

Finley – Nottingham Racecourse

I took up the opportunity from the Careers in Racing Youth Collaboration Group and spent a great day with RaceTech at Nottingham Racecourse.

Starting off pre racing I met Heath who talked me through all the equipment as we unpacked the tech from the RaceTech vans on site. I helped set up the cameras, microphones and monitors for Racing TV presenter Jess Stafford. Racing TV are one of the industry broadcasters and having the chance to work with one of the hosts was brilliant. Heath explained the logistics of a race day and how the technical side such as cameras, photo finish, slow motion replays etc worked. This is vital in horseracing for many reasons but mainly to ensure the correct results are given, displayed and shared.

I spent the rest of the afternoon with Jess watching her interviews, reports and reviews on the raceday. I also helped with the cameras on the raceday. She shared lots of interesting information which was a great insight into the presenting side of the racing media industry. This was great for me personally with my aspirations to work in the media.

I have completed 3 days at Nottingham this year job shadowing and work experience opportunities. This was with the above media teams, plus I got the chance to work with the BHA Raceday teams. This involved spending time with the Clerk of Scales, Judges, Starters and the Equine Welfare Team. This opportunity from the Youth Collaboration Group gave me a different insight into the sport from the Governing body side. Having all these experiences has boosted my knowledge and enthusiasm in the sport of horseracing.

Lucy – Beverly Racecourse

I took up the opportunity to have some work experience at Beverley earlier this summer with the RaceTech team.

I started off by helping the team to unload the equipment from the truck and transport it to where it was needed to be, before helping the team to set up the cameras ready for the races to start. After setting up the cameras I headed back down to the outside broadcast truck where I was shown around. The team explained what happened in each area and how big events are operated differently. When the races started, I was placed on the

press camera. In this role I was walking around the parade ring seeing how they film the horses for the viewers at home get a better look helping them choose who to bet on. This was with Racing TV.

Working on the press camera meant I also got to see how they filmed the post-race interviews with the winning jockey. After this I headed to the side on cameras in the grandstands to see how they filmed the races and the different shots.

Here they explained how they have two cameras allowing one close up shot and a wide shot to cover all areas of the race. In this role I was allowed to operate the camera to film the horses in the pre parade ring and heading down to the start. This allowed me to get a good idea of how the cameras work and the best way to follow the horses as they move fast and the footage needs to be smooth.

At the end of the day, I helped the team to pack the equipment back into the truck. I learnt a lot from this day about the job roles with RaceTech & would love to head back again.

Ellie – Kempton Racecourse

Much like the rest of the Youth Collaboration Group I took up the opportunity for some time on course. During my work experience with RaceTech at Kempton Racecourse, I was welcomed by Ray Hall and his team. While the equipment was already set up from covering races at Kempton over the last few days, Ray took the time to show me around the facilities that RaceTech used - including the mobile control unit, on-site camera rooms, and balconies where cameras were positioned. I enjoyed meeting the team, talking to a range of people at different stages in their careers, from camera operator trainees who were closer to my age to engineers who had vast and valuable experience in broadcast that they were happy to share.

As the evening races drew closer, I was given the opportunity to try my hand at the wide camera, attempting to navigate a delicate mix of accuracy, focus and speed around the racecourse. During the live races, I worked with Ray on the photo finishes, gaining insight into how the photos were recorded, reported, and made available for public access in real time. Through this, I was able to take part in the fast-paced nature of horseracing, and grow my understanding of how broadcast is so essential, impacting a

wide array of decisions - from calls made by the judge to bets made by viewers. The day of work experience with RaceTech was informative and interesting, allowing me to discover new roles within the horseracing sector alongside being privy to the behind-the-scenes action.