES IN STAFF

Phillipa Parry has taken over from Jim Allen as Training Monitor. Phillipa is just completing her degree at Warwickshire College in Equine and Business Management. Jim Allen is now Racecourse Manager at Huntingdon.

Robin Gow has left his position as Training Officer although he will continue to work part time particularly on health and safety matters. His replacement is Simon Page who arrives at the beginning of August.

Tracey Denness has joined us as a part time instructor. She has worked for a number of trainers in Newmarket.

Derek Hill has taken over as Hostel Manager from Jon Timms. Derek has previously worked at the school at weekends and therefore knows the job. Jon is being re-located within Eurest.

MENTORS

Last year, The British Racing School was inspected by The Training Standards Council. This is the equivalent to an OFSTED inspection of Schools. The inspection went very well and we received a higher grading than any other equine training establishment in the country. However, the inspection highlighted various areas with which we are required. One of the most important of these is the level of supervision and support for trainees on the Government training scheme once they are in trainers' yards. The requirement is that trainees should have a nominated person who manages them in terms of ensuring that they receive help and support in continuing with their training and development, and that they have someone to whom they can go if they have a problem. This person could be one of a number of people. It could, for example, be a senior member of staff, the head lad, the secretary, the trainer's wife or even the trainer himself or herself.

We will therefore be liaising with trainers via the visiting monitors to explain in further detail what is involved. We would ask for your help and co-operation in what we hope is seen as essential if we are to encourage and maintain young staff.

THE BRITISH RACING SCHOOL

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