

Recent Success of the Initial Bit Programme at Greatwood

In August 2015, Abdul was referred to Greatwood by Swindon Care Leavers, a 19 year old refugee from Sudan who, following a particularly harrowing start to his life, enrolled on the 1st4Sport accredited Get Going programme; after an intensive 6 days achieved an **Entry Level 2 Award in Assisting with Basic Care of Horses**. After completing the Get Going programme and wishing to pursue a career within the racing industry, Abdul spent the 2015/2016 academic year with us at Greatwood and achieved a further 1st4Sport qualification – ‘Initial Bit’ (**Entry Level 3 Award in Recognising, Putting on and Cleaning Saddle and Bridle**) and was also awarded our ‘Progression Award’ at Greatwood’s graduation day in July to highlight his huge achievements. Abdul has now begun a 12-week programme at Northern Racing College, but not before taking up the fantastic opportunity of an industry placement at Nikki Evans’ racing yard in Abergavenny over the summer. Almost a year to the day from attending Greatwood for the first time, Abdul led up Monsieur Chevalier at Newbury Racecourse on 12th August and has since led up at Chepstow and Bath racecourses; Abdul was also taught how to ride racehorses by Nikki Evans and is hoping one day to become a jockey after finishing at the Northern Racing College.



Abdul receiving his Progression Award from Greatwood’s Managing Director, July 2016



Abdul leading up for the very first time at Chepstow on 9th August



Abdul leading up at Bath Racecourse on 31.08.17