



THE BRITISH RACING SCHOOL
ON
COURSE



Graduate Profile: Hayley Kelly

Ofsted

OFSTED Inspection



Marquand on Exchange

From the
Chief Executive



In November we received the devastating news that Rory MacDonald had died of a heart attack aged just 66.

Rory's influence on the BRS can and should never be underestimated. During his 22-year tenure (1992 – 2014) as Chief Executive he transformed the British Racing School from a parochial Charity into a world-renowned training facility with world class facilities that trains racing professionals from all over the world. To illustrate this point in the first quarter of 2016 we will host jockeys and racing professionals from Australia, Germany, Korea, South African, 28 delegates on The Racing Industry Course (TRIC – [kindly

supported by Lycetts]) as well as our bread and butter Foundation Courses.

There will also be a host of associated courses such as Trainers Modules, Apprentice, Conditional and Amateur jockey courses, and courses for Racing Secretaries, Bookkeepers, Work Riders and Pony racing. From small beginnings we now have nearly 100 stables and 100 beds and are looking to continue to increase both the amount of domestic and foreign training. In Rory's words we are striving to be better tomorrow than we were today.

Rory's work was officially recognised with the award of an OBE in 2007, but in racing he will be remembered for his unstinting work in transforming the lives of literally thousands of young people who spent time at the school learning the fundamentals of riding and the life skills needed to hold down a job in racing.

We will make sure Rory will be remembered here at the School when the time and project is right. Meanwhile, our thoughts continue to be with Antonia, her sons and family and Rory's wider family.

OFSTED

Rory would have been proud that the School has recently had its GOOD status reconfirmed by Ofsted. As is now policy with a new framework the School was subject to a short inspection on 16th and 17th December. The BRS team has maintained the good quality of education and training, learning and assessment. In its first inspection since August 2010, the School is delighted that it has been praised for its ambitious strategy, being responsive to the needs of the industry and has excellent resources and facilities that reflect the demands of working in the horseracing industry. To continue the theme the inspectors believe that the school's safeguarding arrangements are robust and well established and that Traineeship programme is exemplary. I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank the Chairman, Board and all the staff for their hard work and support over the last 18 months. We have set very high standards and I know that this dedicated team will continue to strive to maintain them during the next three years when we can anticipate our next inspection.

Marquand on International
Exchange Scheme

In early February 2016 Champion Apprentice Tom Marquand will be returning to the UK from a one month working holiday in Melbourne, Australia.

Tom, who is a graduate of the British Racing School is the first of 10 young people worldwide to take part in an exchange visit set up through His Highness Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan's Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival.

Over the past four years the BRS has sent a number of graduates to Abu Dhabi to ride in the final race of the Apprentice World Series which is funded by HH Sheikh Mansoor.

These visits and participation have helped to evolve a new organisation called the International Federation of Horse racing Academies (IFHRA).



The aim of IFHRA is to give opportunities for apprentice jockeys, work riders and others in the racing industry to travel to a foreign country for up to 8 weeks to gain valuable work experiences and to learn about other cultures. Each graduate will be hosted by one of the racing schools that are part of IRHRA. At this present time there are 34 countries that are part of the federation. Tom has been hosted by Racing Victoria during his stay has had the expert guidance of Matty Hyland who is the lead Jockey Coach within Racing Victoria looking after him.

Within 3 days of landing on Australian turf Tom rode Tashbee to victory at Caulfield racecourse. Tashbee is trained by leading Australian trainer David Hayes and owned by Sheikh Hamden and in winning Tom beat fellow IFHRA candidate Regan Baylis into second place. The BRS are thrilled and looking forward reciprocating Toms visit by hosting Regan In Newmarket in the very near future.





Staff Profile:

Jackie Gill

Pony Racing & FLP Instructor

Jackie recently obtained her Level 2 UKCC Level 2 Coaching Qualification to add to her extensive horse racing experience:

What is your background with horses?

I started by riding any pony I could find, I'd beg steal and borrow them. Then I became lucky enough to own a pony.

How did you get involved with racing?

I actually went to the Racing School but when it was at Goodwood. I was taught by Johnny Gilbert

What has been your career highlight to date?

Owning and training Take Me There to win 4 times - 2 bumpers, 1 flat race and 1 over hurdles!

What do you enjoy most about your job at the BRS?

Watching the children who start out on Pony Racing training on their tiny 12.2h fluffy ponies, progressing to win on the racecourse both on Ponies and then under rules once they've turned 16.

What piece of advice do you wish you'd been given when starting out in racing?

Listen to the advice you are being given but still have your own opinions.

Tell us something we wouldn't know about you?

When I was 13 I swam for the British Junior Team in Germany. Unfortunately I didn't come home with a medal!



- RACEFIT staff will provide guidance and demonstrations on fitness, rehabilitation and injury prevention
- Try on the silks and ride the National Horseracing Museum's racehorse simulator!
- The Injured Jockeys Fund will lead a range of activities on injury prevention. See demonstrations on how to fall safely from a horse and learn about concussions and how to inspect X-rays
- The Professional Jockeys' Association are focusing on nutrition. Come and see how your diet compares to those of athletes, and look more closely at the foods we eat.

On the 14 – 20 March it is British Science week and we are getting involved!

The Racing Centre in Newmarket is hosting a marketplace style event on Sunday 20th March with fun activities for all ages, exploring health and fitness within racing and beyond.

- We are taking the Jockey Fitness Test and giving you the opportunity to see how you match up against the likes of professional Jockey Luke Morris and Frankel's ex-rider Shane Featherstonehaugh.



We are looking forward to Sunday 21st February when our latest two Pony Racing Academy Riders will be heading to the Waveney Harriers Point to Point.

At Higham, a local track to the BRS, there will be two pony races alongside the main racing card, and in the 148cm race Zoe Stephens on Otterburn Lady will be going head to head with fellow Academy rider Ben Pratt on Thereshegoes. They will be donning the famous colours of Mr Charles Wentworth and The Niarchos Family respectively, who are both long standing supporters of the Academy and help make it all possible along with the Racing Foundation. We cannot thank the sponsors of this Academy enough. Best of luck to both riders! Look out for the results in the next Newsletter.



These seminars are run by the BRS on behalf of the BHA and are based on the Industry Health and Safety Manual, also known as the Red Book.

The aim of the seminar is to explain the contents of the manual, enabling those with overall management responsibility or day to day responsibility of health and safety to apply the contents in a real and practical way.

They are ideal for anyone keen to understand the health and safety requirements in yards and stud farms.

- 1st March 2016 at Oaksey House, Lambourn
 - 16th August 2016 at Jack Berry House, Malton
 - 13th December 2016 at The British Racing School, Newmarket
- For more information or to book a place contact Clare Kingston on 01638 675907 or clare@brs.org.uk



Graduate Profile:

Hayley Kelly

Hayley, who was on course 177 back in 1994, works for Mark Johnston and has just been shortlisted for the Leadership Category in the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards. We have caught up with her to find out about her 22 years in racing since leaving the BRS:

The Interview:

How did you feel in your first weeks in racing?

It was a long time ago but remember being very happy that I'd got a job with such a good trainer and looked forward to taking horses racing and getting different opportunities.

Why did you want to work in Racing?

I had been brought up with horses since I was born as my grandfather owned a stud and bred horses for racing. I had ponies from a very early age and did all the pony club activities etc associated with having a pony. I remember watching the racing on tv every Saturday with my Grandfather. He had a friend who owned a racehorse with Mark Johnston and it was through him I got a work experience spell with MJR until I got on a BRS course. Then after my course I came back to MJR and been here ever since.

What is the best advice you have been given?

Always listen to your elders and learn from them. Patience always pays off in the end.

What has been your best day at the races?

I have had a lot of best days racing but the one that will always stand out for me was when a horse called Yavanas Pace won his Group 1 in Germany. He was the oldest horse in Europe to win a Group 1. He was a special horse to me as he could be a bit of a handful to ride and had his quirks. I rode him most days at home and travelled the world with him. Always ran good solid races but to finally get that Group 1 and get in the record books was a very special moment for me.

What has been your most rewarding moment in racing so far?

Firstly getting a Travelling Manager job at MJR within a year of leaving BRS. Second would be getting a Yard Manager job at MJR after 17yrs of travelling and now to be nominated for the Leadership Award.

Finally, what would you like to achieve in Racing?

I have progressed through the ranks to where I am today as Yard Manager at MJR and had some good horses under my care so would love to have a Group 1 winner. come from my barn.

Stud & Stable Staff Awards 2016: BRS Graduates receive 9 Nominations

On 8th January the Shortlist Nominees were announced for the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards 2016 and we're delighted that there are plenty of BRS Graduates being recognised.

6 of the 10 on the shortlist for The David Nicholson Newcomer Award are BRS Graduates, which we are extremely proud of. It is our job to train young people wishing to enter the racing industry and to see them recognised for their hard work so early in their careers is fantastic. The 6 we are rooting for are Callum Pittendrigh (Richard Fahey), Sophie Jarvis (Harry Fry), Lorna Towers (John Gosden), Lauren Lucas (Micky Hammond), Laura Winstanley (Sir Michael Stoute) and Amber Mitchell (Ralph Beckett).

Hayley Kelly (Mark Johnston) is representing the BRS Graduates in the Leadership category, with Emily Blood (Charlie Fellowes), Jason Favell (William Haggas) and Gary Milligan (Saeed Bin Suroor) in battle for the Rider/Groom Award. Gary was one of our early graduates from Course 29 back in 1989!

The second stage of judging will now get under way and the judges will be speaking to all the shortlisted nominees and considering the written nominations in order to narrow the candidates down to three finalists per category.

The third and final stage of judging will take place in London on Monday 22 February where the winners and runners-up in each category are decided and will be revealed by Clare Balding later that evening at the Awards Ceremony in London.



Ofsted A rating of "Good" in Latest Inspection

We were delighted to be rated "good" with exemplary features in our latest Ofsted inspection.

As The Centre of Excellence in Horseracing we were given a rating of two – the same result we received in 2010 – after being visited by the inspection service last month. Inspectors praised our team at the BRS for continuing to put "high emphasis on ensuring that the quality of teaching, learning and assessments is good or better" resulting in a

high proportion of apprentices completing their programmes successfully, with the Traineeship programme being described as "exemplary".

The report recognised the School's "clear and ambitious strategy" to be "fully responsive to the needs of the horse racing industry, including employers and key stakeholders". The "excellent resources and facilities" available to the learners were acknowledged in the report as were the "robust and well established" safeguarding arrangements.

Chief Executive Grant Harris said: "The Ofsted report award of Grade 2 Good is a testament and a deserved accolade for the hard work of the teaching staff and all the team here at the BRS".

He added: "All stakeholders be it the Government, BHA, employers, parents or potential trainees will take note of this achievement. Racing wants and deserves the highest standard of training and the School will continue to work hard to ensure that we are at the forefront of delivering the training needs of the industry."

Training for the Korea Racing Authority

For a number of years we have delivered courses for staff from the KRA, initially limited to grooms, then expanded to include jockeys and for the last three years, trainers. Last September we once again welcomed two trainers, about to embark on their training careers. They spent six weeks with us learning how things are done in this country and gathering ideas for how they can steal a march on their training rivals in Seoul.

In December two managers from the KRA arrived at the School. They are spending twelve months with us learning about racing in the round and studying for the Level 3 Diploma in the Organisation and Administration of the Horseracing Industry.

We are delighted to continue to deliver high quality and relevant training to an increasing number and variety of staff from a nation with big aspirations to make it to the top table of racing.

Ground Based Yard Staff Course (GBYS)

With much talk about a shortage of staff in racing yards and following discussions involving a number of trainers, we have developed a course for ground based staff.

The first 'pilot' of this will start in March and last six weeks. Those attending are in the main older, having previously been employed in jobs outside of racing – the Post Office seemingly having a good number of racing enthusiasts! But the programme is far from being an extended lesson in mucking out.

Subjects to be included are safe handling, tacking up, going racing (including transport qualification), leading up, therapeutic and remedial devices, treadmills and gallop maintenance plus a tractor driving qualification. Given the level of interest in this expressed by trainers we expect to run further courses in the future.



THE BRITISH RACING SCHOOL

For back issues of the newsletter and information visit

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