

Pathway into Racing through Pony Racing Year 5



The Pathway Stakeholders

- The collaborative and cohesive approach taken by the PRA, The Pony Club, Racing to School and Careers in Racing has led to
 - sharing of resources and good practice
 - strategic and joined-up thinking resulting in meaningful improvements to activities
 - coordinated, effective delivery of activities that has increased the reach and positive impact

“It’s much more structured than when first conceived years ago”



Pathway Activities in Green

Racing to School

- Rider Programme: Purpose being that they consider a career in Racing
- Horse & Pony Racing Introductory Sessions
- Education: Schools Visits (Primary and Secondary) to Racecourses
- Let's Go Racing



Pony Club

- PRA/PC Training & Qualification Days
- Pony Club Race Days
- Coaches - Train The Trainer Days
- QIPCO – Family Days
- Branches/ Centres Taster Sessions
- Branch and Centre Rallies
- Sports Badges – Intro to Pony Racing & Pony Racing

Pony Racing Authority

- 'Pony Racing Taster 'Days at Racecourses on Pony Race Days and at Riding Schools
- Academies (including BRS/NHC)
- PRA/PC Training & Qualification Days
- PRA/PC Race Days
- Coaches – Train the Trainer days
- Race Days
 - I. Racecourse Series
 - II. Point to Point



Careers in Racing

- Information point
- Talks, Information Days and attendance at Race Days (QIPCO)
- Visits to Schools, College and Universities including Careers Fairs
- Career Changes and Advice
- Online sessions for Academies

Formal Entry Points: National Stud/TBA, SRA, BRS/NHC, Heros, Vocational Courses, Trainers.

A message from The PRA CEO

The Pony Racing Authority and all Stakeholders involved in the Pathway into Racing, through Pony Racing are extremely proud to show the success of the Pathway since it was established in 2020.

There have been more than 12,000 engagements throughout the Pathway from children and young people within this time. Additionally, the Pathway has also positively influenced parents, guardians, family members and friends on a large scale, along with the coaches who have supported riders and participants on their journey through pony racing.

This confirms that the Pathway unearths new and diverse talent, skilling these children and young people from both urban and rural areas, whilst continuing to support racing's Social Licence, and providing Social Impact.

A message from The PRA CEO

The Pathway into Racing, through Pony Racing is widely recognised by the industry as a vital grassroots feeder for the future of horseracing. This is supported by the following two statements:

Tom Baker – BHA Head of Social Impact

‘Pony Racing is an important part of the Young People Pathway that the Horseracing Industry is developing, helping to expose young people to the sport and all of the opportunities that the industry offers, whether as a jockey or work rider, but also as part of the wider workforce or as a fan.

We've seen countless examples of young people who have been positively impacted by their experience on the Academy Scheme (part of the Pathway into Racing through Pony Racing). Whether through improving their wellbeing, helping them to develop skills and confidence, or learning to pony race and improving their riding ability, without having to own their own pony. Further positive impacts of the Pathway provide young people to gain experience of the workplace or even improve their educational attainment and attendance, as well as their home lives. The Pathway is provided throughout the UK, including those from inner city centres, whom without the Pathway likely would never have engaged with the horseracing industry and considered a career in the industry.

A message from The PRA CEO

Jon Pett - Programme Director – Industry People Programme

With the launch of the Rider Development Pathway it is important that we recognise the many entry routes into our sport. Pony Racing with its taster days, training and racecourse series is critical to the success of the industry in identifying riders with the talent and potential to progress and has helped to produce a number of talented riders across the sport. Broadening the reach of pony racing to attract a diverse audience will be fundamental to its continued growth and have an even greater impact as the Rider Development Pathway matures.

The Pathway for 2026, as a one-year continuation, has seen some important changes that continue to match the objectives of The Racing Foundation and support requirements of the industry. There are also adaptations made from learnings that we have reviewed. The Pathway is now part of the Rider Development Programme, where Jockey Coaches begin coaching our riders whilst pony racing, creating support networks at an instrumental age, as early as 9 years old (through to their 17th birthday). We are excited to see this further develop into 2027.

We are excited to continue to deliver results towards pony and horseracing for 2026 and further into the future.

**Lucinda Campbell-Dutton
CEO**

Pathway Activities

Taster Days – PRA

Horse & Pony Racing Introductory sessions - RtS

Training Days – PRA

Academies and Graduates of Academies – PRA with NHC & BRS

Pony Club Race Days - PC

Let's Go Racing – RtS

Train the Trainers – PC & PRA

Activity Updates 2025





Taster Days Pony Racing Authority



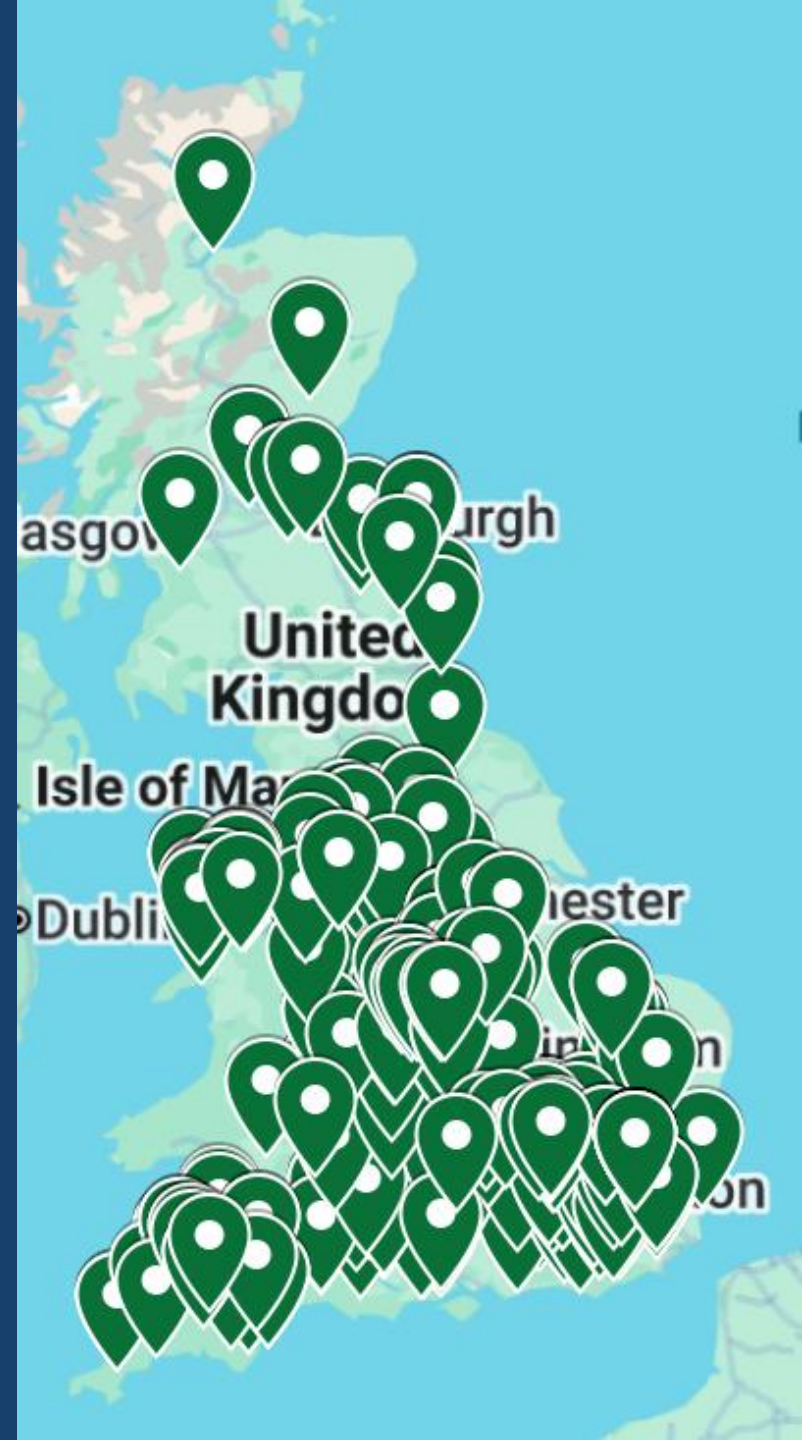


During 2025, there were 10 PRA Pony Racing Taster Days run at racecourses with pony racing to watch in the afternoon and one Taster Session run at a riding school.

- **415 participants attended with their families, friends & coaches – a total of around 1,670**
- **34% ride at a riding school, with 18% at an urban riding school**
- **15% of those who chose to share their ethnic origin were other than White British/Irish**
- **35% live in an urban/inner city area including Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bradford, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kidderminster, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne**
- **35% identify as male and 65% as female.**

Pony Racing Taster Days

- Of the 415 participants who attended a Taster Day in 2025, around 25% have so far taken part in other Pathway activities
- 2024 – 26% of the 515 participants have so far taken part in another Pathway activity
- 2023 - 28% of the 678 participants
- 2022 - 15% of the 595 participants
- The age of those at Taster Days ranges from 6 (with a few 4 and 5 year olds) to 16 meaning there are a good number who are not yet old enough to race (from 9 years old) or apply for an Academy place (from 11 years old) and could account for the 5% who have attended 2 or 3 Taster Days and have not yet been to a Training Day, raced or applied for an Academy place
- In 2025, we had at least 10 participants in their late teens – 17, 18 or 19 – who were interested in a career in racing and who found the day 'informative', 'friendly' and 'the coaches were all so enthusiastic and helpful'
- The geographic spread of participants is shown on the map using postcodes of those who chose to share.





Horse & Pony Racing Introductory Sessions

Racing to School

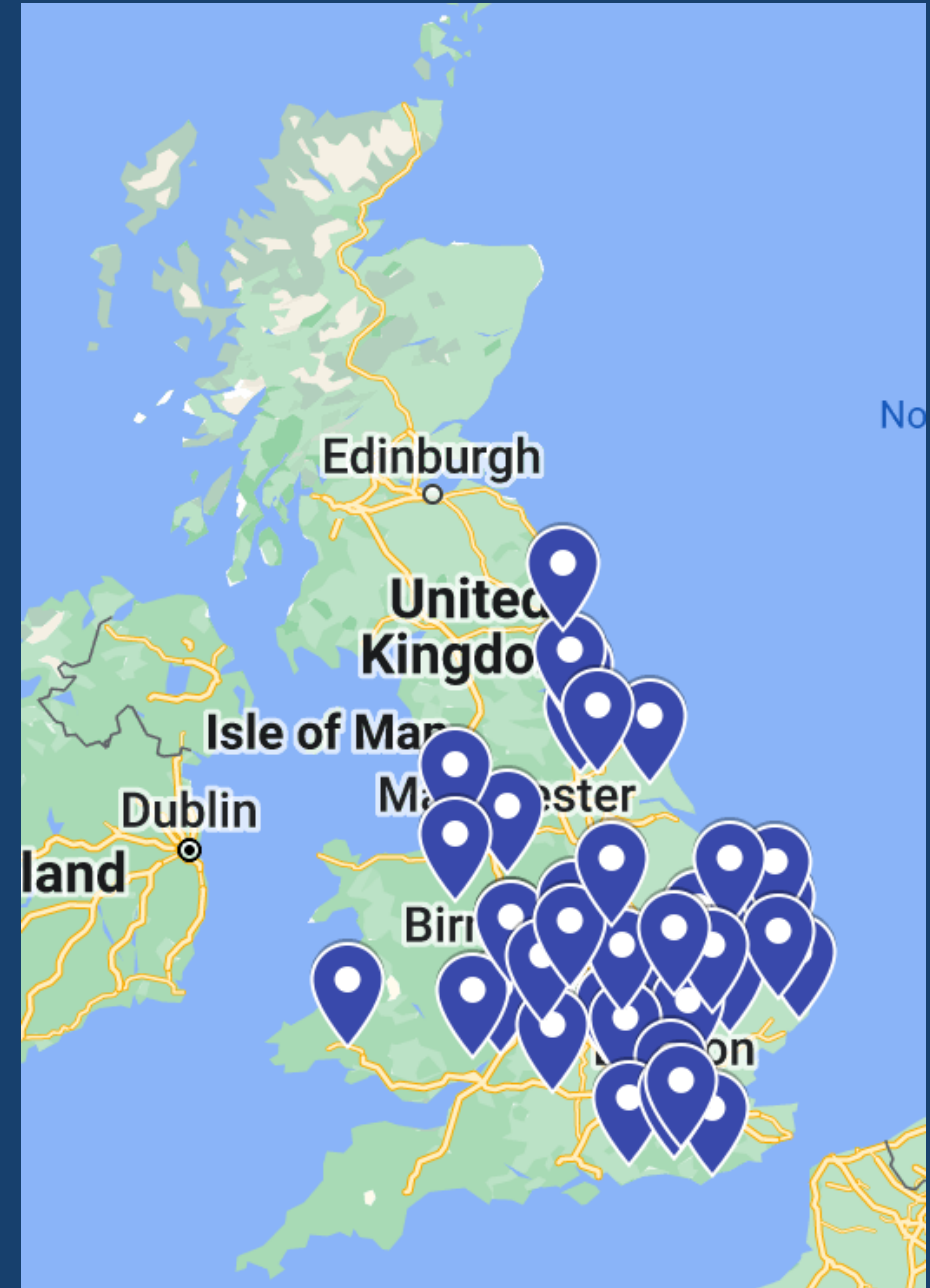
During 2025

42 Horse & Pony Racing Introductory sessions were run at Pony Club Branches and Centres.

6 of these included a mounted session

1,154 PC Members experienced a Horse & Pony Racing Introductory session

The map shows the venues where the Intro sessions were held.





Training Days



Pony Racing Training Days

- During 2025, 23 Training Days were held around the country from Fife to Devon
- 269 children attended
- Training Days continue to be an effective and popular way to ensure riders, ponies and parents/guardians are prepared for pony racing
- 3 new venues were successfully trialled in 2025:
 - Olly Murphy Racing, Warwickshire
 - David Pipe Racing, Somerset
 - Bow House , Shropshire
- Around 20% attended a Taster Day either before or after the Training Day
- 10% of those who chose to share their ethnic origin were other than White British/Irish
- 40% identified as male and 60% as female
- 20% live in an urban/suburban area and 80% in a rural area



Pony Racing Academies





PRA Pre Academy Scheme

- 2 Pre Academy courses ran in 2025 in Birmingham and London with 12 participants taking part in the 6 sessions course.
- Feedback from a Proprietor and Lead Coach *"This course has really suited us as we don't need to leave the riding school site and I would say it sorts the wheat from the chaff. It definitely works as there are some that would not have managed the 12 session course"*.
- The Pre Academy courses continue to support our Diversity and Inclusion to bring new audiences and people of varying backgrounds to horseracing.

Pony Racing Academies 2025

Academy Scheme

- 17 Academy Scheme courses were delivered in 2025 including 2 run at the BRS
- 10 Academy Centres ran courses
- 81 riders started a course
- 73 Riders completed a course and rode in their first race
- 8 will race in early 2026 to complete their course
- In 2025, 30% of Academy riders were from ethnic minority groups up from 19% in 2024, 16.5% in 2023 & 8.8% in 2022
- In 2025 2 of 81 (2.5%) dropped out of their course due to changes in family commitments.
- In 2024 3 of 83 (3.6%) dropped out of their course a week before race day due to being nervous about race day.
- In 2023 3 of 87 (3.4%) dropped out of their course. 1 moved away to a new area. 1 was due to anxiety. 1 did not enjoy the level of commitment and fitness expected.
- In 2022 5 of 86 (5.8%) dropped out of their course. 2 bought a pony halfway through the course and did not want to self fund the rest of the training and race day. 3 did not enjoy the level of commitment expected.

Pony Racing Academies

Graduate Programme 2025

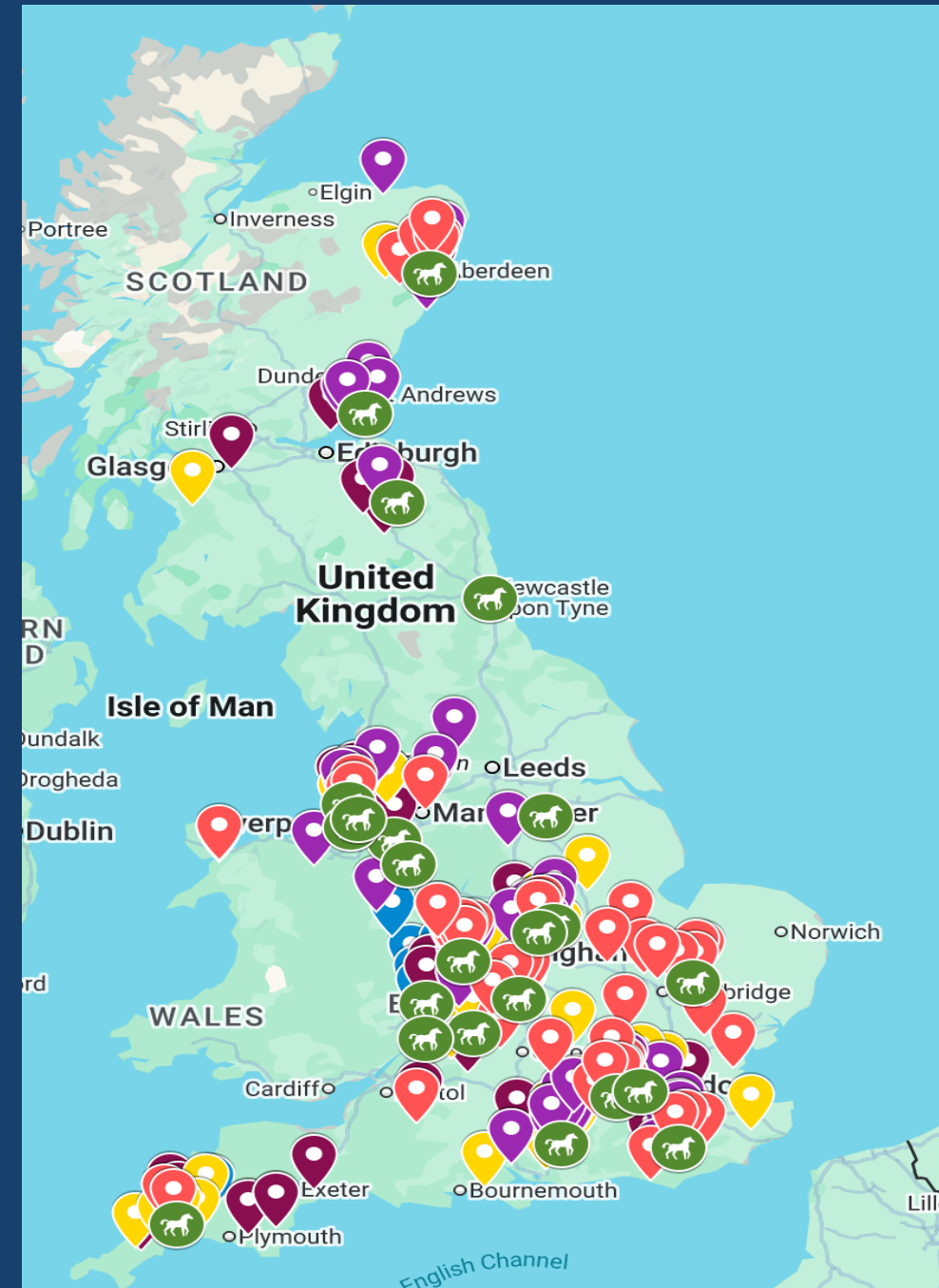
- 40 riders were offered a place on the Graduate Programme
- 32 raced and 8 are racing in 2026. 4 Graduate rides were lost when Warwick was abandoned
- In 2025, 30% of Academy Graduates were from an ethnic minority group. In 2024 it was 19% and in 2023 22%
- The number of Academy Graduates who have been offered the opportunity to ride out increases year on year. During 2025, around 25% of Academy Graduates from 2023, 2024 and 2025 rode out for at least one trainer
- 2025 was the last year of the PRA Tim Dunlop Memorial Scholarship Programme and 4 places were awarded. One rider is now on a Foundation course at the BRS, two others have applied for places in 2026 at the BRS or NHC and the fourth is working towards being an equine vet
- Academy Graduates who volunteer to assist the coaches at Taster Days are much appreciated on the day. From meeting and chatting to other riders and their families who might be interested in the Academy Scheme to demonstrating fitness exercises or race position on the equicisor, those who have come along really enjoy the day and help to inspire those new to the sport

Pre Academy 2024 & 2025 – 24 participants

- 20% attended a Taster Day prior to starting the course. All attend one as part of the course.
- 30% of those who shared their ethnic origin were other than White British/Irish, mainly Mixed Asian/White or Pakistani.
- 92% live in an urban/inner city area including Birmingham, Wolverhampton and London.
- 33% identified as male and 67% as female
- 13% have SEND and 9% are home schooled
- 96% of Pre Academy participants have no family background in or previous connection with racing or pony racing.

Academy Scheme & Grad Programme 2025 – 121 participants

- 40% attended a Taster Day in 2023, 2024 or 2025
- 30% of those who shared their ethnic origin were other than White British/Irish, mainly Arab, Indian, Mixed Asian/White or Pakistani
- 50% live in an urban/inner city area including Aberdeen, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leicester, Liverpool, London and Manchester
- 21% identified as male and 79% as female
- 2 riders are fostered/in care, 7.5% have SEND & 5% are home schooled
- Over 90% of Academy participants have no family background in or previous connection with racing or pony racing.



Pre Academy Scheme, Academy Scheme & Graduate Programme Feedback 2025

I'm still riding out at weekends and holidays, which I still get no better adrenaline rush from. The PRA have brought me on to the next step of riding racehorses and I can't thank you enough .

Update from a 2025 Academy Graduate aiming for an autumn 2026 place on the Foundation course at the BRS

I can honestly say that participating in the PRA scheme was the best thing that I've ever done. The only thing that got me through a week of school was counting down to my training on the weekend. I loved every second of it (even getting up early to do Park Run in temperatures as low as -2 degrees) and I will use the skills I learnt forever and cherish the memories I made.

Graduate Programme Feedback

Academy Course Feedback

What I learned

1. That I can do things I didn't know I could
2. How to workout properly and take care of my body
3. How to bath a horse/pony properly and how to fit and clean racing tack effectively
4. What's involved on the race day e.g. weighing out and in and walking the course
5. How to work in a team and ask for help and to trust my trainer

I really, really enjoyed the course and I have now developed a very strong love and passion towards becoming a jockey and a pony racer! Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity 

Pre Academy Feedback

I completed the PRA Academy course and took part in the race day at Bangor racecourse. I rode a pony called Lulu and came 3rd in my race. I learnt so much about racing and being a jockey on the course. I learnt new exercises which help your legs as jockeys need strong legs.

I visited Donald McCain's Racing yard, we spoke to jockeys and the staff and watched them train, it was amazing to experience it in real life. I was fully committed to the programme and would love the opportunity to be on the Graduate programme and to learn more in pony racing.

Graduate Programme application form



RIDING CLUB
HAYFIELD
Working with Aberdeen community & developing for you
Rule One see more inside

PRA Academy cohort in Aberdeen aiming for Kelso in May 2026

Pony Club Race Days



Pony Club Race Days 2025

- 10 Pony Club Race Days were held in 2025
- 684 riders raced, up from 664 in 2024
 - 319 individual members from
 - 108 Branches and
 - 15 Centres, with 10 of these being Academy Centres
 - 178 riders raced once
 - 68 raced twice
 - Of the other 73, one rider raced at 8 of the 10 race days
 - 138cm was the most popular height category.

Race days were run at Milborne St Andrew P2P track in March, Ascot, Cheltenham and Wincanton in April, Haydock Park, Chelmsford and Exeter in May, Kelso in June, Bangor on Dee in September and Lingfield Park in October.

Warwick was abandoned due to high winds in October and it was not possible to secure a date at Nottingham

There was a rise in entries from 2024 and around 80 entries were lost when Warwick was abandoned



Let's Go Racing!

A FUN & FREE DAY AT THE RACES

We are pleased to offer a unique **FREE** day at the races to go behind the scenes and gain an insight into the UK's largest sporting employer.

Groups will be able to gain entry to the racecourse before gates are open to the public and take part in fun and informative activities in areas usually restricted from racegoers.

Our team of industry professionals will introduce you to the exciting world of Horseracing

Next event:

21st February
Exeter racecourse



Let's Go Racing 2025 Racing to School

- 145 young people attended the 8 RtS Let's Go Racing days at **Cheltenham, Exeter, Fakenham, Newbury, Nottingham, Ripon, Uttoxeter and Wolverhampton**
- Venues are chosen on a 2 year rolling plan to cover as much of the country as possible
- Feedback is positive as is the interaction on the day
- As the day at Exeter was very well attended with a waiting list, the RtS Team plan to return there in 2026



Train the Trainers. The Pony Club and the PRA

Train the Trainers

- 2 Train the Trainers courses were delivered in 2025
- 40 coaches attended.
- 13% of the coaches who chose to answer were from a background other than White British/Irish.
- Coaches who have attended a Train the Trainers course are encouraged to attend Taster Days, Training Days, Pony Club Race Days and pony racing at Point to Points to see the sport in action as part of their training.
- The number of Pony Club Pony Racing rallies is increasing year on year, thought to be due to the growth in the number of Pony Racing coaches and Pony Club Race Days.
- The PRA Coach database includes RSDP and BHA coaches who have attended Pony Racing Coach training.
- The Pony Club Coach database lists Accredited Sports Specific Coaches including Pony Racing Coaches along with their RSDP and BHA qualifications.



Train the Trainers

- The demo riders at the BRS in July and at the NHC in October were mainly Academy Scheme riders partnered with the riding school ponies that they ride on Academy courses.
- Academy Coaches attend a Train the Trainers course at least once every 2 years to network and ensure they are up to date with current regulations

Round up of Years 1 - 5



Pathway Activities

January 2021 (including Covid restrictions) to December 2025

- 52 Pony Racing Taster Days run by the Pony Racing Authority and delivered by the PRA with Racing To School with 2,723 participants.
- 188 Horse & Pony Racing Introductory Sessions run by Racing to School with 5,507 participants.
- 94 PRA/PC Training Days run by the PRA with 1,335 participants
- 76 PRA Academy courses with 357 young people participating
- 142 PRA Academy Graduates have had a second ride in a pony race
- 43 Pony Club Race Days run by The Pony Club with 2,738 entries
- 46 Let's Go Racing Days run by Racing to School with 996 participants.
- 8 Train the Trainers courses run and delivered by The Pony Club and the PRA with 157 participants

Taster Days Years 1 – 5, 2021 – 2025

Over the span of the Pathway
52 Taster Days have been run
2,753 young people attended along with their family, carers, friends & coaches.

The map shows the postcodes of those who chose to share

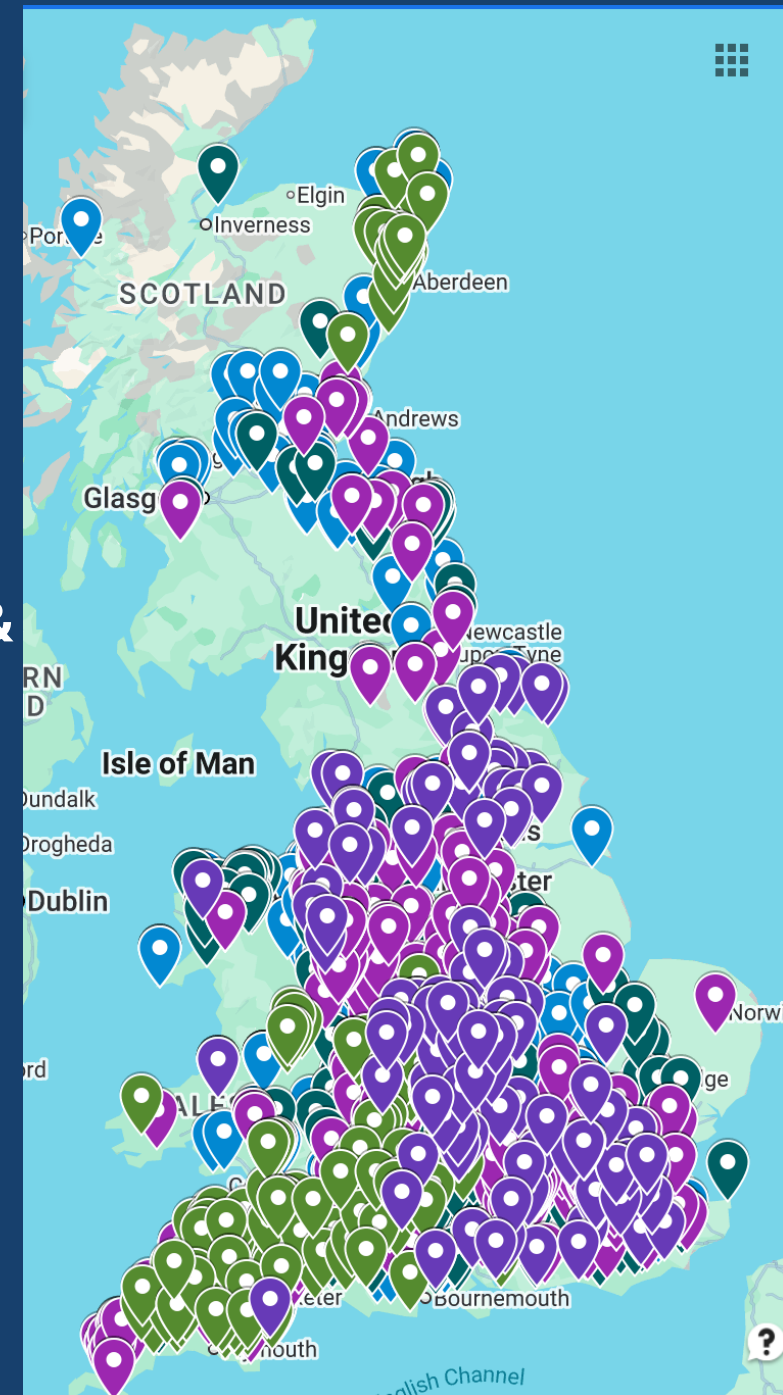
2021 – Purple

2022 – Light Green

2023 – Mauve

2024 – Blue

2025 – Dark Green – mostly hidden



Horse & Pony Racing Introductory Sessions

Over the life of the Pathway there have been:

188 Intro sessions delivered for Pony Club Branch and Centre members

5,507 participants have taken part

Since 2024, around 15 of these sessions have included a ridden element

Let's Go Racing Days

Over the life of the Pathway there have been:

46 Days delivered

996 participants and their families have taken part

Academies 2021 – 2025

76 Academy Scheme Courses delivered at 21 Riding Schools

357 Riders on Academy Scheme Courses with 142 going on to the Graduate Programme

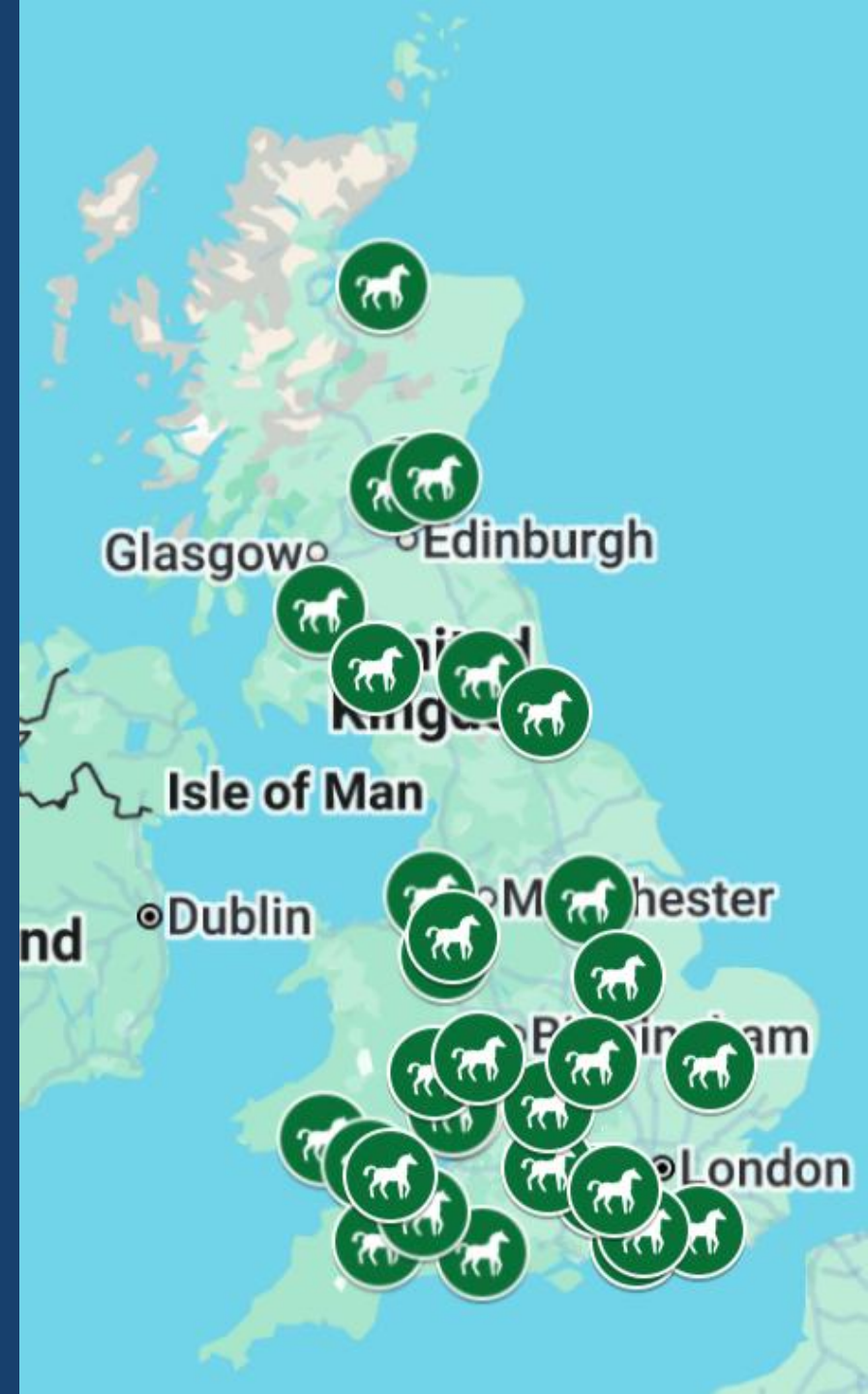
24 riders on Pre Academy Scheme Courses in Birmingham & London, funded to date out with the Pathway, acting as an Academy feeder

8 Collaborations with Urban Riding Schools and potential for more through the Pre Academy course



Training Days 2020 - 2025

- Over the span of the Pathway,
- 94 Training Days were delivered with
- 1,335 Participants attending at
- Over 30 venues around the country
- From Morayshire in the north to Dorset in the south
- Riders aged 8.5 to 16
- 12% of those who chose to share their ethnic origin were other than White British/Irish
- 40% identified as male and 60% as female
- 20% live in an urban/suburban area and 80% in a rural area



Pony Club Race Days 2021 - 2025

Over the span of the Pathway

- 43 Pony Club Race Days were run with
- 2,738 Pony Club Branch and Centre members competing at
- 15 venues
- Around 28% identify as male and 72% as female
- Most riders are aged 12 to 13
- The 138cm races tend to be the most popular

Train the Trainers 2021 - 2025

- Over the life of the Pathway:
- 8 Coaching CPD Courses have been delivered at
- 3 venues
- 157 Coaches have participated – postcodes of those who agreed to share on the map to the left
- 43 of these coaches are on the PRA Pony Racing Coach database – shown on the map to the right





The Pathway in Action

Case Studies

D's Pony Racing Journey



- D is 14, lives in Caernarfon and applied for an Academy place in January 2025 having heard about the Scheme through Careers in Racing.
- D's mother wrote on his Academy application *'D has a massive passion for riding and ultimately would like to become a jockey. Due to where we live and the fact owning our own pony is not possible, this would be a fantastic opportunity for him and give him an idea of what actual racing will be like.'*
- Following a riding and fitness assessment in March 2025 and attending a PRA Pony Racing Taster Day at Haydock in May, D started an Academy course in June aiming for Bangor on Dee PC Race Day at the end of September 2025.
- D and his mother made the weekly journeys to the Academy Centre in Liverpool which is a couple of hours from home. He worked hard on his fitness between riding sessions and continued with his weekly riding lessons at his riding school near home.
- D has been awarded a place on the PRA Graduate Scholarship Programme in 2026 and is aiming for his second ride at Haydock in May 2026
- D wrote on his Graduate Scholarship application *'I absolutely loved the PRA course I did and my first race, it was the best experience ever. Having never raced before I learnt so much and really want a chance to race again. My dream is to be a jockey and I know all this experience will help me achieve my dream.'*
- *I made some great friends on the course, who I am still in contact with and we had so much fun. To go on the Gallops was amazing, and the beach riding, something I would never get to do otherwise.'*

Daragh's Racing Career

Got assessed February time on a beautiful black cob named Josie passing the assessment, got told ill race her, but been moved on to a very handsome chestnut ~~was~~ named Oliver, met his owner Jessica Edwards online a very nice person, 148 pds and 138 the next few times on the equizer, Lucy is helping a lot with everything wouldn't be here without her. Now, Oliver is a lovely quick pony when he wants to be. Need to improve his stamina though.

5 of August 2025

So far so good lol



D's feedback
Following his first
race at Bangor on
Dee 28.09.25

How great of a day, just rode
my first race, so proud of Nive
for getting me fifth and best
ride ridden.

Could've gotten a much better
start, catbed up amazingly, should've
stuck to the fence and slowly
pulled myself out into the middle

H's Academy diary

- Week 1 – in week one of my pony racing I didn't ride but we completed a fitness test which consisted of plank, pushing on the equicisor and bleep test. My score for the bleep test was 7.8, my plank time was 3:02 and my equicisor score was 128.
- Week 2 – in week two I was partnered with the pony Rodney and we had our first walk, trot and canter. This was good for me to get used to Rodney. I also was taught that to race in pony racing your pony must have 'flu vaccinations and you have to use safety stirrups and an Irish martingale.
- Week 3- in week three I began by grooming Rodney and learning which brush should be used depending on if a pony has been clipped or not. I also learnt the different names of tack that is used. I also rode with shorter stirrups to begin focusing on jockey position and balance in canter.
- Week 5 - in week five I tacked Rodney up but we began riding in normal stirrups because we were going to be riding upsides to get us used to the feeling of being in a race. We did this in trot and then cantered normally one by one by one to keep our horses fit. After this we went and stood in the centre of the arena and was taught how to tell if our horses have cooled down after working.
- Week 9 - in week nine I began with grooming Rodney and tacking him up. I also got taught how to apply a tail bandage. We then loaded up the ponies and headed to the gallops. Once we arrived, we mounted and walked to the gallops. Once we got there, we did a lap of trot to warm up with our jockey length stirrups then split up into 2 groups of 2 and galloped to the top of the hill and trotted down and we then repeated this once more

H's Academy diary – Race Day

Week 12 - week 12 was my race which began when I arrived at Haydock. Once I got there, I went to confirm that I was there and they then declared me and Rodney in race 1. Then I went on the course walk which was a great experience and taught me a lot about the track.

Once I got back off the walk I got changed into my gear and silks and headed to the weighing room with my tack to get weighed out. After this we headed back to Rodney and waited a few minutes then began to tack up. We then headed to the Parade Ring and got our tack checked over then Rodney was led around and I waited in the middle of the Parade Ring. After a few minutes the bell went and I got on Rodney. We were then walked down to the 4 furlongs start when everyone's tack was checked over one last time. Then the flag was raised and we were off. Me and Rodney had a great start and were a length clear. About 2 furlongs we were challenged by another boy and battled all the way to the line to finish 2nd by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length. After the race we were walked back into the Parade Ring to the 2nd place post, I jumped off and untacked and went back to the weighing room to get weighed in. Then I headed to the horse box to put my tack away and wash off Rodney. After the 3rd race we all gathered in the Parade Ring to be given our rosettes and prizes. Overall, the 12 weeks was a great experience and taught me lots.

Watch H's video diary.....



Here I am taking part in
One of the tests in the fitness tests we completed

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YoQASpwiwOSHcOMho0tiLZxNL6n4-Uq1/view?usp=sharing>

Aamilah Aswat

Aamilah started her racing journey through the Pony Racing Authority Academy Scheme. Aamilah was riding at St James City Farm in Gloucester when she applied for a place, a riding school sadly no longer trading, but one that the PRA worked closely with until 2024 when it unfortunately succumbed to lack of funds following the pandemic.

Aamilah was awarded a place on the Academy Scheme in 2016. She trained at Bourton Vale Equestrian Centre and raced at the Pony Club Race Day at Cheltenham in April 2017 and again on the Graduate Programme in April 2018.

There is no doubt that the Academy was instrumental in igniting Aamilah's passion for racing. Following the PRA Academy course, she went on to The Riding a Dream Academy followed by the Foundation Course at the BRS.

Aamilah raced into the history books on 2nd February 2026 as the first Black and South Asian British woman to win a jumps race, on board Guchen at Kempton, for trainers Kim Bailey and Mat Nicholls. Aamilah & Guchen have since followed up with a second victory on 27th February 2026 at Newbury.

AAMILAH ASWAT MAKES HISTORY



J's Racing Journey

J lives in Surrey and found the Academy Scheme through Racing Welfare. He rode when his aunt organised the odd half hour lesson or when the family were on holiday in Devon.

J's father wrote on his Academy application: *'I currently volunteers mucking out at a racing stables in Epsom every Saturday & school holidays. He does not have regular riding lessons or access to a pony. My wife and I are not from a horse background at all. If you were to accept Jacob it would be a dream come true for him.'*

On his Academy application, J wrote *'I've always aspired to be a jockey since I was 5 when my dad took me racing. I never thought I could get a chance to ride in a pony race as I'm not able to get a pony.'*

Following his riding assessment, J's coach confirmed that he had much to learn about ponies, both mounted and unmounted, but that he had good basic fitness and a 'can do' attitude.



J's Racing Journey

After working hard on his fitness, his riding technique both on a pony and the equicisor and learning lots of new skills, J rode at Ascot in April 2025. In May, J raced at Chelmsford for his Graduate race. Jacob was offered a third race at Lingfield in October 2025. Due to a fellow course member's injury, J was lucky to have 2 rides that day, winning one in great style.

J is currently working on his GCSEs, mucking out and riding out when he can and aiming for the BRS when he leaves school in 2026.

It was a fantastic experience to ride in two races.
It was such a great adrenaline rush to get through the line in first place which is a feeling I won't forget. I have so much to thank pony racing for as I now ride out racehorses for Jim Boyle which I don't think I could have done without the PRA.



‘Just giving you an update on how my riding is going now. I’m still riding out on weekends and holidays which I still get no better adrenaline rush from. The PRA have brought me on to the next step of riding racehorses and I can’t thank you enough.’

J, aged 15, December 2025



Update on a previous Case Study - T

- From a riding assessment in August 2023 where he struggled to keep a pony cantering in a straight line to racing 3 times in 2024 and a turn around in his love for life, T's journey shows that the Pathway is working. The photograph shows T in October 2024 at Lingfield with the 'Best Technical Ride' trophy.
- In 2025, T sat his GCSEs, completed the Foundation Course at the BRS and wrote at the end of 2025
- *'I am writing to thank you for all of my experiences and the places this has took me. Starting off in a small riding school, now wanting to get my apprentice licence to be a jockey has really changed everything. I am on the straights tomorrow and I am improving day by day. I am pushing myself more and more. I also want to thank everyone that has got me to where I am now. I will pay this kindness on, I will never give up and will always keep you updated.'*



Update on a previous Case Study - C



From a Taster Day at her London riding school in February 2023 to working in the Racing Industry in December 2024, C's journey show that the Pathway is working.

A recent update from C's mother Mihaela in February 2026 *'It is true that time flies! Can't believe it has already been 3 years since C attended a PRA Pony Racing Taster Day! Her trainer, Mr James Ferguson, and his team are very happy with Cs progress, attendance and general attitude. C has made the decision to even go further and apply for her jockey licence. On a personal level, she has passed her theory test for the driving licence and thinking to invest in a car soon. Also, she has taken T under her wing too and they live together in the same house in Newmarket.'*

T is the subject of another of our Case Studies. C and T met when C was training for her Academy Graduate race and T for his Academy race. This clearly highlights that the friendships made and the team spirit developed during participation in the Academy Scheme reaches well beyond the end of the courses.

Thoughts from Academy Proprietors

So many young people come to us now really struggling with a lack of self worth. Being part of the Academy Scheme and achieving something great increases their confidence massively and they learn about commitment. One young lad who started with us in early 2024 was off the scale 'off the rails' and his parents were lost as to how to get him back on. He is now back at school, working for his GCSEs and having been to an Open day at the BRS plans to start there in September 2025.

I maintain that the scheme was and is a runaway success. Even the children who haven't gone on on to work in the industry had a life experience that benefitted them greatly in so many ways. Even if it was improved fitness, learning self discipline and exposure to fresh air!

The funded Academy courses and Graduate Programme have been a big financial support to us, particularly during these Post Covid years when we were really struggling with cash flow. Thank you to the PRA, The Racing Foundation and the HBLB.



Pathway into Racing, through Pony Racing 2025

Pathway into
Racing,
through Pony
Racing,
continuing
into 2026



	Bleep Test Scores		
	Week 3	Week 7	Week 10
Alafaire	7.1		
Barnaby	8.0		
Bertie	5.7		
Lexi	4.4		
Imi	5.5		
Emma	4.2		
Molly	4.6		
Ruth	3.9		

