

Toby Kirby BHA Work Experience Placement 2023

About myself and my journey into my love of all things sports and especially Horse Racing

I am a 17-year-old who was born in the East of London (Canary Wharf), who currently is residing in Chelmsford, Essex where I am entering into my second year of sixth form (Year 13) and studying 3 A-levels which are English Literature, Business, Geography, however racing will always take priority over any test-something my teachers do not take kindly to. I have always been a raging fan of horseracing since I was only 4 witnessing one of racings greats win the Aintree Grand National on Don't Push It (AP McCoy) and ever since it has had a snowballing effect on me, little did I know 13 years later I would have already been to so many prestigious racecourse that Britain has to offer such as Epsom, Cheltenham, Newmarket, Sandown-Most recently seeing Paddington battle against Emily Upjohn to put himself up there in the pantheon of great horses. And when I complete my A-levels, hopefully I can Snare a job related somewhere to the racing world, potentially with the careersinracing team on that aspect. At this moment in time, I am writing my story because of how fortunate I have been to have work experience at the BHA where I have experienced so many different and intriguing aspects of the organization, bolstering my hunger to achieve a job remotely close to the realms of racing.

What I did and who I met at my BHA work experience

Monday

On Monday I had to work from home as Adam was at an event in Perth which went really well from what everyone said, whereas I completed various tasks on Racing2Learn which provided my information on different courses such as learning about the Racing Industry, Racing Staff and Careers, Racing Staff Development Programme and lots more where I completed the eLearning tasks and took the assessments to reach the end goal of printing out my certificate at the end of the courses.

Tuesday

Next it was Tuesday where I went into the office and met various members of the BHA staff. I was then introduced to Florence Cain, who works for the charity Racing to School where she introduced me to Racing Together which offer programmes such as Autism in Racing, the Ouzbeck pilot, Yorkshire Beacon, and Community Day. They opened my eyes to how the Racing

Together Community Day sees over 75 racing employee teams volunteering in local communities nationwide. Soon after I spoke to Cathy O'Meara who is involved in the BHA Raceday teams, to which she informed me of how she works together and is in constant communication with the Clerk of Scales, Integrity, Judges, Race starters and Stewards. Overall, she guided me through step by step of how switched on and on the ball, you have to be to succeed in her work.

Wednesday

This was a very fascinating and in-depth learning day for me due to the fact of how I gained the knowledge of BHA ownership registration forms. The step-by-step guide of how owners should apply correctly for their application to be accepted and not rejected, such as not lying outright on the forms, in terms of being transparent on having businesses go bankrupt, associating with any criminal activity and so on.

Thanks to Isaac, Harry, and Tom, they guided me through their jobs in detail. They gave me a couple of tasks of updating jockey licenses on the spreadsheet and going through how the ownership operation works in terms of Partnerships, Sole Ownership, Syndicate and Racing Groups. Which is a relatively new concept to racing and something which I knew very little about.

This is when the racing club members acquire no ownership rights, or lease any interest in, any racehorses but may acquire no ownership rights to. Ultimately a completely fascinating experience to be a part of, to which I am very thankful to all that gave me the opportunity to shadow them during my time here.

Thursday

Sadly, the trains were not operational for me as there were strikes, meaning I had to work from home. In saying this I did have a couple of productive tasks such as editing the brochures and updating a couple of sections on the careersinracing training and job section, soon followed up by giving any advice and providing ways to improve on the careersinracing social media aspects, such as their Tik Tok and Instagram videos.

Friday

This was my last day at the BHA, and I managed to have a meeting with one of the members of the Handicapping team- Rachel Brierley Ambrose, where she informed me the length and pound system of their rating schemes, which a

horse will have after three finishes. Which was followed up by a couple of tasks sent to me from Sean who runs the careesinracing social media presence- TikTok, Instagram, Twitter. Soon after that the end of the day loomed over me, and Adam and I had an overview of the week and discussions of the careesinracing content review.

To conclude it was an amazing experience, one I recommend.