

Grounds Person

Job Summary:

The Grounds Person is responsible for the preparation, maintenance, and enhancement of the racing surface, associated infrastructure, and the wider estate, including horticultural and non-grass areas. The role supports the delivery of safe, high-quality racing conditions and ensures the racecourse grounds are maintained to the highest standards of presentation and functionality. This position requires a combination of practical skills, technical knowledge, and the safe operation of machinery and equipment, contributing to both raceday and non-raceday operations.

Main Duties:

- Assist in the preparation, repair, and renovation of racing surfaces following race meetings.
- Support the installation, movement, and maintenance of running rails and associated infrastructure.
- Maintain designated areas of the racecourse estate (e.g., track, parade ring, lawns, landscaped and horticultural areas).
- Operate a range of turf care and horticultural machinery (e.g., mowers, rollers, scarifiers, strimmers, hedge cutters, blowers). Undertake tractor driving duties using trailed and PTO-driven attachments where appropriate.
- Assist with irrigation systems, including towline and Briggs systems, ensuring correct application and monitoring.
- Apply fertilisers, pesticides, and herbicides safely and in accordance with certification and regulations.
- Assist in the construction, repair, and maintenance of National Hunt fences and hurdles.
- Support the preparation and cleaning of stable yards before and after racedays. Carry out routine maintenance of machinery and equipment and report defects promptly. Assist with general estate duties including planting, landscaping, and upkeep of non-grass areas.
- Ensure correct use of PPE and adherence to manual handling procedures at all times.
- Work in accordance with risk assessments and safe systems of work.
- Travel to and support other racecourses within the Group as required.
- Comply with all Health & Safety legislation and company policies.
- Contribute to sustainability initiatives by minimising waste, conserving energy, and protecting the environment.

Behavioural Competencies:

- Teamwork – Works effectively as part of a grounds team to deliver high standards.
- Safety Awareness – Demonstrates consistent adherence to Health & Safety practices.
- Responsibility – Takes ownership of tasks and maintains reliability in all duties.
- Attention to Detail – Ensures high standards of presentation and accuracy in all work.
- Work Ethic – Demonstrates a proactive and flexible approach to workload and conditions.



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Core Skills:

- Knowledge of racing surfaces and racecourse infrastructure.
- Turf husbandry and general grounds maintenance experience.
- Operation of tractors and turf care machinery, including attachments.
- Understanding and use of irrigation systems.
- Safe application of pesticides and fertilisers (where qualified).
- Machinery operation, basic maintenance, and fault reporting.
- Ability to undertake fence and hurdle maintenance.
- Clear communication and ability to work collaboratively.
- Good understanding of Health & Safety legislation and safe working practices.
- Awareness of environmental sustainability and resource management.

Qualifications and Experience:**Essential:**

- Full driving licence.
- Previous experience in a turf, horticultural, agricultural, or land-based environment.
- Knowledge of Health & Safety in the workplace.

Desirable:

- Tractor driving experience and/or relevant certification (e.g., LANTRA or equivalent).
- PA1 & PA6 spraying qualifications.
- Experience with irrigation systems and turf management practices.
- Relevant industry qualification (e.g., GMA / NVQ Level 2 or equivalent).
- Experience using tractor-mounted and PTO-driven equipment.
- Basic machinery maintenance experience.

Working Conditions:

- Outdoor role in all weather conditions.
- Physically demanding work involving manual handling, machinery, and fencing.
- Raceday and non-raceday duties, including early mornings, evenings, and weekends.

Benefits:

- Opportunities for formal training and qualifications in turf management and grounds maintenance.
- Career progression within Grounds and Estates teams.
- Pension and staff benefits in line with company policy.