

# In the Klarion Spotlight



## THIS MONTH: MJR Yard Manager Hayley Clements

**T**HIS month, the Klarion Spotlight falls on one of the MJR Yard Managers, Hayley Clements. As her answers reveal, Hayley has been mad about horses since an early age. Like so many people in the modern racing industry, she had the good fortune to undertake a course at the Northern Racing College in Doncaster. Thanks to the

good grounding that gave her, and the training and experience she has gained at MJR, she has been able to secure one of the most responsible positions within Mark Johnston Racing. Hayley's love of horses has clearly been transmitted to her daughter, Sophie, who keeps her mum busy in the 'showing' world during her precious time off from racing.

**Date and place of birth:** May 13, 1984, in Steeton, North Yorkshire.

**Spouse/partner:** Matthew Brook. Children, Sophie, ten, and Noah, five.

**How, and when, were you introduced to horseracing?** I have ridden since I was five. My parents surprised me with my own pony when I was nine and since then I've never looked back and had horses in my life every day! After leaving school I applied to do a course at the Northern Racing College (NRC) which I thoroughly

enjoyed. It gave me an insight into the racing industry.

**And to MJR?** I met Lindsey Stolk while at the NRC when she was already a part of the MJR team. We became the best of friends, so I ended up following her to join the team in Middleham.

**What is your main occupation?** Yard Manager.

**If you could choose any other career, what would it be?** Ante-natal nurse.

**Where do you live and what took you to that area?** Middleham. Work.

**What was your most exciting racing moment?** Being part of the team at Royal Ascot in itself is amazing, but the moments that shine in particular are the two years that Royal Rebel won the Gold Cup. The atmosphere was immense and Rebel was one lovely, easy horse to deal with, both at home and at the races.

**What is the best horse you have been associated with?** Bandari. I was lucky enough to look after him when he won the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood by seven lengths, and also when winning the Great Voltigeur Stakes at York. I was also able to assist in leading him up when he ran in the Derby and the St Leger.



*Safe to say that Hayley was quite competitive as a child!*

**Which have your favourite MJR horses been over the years you have with the team?** There are quite a few! Bandari, Mister Cosmi, Special Meaning, Oriental Fox, Delizia and Haley Bop would top my list.

**Choose one race to have replayed on TV:** Oriental Fox winning at Royal Ascot. Before becoming a yard manager, I used to look after him, and he is such a lovely horse.

**What is your favourite holiday destination?** I went to Dubai with the first 10 horses Mark sent out there back in 2002. It was such a great experience and a lovely country to visit. However, now I'm happy anywhere with my children.

**Place/s you most want to visit?** Texas, so that I could experience a horse ranch. I



*Hayley with Bandari in 2001*

also enjoy watching rodeo bull riding, so I would love to see it live. I'd also love to visit Hawaii, as it just looks stunning.

**What is your favourite sport outside racing?** Showing. Sophie competes her show pony most weekends, so my holidays usually consist of a week at Hickstead and a few days at the Horse of the Year show in Birmingham!

**Other recreations?** Walking, socialising, spending time with my family.

**Favourite Racecourse? Why?** It's a while since I've been racing but from memory, Ascot was always one track I looked forward to visiting. It has great facilities both for staff and the horses, and there's always such a brilliant atmosphere.

**Least favourite? Why?** Brighton. The staff accommodation wasn't something I would like to experience again.

**What is the last film you saw and film you would most recommend?** I don't really watch films, the last one was 'Pretty Woman'.

**Last book you read and book you would most recommend?** 'The Recruit' by Robert Muchamore, and I would highly recommend any books written by Rosie Goodwin.

**Favourite TV programme?** 'Emmerdale', 'Coronation Street', 'Top Gear'.

**What schools did you attend?** Cowling Primary and South Craven Secondary in North Yorks.

**What were your best, and worst, subjects at school?** Best: Business Studies, Sociology, English, Sports. Worst: Maths.

**Are you superstitious?** Yes.

**Lucky number?** 13. I find it lucky for me.

**Do you have any pet hates?** Untidiness.

**Favourite actress?** Julia Roberts.

**Favourite actor?** Matt Damon.

**Favourite author?** Rosie Goodwin.



*Hayley, right, working upsides at Kingsley Park*

**Favourite singer/band?** Paolo Nutini.

**What pets do you have?** Cavalier cross poodle called Pixie.

**What kind of car do you drive?** Suzuki Sx4, but I'd love a Jaguar XFS.

**What cd/s do you currently have in your car?** Paolo Nutini, Scouting for Girls, Ocean Colour Scene, Sam Smith, Florence and the Machine.

**What station is your radio tuned to?** Heart. I love the mixture of recent chart music and the golden oldies.

**What would be your 6 desert island discs and one possession you would like to have on your island?** Paolo Nutini, Florence and the Machine, Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, Hits of the 1980s, Motown Hits - makes good dancing music - and, for my possession, a huge box of Yorkshire Tea.

**A restaurant that you would recommend?** 'Rare' in Leeds. The food, the decor and the service are excellent.

**What would you choose as your last meal?** Nutella and banana crepe.

**What is your favourite drink?** Tea... alcoholic, Tia Maria & coke.

**Who has had the biggest influence on your life?** My Dad.

**What was the best advice you were ever given?** Treat others as you would like to be treated.

**Tell us something about yourself that we probably don't know.** I have OCD when it comes to the house and the yard being tidy.

**Do you have any regrets or things you would like to have done differently?** Perhaps I could have travelled the world more, and experienced racing/being a work rider in different countries.

**Do you have a racing hero, human or equine?** Frankel. Such an amazing horse to watch.



*Sophie and Noah*

