necessities a jockey needs to know them. "I don't teach people to ride as an apprentice or conditional," he considered utilising his jockey manufacturing riding simulators (and is, two or three Sundays a month) and during his career in the saddle, freelancing for At The Races (and still does; those who can't, teach' certainly really big. I tend to wear her colours as a Christmas present."

"I've worked on the gate on racedays, acted as a supervisor, as night porter, as night security – you have lots of time to write more, and I'll still keep going racing."

"Sometimes I saw youngsters in Pam Cooney, wearing Beau Mistral's colours, celebrates another win at the age of nine halted any aspirations in that direction and he worked as a gamekeeper, before spells in the corporate world, including with British Leyland, took him to normal retirement age. Then a double hip replacement gave Basford a new lease of life and his many roles at Cheltenham allowed him to enjoy it. He has worked at Nottingham, Stratford, Warwick and Worcester as well as Cheltenham and Royal Ascot, sometimes covering two or three venues in a day. He's a fan of Royal Ascot – "You see it all there, from royalty all the way down the scale" – but Cheltenham is his first love and the festival meeting the icing on the cake. "I've really enjoyed working here," he says. "Cheltenham have been very kind and said I can come racing whenever I want, so I'll still be able to see the horses and the people."