

CAREER CASE STUDY:

WORKING IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Construction employs around 2.5 million people in the UK - that means that one in every ten jobs is in construction. With many roles based outdoors or being quite physical and requiring many skills jockeys have, it is an appealing career option for many former jockeys who have either gone into employment within this industry or are currently training to gain qualifications.

Employers are drawing on the skills of people from a wide range of backgrounds and there's also a huge variety of jobs to choose from, covering design, planning and management to craft-based roles. You could be based in an office, on-site or in a workshop - in the UK or worldwide.



CONSTRUCTION CAREER OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- Building
- Plastering
- Electrical Engineering
- Plumbing
- Landscape Services
- Property Maintenance
- Plant Operations
- Fitting
- Tiling
- Carpentry/Joining
- Bricklaying
- Surveying



FORMER JOCKEYS NOW WORKING OR TRAINING IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY:

Mark Bradburne, Electrician

Mark rode as a National Hunt jockey for ten years from 2001 to 2011, having previously ridden as an Amateur for eight years. He broke his back in a race fall in 2009 and after consulting with JETS, he decided to pursue a career as an Electrician. JETS awarded him a scholarship to get his City & Guild Electrician qualifications and built up his contacts and experience whilst still riding so that when he retired he could hit the ground running. He now trades under Bradburne Electrical in Lambourn and surrounding areas.



Simon Elliott, Plasterer

Simon rode as an Apprentice and then Conditional from 2000 to 2009. With the help of JETS he completed an intensive plastering training course and following a series of placements to gain experience and knowledge he set up on his own. His business, based in the Andover area, continues to grow with a number of commercial clients now on his books and Simon now has one full time employee and is looking to hire another.



Matthew Roe, Diploma in Electrical Installation

Matty Roe rode as a Conditional for Howard Johnson, Lucy Wadham and Alan King between 2004 and 2009. He's currently in his third year of a Diploma in Electrical Installation which he is completing on a part time evening course two nights a week at West Suffolk College, while working as a travelling head lad. He decided on this career path due to the variety of jobs it can offer you and it's an area where there should always be work. He is interested in working in the renewables sector but he hopes that the skills he has learned can take him anywhere in the world with a range of different avenues open to him enabling him to learn new skills and develop his career.

Tony Evans, Landscape Contractor

Tony rode as an amateur and then a conditional jockey from 1996 to 2008. He approached JETS after a career ending injury and steadily built up his experience, training and qualifications before setting up his own landscaping business in 2011 based in the Cotswolds. Over 75% of his business comes from word of mouth via contacts he has made in the racing industry.



ON WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY

Mark Bradburne: "JETS were a brilliant help, finding me the right course and arranging the grant, supporting me all the way. I asked them from the start to keep my plans and training confidential because that was what I felt most comfortable with."

Matty Roe: "I have really enjoyed learning something new especially when in racing you're doing the same sort of thing every day. It can be daunting starting out when all you've ever known is being a jockey but the sooner you make the decision, the sooner you can qualify. If you know someone that's doing something you're interested in, you could work shadow them for a day or go along to Open Days at colleges. You never want to say that you wish you hadn't given something a go."



Tony Evans: "I really enjoy being active, the job keeps me fit and it's exciting when the phone rings and a new job comes in. You have to get yourself out there though, nothing lands on your lap and you need to think about the contacts you're making when you're riding. People who supported you as a jockey may do so again in your new career so remember to make the most of your contacts."



Simon Elliott: "I really love my work. It's well paid, I'm always speaking to different people and going out and getting jobs does give you an adrenalin rush. I meet people in other trades from all parts of the country and it's a bit like the racing community in that sense. In fact many of the skills I had as a jockey made the transition pretty easy. Nothing compares to racing, but we have a lot of fun."

HOW TO START

Courses

Further Education courses are the best option if possible. Handily located to training hubs, West Suffolk College, Swindon College, and York College all have great Construction departments (see links below). Most Further Education colleges (that have Construction Departments) offer a range of trade courses on an evening and part-time course basis that would allow completion while riding. Often it is a two-evening a week commitment for the Diploma courses, however they do run shorter more basic courses. It is possible to undertake one/two week taster courses in many different trade areas, see below for further info.

Qualifications

Many construction jobs will need you to show certain skills and qualifications before you start. These can include National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs or SVQs in Scotland), the Welsh Baccalaureate, apprenticeships and degrees.



Traineeships

Available to 16-24 year olds in England and Wales. They mix structured hands-on work experience with English and maths support if you want it. They can be as short as a couple of weeks or as long as six months but they should always help a trainee build their skills and get ready for an apprenticeship or job in construction.

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a job, with training. You are employed and paid an initially lower wage to perform a particular role, with an understanding that you will be trained through experience and qualifications to perform the role to a defined standard. Your employer will give you tasks to perform, and the training provider will give you the skills to perform those tasks.

INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?

Please call Lisa Delany and she can provide you with advice on how to gain experience in the construction industry. Many of the former jockeys mentioned in this feature would be happy to offer advice and support on how to get started and Lisa can help you get in touch.

FIND OUT MORE...

About careers in the construction industry: <https://twitter.com/jamieoA25D>

About support JETS provide to find you a job in construction: <http://www.jets-uk.org/>

About job profiles in construction:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/construction.aspx>

About Tony Evans: <http://www.lystercontracts.co.uk/>

Further Education:

West Suffolk College: <http://www.westsuffolkcollege.ac.uk/courses/default/construction-built-environment.aspx>

Swindon College: <https://www.swindon.ac.uk/Adults/Browse-Subjects/Construction-Part-Time-Courses.aspx?q=APZ;ULC;19C;BTP;APB;APP;APW;APU;APC>

York College: <https://www.yorkcollege.ac.uk/subject-areas/construction.html>

About courses:

<https://www.ableskills.co.uk/> - Construction trade courses in Kent

<http://www.superskills.co.uk/> - Construction trade courses in Thirsk

<http://www.goldtrowel.co.uk/> - Tiling and Plastering courses in Essex

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