

# RSDP Newsletter December 2025



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**DID YOU KNOW RSDP IS A PROGRAMME DELIVERED NATIONWIDE AND CATERS FOR ALL STAFF WITHIN THE RACING INDUSTRY?**

## LEVEL 3 MENTORING IN THE WORKPLACE QUALIFICATION

As our pilot mentoring courses continues, we now have dates for further courses leading into 2026. We are piloting courses until April 2026 and therefore the cost remains at a competitive £55 per applicant to cover registration only. The course is open to anyone within racing including racecourse personnel.

The course consists of two units:-

Unit 1: The mentoring role. This unit covers the theoretical aspects of the role and responsibilities of the mentor, the techniques and skills required during the mentoring process and reflecting on the mentoring role.

Unit 2: Undertaking the mentoring in the workplace. This unit covers the practical aspect of planning and delivering mentoring. You will be required to mentor at least one person for a minimum of six hours.

Support will be provided throughout the course.

Pilot 1 is currently underway, candidates attending their first session at the National Horseracing College for the initial face to face training day before the remaining 5 learning sessions are completely either interactively on Microsoft Teams or prerecorded session. Candidates have 1 year to complete their portfolios and there 6 practical mentoring sessions.

Pilot 2 face to face training day was held at Hexham Racecourse on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Southern course will take place at Ascot Racecourse 28th January 2026. To register your interest, please contact Sam or Lauren at [hello@rsdp.co.uk](mailto:hello@rsdp.co.uk), course cost £55 to cover registration fee.

## LEVEL 3 EMERGENCY EQUINE FIRST AID QUALIFICATION

Level 3 Equine Emergency First Aid Qualification underwritten by IPET is designed to give staff recognition and bring commonality to skills and the application of equine first aid across the industry.

The theoretical element covered what is first aid and managing horses in emergency situations, the primary and secondary survey and how to carry these out and how to deal with different ailments. Practical training included standardising and ensuring the correct application of a wound bandage, stable bandage, poultice, shoe removal along with completing survey checks such as temperature, pulse, and respiration. Some recommended prerequisite learning was also completed online via Racing2Learn.

Dates and locations for 2026 are yet to be confirmed. However, 10 courses will be run between February and November stretching from Scotland to Epsom with all regions in between. To register your interest, email us at [hello@rsdp.co.uk](mailto:hello@rsdp.co.uk). You will be added to the mailing list for upcoming training dates and locations. Course cost £60, qualification valid for 3 years. For equestrian professionals who currently work outside of the racing industry, we can offer a small number of places for £120 each.

# WEBINARS

In 2026, RSDP will be hosting a series of lunchtime webinars every Thursday, featuring guest speakers delivering educational sessions on a range of business and horsemanship topics. Each webinar will align with key events in the racing calendar and address essential knowledge gaps to help raise professional standards across the industry.

Beginning in February, webinars will take place on Zoom every Thursday from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Recordings will be available to view free of charge for seven days after each session. Access to older recordings will require a small subscription fee.

We will be sending monthly emails to all previous supporters with details of upcoming topics. If you would like to receive these updates, please contact us at [hello@RSDP.co.uk](mailto:hello@RSDP.co.uk)

Webinar enrolment can be completed through our website: [RSDP.co.uk](https://www.rsdp.co.uk). Once enrolled, you will receive confirmation and a reminder the day before the session.

All past recordings from our topical evening webinars are available in the Resources section of our website:

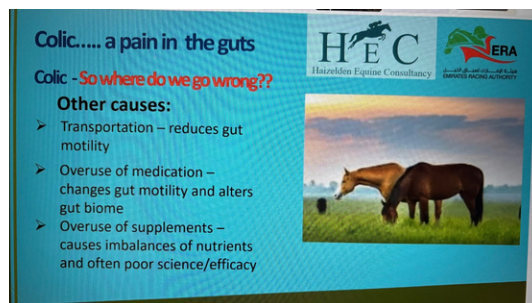
<https://www.rsdp.co.uk/horsemanship/resources/>

Most recently, Nigel Hazeldeine of the Emirates Racing Authority delivered another highly informative webinar, this time focusing on colic. As with his previous session on lameness, this complex topic has been divided into multiple episodes.

Episode 1, held on 17 November, explored what colic is, how to recognise and respond to it, and how to develop management practices that help reduce risk. Episode 2 will be released in the new year.

Plans for February are already well underway, with two speakers confirmed: a Vet Physio delivering off-horse rider exercise training, and members of the BHA safeguarding team offering a more racing-focused, engaging approach to essential safeguarding topics.

Automatic feedback forms will continue to be sent after each session to help us improve our training provision and better understand the needs of those working within the horseracing industry.



## WORK RIDER TRAINING

In 2026 rider coaching will be under new management. RSDP was not successful in securing the tender funding for coaching and work rider training after the people strategy was published. As of 1<sup>st</sup> January, this will be run by BRS. It has been a pleasure to train racing industry coaches and deliver coaching sessions nationally to racing industry staff. RSDP team are proud of personal and professional development of their coaches and the all riders, heightening standards of welfare within the sport, we would like to thank all the supporters and shall continue to share best practice. We wish all coaches and the BRS the best of luck in the future.

## SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS

In 2026, RSDP will host a series of safeguarding workshops in partnership with the BHA Safeguarding Team. These sessions will be delivered regionally at training centres, with an additional online workshop scheduled for 26th February. We have found that face-to-face safeguarding training with Naomi and Molly from the BHA provides the most effective learning environment. Previous in-person sessions have been highly interactive, offering a safe space for participants to ask questions and engage fully with the material. This approach has proved far more suitable for racing industry staff, helping them absorb information more confidently and meaningfully. By delivering this subject in a supportive, discussion-based format, we hope to increase engagement, reduce apprehension around the topic, and ensure participants feel comfortable and informed.

Principle dates for face to face workshops will be:

26th February – Online talk

24th March – Lambourn

28th April – Middleham Key Centre

26th May – Newmarket

23rd June – Malton

Sessions will be 1pm - 2.30pm, free to attend in friendly relaxed environment. All staff welcome, poster will be sent out when venues confirmed.

## FUTURE EVENTS

- 28<sup>th</sup> Jan - L3 Mentoring in the workplace Qualification. Cohort 3 Day 1 face to face training day at **Ascot Racecourse. 9-4pm**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Feb - Webinar. Equine and human Physio Lee Clark on exercises off the horse. **Zoom. 1-3pm**
- 9<sup>th</sup> Feb - Mentoring cohort 3 session 2 **Online**
- 12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Webinar. Apprenticeship week. **Zoom 1-3pm**
- 17<sup>th</sup> Feb- First Aid (human). **Epsom 9-5pm**
- 18<sup>th</sup> Feb - Equine Emergency First Aid Qualification. **Middleham 9-4pm**
- 19<sup>th</sup> Feb - Webinar. Colic part 2 hosted by Nigel Hazeldeine. **Zoom 1-3pm**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb - Mentoring Cohort 3 session 3 **Online**
- 26<sup>th</sup> Feb - Webinar. BHA Safeguarding Team. **Online**

## 1ST AID TRAINING

RSDP will hold six 1 day courses regionally throughout 2026. This is in line with RSDP objectives providing localised training to staff regionally as well as HSE employers legal requirements which state: The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 require employers to provide adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to ensure their employees receive immediate attention if they are injured or taken ill at work. These Regulations apply to all workplaces including those with less than five employees and to the self-employed.

The training provider will continue to be Medi-K as they offer a rider supplement to the training. The advantages of having rider supplement included in training staff in equestrian sport is the specific hat removal advise. It also offers candidates more relatable scenarios to their work place for improved learning experience.

Principle dates and locations are as follows:

17 February – Epsom

24 March – Cheshire

30 June – Middleham

26 August – Cotswolds

14 October – NHC

2 December – Lambourn

The 1 day course runs from 9am - 5pm, costs £150 and the qualification last for 3 years.

Please register your interest at [Hello@RSDP.co.uk](mailto>Hello@RSDP.co.uk)



**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO  
READ AND PLEASE LET OTHERS  
KNOW ABOUT THE TRAINING  
PROVIDED BY RSDP.**

*Sam, Lauren, Sue and all at the RSDP programme*