

ISSUE SEVEN

# HORSE WHISPERS

A LOOK AT

MAN OF THE PEOPLE

DATES FOR  
YOUR DIARY

GOLF DAY - CRICKET OUTING - ANTIQUE EVENT

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING A  
**SYNDICATE?**



FERGAL O'BRIEN RACING

ISSUE SEVEN

# HORSE WHISPERS

WITH FERGAL O'BRIEN RACING

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## Welcome!

Summer is in full swing, and the 2025/26 season is off to a promising start. Over the coming weeks, the winter horses will begin returning to the yard, and preparations will step up a gear. In this edition of the newsletter, we're taking a moment to reflect on the highlights, cherished memories, and everything that made last season so memorable. From standout victories to the quieter, behind-the-scenes moments, it's been an unforgettable journey.

Join us as we look back on a fantastic season and ahead to all that's to come.

from  
Fergal x

# OPENING

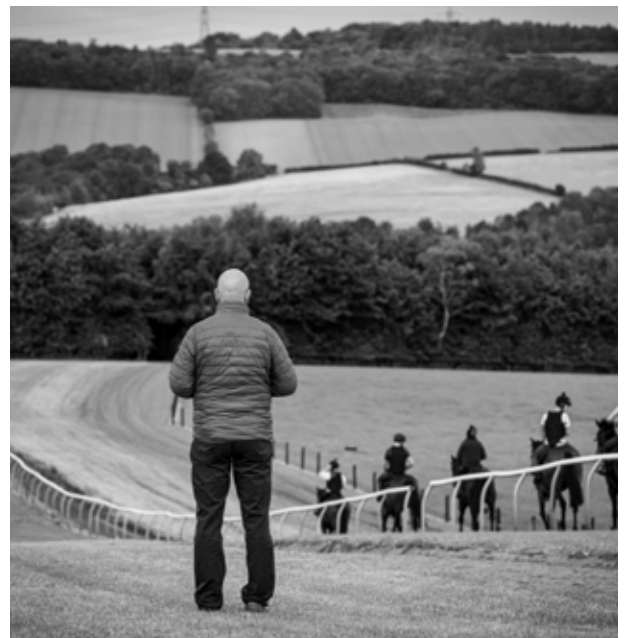
## REMARKS

Looking back at the 2024/25 season, we may have had fewer winners than in previous years, but we're proud to report a notable increase in prize money!

We concluded the season ranked 9th in the Trainers' Championship — an improvement on last year's 11th — thanks in no small part to another Grade 1 triumph. Crambo delivered a standout performance, securing victory in the Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot for the second consecutive year, one of several memorable moments.

Tripoli Flyer impressed with a commanding win in the Dovecote Hurdle at Kempton, followed by a superb third-place finish in a Grade 1 at Punchestown. That'll Do Moss also showcased her talent on Irish soil, placing third in the Jane Seymour Listed Hurdle at Sandown before going on to finish a gallant second in a Grade 1 at Fairyhouse, just two lengths off the winner. A four-timer across the cards late in the season provided a truly unforgettable day. John Barbour and Siog Geal delivered at Newbury, while further north in Scotland, Leloopa and Is This For Real completed the remarkable 1,072-1 quartet.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering hard work, skill, and dedication of the entire team at Ravenswell — their commitment continues to drive our success year after year.





# END OF SEASON

by Sam Juckes, *our Ravenswell Reporter*

Last season concluded in spectacular fashion, with the fiercely contested trainer's championship going right down to the wire.

In the end, it was Willie Mullins who proved too strong. His 38 British winners, which included 13 Grade 1's and two Nationals, securing the title for the second year running.

The master of Closutton amassed just over £3.5 million in prize money this side of the Irish Sea, averaging a remarkable £100,000 per winner. His closest rival, Dan Skelton, put up a valiant effort in defeat, training 179 winners across the campaign, with the battle remaining very much alive until the final afternoon.

The Skeltons will no doubt be back next season with a renewed effort, sharing success this campaign in the inaugural running of the David Power Jockeys Cup.

Sean Bowen emerged as champion jockey, going one better than last year to claim the title with 180 winners. His standout victories including the Bet365 Gold Cup, the Irish Grand National and an unforgettable ride aboard Booster Bob in the Greatwood Gold Cup.

One of the most remarkable races of the season was the Champion Hurdle, with Constitution Hill falling out in the country and State Man coming down at the last with the race at his mercy. It left the Jeremy Scott superstar, Golden Ace, weaving her way through traffic to land another Grade 1 success for the team.

Just three days later, a 100/1 winner of the Triumph Hurdle and a monstrous Gold Cup display from Iknowthewayurthinkin capped the week off with the Irish running rampant, as they often do, at Prestbury Park.

That dominance continued into Aintree, where five of the first seven Grand National finishers hailed from the Mullins stable. His team claiming eight winners across the meeting, setting the stage for a thrilling conclusion to the Trainers' title.

It all came down to the final day at Sandown, where Mullins struck not once, not twice, but three times, sealing a second British trainers' title, sending the silverware back across the Irish Sea. Mullins now with the potential to surpass the record set by Vincent O'Brien, with three successive British trainers' championship wins.

Closer to home, 85 winners and £1,210,390 in prize money included Grade 1 number three for team FOB, with two-time Long Walk hurdle winner Crambo staying on tenaciously to continue his excellent record in Berkshire.

Multiple Graded wins and valuable handicaps were also part of the FOB success this season, recently displayed with a fantastic across the card four-timer at Kelso and Newbury, wrapping up the season in good style. The Cheltenham April meeting proved fruitful for the team too, with Manofthepeople making it back-to-back wins in the race and Greyval forging clear to land the Mares Challenger Final.

New stable jockey Johnny Burke had his best ever season numerically and congratulations to Jack Hogan who recently rode out his claim.

## MEET SAM JUCKES



Sam is a student at the University of Sheffield where he studies Journalism.

Alongside writing, Sam has ambitions to be a commentator in the racing industry and gains experience through Pony Racing commentaries and William Hill Racing Radio.

Sam's Dad, Neil, has been a Racing Analyst for the Press Association for over 20 years, and is the race planner here at Ravenswell, whilst Mum, Liz, is the founder of Race2Resource, the HR representative of the yard.



DEL MAR, CA | OCT. 31 – NOV. 1



# OFFICIAL BREEDERS' CUP & SAN DIEGO TOUR

## WHERE THE TURF MEETS THE

# Surf

- RETURN FLIGHTS FROM THE UK TO SAN DIEGO.
- FIVE-NIGHT'S ACCOMMODATION AT THE 5\* PENDRY HOTEL'
- AIRPORT AND RACEDAY TRANSFERS
- TICKETS TO TWO-DAYS RACING AT DEL MAR RACECOURSE INCLUDING  
RESERVED SEATING (UPGRADES AVAILABLE)
- WELCOME DINNER
- COMPLIMENTARY FOUR-HOUR RIDE AND DRIVE IN PENDRY HOTEL'S CADILLAC
- FINAL DINNER IN SAN DIEGO

[WWW.RACINGAROUNDTHEWORLD.CO.UK](http://WWW.RACINGAROUNDTHEWORLD.CO.UK)



# MANOTHEPEOPLE



As the spring sun shone down on Cheltenham for it's final rules meeting of the 2024/25 season, there was a familiar atmosphere in the air. It's been a full twelve months since that perfect afternoon when our loyal, dependable and irreplaceable stable jockey announced his retirement. Of course we're talking about Paddy Brennan.

Manothepeople people had a job to do that afternoon and a full year on, he looked almost as reliable as the man who used to ride him.

Of course what the public didn't know at the time was who would become our new stable jockey. Well just as Paddy headed in to weigh in for the last time, I captured an important moment. A strong handshake of good luck to his successor, Jonathan Burke. It was a 'changing of the guard' moment and just like that, the baton was passed on.

Jonathan has fit straight into his role here with ultimate professionalism and his first season at Ravenswell has been his best season ever as a jockey. One thing had eluded him, he hadn't ridden Fergal a Cheltenham winner.

Well how fitting it was when Manothepeople and Johnny flew up the

Cheltenham hill to win the same race that was Paddy's last a year ago. Racing has its stories, its moments that sometimes you could not write.

Manothepeople has had another consistent season, running well to finish 5th at the Cheltenham Festival in the Kim Muir.

In the early stages of the race, he looked like he was struggling to go the pace. Johnny having to nudge and tease him along after a circuit. By the time they had climbed the top of the hill on the back straight for the final time, there was a sense of inevitability about it. Some big leaps took Johnny to a share of the lead over the second last and a huge jump at the last sealed it.

A big moment for Johnny to ride his first (of many hopefully) Cheltenham winners for the yard. Manothepeople, as reliable and genuine as they come. The same could say the same about the man who retired on his back twelve months before.

You know what they say about buses... the next day Greyval because Johnnys second Cheltenham winner for the team.

# NEW CLOTHING AVAILABLE!



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

**Have you shopped our merch yet?**

There are still plenty of great options available online in a range of sizes, but they won't last forever! Whether you're after a comfy t-shirt, a cosy beanie, a stylish gilet, or one of our popular mugs, now's the perfect time to grab your favourites. Don't miss out, shop now and show your support in style!

**PERSONALISED  
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FERGAL O'BRIEN

# PARTNERSHIP HORSES

## 2024/25 HIGHLIGHTS

It's been another fantastic season for our in-house FOB syndicates.

The red, white and green colours have been a familiar sight in the winners enclosure, starting with Hola Hermosa at Worcester in July and ending with Manothepeople at Cheltenham.

This season 28 FOB Partnership runners finished inside the first four\*...

FIRST - 3 | SECOND - 10 | THIRD - 10 | FOURTH - 5

*\*19 races they finished out of the first 4*

## RESULTS INSIDE THE FIRST FOUR 24/25

1- AJP Kingdom 2 3 4 2 1 3

2- Manothepeople 3 1

3- Hola Hermosa 3 1 3

4- Feet On The Ground 3 3 4 2

5- Liverpool Knight 2 3

6- Stowaway Jess 3 2

8- Shy Love 4

10- Faha Belle 2 2 2 4

10- Plains Drifter 2

11- Nothin To Ask 3 2

12- Jager Time 4



# COOL WORKER

Introducing Cool Worker, a 5yo gelding by Workforce, a proven producer of high class NH winners, out of Coole Dinan. This fine five-year-old son of Workforce showed huge improvement from his debut effort at Tyrella where he finished fifth in a maiden, to score on his next start at Belclare. The sole maiden in a field of eleven that went to post, in what looked to be a competitive winner of two event, Cool Worker raced towards the fore of the field before getting a dream run to challenge on the inner approaching two out, he kept on impressively to collar the much more experienced favourite, Brendaandtheboys, close home to win by a half-length defying his 20/1 odds in the market.

## FORM THAT EXCITES

Cool Worker has already shown his mettle on the track. Lightly raced and carefully handled, he's progressed with each outing, showing a professional attitude and a serious engine. Recent performances include:

Recent performances include:

- Irish PTP winner, won at Belclare beating a hot favourite who had previously won.
- Big field, there was 11 runners in the race at Belclare and Cool Worker showed a great attitude.

He's a type that keeps improving with experience and distance.

Cool Worker has been well handled as a young horse, there is plenty for us to work with and he will be a progressive type. With his physical scope, mental maturity and good attitude, he looks every inch a future staying chaser. He's versatile, sound, and handles his work with the kind of professionalism that suggests he'll climb the ranks quickly.

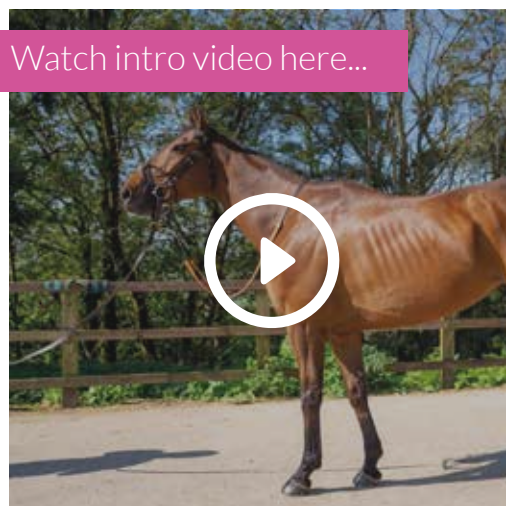
## FOB SYNDICATE: A NEW MODEL OF RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP

This FOB Syndicate offers a fresh and different approach to racehorse ownership, distinct from previous models it's tailored for a new kind of experience. With 40 shares available, it keeps costs affordable while still giving members the chance to enjoy all the excitement that comes with owning a racehorse.

What sets FOB syndicates apart is its focus on the social side of owning a racehorse. Alongside race days and regular updates, members will enjoy a more connected and community-driven experience, with plenty of opportunities for fun and shared moments. It's a new take on ownership, designed with enjoyment and accessibility at its heart.

**To find out more, contact Sally  
07868728440**

**Or you can email our office:  
[admin@fergalobrienracing.com](mailto:admin@fergalobrienracing.com)**



# FERGAL'S

## FIRST WINNER

Fergal's first winner was some 14 years ago and John Goodman, who co-owned the horse Jaunty Journey (no. 4 on the racecard), recently presented Chris Coley with the racecard from the Carlisle fixture on Thursday, October 11th 2011...

No. 12, Horsham Lad, owned by Mr & Mrs William Rucker won the race and in doing so provided Fergal with his very first winner under rules. There have been winners galore since but this one is even more specially remembered as it was Fergal himself that sold the horse, Jaunty Journey to Colin Roberts whilst he was still working for Nigel!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 29TH JULY

Cheltenham Cricket Festival  
Theme of the day: Cricket, Antiques & Antics  
Enjoy the match in style with access to the Boundary Hub Marquee. Alongside a great day of cricket, bring along some of your family treasures for valuation by our special TV guests.

[venatour.co.uk/packages/cheltenham-cricket-festival-cricket-antiques-and-antics/](http://venatour.co.uk/packages/cheltenham-cricket-festival-cricket-antiques-and-antics/)

### 5TH AUGUST

Chris Coley is organising this year's Cheltenham Cricket Festival and on Tuesday 5th August when Gloucestershire play Derbyshire in the Metro Bank One Day Cup he has arranged a Racing Day in his Boundary Hub Marquee. He hopes to attract visitors from the world of racing and trusts that there will be a good presence from us here at Fergals. Please book by clicking on the link below and select August 5th.

[venatour.co.uk/cricket/cheltenham-cricket-festival-hospitality](http://venatour.co.uk/cricket/cheltenham-cricket-festival-hospitality)

### 2ND SEPTEMBER

Our first ever golf day last year was a great success and we are pleased to announce the date for this year is **Tuesday 2nd September** and again at Brickhampton Golf Complex between Cheltenham and Gloucester.

The format and the day worked well last year and we shall therefore use the same successful procedure.

We have politely given first refusal for team entry to those that participated last year and hence, please apply soon as spaces will only be available on a first come first serve basis.

To register your interest, please fill out the booking form below.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcpqo6LxtEtWhLTKIoAd8qqhuiWzQl1zE3DcrRKHC2Br5zJg/viewform?usp=header>



# Towergate Cheltenham Cricket Festival

# CRICKET, ANTIQUES AND ANTICS

WITH SPECIAL *BBC TV* GUESTS



**ROSCO**



**IZZIE**



**CHARLES**



**MADDERS**

**Gloucestershire v Middlesex – Day 1**

## TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Theme of the day: Cricket, Antiques & Antics

Enjoy the match in style with access to the Boundary Hub Marquee - a private area, complete with its own pitch-facing viewing area. Alongside a great day of cricket, bring along some of your family treasures for valuation by our special BBC TV guests.

### £30 TICKETS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Private marquee with bar and food outlet
- ✓ Match day tickets
- ✓ Conversations with special guests
- ✓ Opportunity for antique valuations

Part proceeds of the day will be given to:



Book online at [venatour.co.uk](http://venatour.co.uk) or email [charlie@venatour.co.uk](mailto:charlie@venatour.co.uk)



# HOW MICRO SHARE SYNDICATES ARE CHANGING HORSE RACING IN THE UK...

In recent years, micro share syndicates have emerged as a transformative force in the world of British horse racing. Once considered an elite sport reserved for aristocrats and wealthy enthusiasts, racehorse ownership is now more accessible than ever, thanks to the rise of fractional ownership models. Micro share syndicates, offering small shares in racehorses at affordable prices, are democratising the sport and reshaping the industry in profound ways.

## IS IT REAL RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP OR IS IT A GIMMICK?

Traditional racehorse ownership often requires significant financial investment from purchase and training fees to veterinary care and travel costs. For decades, this high barrier to entry excluded the average fan from ever dreaming of owning a thoroughbred.

Micro share syndicates are none of the above.



Although it's not the same as owning a larger share in a racehorse it's been a great way to follow a horse's journey for a fraction of the cost.

We have had microshare businesses such as Old Gold Racing (John Barbour) and The Owners Group (Carlo Du Berlais). They allow members of the public to purchase micro shares in racehorses for as little as £40. These micro shares don't entitle individuals to have the full benefits of owning a racehorse, the return is more experiential than transactional, but they do grant a genuine sense of involvement.

Owners receive updates, enter ballots to attend race days, visit training yards, and celebrate wins alongside other shareholders. In essence,



syndicates offer a taste of ownership without the long-term risks or costs.

## A BOOST FOR THE INDUSTRY

The ripple effects of this model are being felt across the industry. Attendance at race meetings has been bolstered by the enthusiastic presence of syndicate members. According to data from the Racehorse Syndicates Association, the number of syndicated owners has increased by over 40% in the past five years, and many of these are newcomers to the sport.

In a time when introducing new people to the sport, as well as educating them on the amazing journey racehorses go on, even just to make it to the track, micro syndicates at the very least do exactly that.

## CREATING A COMMUNITY

One of the most compelling aspects of micro share syndicates is their social nature. Online forums, apps and social media pages allow co-owners to share insights, experiences, and celebrations. Race days become communal events, with dozens of shareholders travelling across the country to cheer on “their” horse. This sense of community and camaraderie is

particularly appealing to younger fans, many of whom are encountering the sport in a meaningful way for the first time.

Some syndicates have gone further by offering behind-the-scenes content, stable visits, and regular video updates from trainers and jockeys. This transparency builds trust and deepens engagement, fostering long-term loyalty to both the sport and specific syndicate brands.

Micro share syndicates are revolutionising British horse racing, making it more inclusive, dynamic, and financially sustainable. Of course, you can’t even start to compare it to owning a horse outright, but it does offer a new and exciting experience to a new audience. By opening the gates to a broader audience, they are breathing new life into the sport, not only preserving its heritage but securing its future. In a world where many traditional sports are struggling to stay relevant, horse racing may have found its winning formula?



Old Gold Racing owners at Ravenswell Farm to visit their horse, John Barbour

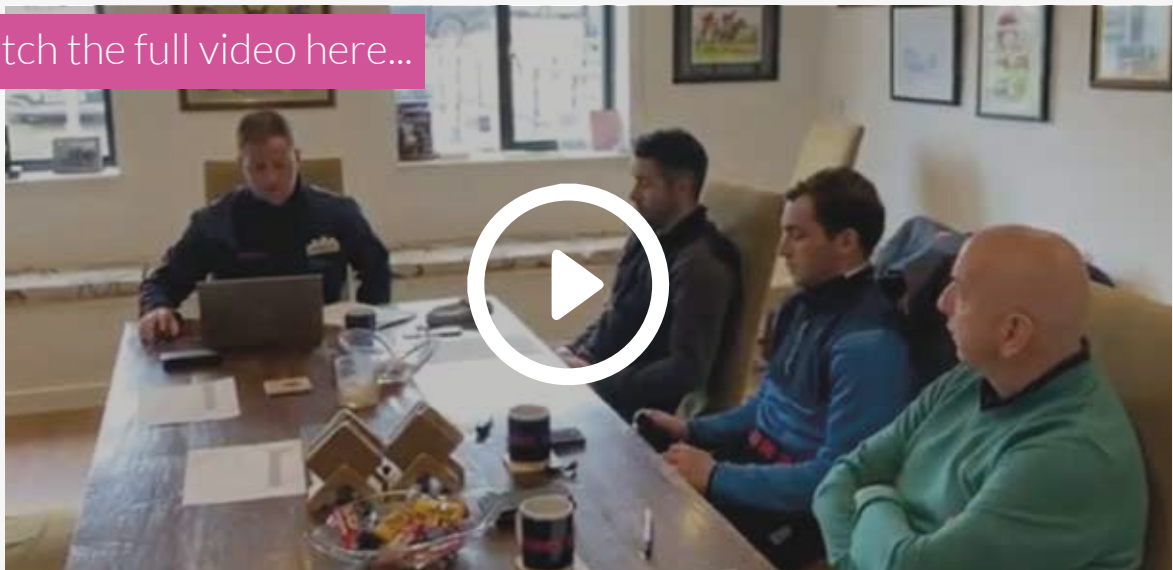
# RACE PLANNING MEETING

The weekly brains trust

Have you ever wondered how your horse ever gets to enter a race?

Watch the attached video to get an insight into a typical weekly planning meeting.

Watch the full video here...





# ARGENTINIAN DERBY & SIGHTSEEING TOUR

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# OUT N' ABOUT



Chris Coley received his BEM at Highnam Court from the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Edward Gillespie, in April.

His award was given for his **services to Sport and the Community** in Gloucestershire.....





# FOB GALLERY







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