

# How does your career compare?

	ALEX SMITH - RACING	SAMANTHA THOMAS* - EVENTING
<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Groom / Rider	Head Girl / Groom
<b>HOURS PER DAY</b>	5am-12 and 3-6pm	7.30am-5pm
<b>DAYS PER WEEK</b>	7 days a week, every other weekend ½ Saturday and Sunday off	Supposed to be 6, had two days off in the last two months
<b>ANNUAL HOLIDAY</b>	4 weeks per year	4 days holiday last year
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	Shared two bed house near yard. Bills paid for	Shared two bed flat on yard, some bills covered
<b>TRAINING / CPD</b>	Completed a Level 2 Diploma in Racehorse Care when left college at 18. Went on to complete a Level 3 Diploma in Racehorse Care and Management. Studied for these courses at the Northern Racing College in Doncaster.	One lesson per week, although this doesn't always happen. No formal CPD.
<b>OWN HORSE</b>	No	No
<b>RIDING</b>	Yes, 4 lots per day	Yes, between 4-6 horses when not at events
<b>HGV LICENCE</b>	No	Yes
<b>ADDITIONAL BENEFITS</b>	Overtime paid for any bank holidays worked or additional days worked/long days whilst going racing. Pool money paid quarterly to staff which is higher if a horse under your care wins.	No
<b>WAGE PER WEEK</b>	£260 per week net (take home)	£175 per week net (take home)



**Alex Smith – Groom/Rider for Sir Mark Prescott, Racehorse Trainer based in Newmarket**

Alex is allocated 3 horses within the yard which she must look after including mucking out, feeding, grooming. Alex is responsible for taking the horses under her care to the races. Alex also carries out various tasks around the yard including putting horses on the treadmill and in the horse walker, veterinary care and clipping.

**Loves:** Working as part of a team in the Summer when the yard is busy and the horses start to win.

**Hates:** Cold weather, it makes people miserable!

**Samantha Thomas\* - Head girl and groom for an event rider based in Notts**

Samantha works on a busy eventing who also have some livery clients and young horses to produce.

Samantha is responsible for the day to day running of the yard and between her and two other girls they look after 22 horses. She is also the Travelling Groom and says a typical day consists of mucking out up to 12 horses, riding as many as she can fit in, clipping, helping the other staff and liaising with livery clients.

**Loves:** The variety and being away at events.

Seeing a horse you have helped to produce makes it all worthwhile.

**Hates:** Bad manners and people who don't smile.

\*Samantha's name has been changed on her request.