Issue Six

Trained to run, Retrained for fun...

2020



Celebrating 20 Years

Promoting the adaptability of former racehorses

Looking forward to when we will meet again



Foreword by Di Arbuthnot **RoR Chief Executive**



Every walk of life has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and it is the same within the equestrian world. The racing industry is not alone in facing an uncertain and challenging outlook. In recent years, the growth in demand for formerracehorses for non-racing purposes has

developed significantly and now over 7000 Thoroughbreds are registered with RoR. This is in no small part due to the opportunities made available to them through the charity's wide-ranging events in a increasingly number of equestrian disciplines.

While we are unable to hold any of these events at the present time, RoR's team, Toni Vaughan, Laura O'Neill and Margaret O'Sullivan are working from home to provide some online activities as well as help, support and a friendly voice. Asktheexperts advice, retraining tips from some well-known rider/trainers and help with showing turnout is available on our website and on social media. A series of in-hand showing competitions has started where video clips are submitted to the judges' and each entry will receive a reply; this is sure to be well supported. Last year's in-hand final at Aintree seems a very long time ago!

The Easter photo competition was a huge success with over 500 entries. Owner/riders also sent in their success stories whilst taking part in our series of competitions and explained how their Thoroughbred has changed their lives in so many different ways. A truly heartwarming read in these difficult times.

Whilst continuing with our work assisting horses that become vulnerable and needing emergency care, RoR is assisting racing at this time and contributing to the work of the COVID-19 Racing Industry Equine Welfare Group. We are represented by our Head of Welfare, Dr Jenny Hall and Head of Welfare Operations, Philippa Gilmore.

They are working with racing stakeholders to ensure the sport's high standards of equine welfare are maintained during this most challenging time.

The RoR Trustees under, the chairmanship of Paul Roy, recognised the very difficult times faced by some of the retraining centres and in partnership with the Racing Foundation, RoR are providing emergency funding to support them through the next few months.

We are very proud of the club nights and camps run in the regions by our hard-working volunteer team under the leadership of Anne Walker. They offer support, help and friendship to our members and in these present and uncertain times, this has never been so important.

On behalf of RoR, lots of hand clapping to you all to say thank for your help.



RoR Horse of the Year: Quadrille

The title of RoR Horse of the Year, the most prestigious prize at the Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) Awards, this year went to Quadrille, owned and bred by HM The Queen, who has been retrained for a second career by dressage rider Louise Robson.

Now in their sixth year, the Awards took place at the historic Jockey Club Rooms in Newmarket in January. The Awards celebrate the versatility of former racehorses across a range of disciplines with prizes awarded to winners in dressage, endurance, eventing, hunting, polo, showing and show jumping.

Quadrille was a talented racehorse, finishing second in the Hampton Court Stakes at Royal Ascot in 2010, however, his career on the track was cut short by injury. Dressage rider Louise Robson took on Quadrille, having previously worked with other horses owned by The Queen, and he is now the highest performing Thoroughbred on the UK dressage circuit. Ten years on from performing on the grand stage of Royal Ascot, Quadrille is aiming to compete at Grand Prix level in dressage.

Di Arbuthnot, Chief Executive of RoR, said: "Choosing the Horse of the Year was a hugely difficult decision because there are fantastic stories behind each of the elite winners, but I think Quadrille is a very worthy winner. He is just so good and dressage is one of the most difficult disciplines for the Thoroughbred. Also, Louise and Quadrille have become wonderful ambassadors for RoR, promoting the versatility of the Thoroughbred, not only through their success in the arena but also for the displays they put on."

Buckinghamshire based Louise said: "This horse is incredible. I do love him very much, he has been a challenge, in fact he still is and initially, we never thought he would get beyond novice dressage because his basic paces are not fantastic, yet now he can pirouette, he can piaffe, he can passage. His heart is there and he is still getting better and Grand Prix is the aim. I am so proud of him he really deserves this because he tries so hard.

"I am sure Her Majesty will be delighted. She has followed his progress since the first day we had him, and if Quadrille's example encourages others to get a former racehorse and take up dressage or simply to hack it around for fun, that would be wonderful."



Among the evening's other elite winners was Abseil, winner of the RoR Endurance title. Formerly trained by Sir Michael Stoute and bred by Juddmonte Farms, as well as excelling in endurance, Abseil and his rider Tracy Sieminski have shown their versatility by also competing in dressage, showing and cross-country classes.

The elite eventing award went to Dream Big, after the 9-year-old mare accumulated the most British Eventing points during 2019. Owned by Magdalena Gut and now ridden by international event rider, Tom McEwen, Dream Big is living up to her name and is set to step up to four star level eventing in 2020.

The supreme champions from RoR's two prestige showing series were both honoured on the night. Desert Joe and Rebecca Court got the judge's vote in the final of the RoR Tattersalls Show Series at Hickstead in June, while the pairing of Mumford and Collette McGoldrick was declared Supreme Champion at the RoR Goffs UK National Championships at Aintree in August.

The highest performing former racehorse on the polo field in 2019 was Maidana. The 9-year-old chestnut mare failed to trouble the judge in four starts under rules for Tim Easterby, but nurtured by polo pony producer Alan Kent, in 2019 she reached the heights of playing in the Argentine Open having been bought during the season for leading player Camilo Castangnola.

> Kikos was the 18-year-old winner of the RoR Ri-Dry Racing to Hunting Challenge. Regulars with the Heythrop Hunt, Kikos and his rider Amy Morgan have also enjoyed success in the dressage arena.

> And finally, the third mare among the elite winners was Early Shirley, who together with her rider Claudia Jones, has carved out a second career for herself show jumping. Their highlights from 2019 icluded qualifiying for the National Amateur Championships and two top ten finishes at the Bolesworth Young Horse Championships.



RoR Explained

RoR is British Horseracing's official charity for the welfare of horses that have retired from racing. The charity's roles and responsibilities comprise of the following four pillars of activity:

Facilitates

RoR facilitates the transition to a second career for horses leaving racing.

Most horses retiring from racing are eminently suitable for a further career in one of the sport horse disciplines or simply as a hack.

To assist in the transition, RoR offers:

- A **helpline** for owners and trainers who require assistance in the placement of a racehorse coming out of training;
- The RoR **Source** a **Horse** website through which former racehorses, either directly from the trainer's yard or for horses that have been out of training for a period of time, can be bought, sold or loaned;
- A **Retrainers Directory** listing a range of operators across the country who can assist in the retraining process, evaluating and assessing a horse for its temperament and suitability for a new life outside of racing.

Going forward, RoR intends to roll out a nationwide network of regional field officers who will be the on the ground points of contact for owners and trainers.

A key objective for RoR in facilitating the transition for horses leaving racing is to increase traceability of the racehorse population through registration with RoR.



Educates

RoR educates owners and riders who take responsibility for former racehorses.

Fundamental to securing a successful transition for horses leaving racing is the provision of information, advice, support and training for the owners and riders who have taken on a former racehorse.

To deliver its educational programme, RoR:

- Has established a **nationwide** regional network of **co-ordinators** who are the point of contact for riders in their area.
- Stages over **300 educational events** per year attended by 1,700 participants, who have all registered their horse with RoR, events include **club nights** and **camps**.

In addition, the charity stages an annual Showcase event, a full day of activities targeting the first-time owner or those looking to learn new disciplines. The 2019 Showcase at Hartpury College attracted over 500 visitors who enjoyed live demonstrations and clinics from a line-up of top trainers and experts sharing their knowledge on selecting, caring for, and retraining the thoroughbred for various equine disciplines.

As part of its nationwide education programme, RoR provides demonstrations and clinics at its flagship yard at Palace House, Newmarket and stages RoR Parades and Awareness Days on racecourses promoting awareness among racegoers of the range of activities open to former racehorses.





Creates

RoR creates opportunities for former racehorses to participate and compete in a range of equine disciplines.

Greater awareness of the Thoroughbred's versatility combined with a rise in the number of classes and competitions staged by RoR exclusively for former racehorses, has served to significantly increase demand for the breed within other equine disciplines, thereby reducing the risk of former racehorses becoming unwanted.

In 2019 RoR staged **40** separate competition series across **15** different disciplines catering for and rewarding all levels of ability, from grassroots to elite. The disciplines included dressage, showing, polo, eventing, show jumping, endurance, hunting and horseball.

As the events programme has evolved and grown, so has the quality improved and demand increased. RoR now also stages a number of championship events, including the RoR National Championships at Aintree, the UK's biggest event for former racehorses, as well as the Southern Dressage Championships at Blenheim Palace Horse Trials.

The elite winners in the major disciplines are celebrated at the RoR Awards held at The Jockey Club Rooms, Newmarket.



Protects

RoR protects the welfare of former racehorses, in particular those who are in need of charitable support.

All of RoR's work is welfare related. From facilitating the transition from racing to the educational and competition programmes, everything is geared towards protecting and improving the welfare of former racehorses.

RoR also operates two schemes to assist any former racehorse in need of charitable support.

Acting as a **nationwide 'safety net'**, the objective of the Vulnerable Horse Scheme (VHS) is to identify horses that without charitable intervention would become at risk or vulnerable. Under the scheme, RoR works with charitable rehoming partners and approved operations in first assessing and then providing funds for the caring of and rehoming of horses.

The Emergency Relief for Thoroughbreds (ERT) is for more pressing situations where the condition of the horse warrants immediate attention and, where applicable, veterinary care.

The RoR Welfare team work alongside the RSPCA, World Horse Welfare and the British Horseracing Authority (BHA). RoR has also established a network of equine veterinary surgeons from local practices, who are on stand-by to respond to any emergency call-out on behalf of RoR.



RoR Veteran Series for Point to Pointers promotes second career options



To highlight post racing career options for Point-to-Pointers, in 2019 Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) teamed up with The Jockey Club to jointly support the JC RoR Veteran Horse Series.

Sadly the fourteen race series was curtailed by the restrictions imposed after the outbreak of Coronavirus but the plan is continue the series for the 2020-21 Point-to-Point season.

There are several examples of successful point-to-pointers who following their retirement from racing have gone on to enjoy considerable success in another discipline, proving that age is no barrier to success in RoR events.

The winning pointer and hunter chaser What Of It (pictured above) retired in 2015 aged 12. Within three years What Of It was crowned RoR Elite Showing Champion, following victories in two of the most prestigious RoR showing classes in the country. Owned by Sarah Ward and her son Tom and ridden by Hannah Horton, in 2018 What Of It swept all before him, winning the Tattersalls Series Final at Hickstead before being awarded Supreme Champion at the RoR Goffs UK National Championships at Aintree.

After a seven-year career between the flags and under rules, winning nine races, five in points and four under rules, Jess Westwood's popular chaser Monkerty Tunkerty retired from racing in 2016. The pair quickly found their feet in a range of other disciplines, including showing, dressage and show jumping.

Throughout the fourteen race series RoR's aim was to increase awareness of what the charity can offer to assist horses in retraining for a second career, including an extensive range of educational clinics and club nights that are available to those that register horses with RoR.

Ned Causer wins RoR Horse Personality of the Year



Owner Sarah Peacock (right), receives the award from RoR Trustee, Lady Emma Balding.

The RoR Awards also heralded the twentieth anniversary since RoR achieved it's charitable status and this was marked with the inaugural RoR Horse Personality of the Year Award.

From over 250 nominations, best-selling author and renowned horse lover, Jilly Cooper CBE selected the 11-yearold gelding Ned Causer, who has had a transformative effect on the life of his owner and rider, Sarah Peacock, helping her overcome bouts of anxiety and depression.

Sarah Peacock, from East Yorkshire, said: "To win this award is just an amazing moment and I can't believe that Ned has done this. He has really changed my life. I've suffered from depression and it is quite a debilitating illness and Ned has been such a turning point since we got him on New Year's Day last year

"I have periods when I get really quite low, so it's difficult, but coming down to Ned every morning I know I have a responsibility and that he's always there waiting for me and he always makes me laugh. Last October we did our first dressage test together and I thought I was never going to be able to get out in front of people because I was so nervous and I put a lot of pressure on myself. But he helped me through it."

Sarah accepted the Paul Mellon Trophy from Lady Emma Balding for RoR Horse Personality of the Year. The trophy is named in honour of the late Paul Mellon in recognition of the generous beguest from his estate to RoR when the charity was established 20 years ago.

Di Arbuthnot added: "Ned Causer ran just three times in a short lived racing career when trained by Reg Hollinshead but he has had a transformative effect on the life of Sarah, indeed all three finalists for Horse Personality of the Year have changed the lives of people around them, and it is a powerful reminder of the value of developing a connection with a Thoroughbred."

The two runners-up were Real Desire and Grouse Moor. The 14-year-old Real Desire was nominated by his owner Bridget Bond. Desire has helped Bridget through some tough times while at the same time overcoming his own physical challenges. Jilly Cooper said "He comes across as such a character and a clown it is great that he is succeeding in so many different disciplines. He epitomises all that is good about these adaptable and wonderful horses.'

The film of Grouse Moor and his rider Jaqueline Doughton brought many in the audience to tears as they witnessed the bond between the two and how 'Grouch', as he is known, fufilled Jaqueline's dream to ride a Thoroughbred despite her being paralysed from the waist down after being born with spina bifida.

Grouse Moor is based at Tettenhall Group of Riding for the Disabled. Jilly Cooper said of Grouse Moor and Jaqueline: "It is so touching the way his gentleness and perfect manners have enabled her to really enjoy riding and indeed, in her words, 'His legs are mine and I am free to move". So well done Grouch!"

The three RoR Horse Personality of the Year films are available to view via RoR's YouTube channel.



and are also eventing

RoR Goffs UK National Championships

Mumford tops the charts!

In a racecourse career spanning four years Mumford was never a winner, but under the floodlights of the Aintree International Equestrian Centre, he was crowned 2019 Supreme Champion at the RoR Goffs UK National Championships.

Ridden by Collette McGoldrick, the seven-year-old gelding became the youngest ever winner of the RoR Elite Performance Award for Showing at the event which is now in its fifth year.

Just thirteen months earlier, Mumford was finishing sixth of nine in a Class 6 handicap at an evening meeting at Beverley. That turned out to be his final race in an eight-race career spread over four years.

Originally trained by Richard Hannon for owner Andrew Tinkler, Mumford was placed on two occasions as a two-year-old in 2014. The following year Mumford joined Geoff Harker's Thirkleby yard in North Yorkshire but in an interrupted racing career, during which he ran only five times in three years, Mumford did not trouble the judge.

A year on from his retirement from racing, Mumford is following in the footsteps of previous RoR showing champions; older, more experienced horses such as Jack The Giant, Beware Chalk Pit, Wild West and the 2018 winner, What Of It.

The remarkable transformation has been overseen by Collette McGoldrick and her partner Ed Young, who work together in producing ponies for showing. The pair took the horse on loan from Geoff Harker as his daughter was too young to ride competitively and Mumford has been busy competing in shows since April.



Abi Drury and Hero Worship winners of the RoR Veteran Horse Series at the RoR Goffs UK National Championships.



An overcome Collette McGoldrick, said "He had a few months off after finishing his racing career and then we started working with him over the winter and he just did everything we asked of him and more. He is a special horse. I am just very proud of him."

Among the horses Mumford competed against in the championship final were Barlow, formerly trained by Emma Lavelle and the winner of the Jockey Club Novice Championship and Hero Worship, now sixteen years old, who was a promising racehorse on the Flat for Michael Jarvis back in 2006. Thirteen years on, looking better than ever, Hero Worship took the honours in the RoR Ridden Veteran Series.

"It is Britain's biggest event for showcasing the versatility of the Thoroughbred."

Other notable names from the racetrack who competed with distinction at the championships included former Royal Ascot winner Namibian, who won the Elementary class of the RoR Northern Dressage Horse Championships, while Sovereign Debt, Annacotty and Monkerty Tunkerty all made it through to the their classes.

Such was the strength of the competition, neither Cue Card, nor Coneygree made it to the final of their RoR Open In-Hand Championship class. However, a packed crowd gave them a warm welcome when they later appeared in the Always A Star Parade at the Saturday evening Gala Performance, alongside Zarkandar and a host of former successful racehorses now thriving in a second career.

RoR GALLERY

Winners Gallery 2020



Early Shirley and Claudia Jones, RoR Elite Showjumping Award winners



Yojimbo and Fay Bryant, Prelim winners at RoR Southern KBIS Dressage Championships



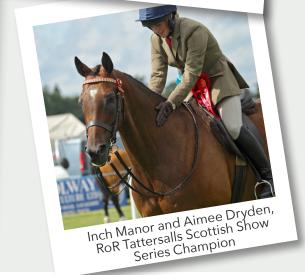
Maidana owned by Alan Kent, RoR Elite Polo Award Winner



Drastic Art and George Meyrick, RoR Racing to Polo Champion



Sweet Deal and Amelia Walker, RoR Elementary winners at RoR Southern KBIS Dressage Championships





Barlow and Katie Dashwood, RoR Jockey Club Novice winners





Untilla Legend and Yvonne Goss, RoR/BS Club League Champions



Dubawi Island and Georgina Wilkes, RoR Open In-Hand winners



David Cricket and Tina Cook, RoR/NTF Retrained Racehorse Eventing winner



Desert Joe and Rebecca Court, RoR Tattersalls Show Series Champion

We would love to see YOUR pictures! Please send them to info@ror.org.uk and we will print as many as we can!

David Cricket scores for Tina Cook at Gatcombe Park

Tina Cook and the seven-year-old gelding David Cricket won the 2019 RoR/NTF Retrained Racehorse Eventing Championship at Gatcombe Park, part of the Magic Millions Festival of British Eventing.

David Cricket raced three times in 2016 in the colours of Normandie Stud when trained by Alan King. He was placed in two bumpers before finishing his racing career with one unplaced run over hurdles.

Since retiring from a brief racing career at the close of 2016 and being retrained for a second career as an event horse, David Cricket has made rapid progress under the tutelage of Tina Cook, the 2009 European Champion and threetime Olympic medallist.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal joined RoR Chairman, Paul Roy, and trainer Richard Phillips, representing the NTF, on the podium to make the presentation to the winning owners and rider, which included a cheque for £2,000.

Cook and David Cricket, who is a son of the prolific race mare Lady Cricket, led the nineteen strong horse class from day one, the dressage phase. The pair jumped a double clear in the showjumping and cross-country on Saturday, before incurring just four additional penalty points when knocking down one pole in Sunday's second showjumping round to finish on 32.5 penalties.

In second place, just 0.2 penalties behind, was Highland Patriot and in third was Ballyvaughn, both the runner-up and third were ridden Jodie Amos and were previously trained by Caroline Bailey. In fourth was Watergate Bay, ridden by Harriet Colderick, the winner of the RoR Elite Eventing Award in 2018.

Afterwards, commenting on David Cricket's prospects, Tina Cook said: "I think he could go all the way. He's got a fantastic temperament, he is very scopey, and he is, touch wood, a sound little horse. He is a great horse to work with."

This was the second year the National Trainers' Federation sponsored final has been held at Gatcombe Park. First staged in 2003, the RoR Eventing Championship is an Intermediate Novice Class open to former racehorses.

Di Arbuthnot, Chief Executive of RoR, said: "We are so delighted for Tina and David Cricket. It is a much deserved win, especially as Tina has been a great supporter of RoR since the very early days of the charity.

"We are also thrilled with how the class is progressing and thriving following its move to Gatcombe where it is now an integral part of the Magic Millions Festival of British Eventing. It is great platform on which to showcase the versatility and talent of these horses."



David Cricket with rider Tina Cook, winners of the 2019 RoR/ NTF Retrained Racehorse Eventing Championship

Sun shines on the RoR KBIS Dressage Championships



In September 2019, over 100 former racehorses headed to SsangYong Blenheim Palace Horse Trials to compete in the RoR Southern Dressage Championships, kindly sponsored by KBIS Equine Insurance.

In its second year, the championships have already exceeded expectations and the competitors relished the opportunity to ride alongside 4* riders at such a prestigious venue.

The championships kicked off with the Prelim class and Fay Bryant riding Yojimbo was crowned 2019 Champion. Yojimbo is an 11-year-old formerly trained by Mick Channon and Fay praised the son of Aussie Rules, saying: "He's amazing, he will turn his hoof to anything from dressage to hunting, and gives rides to the whole family".

Jo Hales claimed the overall Novice title on husband Ben's horse, Que Sera. Nine-year-old Que Sera was formerly trained by Philip Hobbs and was bought by the Hales family as a point-to-pointer. Jo started retraining Que Sera after he unfortunately injured himself before his first point-to-point race.

He has since thrived in the dressage arena and has also turned his talents to side-saddle.

"I'm absolutely delighted, I wasn't expecting it," said Jo. "In January he'd struggle to canter a 20-metre circle, but we've sped his training up. I've done lots of work with him."

Amelia Walker took the Elementary championship on Sweet Deal, owned by Hannah Mustow. The nine-year-old son of Verglas previously raced in the colours of Susan Roy, wife of Paul Roy, chairman of RoR. "I've had him for a year" said Amelia, "he's evented up to CCI2* level as well."

Medium victory went to Fred Hodges on the 17-year-old Leaveittorog, owned by Lisa Kent. Fred took on the ride on the former point-to-pointer four and a half years ago when the horse was working at Novice level. He now works up to Advanced level at home

Across the two days of the championships, dressage rider Louise Robson and the RoR Dressage Display team provided demonstrations.



With Dressage Instructor Cara Hayward



Q1. What do you look for in a Thoroughbred?

I'm drawn to the eye and the walk. Overall star appeal is really important to me, they need to have a 'look at me' type of attitude!

Q2. How long does it take to retrain a former racehorse to dressage horse?

This will depend on each individual horse. I trained my current former racehorse. Luther from elementary to Prix St George in 14 months, which I'd say was quick, but he was keen and loved to learn. For me the conversion from racehorse to dressage horse has no time limit and the horse will guide you when he is ready for the next step. This part of the training must not be rushed as it is a huge part of their learning. The horse also needs to develop his muscles in a way he has never used them before and that takes a minimum of fourmonths to start off, he will then learn new muscle memory which will help him with his retraining and the understanding of what the rider is looking to achieve.

Q3. Do you have a specific process that you follow with each horse?

I do have a specific basic process, yes, but of course each horse will present me with different questions. Some questions take longer to explain to the individual horse than others and some horses ask 'why' more than others. The structure of the process is there but it is flexible where it needs to be.

Q4. Why did you start retraining former racehorses?

I have always enjoyed a challenge and gained most satisfaction from producing a horse which was raw and not necessarily designed for the job, for me that takes time, patience and having to truly master test riding (of course I'm still learning that) so former racehorses were the perfect choice.



Q5. What are the benefits of riding a Thoroughbred in dressage?

I have always found them very arena friendly to ride. Usually they have been exposed to huge environments from a young age so a dressage arena doesn't usually set them alight, if there is a crowd then you can guarantee they have seen another ten times bigger. Thoroughbreds have the most fantastic walk, in dressage thats double points, so what a good place to start.

Q6. Can you tell us about your best retrained former racehorse?

Well that has to be Luther (Louis to his friends) who is owned by Plum Rowland. I took on the ride when he had finished his eventing career where he competed to 2*. Louis had all the scope and talent to make a top flight event horse but he didn't have the courage sadly and since switching him to dressage he become a much happier horse being able to stay within the confinement of the whiteboards. He was a delight to train, with a lot of his questions only ever being "what else can I do to help." We competed at Prix St George for a season and trained to Grand Prix with him mastering the one time changes as his party piece, before he told me he had done enough and his body was starting to tire. We have semi-retired him very sound and happy aged 16.

Lots of people asked me why as he was still performing and was sound but I just knew it was time. He was telling me and I know him inside out, riding him is like putting on an old pair of shoes. Having never had a lame day since a two-year-old when he started his ridden career, I owed him a long, happy and easy retirement. He now enjoys a life with me of hacking, a few XC jumps in the woods and I may do a couple of music tests with him later in the year. He has also participated in the RoR dressage display team which he loved.



Hartpury Showcase attracts over 500 Visitors

In November, RoR staged its second Showcase event. This year it was hosted at Hartpury College Equestrian Centre and 500 visitors attended a full day of educational and training demonstrations targeting the first-time owner or those looking to enter new disciplines.

A line up of top trainers and experts including show producer Katie Jerram-Hunnable, British Dressage Instructor Cara Haywood, western rider Emma Lonie and other equine specialists shared their knowledge on selecting, caring for and retraining the Thoroughbred after racing for various equine disciplines.





Racing industry experts included racehorse trainer Bryan Smart and vet Jenny Hall discussing the racehorse as an athlete and it's transition to their second career.

In addition, there was an Ask The Experts Lounge where visitors had the opportunity to ask one-to-one questions to top trainers and gather more tips and advice from all the experts.

Trade and information stands included British Showjumping, British Horse Society, Baileys horse feed and the RoR Source a Horse team was on-hand for visitors to find out more about buying and owning a former racehorse.

The culmination of the day was a demonstration with racing legend Cue Card who is being retrained for showing.

Success Story: Beth Roberts talks about Chilli Boy

We've all heard the saying "a great horse will change your life and the truly special ones define it", well for me, Chilli Boy is that very special horse!

I've owned Chilli for twelve years now and he's changed me from someone who definitely didn't want a Thoroughbred to someone who's had the best time competing and training with my RoR friends and will now never buy anything but a former racehorse.

Lought Chilli as a 9-year-old. Fortunately for me, he was a not a good racehorse so his previous owner decided to sell him. I wasn't convinced when I first saw him, but I soon changed my mind when I rode him. He was keen, but not silly and when I jumped him he gave me a great feeling.

For the first few years we bumbled along jumping British Novice and Discovery classes but rarely coming out of the ring without 4 faults. Chilli was not the most careful and I'm not the bravest, so we were struggling to help each other out. In 2013 I left the UK for a year, leaving Chilli in a most fantastic loan home. Chilli came home to me in January 2015. He arrived on my birthday and will always be the best present I've ever had. We ticked along doing a bit of dressage until our yard was hit with

an outbreak of Strangles which, unfortunately, Chilli contracted. He was recovering and we were looking forward to a quiet Christmas until I found him with all his limbs swollen, refusing to move, looking very sorry for himself. After a diagnosis of Purpura Haemorragica I was faced with the awful prospect on Christmas Eve of putting Chilli to sleep if he wasn't showing any signs of improvement. Thankfully he improved on Christmas Day, much to the surprise of my vet, and it started to look like he would pull through.

Since his recovery we've done more than I could have ever imagined. In April 2017 we went to our first RoR Camp where we met a group of people I now count as some of my best friends. It was there that the idea to form a RoR North West Region Dressage Team originated and shortly after, team "RoRsome" was formed. Since then Chilli has been to five more camps, he's competed at the RoR National Championships at Aintree and done hundreds of dressage tests, completing his first few at Medium level this year.

At 21, Chilli is the oldest equine member of the team but still managed almost twenty outings in 2019, with thirteen of our scores being counted towards the final totals What Chilli has given me as part of the team is more than results though,

it's about being part of something and gaining a support network and a great group of friends.

At times Chilli can be a challenge, he's not above ignoring me if he feels his way is better, he can be spooky and he has a huge buck in him, but overall, he's been an easy horse to have around. He's at his best when his brain is active so he thrives off work and is a horse who always has his ears forward. I'm hoping he'll be fit and healthy for a long time to come. I'd love to qualify him for the Medium Northern Dressage Horse finals in the future, but as long as Chilli's happy, I'm happy.





IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Jenny Hall on her role as RoR Welfare Officer

In September 2019, Dr Jenny Hall took on the role of Head of Welfare for Retraining of Racehorses (RoR). Jenny is also the current Chair of the FEI Veterinary Committee and former Chief Veterinary Officer for the British Horseracing Authority (BHA).

Q) What is your role at RoR?

As a welfare charity everything we do at RoR, right across the board, is about ensuring the best possible quality of life for former racehorses. However, my specific responsibility is for the two programmes that provide charitable support to former racehorses. These are the Vulnerable Horse Scheme and the Emergency Relief for Thoroughbreds.

Q) What was your background prior to joining RoR?

I am a qualified veterinary surgeon and have worked for many years in equine practice. I have experience of working with racehorses in training, of Thoroughbred breeding, horses in sporting disciplines, particularly eventing, and a wide cross section of horses kept for other reasons. I have always loved horses and have ridden myself as a hobby since childhood.

Q) What is the process through which RoR steps in and helps horses?

The usual route is that RoR is contacted by either the current owner of the former racehorse in need of support, or someone acting on their behalf who is aware of the situation. Sometimes we are contacted by an individual who doesn't know the owner but is aware of the horse's situation. The contact may be by telephone via our office or our dedicated welfare number, or by email to myself

or Philippa Gilmore, our Head of Welfare Operations.

We will then assess the case and if the current owner of the horse is happy to transfer ownership it is relatively straightforward for RoR to step in and help. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and, if the situation warrants it, we will then work with another equine welfare body in a cross-agency partnership to have the horse moved to a safe location for rehabilitation.

Q. Can you tell us more about the Vulnerable Horse Scheme and the rehabilitation and retraining centres you work with?

The Vulnerable Horse Scheme (VHS) is the system RoR has in place to provide support to former racehorses that are in a situation where their future would be uncertain without charitable intervention. Anvone that is aware of a former racehorse in such a situation should contact us so we can discuss the best way forward. This support is not available to horses when they exit training as it is the racing owners' responsibility to manage that career move appropriately.

If a horse is accepted onto the scheme then we work with one of our partner rehabilitation or retraining providers to care for and assess the horse and to secure its future.

The numbers vary from year to year, but on average around 100 horses a year are supported by the scheme. Limited grant funding is provided to support the care, however, I recognise that this programme only succeeds because of the support and contribution of our hugely valued partners.



Q. Where does the funding for the Emergency Relief for Thoroughbreds and a horse's on-going care come from?

The funds for the Emergency Relief for Thoroughbreds are ring-fenced and come from RoR's resources set aside to support former racehorses found to be in need of immediate care. The background to the fund is that it was originally set up by the Racehorse Owners' Association (ROA), but it is now wholly administered by RoR.

In the majority of cases where this kind of support is required the horse or horses have been taken in by one of the larger charities because of the condition they were found in. RoR then works in partnership with the relevant organisation to support the horses in question and to find them a suitable new home when they are ready.



Our Patrons and Ambassadors:











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Getting involved

For news of upcoming RoR events please visit our website www.ror.org.uk and click on the discipline you are particularly interested in.

If you are considering buying or loaning a former racehorse then please visit our Source a Horse website:

www.sourceahorse.ror.org.uk or for any advice in finding your former racehorse a new home, call the helpline on 01488 648998.

Supporting RoR

Whilst RoR receives registration fees from RoR supporters, and funding from the racing industry, we are still very reliant on fundraising and donations in order to meet the daily operational costs.

If you would like to support RoR and enable us to meet our welfare responsibilities and expand the level of activities we currently provide, then please visit our website and click on donate. Alternatively if you would like to send RoR a donation, please make a cheque payable to Retraining of Racehorses and send it to our address as detailed left. *Thank you*.

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