

## MY STORY SUPPORTED BY



# FROM GROOM TO JOURNALIST

STEPHANIE BATEMAN TELLS US HER STORY

**“WHILE STUDYING FOR A BSC EQUINE SCIENCE DEGREE AT HARTPURY COLLEGE, I GOT A PART-TIME JOB WORKING FOR A LOCAL POINT-TO-POINT TRAINER – EMMA WILESMITH, WHICH INVOLVED GROOMING AND RIDING OUT THROUGH THE SEASON.**

After hearing about the BGA, I decided it would be a good idea to join. Having a network of like-minded people to tap into, and access to legal support and insurance was too good an opportunity to miss!

BGA Director Lucy Katan often visited Hartpury to give guest lectures to the students on the equine courses, and one day we got chatting. Lucy heard of how I was looking to get into equestrian journalism, and being the generous person she is, took me under her wing and not only introduced me to numerous people in the industry, but also gave me some fantastic experiences.

One of those experiences included attending Badminton Horse Trials where she showed me behind the scenes on the historic stable yard to see how professional grooms perform at a top flight competition. It was a once in a lifetime experience! On the back of this, I started to write ‘A day in the life of’ different grooms for the BGA member’s magazine, and it gave me my first real flavour of interviewing and writing.

This developed into writing for the college website, followed by gaining work experience placements at Horse magazine and Horse & Hound. After graduating, I worked at Horse magazine

as editorial assistant for two years before taking up a position as assistant editor at Horse & Rider magazine for 18 months. I then moved to the West Midlands and went freelance and now write for Horse & Hound, British Eventing Life, British Horse and various other publications and websites. Without Lucy and the BGA’s support, I wouldn’t be where I am now.

*For sharing her story Stephanie wins a delicious box of goodies from Loubird’s Cakes. Loubird’s Cakes creates delicious biscuits and bakes for everyone to enjoy. They can be posted anywhere in the UK, delivered straight through your letterbox at affordable rates. Visit [www.loubirds.co.uk](http://www.loubirds.co.uk).*



**If you have a story to share Liz would love to hear from you on [liz.daniels@britishgrooms.org.uk](mailto:liz.daniels@britishgrooms.org.uk)**