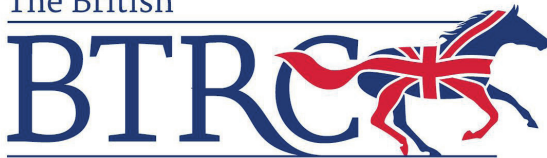


The British



Thoroughbred Retraining Centre

## Dear Supporters,

It seems that once again 12 months have passed in the blink of an eye and after another busy year I am writing to you to update you on everything happening at Whinney Hill. With another Christmas rapidly approaching, let me first remind you that the Centre's Christmas cards are now on sale. All funding is vital to ensuring the future of the Centre and our ability to continue the work we do, particularly in these challenging times, so I hope you will all support us by purchasing a pack or two!

There is no doubt that 2019 has been a difficult year for the Centre given our continuing dispute with Retraining of Racehorses over the terms of the contract they want to impose upon us, which has resulted in no financial support since 2018. We are however working hard to resolve the issue and throughout the year we have continued to run a full yard with many horses already having found new forever homes. As always, we never sell any horses gifted to the Centre, but instead find each horse a suitable and dedicated loaner for them to enjoy their post racing years together.

Meanwhile we are continuing to work hard on getting the funding in place to implement the Masterplan which we believe will greatly enhance the numbers of horses we shall be able to help each year and will also provide opportunities for more income streams.

The Masterplan now has full planning permission for a new outdoor rehabilitation arena and 40 new stables doubling the capacity of Whinney Hill. It is vital that this work is done even though finding the funds to achieve it, on top of the £450,000 we need to operate each year, is not easy. However, once done, we believe it will secure our future and, more importantly, the safe and secure futures for thousands of thoroughbreds. I hope this expansion will enable the British Horseracing Authority to consider the BTRC as the major Centre and safety net for vulnerable thoroughbreds in the UK.

Some of you may have seen the letter I wrote to the Racing Post on this subject and which gained a lot of support, not only from the other major retraining Centres at Moorcroft and HEROS, but also from within the racing industry from trainers and racecourse officials. I want to stress that I was not criticising the excellent work the RoR has done in promoting the uses for retired racehorses, but that the funds they have used to do so have come out of the welfare kitty.

In this day and age, when horse welfare tops every agenda, particularly after the appalling story of Anette Nally in the Midlands and the shocking report from Australia, British racing cannot afford to overlook this vital area and I feel sure that BHA Chief Executive Nick Rust is convinced that much more needs to be done. Hopefully, the new BHA Welfare Committee will give a focal point to what needs to be achieved and we were delighted to welcome the Committee Chairman Barry Johnson (former BTRC Trustee) on a visit to the Centre earlier this year.



Thank you to all who supported our events this year including another very successful Open Day in September when we concentrated on showcasing our horses and the work that goes on at Whinney Hill. Make sure you pop a note of next year's Open Day date in your diary... Saturday 15th August 2020. We also paid our annual visit to Cartmel Racecourse in July and were delighted by the warm welcome we received and the interest shown by racegoers. To round off the year, we had a successful Race Day in November, our thanks go to Aintree Racecourse for their support whose Chair Rose Paterson is one of our ambassadors.

Finally, it gets no easier to make ends meet so we appreciate and thank you for all support received, whether it be financial or through volunteering. May I be the first to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

John Sexton BTRC Chairman



*'For the Welfare, Retraining and Rehoming of Retired Racehorses'*

Sir Peter  
O'Sullivan  
Charitable Trust

**Patron:** Dame Judi Dench CH FRSA    **Chairman:** John Sexton

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# BTRC Gifts & Christmas Cards



*Why not surprise someone with a BTRC gift for Christmas or even better, treat yourself!*



*Merry Christmas*

*2019 Christmas Card  
(Pack of 10) – BTRC Clyde  
greeting Luna the dog*



*Previous year Christmas Card  
(Pack of 10) – Captain CeeBee*



- BTRC Cap – brushed cotton with self-adjustable strap
- Light weight fleece scarf (available in red or navy)
- Double walled travel mug 350ml capacity

*Also available online at [btrc.co.uk](http://btrc.co.uk) or via phone 01524 812649:*

- Navy Full Zip Fleece
- Red Fleece Bodywarmer
- Hand knitted bobble hat
- Hand stitched BTRC horse keyring and more!

Item	Price	Quantity
Christmas Card (Clyde)	£5.00	
Christmas Card (CeeBee)	£3.50	
BTRC Cap	£10.00	
Scarf <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Navy	£11.50	
BTRC Travel Mug	£9.00	
Donation (Gift Aid info below)		
<b>TOTAL PRICE OF ORDER</b>		

**Join the 'Friends of the BTRC'**

If you would like to become a friend by donating as little as £3 a month please complete your bank details below along with your personal information at the bottom of this page. Once signed up you will receive a confirmation letter from our Direct Debit team.

Bank Account Holder	
Account Number	
Sort Code	
I would like to donate £..... every month To be debited from my account on <input type="checkbox"/> 1st or <input type="checkbox"/> 15th	

*I am a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid my donation. (This allows us to increase your donation at no extra cost to you)*

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Telephone Number:</b>
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Address:</b> <i>(please ensure you include a postcode)</i>	

**Please make all cheques payable to 'The British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre Ltd' return this form to:  
BTRC, Whinney Hill, Aughton Road, Halton, Lancaster, Lancashire LA2 6PQ**