

Retraining Centres and ERT

RoR supports five charitable retraining centres for the care, retraining, and rehoming of former racehorses: Greatwood, HEROS, Moorcroft, TRC and Hollisley Bay. It also makes ad hoc grants to other homing organisations. RoR granted funding totaling £400,000 to these centres in 2014.

RoR also continues to support the Emergency Relief for Thoroughbreds (ERT), providing financial assistance for those rare cases when former racehorses are found to be neglected, ill treated or sick, and need immediate attention.

Funding

RoR funds its activities through a combination of donations from racing's participants, and investment income. This generated £690,000 in 2014, with owners contributing 29%, racecourses 13%, investment income 18%, and from HBLB, trainers, bookmakers, breeders, jockeys and auctioneers 14%. The remainder is made up of fundraising and sponsorship activities including a grant from the Racing Foundation and, as the ROA's nominated charity in 2014, a generous donation was raised for RoR by the ROA at their annual awards dinner:

RoR Trustees

Clare Balding OBE became a Patron of RoR in 2014 joining HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein.

Paul Roy – **Chairman**

Rory MacDonald – **British Horseracing Authority**

Lady Emma Balding – **National Trainers Federation**

Sheila Bailey – **Racehorse Owners Association**

Dr David Hunter – **Racecourse Association**

Joe Grimwade LVO – **Thoroughbred Breeders Association**



RoR/TBA Retrained Racehorse Challenge winner – Desitaire & Jodie McGregor



The Jockey Club RoR Novice Show Series winner – Hero Worship & Abi Drury



RoR Patron Clare Balding OBE cutting the cake at the inaugural RoR Awards with Willie Carson OBE, Lady Emma Balding (Trustee), Di Arbuthnot (Chief Executive), Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles OBE (founding Chairman) and Paul Roy (Chairman) (L-R)

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RETRAINING OF RACEHORSES

Trained to run, retrained for fun

Review of 2014

Chairman's Foreword

The ongoing success of RoR reflects the hard work, drive and enthusiasm of our executive team, our Regional Coordinators and many others who support our activities. I would like to open this annual review by thanking them for their efforts in 2014, which has been another successful year for the charity. In addition to supporting retraining centres we promoted a number of regional educational activities during the year, as well as staging competitions for former racehorses across a dozen different equestrian disciplines.

Since its inception in 2000, RoR has established itself as one of Britain's leading equine good causes, promoting high standards of equine welfare and supporting the Racing industry's message that it truly cares about what happens to racehorses after their racing careers have finished.

We are not resting on laurels, however. In 2014, RoR commissioned an independent strategic review of our activities to see how we can continue to grow and how we can further stimulate demand for retired racehorses. I would like to thank Jonny McIrvine, former Chief Executive of the ILPH, (now World Horse Welfare) for his work in leading this review.

One of the review's key recommendations was to appoint RoR's own dedicated Welfare Consultant to monitor vulnerable horses and to act as liaison with the retraining centres. RoR is therefore delighted to have recruited Brigadier Paul Jepson to this role. Previously Chief Executive of The Horse Trust, Paul is Vice President of BEVA and played an integral part in advising Government on the establishment of the National Equine Welfare Protocol. His work will be in addition to our collaboration with the World Horse Welfare pilot scheme to retrain 'vulnerable' former racehorses at World Horse Welfare's Norfolk Rescue and Rehoming Centre.

Finally, I would like to thank our Patron, Clare Balding OBE for hosting the inaugural RoR Awards at The Jockey Club Rooms in 2014. These Awards are supported by The Jockey Club and designed to recognise the dedication of new owners of former racehorses that go on to achieve a successful change of career in different equestrian disciplines. A hugely enjoyable and often emotive evening, this event also featured one of Racing's great jockeys, Willie Carson OBE, as guest presenter and we thank him for his participation.

RoR has much to build on in 2015, and I look forward to another rewarding year working with all our partners to help the charity make further progress.

Paul Roy, RoR Chairman



Robyn Gray receives the RoR Horse of the Year Champion Award for her multi-talented former racehorse Whatcanyasay

RoR Series of Competitions

The RoR Series recognise the success of former racehorses in all equine disciplines and continues to grow in popularity, encouraging more riders to rehome former racehorses. The RoR Regional Coordinators have also organised an increased number of grassroots competitions.

SHOWING Over 150 classes across the: RoR/Tattersalls Show Series, RoR/Tattersalls Scottish Series, RoR/TBA Retrained Racehorse Challenge, and the new The Jockey Club RoR Novice Show Series. RoR also supported the TARRA unaffiliated classes, with prizes in kind presented at all competitions and at all levels.

Two elite prizes of £2,500 each were presented to the winners of the RoR/Tattersalls Show Series final at Hickstead and the RoR/SEIB Racehorse to Riding Horse final at the Horse of the Year Show. Finals were also held at the Royal Highland Show for The Scottish Show Series, at the Aintree National Showing Show for the new Novice Show Series, and the Challenge final was held at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

SHOW JUMPING National Recognition Awards in association with BSJA of £5,000, including an Elite Award of £2,500.

DRESSAGE RoR Racehorse to Dressage Horse Series for Introductory, Preliminary, Novice and Elementary culminating in a final with a prize fund of £2,000. Plus the Elite Awards of £3,000, in association with BD.

EVENTING 51 BE90/100/Novice sections in the RoR/Bedmax Racing2Eventing Series. Plus the RoR/NTF Retrained Racehorse Event Championship at Barbury International with a £6,000 prize fund, and the Elite Awards of £3,000, in association with BE.

ENDURANCE Elite Awards of £3,000, in association with Endurance GB.

POLO Racing to Polo Challenge with four classes depending on age and a prize fund of over £9,000. Plus prizes at International/medium/low goal events sponsored by Lycetts, and an Elite Award of £2,500.

TRAILBLAZERS Prizes for unaffiliated show jumping, combined training and dressage competitions at the Trailblazers Championship.

TEAM CHASING/OTHER Prizes awarded at the National Team Chasing Championships, plus prizes given in many other equine disciplines such as polocrosse, horseball and Le Trec.



RoR Elite Show Jumping Champion – Captain Willoughby & Joanne Fulcher



RoR Elite Polo Champion – Fille de Dauphin & Mark Tomlinson



RoR/Tattersalls Show Series and Elite Show Champion – Jack The Giant & Allister Hood



RoR/NTF Retrained Racehorse Event Championship winner – Inishmor & Paul Tapner



RoR Elite Dressage Champion – Austin Approved & Sandie Newton



RoR Elite Endurance Champion – Magic Powers & Valerie Bradshaw

Education and Training

REGIONAL SUPPORT In 2014, RoR spent £329,000 on education and training with the expansion of the grassroots educational programme at county level across GB with the help of 12 volunteer RoR Regional Coordinators, each involved in running regional activities including clinics, lectures and camps.

Regional competitions including the Riding Club Challenge, new regional leagues and championships provided many new opportunities for riders with former racehorses.

PROMOTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS RoR also continues to provide extensive advice to potential and existing owners of former racehorses through its website, with the 'Care & Retraining' section, and the 24/7 'Ask the Expert' helpline.

RoR's successful event programme and regional support, along with social media marketing and regional PR, has resulted in an increase in registrations and visitors to the website www.ror.org.uk. The website received over 115,000 visits and 65,000 unique visitors in the last year; a year on year increase of 24% and 30% respectively. 9,970 horses are registered with RoR up to 31st December 2014, with over 5,400 horses registered to compete in the RoR Series, both have increased by 15% in one year.

Redevelopment of the website to a responsive site for tablets and mobile, as well as improving the navigation and the registration process to cater for the increased activities of RoR, is underway.



Over 100 educational events were organised by RoR Regional Coordinators



Many regional competitions were held across the country

RoR Showcases Former Racehorses

RoR Parades again provided the opportunity to showcase the talents and versatility of former racehorses to racing audiences at Cheltenham, Aintree, York, Musselburgh and Ascot racecourses. The parade at Ascot took place during the high-profile Qipco British Champions Day and featured a parade of RoR Champions, as well as a unique display from RoR North East's Musical Ride Team.



RoR Musical Ride Team at Ascot Racecourse on British Champions Day