

Hello everyone, I'm Ellie and I'm part of the Youth Collaboration Group for Careers in Racing. Recently I had the opportunity to go to Newmarket Racecourse to have a look behind the scenes and learn about what takes place on a typical race day. See how the day is run by from the BHA point of view, which was very different from my own experiences in the past.

I spoke to a range of different industry staff including Polly Greco, who was a race-day assistant, and the Clerk of the Scales, Jeremy Lind. All jockeys must report to the Clerk of the Scales before and after every race and weigh in and out with all their riding equipment such as the saddle. Whilst in the weighing room, I got to see how jockey Clifford Lee weighs in before the race on the digital scales, and how it is entered on to the system. Jockeys are allowed to come in after a race no more than two pounds heavier than they left, and that is allocated for certain conditions such as getting drenched, which may make them weigh in slightly heavier.

It was a great experience to see how much is really needed to put a race day together and without every single person, the day wouldn't be possible! I got to witness a race from the Judges Box which was really interesting as it was a different perspective to both a typical racegoer or owners viewpoint. The box tends to be high up to get a bird's eye view of the track and see every horse easily all throughout the race. It is perfectly aligned with the finish line so that the judge, Paul Champion, could accurately determine the outcome.

If there was a photo finish; I learnt that the picture used isn't actually one image but made up of millions of pixels which produce 2,000 individual images a second, which are then put together to ensure that the result is correct.

Before the race, the horses go around the parade ring for spectators to look at and the owners to speak to the jockey and trainer before the rider is mounted. During this time, I witnessed Polly, the race-day assistant, having a good look at all of the horses, making sure that they were all wearing the correct headgear that was declared before the race, and noting if there were any discrepancies or if any of the horses were playing up. After that, I spent some time with Racing TV, where I spoke to Nick Lightfoot about what his typical working day looks like and how he got into the industry. He spoke about travelling to different racecourses and what notes he makes to prepare for speaking on live

TV. Overall, it was a lovely day, I enjoyed getting more of an insight into the industry and I highly recommend it to anyone that has the opportunity to be able to do it!

I found it very informative and realised that there is a such a variety of different jobs within the industry to suit everyone and they all liaise and work together to keep the race day running smoothly.