

# On Course

## Editorial

**The major topic being discussed within racing is around funding and how racing evolves to operate and hopefully thrive, within the circumstances it now finds itself. It is therefore timely to consider what affect this might have on The British Racing School and the service we provide for the industry. There are a number of clear trends appearing.**

The first is the pressure on funding both from Government and the racing industry. On the Government side, the news is not all bad. Whilst the Government is committed to cutting expenditure across all areas, it is firmly supportive of Apprenticeships and meaningful training which leads to jobs and

which contributes to the national economy. Our Foundation Programme, which is the cornerstone of our training, is very much in line with the Government policy. Similarly the recent Wolf Report, commissioned by the Government endorsed the need for high quality vocational training which is linked to the requirements of the job market. Given our commitment to find jobs for all those who complete the 9 week programme at the School, we are very much in the vanguard of these ambitious plans.

On the industry side, the biggest issue is the funding of training at a time when the traditional source via the levy and a deduction of prize money is much reduced. In response to this there are a number of things we have to do. The first is to control costs. We have carried out a comprehensive review of all our

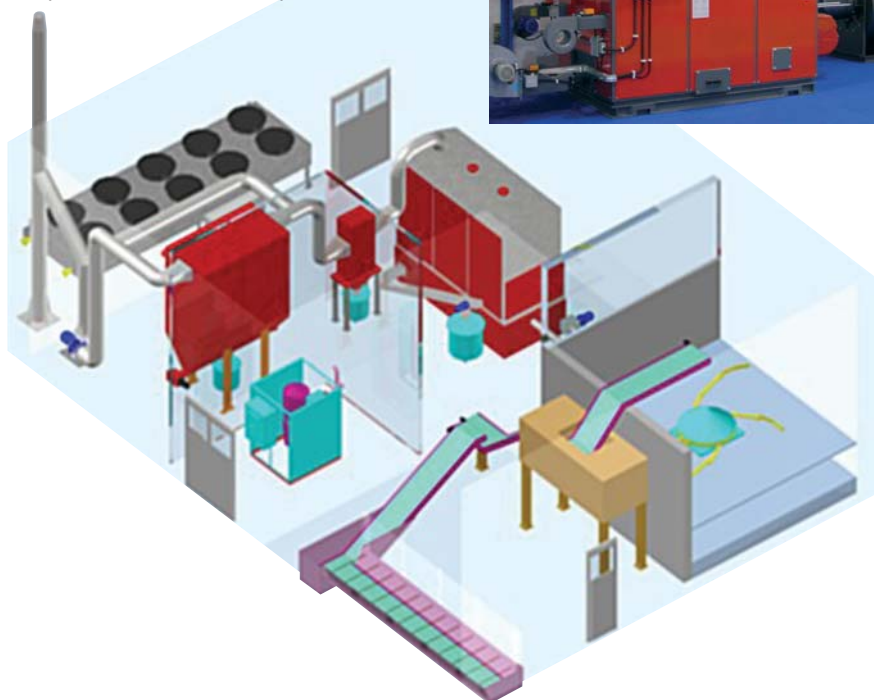
costs and we will carry out a further review in the year ahead. Secondly we have to ensure that we derive maximum value for money for the industry with the money that it invests in training. This requires increased efficiency and the removal of unnecessary procedures and costs. It also means that we continue to investigate new sources of income. The Biomass Boiler is an example of this. At the same time, we must continue to stress to all sectors and parts of the industry the importance of training and staff development. We continue to look at other industries and sports to see what we can learn from them. There is much to be done and we are committed to playing a full part in addressing these issues.

*Rory MacDonald*

## Biomass Boiler

**The Biomass Boiler is due for completion in mid April. As the first such plant in Europe, it has attracted a considerable amount of interest.**

As a result we plan to have an event later in the year in partnership with the contractors Eco-Link Resources Ltd and our consultants Bidwells, at which we will explain the operation and potential benefits of the plant.



## Visit by HRH The Princess Royal

**Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal will visit The British Racing School on 12th April.**

She will see the training at the School on that day including the Foundation course, an Apprentice Licence Course and the Pony Club Racing Easter Camp. In addition, she will see the latest horse simulator, the Equichute and be briefed on the Biomass Boiler.

We are grateful that Her Royal Highness continues to be very interested in the work of the School as this visit follows a similar visit two years ago.



*Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal with Rory MacDonald*

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# Racehorse Training Option for Under 16s

**We continue to seek a way for those living away from Newmarket to get into racing at the earliest opportunity.**

Our Flexible Learning Programme for those in Years 10 and 11 enables young people in local schools to spend one day a week at The British Racing School learning to ride and care for racehorses and working towards achieving their NVQ 2 in Racehorse Care by the end of the second year with us. Following discussions with Culford School, a local boarding school,

we are now able to offer this to those from other parts of the country. Participants would live and study for their GCSEs at Culford School and spend one full day a week with us. We think this is an excellent option for the right young people.

Anyone interested in the boarding option or requiring more information should contact **Duncan Gregory** ([Duncan@brs.org.uk](mailto:Duncan@brs.org.uk)) or **Jaki Houston-Campbell** ([jakihc@brs.org.uk](mailto:jakihc@brs.org.uk)) or telephone **01636 665103**.



# The British Racing School Twelve Club Awards

**The Twelve Club Awards are made by the Twelve Club to the best male and female trainees to come through the Foundation Programme at The British Racing School.**

The 2010 winners were Jordan Cosley who works for Emma Lavelle and Shelley Teasdale who works for Nicky Richards. The presentation was made at Newbury

Racecourse on 25th March by Ian de Wesselow on behalf of the Twelve Club.

This is the 15th year that the Twelve Club have provided this Award which recognises the high quality trainees who go into racing from The British Racing School. Previous winners date back to Royston Ffrench who was the first winner in 1995.



# The Racing Industry Course 2011

**For the third year in succession we have delivered, on behalf of the BHA and sponsored by Weatherbys, The Racing Industry Course or TRIC as we tend to refer to it.**

Once again it was a great success with a large number of racing industry 'movers and shakers' addressing the course and fascinating visits which this year included Henry Cecil's Warren Place yard. The delegates, mainly middle managers in racing both here and from abroad, found it a hugely interesting and education week. We look forward to running it again in February 2012.

If you are interested in next year's course please contact **Clare Higgins** ([clare@brs.org.uk](mailto:clare@brs.org.uk)) or telephone **01638 665103**.



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# Qualification and Credit Framework

**Amongst the many changes we are getting to grips with at the moment is a change to the titles and structures of the racing qualifications we offer.**

The Qualifications and Credit Framework, QCF as we refer to it, seeks to make it easier for young people to gain skills and qualifications by awarding credit for qualifications and units (small steps of learning). It enables people to gain qualifications at their own pace along flexible routes. There will be some alterations to our training but it will not be substantial as trainers still require a core of skills from those they employ. The implementation date for the change is likely to be April (though there have been a few 'teething problems' which are out of our control) with the implementation of the changes so this may slip. The current National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) will be replaced by the Workbased Diploma in Racehorse Care (and Management) which, as with the NVQ, can be taken as Level 2 and Level 3.

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## Make the 'Transition to Racing'

**The latest edition to our course offering is the Transition to Racing Course. This new initiative is set to help competent riders from other equestrian disciplines move across to a career in a racing yard.**

During the week long course, delegates will be put through their paces on the state of the art racehorse simulators, and ride and care for 2 lots per day. They will also spend time in the classroom learning about racing terminology, racecourse procedures, handicapping and more.

We often get enquiries from people over the age of 21 who are looking to move into the racing industry from other areas of equine employment but aren't sure how to go about it. Hopefully this course will bridge that gap and equip those people with the skills they need to work in a racing yard.

The course will run annually with the first one commencing on 4th April 2011.

For more information contact **Clare Higgins** on [clare@brs.org.uk](mailto:clare@brs.org.uk) or **01638665103**.

# Success Stories

## Darryl Breslin

**Joining us on our Christmas course was Darryl Breslin, a young teenager from Manchester.**

Darryl was not dealt the best hand in life prior to arriving at the BRS. The son of 2 alcoholic parents he was put into foster care, and for the first time attended school, at the age of 8. Over the next years of Darryl's life he had 5 Foster homes, 4 different care-workers and was excluded from numerous schools for his behaviour. He left full time education barely able to read or write. At 18 he was relinquished from the care system and placed in a hostel where he received excellent help and support from the Charity Bernados.

It was his assigned care worker from Bernados that suggested he attend some free riding lessons with the Charity Urban Riderz. With ponies Darryl found a

connection and his instructor encouraged him to apply to The British Racing School.

Darryl received a huge amount of care and support at the BRS and he changed from a very shy teenager with very low self esteem to a happy, talkative and confident individual with huge ambition to do well in the racing industry.

His story gets better, he was lucky enough to catch the interest of Henry Cecil who agreed to take Darryl under his wing and in Darryl's own words, "I am now working for Henry Cecil, one of the best trainers in the world!!" "It's amazing here (at Henry Cecil's), everyone has the same attitude, they are so generous... I am so much happier now, I am now able to achieve my goals and this means I can now give myself and one day, my kids, a better life than my parents were able to give me." Darryl sums up his life since starting the BRS as, "I came to the BRS with nothing, I left with everything."





## Sage Training

**We have launched a new course at The British Racing School based on demand from those who attend the Racing Secretaries course.**

The new course is an addition to the Bookkeeping module and is a 1 day basic Sage Line 50 course aimed at those working in the racing industry. It will equip delegates with the skills they need to start using Sage in a trainers yard and will put into practice the theory learnt on the Bookkeeping Day.

The next course will run on the 12th and 13th July with the first day being Bookkeeping and the second being Sage Line 50 Basic course. The cost of the 2 day course is £165 non-residential with accommodation available on request.

For more information or to book yourself on the course please contact **Clare Higgins** on **01638 665103** or email **clare@brs.org.uk**



## Equichute Training

**The Equichute has now been in situ at The British Racing School for over 6 months and so far we have 'fired' in excess of 300 people off of it!**

Whilst the Equichute training has been incorporated into the programme for the Conditional Jockey courses, we are also running stand alone training days. These days are open to any competent riders from any discipline. The cost of the day is just £75 and includes expert guidance from Sports Scientist Jon Pitts and former jump jockey Steve Smith Eccles.

The courses run every 3 months, the next course dates are 14 June 2011 and 11 October 2011.

For more information contact **Clare Higgins** on **clare@brs.org.uk**



Jon Pitts



Steve Smith Eccles

## New Staff

**We are pleased to have gained 3 new members of staff recently.**

**Lissie Mitchell** has taken over as Conference and Events Manager, she is experienced in the hospitality industry and is a keen horsewoman.

**Tash Goody** has joined us to be the new Recruitment and Training Office Assistant,

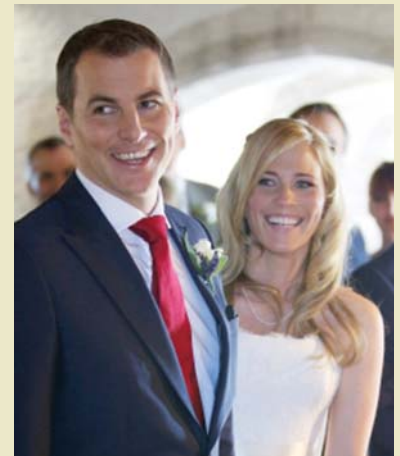
she has worked in racing all her life and has a wealth of experience of the industry.

**Carol Casey** is the new Recruitment Co-Ordinator, Carol has also worked in the industry for many years, having started life in Ireland and moving over to England 7 years ago. She rides out for John Ryan before coming to work at the BRS.



From left to right: Tash Goody, Carol Casey and Lissie Mitchell

## Change of Name



**Congratulations to Gemma Dawson who married Simon Waterhouse, a Vet from NEH.**

Gemma Waterhouse can now be contacted on her new email address: **gemma.waterhouse@brs.org.uk**

Newsletter Edited by: **Gemma Waterhouse**



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