

Spring is finally in the air...



As we write, the sun is shining and the days are getting longer, winter is behind us and spring is here - music to all horse owners' ears!

Winter brought with it some terrible storms, from Arwen through to Eunice, and the Centre was badly hit. Our isolation stable block lost its roof, fences were blown down and further damage to other areas of the Centre. Luckily no-one was hurt and the damage is repairable however it has brought unforeseen costs. If you would like to help with these please see [page 9](#).

Since last autumn we have welcomed seven new horses to the Centre, six of which entered through our [Vulnerable Horse Programme](#). Loan applications for 2022 have now opened and we look forward to finding many of our horses new homes and loving loaners to enjoy their life with. If you are interested in loaning one of our horses you can find out more about the process on our website [here](#).

We have been busy out and about in the local community with some of our horses raising awareness of the work of the BTRC. You can find out more about our visit to the recent ARVS Casualty Management Seminars at Aintree on [page 7](#) and a local school on [page 8](#). We also hosted a BHS lunging/longlining clinic to raise awareness of valuable groundwork skills, see [page 6](#) for more details.

If you would like to visit us this year see [page 9](#) for 'diary dates' as we would love to meet you.

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Recent Arrivals to the BTRC Vulnerable Horse Programme



BTRC Parker



BTRC Malcolm



BTRC Duba



BTRC Ted



BTRC Hector



BTRC Charlie

BTRC Horses Recently Rehomed



BTRC Cotton Spirit & Sam

Written by Loaner Sam

"I applied to BTRC in May 2019 to express an interest in offering one of their horses a loan home. I had worked with Point to Pointers in my twenties for 10 years and although I had acquired more chunky types in the intervening years, I always had a desire to have a Thoroughbred in my life again. As I didn't have anything at home to ride, I was invited up to BTRC for a riding assessment in June 2019, we were shown around the centre and the process of finding a suitable match for me was explained. BTRC kept in touch with me throughout the intervening months with updates on potential horses for me and I was invited up in early October to try a couple of horses, one of which was Cotton Spirit. I had quite an unexpected emotional reaction when I rode Cotton so I knew he was the one for me. Two further trips up to Lancashire followed to ride him so that both myself and the BTRC team were sure that we were well matched. BTRC also came to do a home assessment so that they could see where he would be living to make sure it would be a suitable environment for him. I brought him home in November 2019.



Our progress initially was a bit stop-start. He has had back problems in the past but with the great support of the BTRC Team and their Vet I soon learnt how to manage him and continue to do so now with regular sessions on long-lines as part of his weekly routine. With the arrival of the pandemic and me working in the NHS he has had periods of time when he hasn't been ridden but following each break, he has come back stronger. We have been able to work consistently since July 2021 and the progress we have made as a partnership since then has been fantastic. We have had lots of success in-hand showing at local unaffiliated shows including taking Reserve In-Hand Champion (my first sash!) and we have also been to a few unaffiliated dressage competitions at Intro level gaining great scores!

He is such a lovely person to have at home, so kind and gentle and very easy to do. He is the best horse I think I have ever had to hack; he doesn't look at anything on the roads. He has lacked confidence under saddle particularly in his canter work but this is really coming along now, it's taken time and patience to get him strong enough to do the work that's being asked of him. He has his moments when he remembers he used to be a racehorse but that's all part of his wonderful character and I wouldn't want him any other way. Building on our unaffiliated success we are going to do some RoR Affiliated In-Hand showing classes this summer to see if we can qualify for the RoR Championships in August. We will also get back out between the white boards this year with the aim of doing some unaffiliated Prelim tests now that the canter is more consistent. The team at BTRC are so incredibly supportive and I am so grateful that they allow me to have this special horse on loan."



BTRC Hailing Park & Rachel

Written by Loaner Rachel

"I collected BTRC Hailing Park (aka Hayley) 6 years ago from the BTRC. Having lost my old mare 9 months prior to this, I had been on the lookout for my next project. Nothing that I had been to look at so far had been to my liking and so I decided to contact the BTRC. The Centre was showing me another lovely horse who was available for rehoming, but my attention was captured by what can only be described as a fire breathing dragon at the far end of the school (she hadn't been at the Centre very long). I went to have a look at her in the stable block and I instantly knew she was for me - she was everything that I had been searching for and more.

Since bringing her home, she has turned her hoof to everything I have thrown at her. We have successfully competed at showing including the RoR national championships, dressage, show jumping and cross country. She hacks like a dream, we go up and down fells, the beach, country lanes, endurance rides, the list is endless. You name it and we have done it! She is a true testament to how versatile these thoroughbreds can be - don't get me wrong they take a lot of work, time and patience. But if you give them everything, they will do the same in return.

I can't quite put into words what she means to me. We have an extraordinary bond and relationship, and share an incredible amount of trust, respect and love for each other. Quite frankly I'm not sure that I will find this again with another horse. I will forever be grateful for the BTRC for allowing me the privilege to have such a magnificent horse."



BTRC Deliver BHS CPD: Between the Lines - Lunging & Longlining Clinic

Thanks to the changes brought about by multiple lockdowns many owners have chosen over the last year to carry out more exercise of horses and ponies from the ground to reduce risks relating to mounted activity or to bring horses back into work after having had some time off. As a result of this, the British Horse Society (BHS) approached BTRC to deliver a lunging and longlining demonstration/clinic for local equestrians and CPD for BHS qualified coaches. A lot of the work rehabilitating and retraining thoroughbreds at BTRC involves longlining and lunging, both of which are very effective training methods when used correctly.

The sold-out event was held at the Centre on Saturday 12th March with over 35 people in attendance, some of whom brought their own horses for advice and some of the audience booked participation tickets that enabled them to have a go with the Centre's horses.

The event was split into four sessions covering different aspects of lunging and longlining. The first session covered the fundamentals and how to get started. Followed by exercise for rehabilitation, maintenance and lastly production. The final session comprised of two external horses that had been brought along by their owners for lunging and longlining advice and help. Alison, one of the owners said of the clinic: "Thank you so much for the event on Saturday. Fox and I really enjoyed it and I now feel much more confident about long lining him." If you would like to collaborate with BTRC on an event please get in touch.



*BHS Regional Manager for the North West
Lyndsay Dring and BTRC CEO Gillian Carlisle*



Helping the Next Generation of Racehorses at the ARVS Casualty Management Seminar

BTRC supported the Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons (ARVS) by supplying retired racehorses to their recent Casualty Management Seminars at Aintree Racecourse.

The annual seminar is organised by the ARVS and aims to deliver training updates and new practices to all racecourse vets in the UK to ensure the welfare of Thoroughbreds on and off track. Dr Ellen Singer DCM DVSc DipACVS/ECVS MRCVS said of the event: "The meeting today is all about educating veterinary surgeons that work on the racecourse to a high standard so we can protect the welfare of the horses to the best of our ability during racing." The ARVS has been instrumental in improving the standard of veterinary care and welfare of horses on UK racecourses through the provision of quality CPD at the annual Casualty Management Seminar.



One of the many training stations saw the 'revolutionary' equine fracture support kit funded by the Racing Foundation being demonstrated to vets with the help of BTRC Peter Pan. Every racecourse in Britain will be given one of these in what has been described as a "major equine welfare initiative."

Noting the importance of using Thoroughbred's for the Seminar, ARVS Chairman, James Bosley said: "It's extremely important for us to use Thoroughbreds during the course as we are trying to make it a practical based course as the job is very practical. Having access to retired Thoroughbreds to practice putting casts, Robert Jones bandages on etc, is fundamental to the nature of the course."

It was wonderful to see BTRC horses being such an excellent resource to aid this invaluable and vital training for the benefit of future racehorses and their welfare.



BTRC Visit SEN School to educate pupils

As part of National Careers Week in March 2022 BTRC collaborated with Inspira, a nationwide careers charity, to organise a visit to Underley Garden School in Kirkby Lonsdale to educate the SEN students about different careers they could embark on whilst working with horses. Our Communications & Engagement Manager Lauren and Stable Staff Megan visited the school with BTRC Washbear. Assistant Head Teacher Jo Savage said: "Thank you Lauren and Meagn for attending our first ever Careers Week at Underley Garden. The students were so excited when you got Washbear out of the lorry. Your visit was the busiest of the week, we had 41 students attend throughout the afternoon. I just want to thank you again for all the information you shared with our students regarding careers workign with horses within your industry. You pitched the talk perfectly to suit their needs and have a natural ability to teach, thank you."

It was a brilliant day and we hope it gave the students some new ideas for a career they maybe hadn't considered before. If you would like BTRC to visit your school/community group or project please contact Lauren on lauren@thetrc.co.uk.



Aftercare News

If you are interested in learning more about Aftercare don't forget the IFAR Confrence is coming up. The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) is an independent forum established to help advocate lifetime care to a new level all around the world. Their sixth annual conference will be held as a series of two virtual webinars on 5 and 19 April at 12 p.m. BST (11 a.m. GMT). The conference theme of "Many paths - One goal" is reflected in the speakers and organisations represented in both sessions.

The keynote address will be given by Annamarie Phelps, chair of the British Horseracing Authority. She will provide unique insights regarding the contemporary challenges facing racing and how aftercare has become a critical element for racing's future sustainability.

Both sessions are free, but registration is required.

For more information about the conference agenda and to register for your place, please visit internationalracehorseaftercare.com/virtual-ifar/.

Recordings of each session will be made available on the IFAR website.



Dates for Your Diary

Coffee Morning: 11am - 1pm Saturday 9th April 2022 at BTRC

Enjoy a stroll around the stables meeting the horses and watching the team at work, all whilst enjoying coffee and cake! Adults: £10 Under 16s: £5. To book please email lauren@thetrc.co.uk or call 01524 812469.

BTRC Open Day: 11.30am - 3.30pm Saturday 13th August 2022 at BTRC

Come along to our Open Day to find out about BTRC, meet our horses & staff. There will be demonstrations covering different aspects of the retraining process and an open yard for you to take a tour. More details tbc.

Cartmel Cup Day: Saturday 27th August 2022 at Cartmel Racecourse

BTRC are the chosen charity for the Cartmel Cup Day. We will be there with BTRC Washbear and stand raising awareness and funds. If you would like to volunteer to help bucket collect, please email lauren@thetrc.co.uk.



How Can You Help?



BTRC SHOP

A variety of BTRC clothing and gifts are available with all proceeds going towards helping TBs Visit www.thebtrc.co.uk/shop



BTRC Bobble Hat: £15.00



BTRC Jute Bag: £4.99



BTRC Polo Shirt: £20.00

Click here to visit the website for more items

SUPPORT OUR APPEAL



Following Storm Arwen in November and Storm Eunice in February the Centre was badly hit and there has been significant damage to our isolation block along with many other areas of the Centre. If you are able to donate any amount to help with some of the repair costs we would be extremely grateful. To donate please visit our JustGiving page:



<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BTRCxmas2021>



DONATE

Donations are our most important source of income. Since 1991 your donations have enabled the Charity to assist hundreds of horses and to grow from helping just 8 horses at a time, to today being able to provide a future and safe haven for up to 45 thoroughbreds at any one time. Please consider one of the options below:

ONE OFF DONATION

To donate to our work with Thoroughbreds please click the icon below. [JustGiving](https://www.justgiving.com) is a safe and secure gifting platform.

MONTHLY DONATION

Just a small monthly donation can make a huge difference to the horses in our care. [Sign up today](https://www.justgiving.com) through our secure online platform.

DONATE FOR FREE

Register with [Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com) & [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com) and when you shop online they will donate to BTRC for free.

DONATE YOUR TIME

If you want to give something back and have the skills and knowledge we could use then why not get in touch as there are so many volunteering opportunities at BTRC. You could help out with yard work, farm and grounds maintenance, fundraising and events organisation etc.

If you are interested in a volunteer position please call 01524 812649 or email enquiries@thetrc.co.uk.

DONATE NOW WITH
JustGiving



Thank you!