

# On Course

## Oswin... Does Win

**The British Racing School were delighted for Graduate Lee Oswin as he received a prize of £3000 and the title of David Nicholson Newcomer Of the Year award at the 2009 Stud and Stable Staff Awards.**

Lee attended the BRS upon leaving School in August 07 on Course 210 and graduated in October 07 and returned to the yard of Gary Moore in Brighton, where he had been working weekends following a successful work experience placement.

Lee would be the first to say he did not enjoy School and the thought of another nine weeks here may have put him off entry into the industry but once he was here he realised vocational qualifications can provide learning and essential skills in a different environment.

Lee gained an exemplary Course Report stating "Lee has produced a good performance. He is committed to learning and improving himself. He cares for his horses and works well about the yard. He has made the most of his opportunity". Many of these comments were mirrored in Gary Moore's submission to the BHA for the awards, praising his reliability and his horse care.

Lee completed his NVQ2 in Racehorse Care and is now a regular work rider. Lee's ambition is to lead up at a winner at either the Cheltenham or Ascot and working for the progressive dual-purpose yard of Gary Moore this is a very realistic goal. Lee has also won £3000 to be shared amongst his work colleagues.

Other representatives of the School at the awards included Matthew Hampton, who was a runner-up in the Newcomer award. We found a job for Matt at Philip Hobbs after his nine-week course, (Course 213), and they have been delighted with his work riding skills

and feedback in particular. Matt hopes to start his riding career in point-to-points and is definitely one to look out for. Matt completed his Apprenticeship In Racehorse Care earlier this year.

Hugh Fraser was a runner-up in the Rider/Groom award. Hugh attended Course 111, back in 1998 alongside current trainer Amy Weaver. His employer John Berry paid tribute to his calm and patient temperament, the enjoyment of his work which he passes on to others, and his support in the development of younger members of staff.

The winner in this category, Claire Knight has also gained an NVQ2 through us.

It is great to see graduates represented not only in the Newcomer categories as you would expect but also in sections for older members of staff. We have many courses for staff of all ages including Head lad/lass courses, Assistant Trainers, Work-Riding courses and NVQs through our Train To Gain programme for Adult learners.

For more details on any of our programmes please call **01638 665103** or see our website [www.brs.org.uk](http://www.brs.org.uk)



*Above – Photograph Courtesy of Dan Abraham, Lee Oswin (centre) pictured with Dinah Nicholson and Mick Fitzgerald*

*Right – Photograph Courtesy of Chris Smith*



## 12 Club Award

**The 12 Club awards are given annually to the best male and female trainee on the residential Apprenticeship Foundation Course.**

The 12 Club are a group of eminent racing enthusiasts who have supported the British Racing School for many years and we are grateful for their continued support.

This year's winners are Rosie McKee from John Dunlop's yard and William Kitchman from David Pipe's. They are pictured receiving their silver-topped engraved whips and a cash prize from President of the 12 Club, Howard Baveystock, at Newbury Racecourse.

*Photograph Courtesy of Ian Headington*

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# 25 Years On

**In November 1983 the first trainees arrived at The British Racing School to commence their training. Twenty five years have passed since then and a great deal has changed in the meantime.**

In this time over 2,500 young people have passed out from the School and gone on to work in the racing industry. For some it has resulted in success on the racecourse as jockeys including Champion Jockey Seb Sanders and 8 individuals who have become champion apprentices. It has included those such as Cheltenham Gold Cup winning jockey Sam Thomas, who have found success on the jumping side. For the majority, success can be measured in less noticeable ways but nevertheless their time at the School and the training they received has helped them to establish a worthwhile career in racing and elsewhere. It is worth noting that we now employ at The British Racing School three ex trainees who went through the Foundation Programme. What then are the changes?

The aim of the foundation training. In 1983, and for the next 10 years, the objective was to train potential jockeys, and thus the official name of the charity is 'The Apprentice School Charitable Trust'. From 1992, the focus changed to taking on a wider spectrum of young people whose initial career objective was to work in a trainer's yard as stable staff, although it was accepted that within their number they would include some who clearly were destined to become jockeys.

## Diversification

Up until 1992 other than the succession of 9 week courses, the only other course was a two week apprentice course each November aimed at brushing up the skills of those who had already been issued with a licence. From 1992 however the portfolio of different types of training has gradually expanded, to include different types of jockey courses, trainers' courses, courses for secretaries, head lads, groundsmen and other. We now run 21 different types of courses throughout the year.

## Facilities

This gradual expansion of training has meant that we have had to have additional facilities. Thanks to the generosity of donors and the support of the Levy Board, there has been a regular programme to ensure that we have first class facilities to support the quality of training that we deliver. This support form the likes of the E B Moller Charitable Trust, The Childwick Trust, the late Robert Hitchins, Paul Mellon, Klaus Jacobs and others, has been vital to the development of the School.

## Funding

In the first 10 years of the School's existence, it was 100% funded by the racing industry. However in 1992 the industry decided to set up an industry training scheme with qualifications. This had two main implications. The first was that the industry funding was no longer directed solely at the School. Secondly, and to meet the shortfall, it meant that we could access Government Work Based Learning Funding. The Government funding has now grown year on year and is a vital aspect of the School accounting for about 70% of our income.

## Staff

One of the outcomes of the government funding is that we have had to cope with the attendant paperwork and administrative load. Therefore we have had to develop a highly skilled team of administrators to handle the workload. It has also meant that we have had to face up to regular audit and inspection. Our last inspection by the Adult Learning Inspectorate gave us a grading of Grade 1 Outstanding, the highest grade possible. It has also meant that those delivering the training have required to be trained as instructors and coaches as they would be in any other industry. As a result we have a first rate team of professional staff supporting training of the highest order.

## Commercial Aspects

To maximise the use of the facilities at the School we have a trading company which deals with all those activities outside our charitable objects. As a result we now run a thriving Conference and Events business. This provides an excellent opportunity for those who previously may have had no contact with the racing world, to see first hand the activity of the School.

**And lastly.....** what has not changed. He has been a Trustee of the School since 1992 and continues to provide fantastic support and help. You have probably guessed it – John Dunlop OBE.

# Stable Staff Training



Photograph Courtesy of Emma Berry

**Jockey Coach Richard Perham and BRS Assessor Laura Whitehouse recently visited James Given's yard to deliver a training session to his stable staff.**

Mr Given informed us that, "With our gallop having a mild bend to it, the horses often get on to one lead and stay on it. Our physio has found muscle strains on one diagonal much more than the other. I feel that getting the staff to think about which leg they are on and getting the horse to change when appropriate could help this".

Richard and Laura gave a brief presentation to cover the way in which the horse moves, and included slow motion video footage of how horses change legs. The staff then rode out and were asked by Mr Given to try and encourage the horse to change leads at a certain point of the gallop, where a camera was positioned. Another camera was placed at the bottom of the gallop, so as to determine which leg the horse had jumped off on. The footage was then viewed and discussed by the staff and instructors.

The staff did an excellent job of analysing how they rode, and then discussing why certain horses found this easy and others found it so hard. The staff repeated the exercise on a different horse, and joined in with the video review again.

The fantastic thing about the morning was the way in which the staff became involved in the discussion; assessed their riding and looked at ways to improve the horses' way of going in the future.

Video evidence, along with bespoke software such as the Dartfish package is used strategically and appropriately across a wide range of courses at the School including the bite-size work riding courses, jockey courses and stable staff training. We continue to be at the forefront of the application of technology in training for the industry and have been lauded by many respected industry professionals as ahead of the field.

For more information on our Work-riding courses please contact Clare Higgins on **01638 675907**

# The Racing Industry Course



**In February The British Racing School played host to The Racing Industry Course, a five day British Horseracing Authority programme, sponsored by Weatherbys. The Course was designed to give participants an all round knowledge of the horseracing industry.**

Highlights of the week included the trips to Tattersalls (which included the stallion parade and the breeze-up sales) Darley's Dalham Hall Stud which included an on-topic debate with Stallion Manager Sam Bullard, a tour of Newmarket's two racecourses and a look at the impressive Jockey Club Rooms.

Notable speakers included Adrian McGlynn from Weatherbys, Ian Balding, and Michael O'Hagan of Irish Thoroughbred Marketing.

On the Thursday evening delegates and speakers were united once more at the Jockey Club Rooms for a celebratory dinner with guest speaker Nic Coward, Chief Executive of the British Horseracing Authority.

As summarised by one of the delegates at the end, 'The range of people, experience, views, backgrounds and senses of humour really made this an excellent opportunity to learn more about the industry as a whole'

'We are thrilled with the way that TRIC has gone', said Rory MacDonald Chief Executive of the British Racing School. 'It is clear that there is a real demand for a programme such as TRIC, and that which we put together has clearly not only met, but exceeded the expectations of this demand.'

TRIC was a great success and the British Racing School looks forward to building on this achievement in the future.

*Photograph Courtesy of Trevor Jones, Thoroughbred Photography*

## BRS Trained Staff – Grooming Champions

**Sarah Shreeve, a graduate from Course 110, is pictured leading in Punjabi to Champion Hurdle success, wrapping up a unique double with the 2008 Cesarewitch winner Carracciola. Fellow Advanced Apprenticeship Graduate, Tom Symonds, is also pictured in his role as Assistant Trainer To Nicky Henderson.**

*Photograph Courtesy of Racing Post (Punjabi)*

## The Centre for Racehorse Studies

**The British Horseracing Authority announced at the BHA Annual Conference in London on 23rd February the construction of the Centre for Racehorse Studies (CRS) which will be located at The British Racing School.**

The aim of the Centre is to carry out studies and provide education to prevent lapses in medication control. Therefore appropriate sessions will be incorporated into relevant courses to explain the work of the CRS and education racing's participation in effective medication control. The studies will be run by BHA staff and will involve the same treatments given to horses in training.

Work has started on the building and it is intended that it will be operational by 1st July 2009.





## staff matters

There have been several comings and goings since the last newsletter. Clare Payne (formerly Adams) our long standing Courses Coordinator has returned to the breeding sector, from whence she came.

To avoid confusion we have replaced her with another Clare (Higgins) who prior to joining us worked as racing secretary to Peter Chapple-Hyam. We feel her knowledge of racing and in particular the role of the racing secretary will be invaluable in further developing our range of courses.

Holly Jackson has completed her four month stint, planning for and assisting with the delivery of the very successful Racing Industry Course (TRIC) in February. We wish her well for the future.

Karin Peberdy, our receptionist for a fraction under a year, has decided to return to nursing and is also getting married and moving away from the area. We wish her luck in both ventures! She is replaced by Sarah Barker who having previously covered this position as a 'temp', has settled in very quickly.

Finally Ian Meyers, one of our conference porters, has gone in search of pastures new and his place is taken by Nathan Cox who has made a sterling start.

*Duncan Gregory*

# The British Racing School Management Academy

**In January the first delegates from Jockey Club Racecourses embarked on their programme of Management Training.**

The programme is aimed at development the management skills of middle managers and is delivered by The Peplow Group who are a specialist management training organisation.

The programme includes an initial assessment, a variety of different workshops, personal coaching, self study and finally reassessment. The various events are spread out throughout the year to allow delegates to continue with their normal job and will be completed in December.

So far the feedback has been very positive but there is a considerable way to go. However we are very pleased with the progress thus far and confident that it will be seen as a very useful contribution to the industry's training. It represents a new direction for the School but is indicative of our commitment to organise high quality professional training to meet whatever the needs of the racing industry.



**Fred Packard, who had been a Trustee of the BRS for over ten years, died suddenly last month aged 60.**

Fred had been a racehorse owner for many years and had horses in training with various trainers on his own and in partnership with Guy Harwood and his daughter Amanda Perrett, Robert Cowell, Con Collins, William Haggas, Sir Mark Prescott and fellow Trustee John Dunlop who trained the 2001 German St Leger winner Fair Question for him. He was very fortunate in that one of the very first horses he owned in partnership with Monica Sheriffe was the Champion Older Sprinter Sharpo who won the July Cup, Prix de l'Abbaye and the William Hill Sprint Championship (now The Nunthorpe Stakes) three years running in the early 80s.

Fred was born after the war in America, educated in Britain and spent his early career in Brazil working for an investment bank. After returning to the UK he continued to be involved in a number of financial businesses and institutions at home and abroad.

He was committed to helping young people and as well as being a BRS Trustee he was Chairman of the Rank Foundation – one of the UKs larger charities.

Fred brought his tremendous business acumen and financial planning expertise to the BRS and he will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Newsletter Edited by: **Paul Finch**

## Achievements

### First winners

Andrew Glassonbury	Emily Stead	Kieren Fox	Matthew Griffiths
Alexander Voy	Holly Hall	Ryan Clark	Kyle Yates
Giles Hawkins	Nathan Alison	Chris Martin	

### Jockeys

Aidan Coleman	Leading Conditional Jockey
David Griffiths	John Smith's People Race, Aintree
Harry Skelton	Niche Market – Irish Grand National

### All-weather Championship

Chris Catlin	Champion Jockey
Luke Morris	Leading Male Apprentice
Amy Baker	Leading Female Apprentice

### Cheltenham – winning jockeys

Wayne Hutchinson	Oh Crick – Grand Annual Chase winner
Aidan Coleman	Kayf Aramis – Pertemps Final Hurdle

### Lead-ups

Hannah Roche	Master Minded	Queen Mother Champion Chase
	Chapoturgeon	Jewson Novices Handicap Chase
Sarah Shreeve	Punjabi	Champion Hurdle
Joanna Collinson	Imperial Commander	Ryanair Chase
Jamie Jenkinson	Cappa Bleu	Christie's Foxhunters Chase
Amy Coles	Madison Du Berlais	Hennessy Gold Cup and Levy Board Chase
		Totesport Bowl
Claire-Louise Hartley	Irish Raptor	John Smith's Topham Chase

*Please see our website for a list of recent NVQ and Apprenticeship achievers.*



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