

DECEMBER 2023

HORSE WHISPERS

TEST YOUR RACING KNOWLEDGE

Take part in our Christmas Quiz and be in with a chance to win some great prizes.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Are you joining us on January 1st?

INSIDE INFORMATION

WHO IS KEV?

Get to know Head Lad, Kevin Brown as he talks about his role, his Christmas plans and most importantly, his favourite cake!

WHY NOT JOIN FERGAL O'BRIEN RACING ON TOUR?

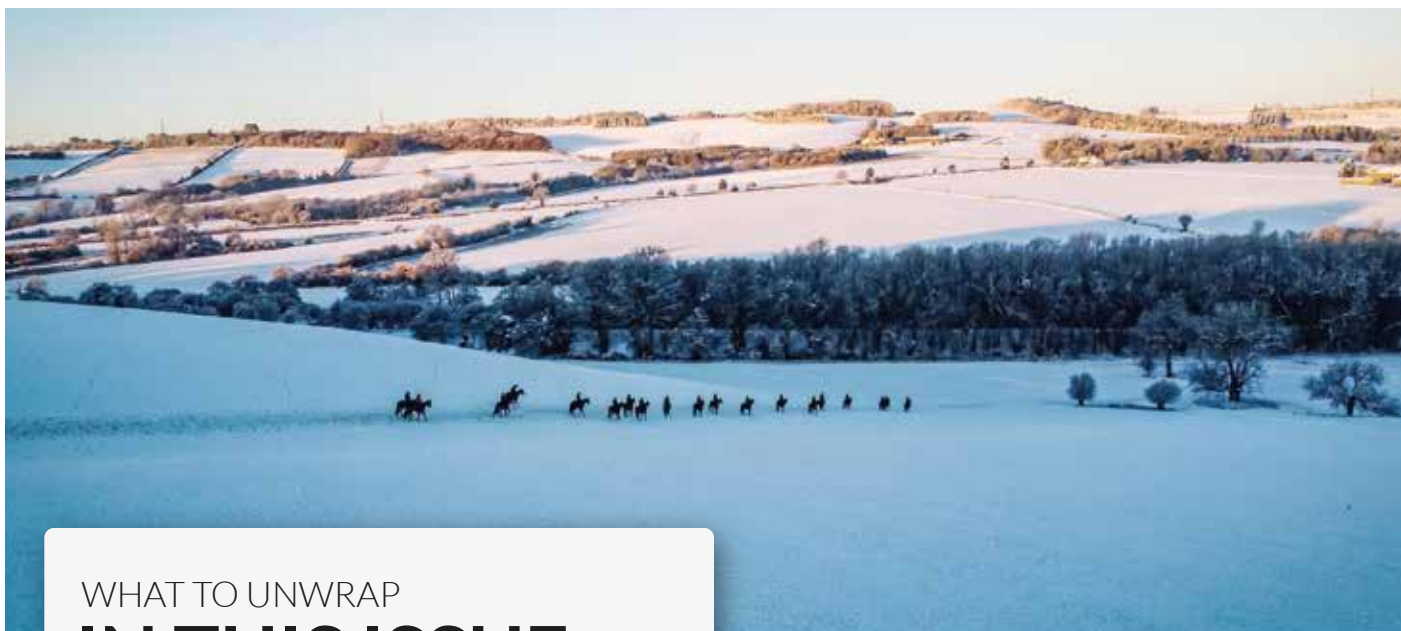
Get more information about the Venatour Racing Social in Bruges in August 2024, and get an insight from those who have checked it out...



DECEMBER 2023

HORSE WHISPERS

WITH FERGAL O'BRIEN RACING



WHAT TO UNWRAP

IN THIS ISSUE:

Jingle Jams

Unwrapping the teams favourite Christmas Songs.

Venatour Racing Social

Fancy a trip to Bruges in August 2024?

Inside Information

Meet the second of our wonderful staff members.

Celebrate the New Year with us

Have you got your New Years Racing tickets yet?

Test your Brains

Take part in our Christmas Racing Quiz.

Christmas Gifts

Get information on last minute personalised gifts.

Welcome!

A very **Happy Christmas** everyone from us all up here at Ravenswell and we wish you all a very **Happy New Year** too, with every success both on and off the course.

*from
Fergal x*

JINGLE JAMS

STAFF PICKS FOR THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS SOUNDTRACK!

CONOR BRACE:
JOCKEY

Santa Baby, Michael Bublé

ALI STIRLING:
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Fairytale of New York, The Pogues
(feat. Kirsty MacColl)

KEVIN BROWN:
HEAD LAD

Step into Christmas, Elton John

JACK HOGAN:
JOCKEY

This Christmas, Picture This

JOHN BENFIELD:
FARRIER

Fairytale of New York, The Pogues

SCOTT SAINSBURY:
WORK RIDER

Do They Know It's Christmas?, Band Aid

KAITLIN PERKS:
AMATEUR JOCKEY

Sleigh Ride, The Ronettes

PADDY BRENNAN:
SENIOR JOCKEY

Merry Xmas Everybody, Slade

DR, SIMON GILLSON:
SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER

X-M@\$, Corey Taylor

SHAUN GREENE:
CONDITIONAL JOCKEY

Fairytale of New York, The Pogues



FOB RACING ON TOUR

MON 26TH – THURS 29TH AUGUST

We are delighted to have teamed up with our friends at Venatour Racing Social to arrange a dedicated Fergal O'Brien Racing Tour to Bruges in August 2024.

Marc and The Doc headed there earlier this year for a recce to experience a fantastic few days away in the beautiful city of Bruges along with a fun day at Belgium's biggest race day in Waregem. Waregem is part of the Crystal Cup Series and attracts a huge crowd enjoying a day of National Hunt and Trotting Racing with a wonderful atmosphere.

Bruges needs no introductions, with its cobbled streets, historic buildings, culture, excellent shopping and an array of busy bars and restaurants.

This tour is dedicated to FOB owners and their friends and we have limited space on offer, contact Marc at marc@venatour.co.uk for further details or view the info at: venatour.co.uk/horse-racing/bruges-and-waregem-racing-tour/

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Had a brilliant time in Bruges andnWaregem in 2023. Bruges is the sort of place you can't get bored in - great to wander around with ample opportunity to eat quality food and sample the local beers.

And the racing at Waregem was fantastic, an absolute party atmosphere. Can't wait to go back in 2024.

SIMON GILLSON



ARE YOU JOINING US ON NEW YEAR'S DAY?

Monday 1st January 2024.

Cheltenham Racecourse, The Istabraq Room.

Get away from the maddening crowds...

Fergal O'Brien Racing will be hosting their own exclusive facility, The Istabraq Room, at Cheltenham on New Year's Day 2024, and we do hope you will be able to join us.

The Istabraq Room will be your base for the day and will have its own bar and cash food available.

Tickets are £50pp to include a Club Enclosure Badge and entry to the Istabraq Room.

If you have already purchased entry tickets or have a Members Badge, tickets to the Istabraq Room will be £18pp.

Use code 'MembersBadge' as a promo code at checkout if you already have a members badge or already have entry tickets.

If you have any questions, please email becky@fergalobrienracing.com

Buy your ticket now at:
fergalobrienracing.co.uk/shop

INSIDE INFORMATION

KEVIN BROWN

BEEN AT RAVENSWELL FOR 9 YEARS

What is your position at Ravenswell?

I am the Head Lad at Ravenswell and I have been with Fergal for 9 years now. Previously I pre-trained for Dai Walters for 5 years. A few years before that I also spent a summer in Norway thanks to Peter Scudamore and was lucky enough to ride a winner! It is an amazing place with great people. The night life was very good too.

Can you describe your job?

My job is very busy and varied – I do anything and everything! I feed the horses, maintain the gallops, organise the staff and liaise with the vets and farriers. I check every horse's legs every day, make sure the feed and haylage is ordered and also fix anything that needs fixing! I don't get the chance to ride out anymore, which is probably a good thing as we've had so many winners since I hung up my boots!

What is your favourite horse?

My favourite horse is Hidden Beauty – I have always liked her since she arrived with us as a three-year-old. She reminds me of a nice mare we used to have called Cap Soleil who I used to ride every day. Hidden Beauty is a moody old so and so in the stable but I am still very fond of her.

What is your favourite cake?

My favourite cake is a Farmhouse Fruit Loaf. It melts

in my mouth and my mother makes a very good one!

What is your favourite racecourse?

My favourite racecourse has got to be Cheltenham. I grew up in Cheltenham and it was the first racecourse I visited. I have many great memories of racing at Cheltenham especially of Upgrade winning the Triumph Hurdle when I was with Ferg at Nigel's. I also like Warwick as I had quite a few rides there and it's where I rode the first of my not-so-many winners!

What time do you get up on Christmas Day?

I usually get up around 4am after being woken up by my two excited sons, however I have been known to be up earlier than this because I am excited for the kids to wake up!

What do you have for Christmas dinner, and who does the cooking?

My partner Vikki and I share the cooking on Christmas Day, and we have to have the traditional Turkey roast with all the trimmings. Of course, it has to be accompanied by a glass of wine – or two!! Or three!!

I will be at Ravenswell before 5am on Boxing Day ready for a busy day with hopefully lots of runners – and winners! I had better not turn up with a hangover otherwise Fergal will give me a major b*****ing! Not that it would be the first!!!



JINGLE JAMS, PT.2

SALLY RANDALL:
ASSISTANT TRAINER

Jingle Bell Rock, Bobby Helms

SOPHIE KELLY:
BARN MANAGER

Last Christmas, Wham!

NEIL JUCKES:
RACE PLANNER

Last Christmas, Wham!

LIZ JUCKES:
HR DEPARTMENT

Fairytale of New York, The Pogues

CHRIS COLEY:
TEA MAKER

White Christmas, Bing Crosby

CHARLOTTE PARKINS:
SECRETARY

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Brenda Lee

JOANNA HEWITT:
TRAVELLING HEAD GIRL

"Hates them all and hates Christmas!"
Bah Humbug!

KEVIN BISHOP:
VET

Driving Home for Christmas, Chris Rea

CHARLIE ST.QUINTON:
ASSISTANT TRAINER

Fairytale of New York, The Pogues

OWEN JONES:
YARD STAFF

Pipes of Peace, Paul McCartney

LIAM HARRISON:
JOCKEY

Fairytale of New York, The Pogues

FERGAL O'BRIEN:
BIG BOSS

Mistletoe and Wine, Cliff Richard

WHO'S A BRAINBOX THEN?



Chris Coley ran his annual General Knowledge Quiz night (he's been running this for the past 37 years!) at Cheltenham Racecourse on 6 December in aid of the Injured Jockeys Fund with a record 49 teams attending. The winners were a team put together by former Cheltenham Town striker, Danny Wright and indeed one of his squad will be competing in The Countdown Challenge over Christmas! A fantastic sum of over £3000 was raised so many thanks to all those who attended.

Please find below a racing quiz set by Chris with all 10 questions having a "Christmas" flavour. Email your answers chris@chriscoley.co.uk by Jan 2nd 2024 and the first 3 all correct answers received will win prizes!

- 1 How many times has Paul Nicholls trained the winner of the King George V1 Chase on Boxing Day at Kempton?
- 2 Which jockey, who was born on Christmas Eve and has a Christian name with a festive link, won 2 Champion Hurdles and 2 King George V1 Chases?
- 3 Which horse won The Derby in 1964?
- 4 Which Richard Hannon trained horse won 8 races in his career with 7 of them being run at Newmarket, where on one occasion he was ridden to victory by Bryony Frost's brother?
- 5 Which horse named after one of the 3 Wise Men finished 2nd in the 2014 Grand National?
- 6 In which suburb of Sydney would you watch the valuable Christmas Cup?
- 7 What was the name of the horse that won the 1969 Irish St Leger?
- 8 On Boxing Day this year you could be watching racing at which track that has actually staged the British Grand Prix?
- 9 Which horse trained by Ferdy Murphy won a Christmas Hurdle at Kempton and later finished 2nd to Istabraq in The Champion Hurdle?
- 10 What was the name of the horse that gave The Daily Telegraph's racing correspondent a win as an amateur jockey at the 1994 Cheltenham Festival?

EMAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO CHRIS@CHRISCOLEY.CO.UK

THE FOB SHOP

2024 CALENDAR



Introducing the Fergal O'Brien Racing Calendar: A Year of Equine Excellence!

Immerse yourself in the world of thoroughbred beauty with our stunning A4 calendar, featuring high-quality images captured at Ravenswell Farm.

Each month showcases our exceptional horses, providing a glimpse into the heart of our racing passion. This calendar is not only a visual delight but also a perfect gift for any horse racing enthusiast. Let the spirit of Fergal O'Brien Racing adorn your space throughout the year – order your calendar today and bring the magic of the sport into your home!

SHOP AT
FERGALOBRIENRACING.CO.UK/SHOP

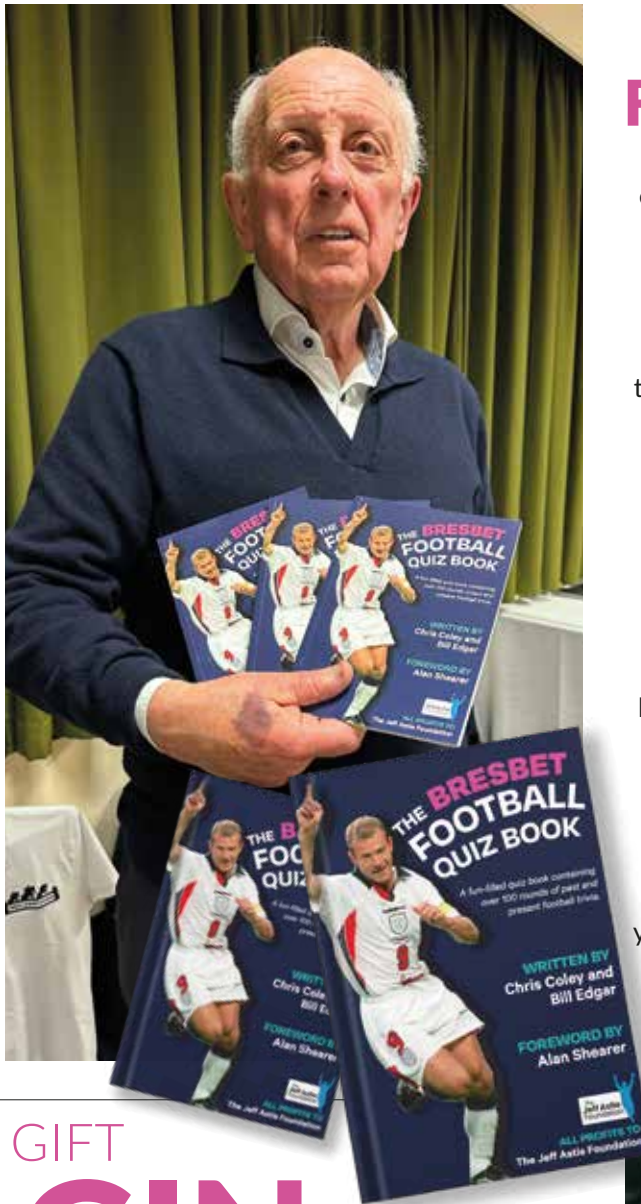
FOB CLOTHING

Exciting news is on the horizon!

We have a collection of new arrivals set to make their debut in the shop in the new year. From exclusive merchandise to must-have racing gear, these additions are sure to elevate your Fergal O'Brien Racing experience.

Be sure to check back regularly to stay in the loop and discover the latest items fresh off the track. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be among the first to snag these new arrivals – gear up for an infusion of style, quality, and racing spirit!

GRAB A LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT



FOR THE FOOTBALL FANATIC:

Dive into the exhilarating world of football with our captivating quiz book that promises over 100 rounds of past and present football trivia!

This fun-filled compilation, crafted by the brilliant minds of our own Chris Coley and Bill Edgar, offers a football fan's dream, covering an extensive range of topics to test your knowledge and ignite your passion for the "beautiful game".

A special treat awaits in the 'Extra Time' round, where questions are intricately linked to the insightful podcast 'The Rest is Football,' featuring the legendary trio of Gary Lineker, Alan Shearer, and Micah Richards.

With a foreword penned by the iconic Alan Shearer himself, this quiz book isn't just a test of your football knowledge; it's an immersive experience curated by experts and endorsed by football royalty. Embark on a journey through the sport's rich history, iconic moments, and the wit of the podcast personalities as you tackle each round. Whether you're a seasoned football aficionado or a casual fan, this quiz book is your ticket to hours of entertainment and a chance to prove your football prowess!

SHOP AT [GREATQUIZBOOKS.CO.UK](https://greatquizbooks.co.uk) OR FIND IT ON AMAZON

GIVE THE GIFT OF GIN

Have you seen that we have our own branded bottle of gin?

Drawing inspiration from Fergal's rich heritage and the picturesque rural landscapes of the Gloucestershire farm, Ravenswell Gin emerges as a contemporary rendition of the timeless London Dry Gin.

This gin pays homage to tradition with a juniper-forward and citrusy palate, seamlessly blending the classic with the **distinctive flavors of the Irish countryside**.

Infused with Rowanberries, Elderberries, and Hawthornberries, alongside floral notes of Rose Petal, Lavender, and Heather, Ravenswell Gin achieves a **harmonious and smooth profile**. The result is a clean yet raw and visceral palate, effortlessly balanced by a beautiful mouthfeel and a lingering finish.

As a novel addition to the offerings from Fergal O'Brien Racing, creating our own branded gin was an adventure of flavors and discovery. Now available, we invite you to savor Ravenswell Gin and share your thoughts with us. Embark on a journey of taste that **reflects both tradition and innovation** in every sip.

SHOP AT [FERGALOBRIENRACING.CO.UK/SHOP](https://fergalobrienracing.co.uk/shop)





A WINTERY GALLERY



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