



At The Post

Summer 2006 Newsletter

Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of 'At The Post', giving you an insight into developments at the Northern Racing College and keeping you up-to-date with forthcoming events.

Ben Micó
Commercial Manager,
NRC Trading Ltd

Specialist Courses

Apprentice License Courses

Start Date	End
13/11/06	17/11/06

Conditional Licence/Amateur Category B Courses

Start Date	End
18/09/06	22/09/06
20/11/06	24/11/06

Amateur Rider Category A Seminars

Date
29/11/06

Category A Amateur Jockey Assessments

Date
30/11/06

Point To Point Seminars

Date
07/01/07

College Conversion courses

Date
24/07/06 to 04/08/06
23/10/06 to 03/11/06

The Winning Formula

Date
21/08/06
15/09/06

Charles Owen Pony Racing Series

Venue	Date
Ayr	9th July
Perth	16th July
Carlisle	3rd August
Market Rasen	6th August
Bangor-on-Dee	19th August
Newcastle	28th August
Mussleburgh	24th September
Kelso	1st October
Hexham	7th October
Aintree (Final)	21st October

Pony Racing Training

Thursday 20th July
Tuesday 1st August
Thursday 17th August
Thursday 31st August

Northern Racing College Achieves Outstanding Inspection Grades

The Northern Racing College achieved an outstanding overall grade during May's inspection by the Adult Learning Inspectorate, the official Government inspection body for post-16 training.

The inspection lasted 4 days from 23-26th May. Jane Robinson led a team of four inspectors who looked at all aspects of our training provision. Jane as the Lead Inspector was based at the College and looked at the front end course, whilst two Inspectors concentrated solely on the work-based provision, and one Inspector concentrated on arrangements for leadership and management.

The ALI report quotes *'The overall effectiveness of the provision is outstanding. The leadership and management are outstanding, as are its arrangements for quality improvement. The arrangements for equality of opportunity are good. In agriculture, horticulture and animal care, the provision is outstanding'*.

The Inspection report also comments that *'preparation for work is very good', 'teaching of riding at NRC is excellent'* and *'the good range of high quality resources is well managed by the NRC'*.

The Inspectorate also recognised the NRC's achievement and retention rates, which are consistently above the national average at Level 1 and have improved rapidly on work-based learning programmes over the last 2 years. ALI reported that *'the achievement rates for the NVQ at Level 1 are outstanding'*, with achievement rates on the front-end course consistently over 90% for the last 5 years. ALI also acknowledged the improving work-based learning framework achievement rates, and the good retention rates on these programmes.

Jim Gale, the NRC's Director and Chief Executive said *'I wish to acknowledge the excellent contribution of Mark Whitefield, our Quality Manager, in helping to achieve these outstanding grades'*.

When the inspection team asked learners what they liked about the NRC, the response was *'the whole package'*.

The full inspection report can be viewed at www.ali.gov.uk

National Stud Manager Mason New Director at Northern Racing College

The Northern Racing College has appointed Mike Mason, training manager at the National Stud since February 2005, to the new post of director, with overall responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the stable-staff training facility at Rossington Hall, near Doncaster.

Jim Gale, who has held the equivalent position over the NRC's 22-year history, is retiring in December but will continue for a period as chief executive of the over-arching South Yorkshire Training Trust.

Mason, 39, who will join the NRC full-time in August, previously spent 19 years as an RAF officer, including the last seven on training programmes.

He says: "I shall be sad to leave the National Stud, where there is a great team and I learned a lot about the thoroughbred business, but going to the NRC is a wonderful opportunity. "I'm very excited because there is so much potential to the job, building on the well-established foundation created by Jim Gale and his team. The biggest challenge could be to keep my enthusiasm in check. I'm relatively new to the racing and breeding industries, but I've learned quickly, I've been around horses all my life, and I'm certainly not new to training and managing young people."

Outgoing Director Jim Gale said, "I'm delighted we've been able to appoint a director of Mike's calibre. "Working with him on various bodies, I've been impressed with his ability to think strategically about the training needs of the racing and thoroughbred breeding industries. This augurs well for the NRC and for racing as a whole."



Mike Mason,
Director of the NRC

Skills For Life

Key skills qualifications are on the increase due to the hard work an effort being put in by our newly appointed Basic & Key Skills tutor, Heather Medcalf.

Heather supports learners in literacy, numeracy and key skills - information, communication and technology (ICT)- both at the NRC and in the workplace.

The College has recently installed a new

IT suite with a funding grant from the National Trainers Federation Trust Fund. We now have Internet access for learners, which aids both teaching and learning.

The NRC has also purchased a Basic and Key Skills Builder ICT Initial Assessment Diagnostic Programme, which is proving invaluable in identifying learner needs and devising individual learner plans.

Northern Racing (Racecourse Group) Sponsor Simulator Room

Northern Racing have made a donation which has been invested in the College's simulator room, maintaining an already dynamic learning facility.

Nine superb pictures have been used to enhance the décor of the room.

In addition, a DVD offering simulated racing to the viewer will prove to be a useful tool in paving the way for interactive sessions in the near future. The overall improvements will add to this already successful facility providing all those who have the opportunity to use it with an attractive and first class learning environment.

European Association of Racing Schools (EARS)

EARS was set up in 2000 by four European colleagues who had worked closely together for several years prior to that time.

They were Derek O'Sullivan (director of the Racing Academy in Ireland), now sadly deceased, Didier Garnier (director of AFASEC in France), Stefano Meli (director of San Rossore Racecourse in Italy), and our own director Jim Gale.

The aim of the organisation is to exchange good teaching practice, to develop and implement a European qualification for stable staff and to run a European race annually for graduates of the racing schools in each of the member nations.

Jim Gale, the current chair of EARS, will complete his two year term of office in December this year when he will be succeeded by Didier Budka the current director of AFASEC. Other members include the British Racing School, and the German Racing School in Cologne. Schools from Sweden, France, Turkey and Greece are also considering joining the organisation.

This year staff from each of the schools will get the opportunity to spend some time at one of the other schools. We have agreed that David Griffiths, Instructor, will visit the San Rossore Racing School at Pisa for a four day trip with a member of staff visiting us later in the year. The BRS is coupled with the German Racing School and the Irish with the French. Over the years technical staff will become familiar with teaching practices in each of the other member nations.

The EQUUS Diploma scheme, which seeks to provide standardised assessment practices throughout Europe, is working well and Leigh Howard, another member of our valued Instructor team, has recently attended a standard-setting day at Gouvieux near Chantilly.

Finally, the Italians will defend their European Apprentice Team title which they won at the Curragh last year, when they take on Britain, France, Ireland and Germany at Chantilly in the Autumn. For the record, the British won the title at San Rossore in 2003 and at Doncaster in 2004.

Meet NRC Graduate...



Simone Linster

Age: 17
Born in: Luxemburg
Course: NVQ Level 1
Employer: A. M. Balding

Where did you hear about the College?
On the internet.

Previous experience?

I have ridden and owned horses for about ten years, worked in pony breeding and qualified for the World Endurance Championship for Juniors and Young Riders in Bahrain in 2005.

Is it what you expected?

Yes it is!

Favourite horse?

Cappricio.

Best experience?

Cantering a difficult horse around the gallops and using the simulator.

What do you think of the staff?

The instructors are nice and helpful. They have a lot of experience and you can learn a lot from them. The residential staff are all nice and funny. Zoe (marketing and recruitment officer) is very helpful and kind.

What do you want to do at the end of the course?

I want to go into a flat racing yard in Newmarket or Lambourn.

Best part of the College?

The simulator room.

Life ambition?

I want to have my own endurance-training centre and want to be a famous endurance rider and Arab Breeder or stay in Britain and become a good amateur jockey.

Most important thing you have learnt?

Riding sensibly on a wide range of horses and learning the canter position.

College Feeder Project

The report of the Stable and Stud Staff Commission published in 2004 recommended that foundation training opportunities should be opened up in other regions of the country to complement the quality training provided at the industry's two main racing schools, the Northern Racing College here in Doncaster and the British Racing School in Newmarket.

The NRC's response was to make contact with a select number of equine colleges with a good reputation for teaching horse management skills. We approached the project on a regional basis and contacted the following colleges:-

Moulton College - East

Plumpton College - South East

Wiltshire College - South West

Warwickshire College - West

Myerscough College - North West

The objective is to develop foundation courses in each of the regions, following our Level 1 NVQ syllabus, with suitable graduates joining our specialist Apprenticeship and Advanced Apprenticeship programmes leading to

permanent places in racing yards. The northern region will be covered by the NRC.

Discussions started in 2004 and we are delighted to say that a pilot course of eight students recently started at Wiltshire College under the direction of Philip Grant who worked with the NRC on the Scottish Racing Academy pilot project.

Myerscough College will deliver their first pilot course in the Autumn of this year under the guidance of Paul Morton the College's Director of Outreach and Advancement.

Both Moulton and Warwickshire Colleges also wish to continue their involvement with us and, subject to funding being available from their respective Learning and Skills Councils, they hope to run courses in the not-too-distant future.

This pilot scheme, together with the ten-yard pilot, summarised elsewhere in this newsletter, constitutes a positive response to the challenge of Donoghue and to the needs of the racing industry. We hope to report significant progress on both these initiatives in future.

The Winning Formula



College Conversion Students 2006

Ever wanted to present like Claire Balding? Ride like A. P. McCoy? Prepare a yearling for the sales like Malcolm Bastard? Manage a stud like Liam O'Rourke? Manage Racing Operations at Weatherbys like Pauline Osborne? Or train winners like Mick Channon? Well what's stopping you?

Now you can get your career firmly on track with "The Winning Formula".

This is a four-week intensive residential course, which will equip students with the necessary skills to establish themselves in the horseracing industry, and what's more it costs just £100. The British Horseracing Board funds this initiative and for ten university graduates this will provide them with a thorough grounding and the riding skills to excel.

The ideal candidate will be ambitious, highly motivated, up for a challenge and seeking immediate employment in the racing industry. Serious sport; serious fun.

For further details please visit www.northernracingcollege.co.uk or e-mail zoe.horne@northernracingcollege.co.uk

Friends of the NRC - Events For 2006

- BHS/NRC Sponsored Ride - Rother Country Park - Alison Harris
- Indian Buffet - Blyth - 20th August
- NRC Open Day - 17th September

Annual membership of the Friends of the NRC is open to any individual or organisation and costs from £5 per year.

For a donation of £20.00 a commemorative brick engraved in black to your personal specification will be placed in the 'Walk of Names'.

For a donation of £25.00 your brick can be highlighted in white.

Please support this worthwhile cause and make your mark in the College's history.

Anyone interested in joining or donating a brick should contact:

Andrea Mallinson, Membership Secretary, Broomfield House, Spital Road, Blyth, Nottinghamshire S81 8EL

NRC Student Achievements January to May 2006

Students Achieving NVQ Level 1

Name	Course No
Leanne Bridson	05.06
Andrew Heffernan	05.06
Toni-Marie Rick	05.06
Timothy Ayres	05.07
Lisa Blackwell	05.07
Elisha Gibson	05.07
Heidi Heather Hirst	05.07
Mark King	05.07
Colette Kitchen	05.07
Nathan Ogden	05.07
Gemma Pape	05.07
Toni Pearson	05.07
Liam Reeves	05.07
Iona Scott	05.07
Kieran Watson	05.07
Jed Andrew Whitelock	05.07
Ashleigh Kathrine Wilkinson	05.07
Susan Jane Baker	05.08
Matt Birch	05.08
Nikita Donno	05.08
Colm Anthony Feely	05.08
Samantha Jill Goode	05.08
Anna Katharina Grasskamp	05.08
Paul Michael Jackson	05.08
David Kembrey	05.08
Shelly Marie Lang	05.08
Alina Migusha	05.08
April Nevison	05.08
Jessica Naomi Rayner-Ferguson	05.08
Lindsey Rushton	05.08
Matthew Robert Smith	05.08
Robert James Taylor	05.08
Joseph Michael Ward	05.08
Danielle Bradley	06.01
Melissa Blanche Brown	06.01
Emma Louise Carragher	06.01
Louise Charlton	06.01
Mark Daniel Fitzpatrick	06.01
Corinne Healey	06.01
Benjamin James Higton	06.01
Laura Jayne Hodgetts	06.01
Jenny Mann	06.01
Martin Russ	06.01
Simone Tolson	06.01
Donna Will	06.01

Students Achieving NVQ Level 2

Name	Trainer Name
Emma-Jane Abbott	JE Parkes
Ryan Apark	A Berry
Rhona Bagnall	S Bradburne
Sarah Leanne Brook	B Ellison
Stephanie Day	H Dalton
Daniel James De Haan	W Muir
Scott Doherty	MS Johnston
Dushyant Dooyea	RM Whitaker
Michael Thomas Gallagher	LV Williamson
Jody Louise Grimes	JJ O'Neill
Christopher John Holman	TR George
Phillip Dean Hornsby	MC Chapman
Lisa Ruth Elizabeth Hoskins	SM Johnson
David John Hunt	RC Guest
Catherine Marie Leishman	MS Johnston
Jamie Edwards Moffat	RC Guest
James William Prudence	SR Bowring
Charlotte Ramage	MC & GR Reveley
Junior Richards	KR Burke
David Rorison	NG Richards
Hannah Rowlands	JJ O'Neill
Guy Smith	JJ O'Neill
Luke Strong	AM Balding
Stephanie Waugh	S Waugh
Alexandra Webster	A Tullie

Students Achieving NVQ Level 3

Name	Trainer Name
Craig Ellingham	DJ Evans
Jane Margaret Findlay	
Julie Ann Heneghan	JJ O'Neill
Richard John Hewitt	
Neil Hobson	P Webber
Michael James Lurcock	
Scott Mason	
Paul Murphy	
Victoria Jane Smeeton	G S Rees

Ten Yard Pilot Project

Whilst excellent training opportunities are available to our learners in the workplace following the completion of their 12-week foundation course at the College, government inspectors have, in the past, noted that sometimes excellent training opportunities are not always recorded because the scheme is largely reliant on our own Quality Assurance officers assessing candidates when they visit on a ten weekly cycle.

The NRC's response has been to select ten yards to develop our "on-the-job" training programmes. It is very pleasing to note that the following trainers have agreed to take part in the one year pilot programme:-

Ferdy Murphy	-	Middleham
Mark Johnston	-	Middleham
Micky Hammond	-	Middleham
Jed O'Keefe	-	Middleham
James Hetherton	-	Malton
Julie Camacho	-	Malton
Tim Pitt	-	Bawtry
Jonjo O'Neill	-	Cheltenham
Richard Phillips	-	Moreton-in Marsh
Stuart Parr	-	Worksop

As part of the pilot project a mentor training day was held at the College on 11 May 2006. Six candidates attended from five of the yards (Ferdy Murphy, James Hetherton, Tim Pitt, Jonjo O'Neill and Mark Polglase) and it was interesting to note that all bar Ferdy's daughter are graduates of the NRC.

This is one of the most important initiatives currently being undertaken by the College. It is being steered by a group chaired by Sandy Young, one of our Trustees. Other representatives include James Hetherton (National Trainers' Federation and NRC Trustee) and Sara Hay-Jahans (British Horseracing Board). The College is grateful that the British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust have given a grant towards the cost of running the project.

Wanted: Pony Club camp invitations

NRC marketing and recruitment officer Zoe Horne is eager to return to the place that first sparked her interest in all things equine, the Pony Club. She is looking for invitations to attend summer camps to talk with members about the horseracing industry

Daaweitza wins

Daaweitza (Daawe - Chichen Itza) the first foal bred at the Northern Racing College to go racing won the 'Bet Direct on Tennis Maiden Stakes' at Southwell Racecourse on 17 January 2006. Jockey, Tom Eaves, said after the race that Daaweitza handled the all-weather track well and that he should win more races this year.

Daawe resident stallion stands at the Northern Racing College with a current stud fee of £575.00.

For further details please e-mail; ben.mico@northernracingcollege.co.uk or call 01302 861000



Daaweitza, pictured on the left at Southwell on 17 January 2006. Owned by Chris & Andrea Allinson.

Taster Days



So you are sitting your exams this summer and it suddenly dawns on you that your school days are over. What next?

Relax, there is no need to rush into making a hasty decision, after all choosing a career is a lifelong commitment.

Why not visit the NRC on a taster day, it's a great starting point to ascertain whether a career with horses is for you. Taster days are held on the last Friday of each month and start with a riding demonstration at 10am.

You will receive a thorough insight into what life at the sharp end is like and will have the chance to chat to our teaching staff and students about the industry and what life at the college is really like – warts and all!

This is an informal day, but a typical training day.

There is no cost and you will be guaranteed a warm welcome, good company and an eye opening experience.

For further details e-mail info@northernracingcollege.co.uk or phone 01302 861 000.

Northern Racing College Charity Day 2006

The 3rd May 2006 saw the Northern Racing College hosting its 17th annual charity meeting at Pontefract Racecourse.

Once again the programme was unique in the British racing season, with five bookmakers featuring in the race titles on the same card, putting aside their normal commercial rivalry to support the grass roots of horseracing with donations to the College.

Our thanks go to them, and to Pontefract racecourse, for generously allowing us to stage the meeting continuously since 1990. Thanks also to various other sources from which we draw funds, such as the South Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council, the Levy Board, racehorse trainers, local authorities, the European Social Fund, Friends of the NRC, and other organisations with which we work closely.

We also receive a substantial amount each year from our own subsidiary trading company and our thanks go also to its directors and staff.

The college raised over £30,000 from the event thanks to the donors and to the people who purchased champagne gambles. The money raised through this fixture will contribute towards new buildings and maintaining the residential accommodation block at our training site, where we created a 42-bed, home from home for our students, youngsters from the age of 16 who receive free training to work in racing stables, some of whom go on to become fully-fledged jockeys.