



# CHANGING REIN



Issue Four

Trained to run, Retrained for fun...

Spring 2018

## IN THE NEWS

### New Source a Horse Website and Owner Trainer Helpline



Source a Horse is RoR's own "for sale" site designed to facilitate the sale, purchase or loaning of former racehorses. The site has been revamped to improve the customer experience and is for horses coming directly from a trainer's yard and those that have undergone retraining.

RoR have also launched an Owner Trainer Helpline to assist in the placement of horses coming out of training. With many options available, RoR are here to help.

Visit [sourceahorse.ror.org.uk](http://sourceahorse.ror.org.uk)

### ARC and RoR join forces with Awareness Days

In a new venture with the Arena Racing Company (ARC), a series of RoR Awareness Days are scheduled to take place throughout 2018 at a number of ARC venues. At each event, up to five locally based retrained racehorses will appear in the parade ring to showcase their second career.



A representative of RoR will brief the viewing public and, in addition, RoR films will be played on the big screens and information about the charity will be included in the racecard. The first ARC RoR Awareness Day is scheduled to take place at Fontwell Park on Sunday 27th May, with another the following day at Royal Windsor on Monday 28th May.



Millers Glen and Christina Higgs



Hunt Ball and Sarah Henderson

*RoR HORSES*  
**ATHLETIC  
INTELLIGENT  
VERSATILE**



Competitors await the judge's final decision at Aintree

# Welcome to the Spring Edition of Changing Rein

*“A more motivated and inspirational group of people would be hard to find.”*

Introduction by Yvette Dixon  
RoR Trustee



The finalists in the RoR Racing to Hunting Challenge follow hounds in front of the stands at Aintree

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding Chairman in Paul Roy supporting the Chief Executive Di Arbuthnot, who works tirelessly and is endlessly passionate about this cause. It is a privilege to be involved and I am proud of the progress and results achieved in the past twelve months.

A little about myself; I am a racehorse owner, breeder and a racing industry professional. Currently I also work as racing secretary for my son Scott, who is a trainer. We ourselves re-home many of our horses into all kind of disciplines and as a family we have close links to all aspects of equestrianism both competitive and non-competitive. I also re-trained, rode and owned a former racehorse who had a very successful showing career and I am passionate about the lives of thoroughbreds.

The link between racehorse owners and RoR is a very important one. Owners care deeply about their racehorses and the lives they have after racing, and I am delighted to announce that with effect from 2018 the ROA members have agreed to increase the owners' contributions towards RoR. The rise from £1 to £1.25 per race entry fee will bring in an additional income from owners, who are already the biggest contributors to RoR funding.

This additional financial commitment will sustain the great strides made in recent years in ensuring that the lives of former racehorses are enhanced, building on the outstanding work already in place

and enabling new initiatives to flourish. The ROA also sponsored classes at the 2017 RoR National Championships at Aintree, where I had the pleasure of co-judging, an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed.

I have been so very impressed with how totally dedicated many owners of former racehorses are. Not just at the shows, but also at smaller, regional events, such as training clinics and the numerous rehabilitation centres.

The new initiate of the hunting challenge with the final at Aintree, has got to be applauded. To see so many glorious ex-racehorses, many in their teenage years, finding another opportunity to showcase their versatility after their racing days are over was superb and hugely supported by the hunting fraternity.

Along with the shows, training events, musical rides, dressage competitions and fund raising events, the awards dinners and auction at Tattersalls, Newmarket, where the stallion nominations was a huge success, what great support we had from all aspects of ownership, breeders and stallion owners.

A huge debt of gratitude is due to the various Regional Coordinators and volunteers, many of whom freely give their time to arrange and put on events and are on hand to guide and assist those who require help and guidance towards successfully retraining their former racehorses. The whole team are so driven towards the future of RoR and the lives of our equine friends.

Finally a key issue for me is that we ensure that the vulnerable horses are cared for, and the extra funds raised will ensure that any former racehorse that is in need can have access to funding if it is required. Our welfare officer, Paul Jepson, does a fabulous job in liaising with owners with empathy and understanding.

Well done and congratulations to you all.

Roll on Spring - I can't wait to see the next year unfold.

Yvette Dixon - RoR Trustee



Yvette Dixon , RoR Trustee

## Beware Chalk Pit strikes gold at RoR Awards Night

The star turn at the annual RoR Awards was Beware Chalk Pit who celebrated his retirement from competition by winning RoR Horse of the Year 2017.

The Horse of the Year was the final award on a glittering evening, hosted by RoR Patron, Clare Balding, and ITV Racing's Luke Harvey, during which a total of ten awards were made.

Held at the Jockey Club Rooms in Newmarket, the RoR Awards celebrate the versatility and adaptability of former racehorses with trophies and total prize money of over £17,000 going to the year's Elite Champions in Dressage, Endurance, Eventing, Polo, Showing, Hunting and Showjumping.

The story of the former racehorse who took his amateur rider on an unforgettable journey earned Beware Chalk Pit the title of RoR Horse of the Year 2017. The 13-year-old gelding won two races in his first job, but since swapping the race-track for the show ring in 2015, Beware Chalk Pit's career has been on a different trajectory, rapidly climbing the showing ranks, competing and enjoying success at venues beyond the wildest dreams of his rider, Rebecca Court, who works full time as an Art Tutor at Birmingham University.



Beware Chalk Pit, RoR Horse of the Year

Luck and circumstance led to Court taking responsibility for the retraining of Beware Chalk Pit and she says of their shared journey:

"Beware Chalk Pit and I have achieved so many things together; before 'Pete', I had never driven a horsebox, never ridden in the main ring at Hickstead, never won a series final – of any sort, never ridden in a Supreme Championship – let alone won one! Never qualified for Horse of the Year Show, never beaten a Professional Rider and certainly never ridden at Cheltenham – what a once in a lifetime experience that parade at the Festival was! Together we have done all those things and more. This special horse owes me nothing, I owe him everything. He is my horse of a lifetime."

The judging panel of Sir Anthony McCoy, Luke Harvey and RoR Chief Executive, Di Arbuthnot, agreed, choosing Beware Chalk Pit as the winner of The Jockey Club sponsored award, with Right You Are and Wild West as honourable joint runners-up.

Beware Chalk Pit has now retired from competitive showing and returned to his owner, Ann Leftley and Jonathan Geake,

who trained him in his racing career.



Rebecca Court with the RoR Horse of the Year trophy won by Beware Chalk Pit and fellow finalists, Lizzie Harris (Wild West) and Charlotte Bowery (Right You Are)

Among the evening's other award winners, there were some wonderful stories of former racehorses that have only found their true forte once tried in a different discipline.

One of the most exciting prospects is the RoR Elite Eventing Champion, Gold Nugget. A 7-year-old gelding by Elusive City, now owned by Jane Moss and ridden by Andrew Downes, Gold Nugget has his sights set on graduating to Advanced level. On the racecourse Gold Nugget ran three times on the Flat, finishing unplaced on each occasion.

RoR Chief Executive, Di Arbuthnot said: "These awards showcase the benefits of RoR putting on opportunities for former racehorses to compete in a wide range of disciplines. Horses who often show precious little ability on the racecourse, subsequently find their niche in a second career.

"Seeing the delight on the faces of the award winners and hearing their backstories and triumphs over adversity is not only very heart-warming, it is also reassuring in terms of the strategy we have undertaken in recent years. The disciplines are becoming more competitive and the quality of winners keeps on improving."



2017 RoR Elite Eventing Champion, Gold Nugget and Andrew Downes

## Recently retired Annacotty enjoys being treated like royalty

Hannah Bishop is Racing Manager to owner Liz Prowting and the lucky person given the responsibility of retraining Mrs Prowting's Grade 1 winning chaser, Annacotty.

When you work with a team of horses, it's not the done thing to have a favourite but I cannot deny that Annacotty holds a special place in my heart.

Back in 2012, Annacotty was the first horse I went to the sales and chose, with the help of bloodstock agent Gerry Hogan. I broke every rule in the book, buying the first lot we looked at, but in my defence he had an almost perfect conformation, enormous presence, a great walk and, importantly, the big ears we always look for, as well as a kind, honest eye.

Annacotty went on to give Mrs P some incredible days, including her first Grade 1 winner and three big race wins at Cheltenham. The feeling I had when walking back with him into the winner's enclosure after the 2015 Paddy Power Gold Cup will stay with me forever.

To some, his retirement was surprising, with him only being a 9-year-old and sound. It was a team decision to let him bow out while still at the top and is testament to Mrs P's ethos of her horses having a life after racing, where the horses remain in her owner - ship and are cared for for life. As her racing manager, it is a policy I am very proud to be part of.

Annacotty is an absolute gentleman in the yard. To handle he is just like a family pet, but to ride he is most definitely the equine equivalent of driving a Ferrari!

The horses always spend their summer breaks here at home, but he in particular loves his home comforts. He lives a life of five-star-luxury and knows he is terribly important. So much so, he often gets called His Royal Highness!

I was fortunate in that there was no need for him to have a lay-off or break following his retirement and Annacotty has already been busy in his second career. You name it, we are giving it a go; showing, flatwork, show jumping, even side-saddle.

He has a lot of natural rhythm and balance so he has found adapting to show jumping very easy. He hates hitting poles and has very neat front legs for a racehorse. He is incredibly strong both out hunting and cross country but will jump anything, but equally he is



Hannah Bishop and Annacotty

happy to work on the flat and over poles, or go for a long hack with the boys on their ponies.

I try hard not to let his routine become repetitive, and am always looking for exercises to challenge his brain. He's one of those rare horses that would have made a success of any equine discipline, so it is an honour to have the ride now. I am relishing being able to get out and compete now that my children are older; it is enormous fun finding out what he's good at, what he likes and what I'm brave enough to try!

He's made me so many friends along this journey and throughout his career. I do get nervous and feel some pressure when I ride him competitively, but Mrs P says it doesn't matter how he does, providing he is having fun.

## Kingman top of the lots at Stallion Nomination Auction

**A first time venture aimed at raising money for RoR from the thoroughbred breeding industry raised just shy of £200,000. The funds were generated by an auction of stallion nominations held at Tattersalls, Newmarket, on the eve of the December Mares Sale.**

The champagne reception and auction drew a large crowd to the sales ring where television presenter Nick Luck compered the evening and Chairman of Tattersalls, Edmond Mahony, conducted the auction.

Top lot on the night was a nomination to Kingman, Juddmonte Farm's four-time Gr.1 winning miler. Bidding reached £60,000 before the hammer fell to Joe Foley, who bought the nomination on behalf of Steve Parkin's Branton Court Stud. Other highlights included €40,000 paid for a nomination to Gleneagles, who stands at Coolmore and five lots donated by Cheveley Park.

Paul Roy, Chairman of RoR, said: "It was a wonderful evening. We are incredibly grateful to the studs who donated stallion nominations and to those who bought them, raising nearly £200,000 for the charity.

"Our thanks to Edmond Mahony and everyone at Tattersalls. To me there was an added poignancy and relevance that the auction was taking place in the famous Tattersalls sales ring, where so

many dreams are bought. The event was raising money to ensure that when, as more often than not happens, the horses and dreams sold in that ring do not go on to a subsequent career at stud, they are provided with the opportunity to enjoy and thrive in an alternative career."

RoR and Tattersalls would like to thank, Amanda Skiffington, Cheveley Park Stud, Coolmore, Darley, Juddmonte Farms, Lanwades, The National Stud, Qatar Racing / Tweenhills, Shadwell and Whitbury Manor Stud.



A nomination to Kingman, kindly donated by Juddmonte Farms, was the top lot

## RoR Racing to Hunting Challenge back for 2018

Last year saw the inaugural staging of the RoR Racing to Hunting Challenge and following its success the search is on again to find the former racehorse who boasts the best manners out hunting.

Launched in January last year, the RoR Racing to Hunting Challenge attracted over sixty nominations from packs from all over Great Britain. From a list of thirty, the judging panel drew up a long-list and then five finalists were selected following visits by the judges to see the horses in action in the hunting field.

The challenge culminated at Aintree's Countryside Day last October when the five former racehorses undertook a series of challenges, include jumping and negotiating obstacles that they might face out hunting. The horses and riders also paraded with hounds from the Holcombe Harriers and were assessed throughout by the judging panel on their behaviour and performance.

The winner was adjudged to be

18-year-old Brumous, who Melanie Duff hunts twice a week. Melanie received a £2,500 first prize with a further £1,000 going to her local hunt.

Afterwards, Melanie said: "I am thrilled to have won and couldn't have done it without real team work. I feel so privileged to have him (Brumous), he's an absolute saint and as good a hunter anyone could wish for. Thank you to RoR for running this fantastic challenge. None of us really knew what today would hold, but it's been great fun and a real pleasure."

Mike Tucker, the leading equestrian commentator and Chairman of the panel of judges, said: "It is a pleasure to be involved with this great initiative and very rewarding to see so many former racehorses becoming such assets in the hunting field."

The 2018 RoR Racing to Hunting Challenge is now underway and open to horses that have raced in Great Britain (Point-to-Point or Under Rules) and are registered with RoR.

Once again, the winner will receive £2,500 cash as well as the Meriel Tufnell trophy and a Ri-Dry Coat kindly sponsored by Watt to Wear. The winner's hunt will also receive £1,000.



Melanie Duff and connections celebrate Brumous winning the RoR Racing to Hunting Challenge

## Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust continue to support RoR

The Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust are to continue their association with RoR in 2018 through their generous sponsorship of a range of RoR promotional activities.

The Trust is the official sponsor of the RoR Parades. The parades of former racehorses have become an established part of the day at several of the biggest race meetings in the UK, including the Cheltenham Festival, the Grand National Festival and King George Day at Ascot in July.

This year the Peter O'Sullivan Trust branded number cloths will also be seen at the nine 'RoR Awareness Days' due to be staged at racecourses within the ARC (Arena Racing Company) group, including events at Doncaster, Royal Windsor and Chepstow.

The Peter O'Sullivan Trust sponsorship of RoR activities extends to its support for the RoR Musical Ride Display Team, who wowed audiences in 2017 with their displays at the Game Fair and Newmarket

Open Weekend, among others.

The newly formed RoR Dressage Display Team will also be benefitting from Peter O'Sullivan Trust's support. The team will be participating in Dressage to Music displays across the South of the UK, their first outing being the Lambourn Open Day.

On behalf of the Peter O'Sullivan Trust, Nigel Payne said: "We have no doubt that Sir Peter would have enjoyed seeing his charitable trust associated with the parades and musical ride as they not only highlight the excellent work done by RoR in promoting a new life for horses after racing, but they also bring a lot of

pleasure to racegoers."

Di Arbutnot, Chief Executive of RoR, said: "The parades perform a valuable role for RoR in promoting awareness among racegoers of the range of activities open to former racehorses. Without the parades the racing public would be unlikely to see these horses in their new career, whether they be doing dressage, showing or any of the dozen disciplines RoR stages classes in."



Former racehorses on show in the Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust sponsored parade at Aintree's Grand National Festival

# Celebrating RoR winners



Wild West and Lizzie Harris, RoR Elite Performance Award for Showing



Mark Baldwin  
Young Producer Award Winner



Alefou D'Airy and Louisa Hylands, RoR/  
Tattersalls Scottish Show Series winners



Alimarr and Kathryn Pickering,  
winners of BE90, RoR Eventing  
Series



Gaelann East and Mumaathel, Winner of the RoR Novice Dressage Horse Award.



Karactacus Potts and Anna Collins, RoR  
Elite Endurance Champion



Imperial Ruby ridden by Southerly Roberts, winners of the RoR Tattersalls Show Series Winner



RoR Racing to Hunting Challenge Winner, Brumous, out in the hunting field



Quel Ange and Jane Gregory, RoR Elite Showjumping Champion



Jimmy Hay and Jenny Bulman, RoR Elite Dressage Champion



Harmony Wold and Jack Richardson, RoR Elite Polo Champion



Enzaal and Linda Davis, RoR Novice Dressage Horse Winner

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

## Taking the day job home!

Given their dedication and commitment, not to mention the emotional attachment racing's workforce develops with horses in their care, it is perhaps not surprising that many also look after and re-train former racehorses after hours. Here we highlight the cases and commitment of Steph Potter, who works in Lambourn for trainer Charlie Hills, and Camilla Orttewell, who is based in Somerset and works for Paul Nicholls.

Steph Potter is Racing Secretary to Group 1 winning Flat trainer Charlie Hills and combines her day job with looking after three former racehorses, most notably the 11-year-old Follow The Facts who is her main competition horse. She also has in her care Beyond The Pale who is a now retired 20-year-old and she has recently taken on Alphabet Bay, an 8-year-old who is currently on holiday after finishing his racing career with a leg injury.

Steph says of former racehorses: "I would have a barn full if time and money allowed! They are the most rewarding horses to ride and train. They will give you their all and become your lifelong friend in the process and what's even better we get to



Steph Potter and Follow The Facts at the RoR National Championships

give them a second chance.

"As you can imagine with three horses and a full-time job my days start early and finish late. I'm up and out of the house just after 5.30am. I feed, muck out and turn out the horses and start work at 8am. In the evenings I am usually home by about 8.30pm having ridden after work and put the boys to bed.

"I was gifted Ned (Follow The Facts) in 2012 from Nicky Henderson's stable, a week after his last race. He settled into life outside of racing very well and he has gone from strength to strength in the last six years. He has done a bit of eventing and loves to go cross-country but he does find the show jumping fillers terrifying, we used to joke that he needed to go to Spec Savers!

**"They will give you their all and become a lifelong friend in the process"**

"Last year I concentrated more on our dressage which he is excelling at and we have achieved more than I ever dreamed we could. He now regularly competes at British Dressage (BD) Elementary level and will be competing at Medium level this year. Our goal is to go Advanced Medium if the jockey can remember all the moves!

"Last year we were lucky enough to compete at the RoR Champ-

ionships at Aintree, as well as the BD Area Festivals and Finals. We finished the season at the BD Thoroughbred Championships in November where we finished 10th in the Elementary class. Ned also went to Cheltenham in December as the Painted Horse for The Horse Comes First themed day and starred on ITV Racing."

Camilla Orttewell has been working for ten-time champion trainer Paul Nicholls for three seasons and is now a work-rider who also does jobs in the office. Her former racehorse is the talented chaser Rocky Creek who was given to Camilla by his owners, the Johnson and Stewart families.

"I have had Rocky for nearly a year now and I feel we have achieved quite a lot already, although we have not yet done any competing he is working nicely on the flat and has taken to his new life like a duck to water.

"When he was in-training I had not ridden or looked after Rocky and the first time I sat on him was when we took a bunch of the horses out hunting. I was actually meant to be riding a different horse but that didn't go to plan, however, I knew Rocky would be okay as he had already been out a few times.

"When Paul asked me if I would like to rehome Rocky I was quite surprised as I was not expecting it. Obviously, I had to say yes because he is such a gent of a horse, and I am so lucky to have him. He has fitted in so well with my three younger sisters' ponies and has become a part of the family.

"The main job he will be doing is hunting with the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale, which he absolutely loves and it is like he has been doing it forever, but I plan to do a bit of everything with him and hopefully I will get him in the show ring this summer and do some RoR classes.

"As I mainly work-ride for Paul now, it frees up more time for me to be retraining Rocky. I get up to feed him in the morning, go and ride three horses at Paul's then I get home to ride Rocky, whether it be a schooling session or riding and leading one of my sisters' ponies on a hack.

"We do have our highs and lows but there have been a lot more highs than lows so far. The only thing that frustrates me about him is when he tries to pretend that he can't work in an outline and I know that he can. That and when he tries to bite me!"



Rocky Creek and Camilla out hunting with the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale

## Brothers in Arms - George Bielby and Monkerhostin

Since returning from his last tour of Afghanistan, Royal Marine Sergeant Major George Bielby has been on a journey, a journey where his partner has been former racehorse Monkerhostin. The pair are a shining example of the unique bond that exists between horse and rider, each helping the other along the way.

George Bielby has served in the Royal Marines for 27 years. In 2009, he returned from Afghanistan and the contrasts between his day-to-day experiences on his tour of duty and that of life back home initially made for a difficult transition.

It was during this time that George took on Monkerhostin, following a recommendation by Johnson White, assistant trainer to Philip Hobbs.

“I went to Philip Hobbs’s gallops one day having bumped into Johnson, who’s an old friend, and I mentioned we were looking for another horse, a general riding horse. He said they had a retired racehorse and they were looking for a home for him, but it was not any old horse, it was Monkerhostin.”

To racing fans, Monkerhostin was a character. Not perhaps the most consistent horse, he was most definitely a very talented one. A winner at the Cheltenham Festival, he also defeated the great Kauto Star and in his penultimate season won the prestigious Bet 365 Gold Cup at Sandown.

“I started riding him and I immediately began to identify that our lives were not that dissimilar. I have made this analogy before, but racehorses are in many ways like soldiers. They live very disciplined lives and when they are asked to perform they are expected to give everything, yet they have arguably the least to gain from what they do and the most to lose.

“And at the end of their careers it can be quite difficult making that transition from out of racing and equally that also applies to soldiers, so I identified with him and the little issues and problems he was having in adjusting to life after racing.”



As the pair got to know each other, something else became apparent to George.

“What I did notice though, and I’ve ridden lots of horses, is that there was something unique about Monkerhostin. Every time I went for a ride on him, I felt better, I felt like I had been on a bit of journey. And not only that, he seemed to come back feeling better also.”

Based on his experience with ‘Monkey’, George says he would recommend a former racehorse to any competent, confident rider.

“I believe the qualities I have that have helped me become a successful soldier, will also make me a success when the day comes and I become a civilian. And similarly, the qualities that make a racehorse good at what they do will also make them good in another job. They are versatile, they are adaptable, they can do so many other things and I think there is probably a person for every thoroughbred out there.”

In Monkerhostin, George has already found his equine soul mate.

## RoR/NTF Eventing Championship moves to Gatcombe



Zippi Jazzman and Izzy Taylor, RoR/NTF Eventing Champions 2017

The 2018, the running of the RoR Retrained Racehorse Eventing Championship, sponsored by the National Trainers Federation (NTF), will this year be held at Gatcombe Park as part of The Festival of British Eventing (3rd to 5th August).

The NTF sponsored championship has a prize fund of £6,000 and was won last year by Izzy Taylor riding Zippi Jazzman who took the first prize of £2,000. The American bred gelding was formerly in-training with Ralph Beckett.

First staged in 2003, the RoR Eventing Championship is an Intermediate Novice Class open to any grade of former GB raced thoroughbred. Entries are accepted on a first come first served basis.

Peter Phillips, Event Director of The Festival of British Eventing, said: “The Festival of British Eventing is thrilled to be hosting the RoR Retrained Racehorse Eventing Championship at Gatcombe Park. The Festival is a true showcase of

our sport with 2018 seeing five National Championships taking place over the weekend and it seems only right that we are including this ever growing class amongst them.

“With the likes of Izzy Taylor and Harry Meade having won the RoR Eventing Championship crown in previous years, I can guarantee we will be treated to an exciting and top class competition.”

Di Arbuthnot, Chief Executive of RoR, added: “We are thrilled that the class will be part of The Festival of British Eventing. The RoR Retrained Racehorse Eventing Championship is one of our longest running competitions and our thanks go to the NTF for their continued sponsorship and also to all at Barbary Castle for staging the class in previous years and helping make it such a success.”

Visit [ror.org.uk/competitions-series/eventing](http://ror.org.uk/competitions-series/eventing) and [www.festivalofbritisheventing.com](http://www.festivalofbritisheventing.com), for further information.

# HEROS CHARITY - FOCUS ON A RETRAINING CENTRE



Grace Muir, CEO HEROS

### Location

HEROS is based at North Farm Stud, near Wantage, Oxfordshire

### History

North Farm Stud has been associated with the breeding, care and management of thoroughbreds for over 80 years. The idea of HEROS (Homing Ex-Racehorses Organisation Scheme) began to take shape in the early 1990s when Grace Muir succeeded her father, Ian, as Stud Manager. Grace's passion for and success in re-homing racehorses eventually led to the setting up of HEROS Charity, which was officially registered in July 2006.

### Facilities

HEROS is fortunate to be able to utilise many of the facilities available at North Farm Stud, its facilities include:

- Stabling, purpose-built, American-style barns and also outside stabling
- 200 acres of turn-out, plus restricted turnout areas
- Three horse walkers, two standard-size and one extra large Monarch walker
- 80ft covered shed with waxed Protrack surface used for breaking and lunging.
- Outdoor floodlit school, 40ft x 25ft outdoor school with waxed Protrack surface.
- Indoor arena, state-of-the-art 50m x 35m indoor arena with Ecotrack Surface
- Access to alternative therapies where appropriate, including acupuncture, homeopathic remedies and various massage techniques

*Grace Muir, Chief Executive of HEROS Charity, describes the process and challenges of taking on a former race-horse straight out of training, and the steps taken by the centre to make a success out of re-homing.*

### Tell us about the horse you have chosen as a case study:

Searchlight came to us in 2016 as five-year-old gelding. On the track he was campaigned as a 5-6 furlong sprinter, running 39 times, winning six races and earning just over £35,000 in prize money. He ended his career on an official rating of 87, which is very respectable. He was owned by a Racing Club, who had also bred him, and for whom we have previously re-homed horses. Each horse that we take on is accepted with a donation depending on the needs and arrangements for that specific horse.

### What were the challenges you faced after taking the horse on?

The first challenge with Searchlight was that he arrived with a cut on his right hind which took some time to heal and delayed us in getting him started with his re-training. He was also a bad box walker which was far from ideal as he needed to stay in whilst his leg was healing.

Fortunately, we were able to put him in one of our sheds which helped as it gave him much more space, while also ensuring the healing process continued. As soon as we could turn him out regularly, his box walking improved and he became much more settled. He took to re-training very well and immediately enjoyed hacking out. A big plus was that

he was happy to hack out in company or on his own and also that he was a safe and sensible ride.

### How did you identify where his future might lie?

We first thought a showing home would suit him as he was good looking and moved well, but as he was such a willing student, we decided that he would make a very nice riding club all-rounder type of horse. He adapted to everything that was asked of him and enjoyed new challenges. He needed a home where he could get all year round turn-out and someone who would be calm and quiet around him in the stable and not get worried if he started to box walk.

### How did you go about finding him a new home?

His details were posted on our website and as with all horses here, if someone calls with the right credentials, they are invited to come and see the horse and any other suitable horses here. We lease the horses and keep in touch to monitor their progress.

### What news of him? How is Searchlight getting on?

He spent last summer doing fun rides and schooling and has recently been to his first show jumping competition in a 70cm class where he was placed fourth. He and his lessor both thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was a very relaxed outing. So far, so good and the future looks bright for the pair of them.



Searchlight taking part in the Highclere Fun Ride (photo courtesy of Spindletree Photography)

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Anne Walker, National Coordinator

### Q) What does your role as RoR National Coordinator entail?

My role is quite varied, however, my principal objective is to lead the team of Regional Coordinators and oversee the regional training programme at grassroots level. In addition to this, I organise the RoR National Championship Show at Aintree in August, with the support of the head office team and Carly Sage and her team at Aintree.

Overall, my job is to lead the team of Regional Coordinators in providing more opportunities for former racehorses to have a secure, happy and useful life after training, and in as wide a variety of disciplines as possible.

### Q) Tell us more about the role of the Regional Coordinators?

The RoR Regional Coordinators are a dedicated team of passionate and enthusiastic volunteers who deliver the regional training programme to our membership. They are the face of RoR in their region and all have a wide and varied equestrian background combined with the requisite passion for retraining racehorses.

They host and run clinics at subsidised rates for RoR horses and their riders. A lot of the Coordinators also organise Residential Training Camps, which are hugely popular among our Membership. Not only do the members have a good time, but the intensive training over the two to three days of camp is so beneficial in strengthening the partnership of horse and rider.

The Regional Coordinators provide myself and the team at Head Office with valuable support as they are also the eyes and ears of RoR and should a horse be identified as having a problem or being vulnerable, they can notify Head Office, so helping to provide a safety net for such horses.

### Q) What do you consider the most important elements of your role?

Providing education and opportunities that cater for horses and riders at every level, from grassroots up to elite.

A key part of the role is overseeing the implementation of a nationwide regional training programme that offers help, education and support to those taking on a former racehorse, as well as continued training opportunities for our membership.

I also run the Regional Leagues; these give members the chance to compete in open company (not RoR specific) in dressage, show jumping, arena eventing and cross country, collecting points towards qualification to the finals at the RoR National Championships.

In addition, I work closely with the team at RoR head office to ensure that despite the increasingly demanding and changing landscape of the wider equestrian world, there are opportunities for former racehorses to compete in as many disciplines as possible, to highlight their versatility and adaptability to a new career.



### Q) What was your background before?

Prior to my current role, I was a Regional Coordinator myself for a few years and I was also employed in the equestrian sector. I was assistant manager in a large competition/livery yard for many years, organising affiliated and unaffiliated events. I also worked in the racing industry for many years after leaving school.

### Q) What do you find most rewarding about your role with RoR?

This has got to be the smiles. The smiles the riders have on their faces after each little achievement, whether it be trotting over a pole at one of our regional clinics, their first solo hack, or receiving their first ever rosette at a Riding Club event right the way through to winning at a major RoR Championship.

I never tire of watching the journey and transition from racehorse to riding horse, the emotional roller-coaster journeys that some of our members embark on, the look in their own horse's eyes when that horse has found his forever friend. When I see this look, these smiles, I know that we are getting there and that the support provided by my team can mean so much.

## RoR launch new Showcase Live and End of Season Party

This year RoR are launching a Showcase event, supported by the Racing Foundation, to be followed by the End of Season Party.

The event is designed to be an inspirational, educational day demonstrating the versatility and adaptability of the thoroughbred, showcasing the transitional training for former racehorses in a number of key disciplines amongst other attractions including Q & A sessions and trade stands.

With demonstrations from top trainers, the day will give valuable tips on initial training of the newly retired racehorse, through to the more established combinations whose

horses have been out of racing for a period of time.

The day will be rounded off with the End of Season Party featuring an awards ceremony, dinner and a celebration to the end of a busy and successful season.

The event is a "not to be missed opportunity" so get the date in the diary Saturday 3rd November at the Aintree Equestrian Centre, Liverpool.



# Goffs UK announced as title sponsors of National Championships

Leading bloodstock auctioneers, Goffs UK, have been announced as the title sponsors of the 2018 RoR National Championships, held at Aintree Equestrian Centre. The six-day event runs from Tuesday 21st to Sunday 26th August 2018.

Launched in 2015, RoR's National Championships bring together the best former racehorses from all over the UK and the event has established itself as a showpiece in the calendar for horses that are flourishing in their second career.

The six-day extravaganza features the RoR Dressage Series Championships and other Series finals and jumping classes before concluding with two days of the RoR National Showing Championships, the highlight of which is Sunday's Gala Evening when the Supreme Champion is crowned. In 2017, the coveted title went to nine-year-old gelding Wild West, ridden side-saddle by Lizzie Harris.

Last year Goffs UK were joint sponsors of the National Showing Championships together with the Racehorse Owners Association (ROA). This year they are the title sponsors for all six days.



Katie Jerram and Singing Hinnie

## KEY EQUESTRIAN EVENTS FEATURING RoR ACTIVITIES.



13th - 16th March  
*Cheltenham Festival.*

30th March  
*Middleham Open Day.*  
*Lambourn Open Day.*

12th - 14th April  
*Randex Grand National Festival.*

2nd - 6th May  
*Badminton Horse Trials.*

24th June  
*The Al' Shir'aa Hickstead Derby Meeting.*

3rd - 5th August  
*Festival of British Eventing, Gatcombe*

21st - 26th August  
*Goffs UK RoR National Championships, Aintree.*

Tony Williams, Managing Director of Goffs UK, said:

"We are delighted at Goffs UK to be the title sponsor of the RoR National Championships at Aintree. We recognise the importance of promoting the adaptability and versatility of the thoroughbred and RoR does great work providing an increasing number of former racehorses with fulfilling second careers.

"Goffs UK has an existing partnership with Aintree racecourse through our sale on the Thursday evening of the Grand National Festival and we are looking forward to a fruitful relationship with all the parties involved for what is a great cause."

For more information on the schedule of events and entry details please visit the RoR website; [ror.org.uk](http://ror.org.uk)

### Our Patrons:



Clare Balding OBE



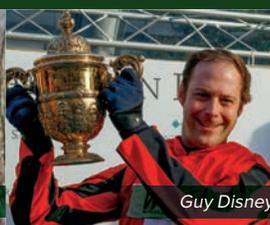
Sir Anthony McCoy



Frankie Dettori MBE



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Guy Disney

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### Getting involved

For news of upcoming RoR events please visit our website [www.ror.org.uk](http://www.ror.org.uk) and click on the discipline you are particularly interested in.

If you are considering buying or taking a former racehorse on loan, or have one that you would like to sell or loan out then please visit our new Source a Horse website: [www.rorsourceahorse.org.uk](http://www.rorsourceahorse.org.uk).

### 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 and expand the level of activities and welfare assistance we currently provide, then please visit our website and click on donate. Alternatively if you would like to send us a donation, please make a cheque out to Retraining of Racehorses and send it to our address as detailed above. *Thank you.*