

**PONY  
CLUB**



## **Insights with Equine Professionals**

### **The Horse Racing World**

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

Presented Live on  
27th February 2025 at 6:30 PM

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

**Sophie Chambers - Managing Director, Gallagher Bloodstock and Equine Insurance**



**Jackie Gill - Pony Racing and Flexible Learning Instructor, The British Racing School (BRS)**



**Abbie Taylor - Education Manager, The National Stud**





**Managing Director, Gallagher  
Bloodstock and Equine Insurance  
- Sophie Chambers**

Bloodstock Insurance is a type of insurance policy specifically designed to owners breeders, and trainers of horses, particularly those with high value, such as racehorse or breeding stock.

It covers a range of risks including: theft, mortality, financial loss if a horse is unable to perform its intended function, such as racing or breeding. There are several kinds of insurance and majority of the insurance cover the Veterinary Fees.

Bloodstock insurance is essential for anyone involved in the ownership, breeding, or training of valuable horses. It provides financial protection against unforeseen events that could result in significant losses. The cost of Bloodstock insurance will vary depending on the value of the horse, its age, health, and intended use, as well as the specific coverage chosen.

Gallagher in 2020, announced the launch of a new Bloodstock, Livestock, and Aquaculture practice. Leading the team is Sophie Chambers, who brings over 35 years of experience in the bloodstock and equine industry.

Source: various online articles and Gallagher Insurance website

# CAREER CONVERSATIONS



Use the space below to jot down any notes from Bloodstock and Equine Insurance Guest.

## **Q & A's Sophie Chambers**

### **Q. What is your job title?**

**A.** Managing Director of the Bloodstock and Equine Division at Gallagher

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

**A.** Left school with 2 A Levels and did not go to University but spent a year bringing on young event horses before doing a secretarial course

### **Q. One of the most enjoyable parts of your role**

**A.** The different people I meet across the world whose business or pleasure is owning horses.

### **Q. An aspect of your role people would find surprising**

**A.** How the insurance industry actually works as a whole – for example, the company you place your horse insurance with is not the company that ultimately pays the claim.

### **Q. Short description of your job role**

**A.** Advising on and then placing the insurance of high value sports horses and thoroughbreds – stallions, mares, youngstock and racehorses. This can range from a single animal to complex schedules



**Pony Racing and Flexible Learning  
Instructor, British Racing School  
(BRS) - Jackie Gill**

The British Racing School (BRS) is a dedicated training centre set on a 120-acre site on the outskirts of Newmarket. The British Racing School offers a wide range of courses for jockeys, trainers, exercise riders, and racing secretaries and is dedicated to preparing the students for successful careers in the racing industry. The programmes cover everything from horsemanship to racing administration, taught by expert professionals passionate about the industry.

Horse welfare is a top priority of the BRS they teach students how to look after horses to a 'gold standard' in order for them to be able to work at the high levels expected by the racing industry. The horses are groomed and exercised daily by the students to promote good health and are course checked by instructors daily to ensure trainees have not missed any subtle signs if the horses are not at their best. The horses also have regular holidays as they turn out in herds for a well-deserved break and time to interact with other horses, which is vital for their mental wellbeing.

Each horse is assessed regularly and given a grade, with 1 being the easiest and 5 the most difficult; this enables instructors to give students horses of a suitable level to keep them safe but to also suitably challenge as their course progresses.

Source: various news articles and The British Racing School website  
For more information log on to: <https://brs.org.uk/>

Use the space below to jot down any notes from The British Racing School Guest.

## **Q & A's Jackie Gill**

### **Q. What is your job title?**

**A.** Pony Racing and Flexible Learning Instructor.

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

**A.** I left school at 16 after completing my GCSE's where I gained my qualifications in Math's, English, Art and Geography. Went to the Racing School when it was at Goodwood for a 6 weeks course.

### **Q. One of the most enjoyable parts of your role**

**A.** Watching the students progress is the most enjoyable part, but also when students really try and if something doesn't work instantly, try again.

### **Q. An aspect of your role people would find surprising**

**A.** Along with teaching the students, I also train the racing ponies here at the school to race.

### **Q. Short description of your job role**

**A.** I teach children from the age of 8 to 16yrs to ride and be safe in pony races through training days, camps and visiting pony clubs with our mobile simulator.

I teach students between the ages of 14 and 16yrs once a week where they will study and ride for their Level 1 Diploma in Equine studies before entering into the workplace, where they will then join an apprenticeship to work towards their Level 2 Diploma in Equine studies.

I assess candidates portfolios for Level 3 Diploma in Equine studies who wish to go and gain their Racehorse Trainers Licence.





**Education Manager, The National Stud - Abbie Taylor**

The National Stud is a cornerstone of the British Thoroughbred breeding industry, committed to its long-term success through investment in bloodstock, accessible stud services, and world-class education.

Established in 1915 through the vision of William Hall Walker, who donated his bloodstock to the British government, the Stud has played a pivotal role in shaping British racing history. Among its early successes was Blandford, a three-time Champion Sire whose legacy shaped 20th-century Thoroughbred breeding.

Since 2008, the Stud has been owned by The Jockey Club, ensuring its operations continue to serve the best interests of British racing. The National Stud provides a range of services, including stallion management, mare boarding, foaling, and spelling facilities for racehorses in need of rest and recovery. With a commitment to the highest standards of horse care, the Stud works alongside top veterinarians and farriers to ensure exceptional welfare and performance outcomes.

Under The Jockey Club's ownership, The National Stud continues to invest in the future of British breeding, ensuring accessibility and opportunities for breeders, owners, and industry professionals. In addition to its breeding and racing contributions, The National Stud is a leader in education, offering accredited training programs that have helped shape the careers of professionals across the global racing industry.

# CAREER CONVERSATIONS



Use the space below to jot down any notes from The National Stud Guest.

## **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 racing, equine insurance or breeding 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 racing industry?**

**A.**

**Q. What role does technology or innovation play in shaping equestrian careers in racing, equine insurance or breeding?**

**A.**

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

**A.**