

New name for retraining charity

By Andrew Scutts

THE Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre, the first in Britain dedicated to finding a useful life for horses when their racing careers are over, will have a new name in 2016 – the British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre – as part of the charity's 25th anniversary year.

The name change will take effect on January 1, and the announcement was made at Newmarket yesterday by the organisation's new chairman John Sexton.

A former Racing Journalist of the Year, Sexton joined the board of trustees at the centre four years ago and becomes chairman in succession to Brian Acott, who has stood down after 12 years.

"These are exciting times for the TRC and in our silver jubilee year of 2016 we shall be looking to strengthen our links with the racing industry to ensure we continue to play a full and active role in the important work of retraining and rehoming horses when their racing days are done," Sexton said.

"Horse welfare has risen right to the top of racing's agenda in recent years and we have found that as a result we have been able to concentrate on our core business, which is taking in retired racehorses and preparing them for long and useful lives in other disciplines, whether it be eventing, showing or, in most cases, simply happy hacking."

Four horses from the centre took part



John Sexton, chairman of the TRC, and chief executive Gillian Carlisle receive Mount Athos from Luca Cumani at Newmarket yesterday

in a parade before racing yesterday, led by a recent recruit, 2013 Melbourne Cup third Mount Athos, who was one of three horses gifted to the charity by leading owner Marwan Koukash. Luca Cumani, who trained Mount Athos to record many of his significant wins, officially handed over the horse to Sexton.

The organisation never sells any of its horses. Instead, it operates a 'loan' system in which potential recipients are carefully

matched with horses, which they then take for life, unless a situation change makes it impossible to keep the horse, in which case he or she goes back to the centre to be rehomed again.

"The beauty of this system is that it means no horse gifted to the TRC will ever become vulnerable, and for the previous owner it's relatively simple to find out how their old friend is getting on in his new home," added Sexton.