

**PONY
CLUB**



Insights with Equine Professionals

Horses in London

A webinar series organised and hosted by The Pony Club Youth Advisory Council.

Presented Live on
30th January 2025

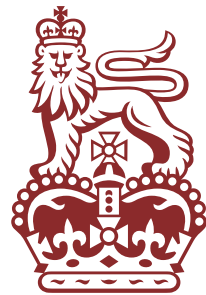
This free event is aimed at Pony Club Members. Whether you're considering an equestrian career or simply curious about these unique roles, this webinar offers valuable insights you don't want to miss.

Guest List

**Major Dan McRink—Regimental
Veterinary Officer, The Household
Cavalry Mounted Regiment**



**Phillip Warren- Former Livered
Helper, The Royal Mews**



**Joe Talbot & Ellie Mitchel - Mounted
Gunner, The King's Troop**





The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment - Major Dan McRink

The Household Cavalry is the British Army's most senior regiment, comprising The Life Guard and The Blues & Royals. Divided into two units, the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment performs ceremonial duties, representing the Monarch and the Nation at prestigious events worldwide. Based at Hyde Park barracks since 1795, just $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Buckingham Palace, the HCMR ensures swift response and impeccable ceremonial duties.

Sovereign's Bodyguard: From the daily King's Life Guard to escorting Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 and King Charles III's coronation in 2023, the HCMR plays a vital ceremonial role. The Household Cavalry Musical Ride, performed since the 1882, with over sixty strong musicians captivate audiences worldwide and is the largest Regular military band in the UK.

This unit operates six carriages with expertly trained coachmen and grooms, showcasing elegance and precision. The Household Cavalry blends centuries-old tradition with modern military and ceremonial excellence.

For more information visit:

<https://www.householdcavalryconnect.com/about/household-cavalry-mounted-regiment>

CAREER CONVERSATIONS



Use the space below to jot down any notes from The Household Cavalry guest.

Q & A's Major Dan McRink

Q. What is your Job title?

A. Regimental Veterinary Officer, The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

Q. What did you study at school/university?

A. Veterinary Medicine

Q. One of the most enjoyable parts of your role

A. Variety. It's a great balance of managing people, caring for individual equine patients, and improving the health of the whole herd through research, policy and education. Seeing hundreds of horses on parade and knowing you've led the team that's got them there is hugely rewarding.

Q. An aspect of your role people would find surprising

A. Very few soldiers of the Household Cavalry had any interaction with horses prior to joining the Army.

Q. Short description of your job role

A. I am the Army's Senior Veterinary Officer in London and lead a team of Veterinary Surgeons, Veterinary Nurses and Farriers responsible for the health and welfare of the 300 Military Working Horses that serve in The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.



Joe



Ellie



The King's Troop

The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, also known as the Horse Gunners is a ceremonial unit of the British Army, quartered at Woolwich. Established in 1947 at King George VI's request, The King's Troop performs royal salutes, parades, and ceremonial duties, including the 41-gun salute for royal birthdays in Green Park.

Each team of six horses and riders pull a First World War drive guns, showcasing stunning precision in the Musical Drive, an annual highlight of the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Women joined the Troop in 1996 and now comprise over 40% of its members, including trailblazers like Major Erica Bridge, the first female commanding officer.

The troop uses transport for central London events such as Royal Gun Salute, Major General's Review, Colonel's Review, The King's Birthday Parade and continues its proud traditions, including sharing duties with the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment for the King's Life Guard.

Source: various news articles and King's Troop Foundation
For more information visit: <https://kingstroopfoundation.org>

CAREER CONVERSATIONS



Use the space below to jot down any notes from The King's Troop guest.

Q & A's Joe Talbot

Q. What is your job title?

(Joe & Ellie) A. Mounted Gunner in the Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery

Q. What did you study at school/university/college?

(Joe) A. English, Maths, Science, Drama, PE, Spanish, Philosophy and Ethics.

Q. One of the most enjoyable parts of your role

(Joe & Ellie) A. The multiple opportunities to travel around the UK to civilian shows and meet lots of new faces and the chance to be on TV during parade.

Q. An aspect of your role people would find surprising

(Joe & Ellie) A. The ability to meet royals and have TV interviews.

Q. Short description of your role

(Ellie) A. I am Mounted Gunner who ride on parades in gun team, in lead for ceremonial occasions and civilian shows.



Phillip Warren- Former Liveried Helper, The Royal Mews

The Royal Mews is a collection of equestrian stables, of the British royal family. In London these stables and stable-hands' quarters have occupied two main sites, being located at first on the north side of Charing Cross, and then (since the 1820s) within the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

The Royal Mews houses Windsor Greys, which pull state carriages for ceremonial events. These horses are named after Windsor Castle and are trained specifically for royal duties. The Mews is home to over 100 carriages, including the Gold State Coach, used for every coronation since George IV. Beyond its museum like displays, the Mews is a fully operational facility where horses, staff, and vehicles support the royal family's daily activities and ceremonial events.

It was among the first royal institutions to adapt to the automobile age in the early 20th century, with facilities built for motor vehicles as early as 1904's. Queen Victoria established a school at the Royal Mews in 1850's for the children of staff, reflecting its community oriented ethos.

For more information visit: <https://www.rct.uk/visit/the-royal-mews-buckingham-palace/history-of-the-royal-mews>

CAREER CONVERSATIONS



Use the space below to jot down any notes from The Royal Mews guest.

Q & A's Phillip Warren

Q. What was your job title?

A. Liveried Helper

Q. What did you study at School/University/College:

A. School Studied 9x GCSE's, such as usual English, Maths, Science, French, etc. Progressing on to college, where I studied Level 3 Diploma in Horse Management, as well as my BHS Stage 1 and 2, progressing on to University, to complete BSc (Hons) Degree in Equine Science and Business Management. Also completed my BHSAI and Stage 4 Coaching after.

Q. One of the most enjoyable parts of the role:

A. Learning how to Carriage Drive and ride postillion, as well as meeting various people of varying background, both the royal family, diplomates, but also other areas of possible careers, such as Police, Cavalry, Kings Troop.

Q. An aspect of the role people would find surprising:

A. The strong security requirements and the lack of awareness of the public when out exercising and conducting ceremony duties, with the horses.

Q. Short description of your job role:

A. Responsibility for two of HM The Queen's carriage horses, including turnout of horses, tack and harness to ceremonial standard, stable management, and exercising horses ridden and carriage driving on a day-to-day basis. High level of personal turnout and discreet politeness under all circumstances in the public and work environment as on show to the public always. Work schedules often included early morning rehearsals, as well as evening and night duties, weekend shifts and restricted holiday periods. Official duties included being footman, outrider, postilion and carriage driver on various State Visit, High Commissioners and Ambassadors.



Reflective Questions

Now you have heard from the guests, answer the following questions to help you reflect on what you have learnt and how this may help shape your career choices in future.

Q. Which career of the three do you think you are most interested in and why?

A.

Q. If you were to pursue a career in London with horses, what actions would you need to take to start your journey?

A.

Q. Are there any challenges in this journey? and how do you plan on overcoming them?

A.

Q. What kind of training, certifications, or experiences do you think would be essential for entering the equestrian industry in a city like London?

A.

Q. What role does technology or innovation play in shaping equestrian careers particularly in an urban environment like London?

A.

Q. How can internships, volunteering , or apprenticeships help you decide which equestrian career is the best fit for you?

A.