

NOVEMBER 2023

HORSE WHISPERS

WEDDING BELLS

Join us in congratulating one of our own!

TAKE A TOUR

Have you heard about our stable tours?
Now is the perfect time to get booked on!

MEET THE NEW KID

ON THE BLOCK

Get to know our new assistant trainer, Charlie St Quinton as he talks about how things have been going in his new role.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Start off 2024 with a bang! Join Fergal O'Brien Racing colleagues and friends at Cheltenham Racecourse for a wonderful day of racing!

JOIN IN WITH THE FERGAL O'BRIEN RACING PARTNERSHIP

Add some extra excitement to your racing ventures next year.
Learn more about the FOB syndicates!



NOVEMBER 2023

HORSE WHISPERS

WITH FERGAL O'BRIEN RACING

WHAT TO EXPECT

IN THIS ISSUE:

Meet the new kid on the block

Our new assistant trainer, Charlie St Quinton.

Stable Gossip

Delighted to be able to share some LOVE-ly news!

Inside Information

Meet the first of our wonderful staff members.

Upcoming Events

Stay on top of all the events we have planned.

Partnerships

More information on the FOB Racing Partnerships.

Stable Tours

Get more information on our stable tours.

2024 Racing Trips

Join Marc Blackford for some of the Venatour trips.

End of Season Sale

Check out the FOB shop sale.



Welcome!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new jump season proper through which it is our intention to give you an insight into what's going on behind the scenes here at Ravenswell.

In this edition you will discover more about our stable tours, our range of branded clothing and hence you will find some Christmas gifts for you to consider.

*from the
Fergal O'Brien Team*

MEET THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

CHARLIE ST QUINTON
ASSISTANT TRAINER



I'm Charlie, Charlie St Quinton, and I am the new kid on the block here having joined Fergal as his Assistant Trainer just a few weeks ago.

The post of an Assistant Trainer is a new one here at Ravenswell and I can assure you all that my job description is all somewhat scary as it appears that the main criteria is that I have to be a Jack of all trades, especially in the department of testing any new variety of cake!

I have racing in my blood and the prospects are exciting especially with Fergal having notched up his 60th winner of the season just a week or so ago. Our target, as with all trainers I'm sure, is to better last season's total but even I, with all my youthful exuberance, will be surprised if we can improve on last year's massive total of 141! More realistic I believe is to target last year's prizemoney figure of just over £1.6million but one thing for sure is that we will give it our best shot...

The Paddy Power meeting at Cheltenham has now been and gone and hence we are well into the season proper and only this weekend at Haydock Kamsinas won a Grade 2 Novice Hurdle race and Crambo finished third in a highly competitive handicap.

The 86 stables here are filled to the brim and shortly the new barn will be completed housing an extra 30 boxes. The jockeys too are chomping at their bits and with the senior man in the weighing room, Paddy Brennan, still going strong, the competition for rides is still very keen! Anyway, let's hope they all ride plenty of winners and remain fit and healthy alongside their horses. There is however one of our jockeys missing on a daily basis and that is Fern, Fergal's daughter, who is currently employed by Mr Willie Mullins himself. Fern was kindly invited over for some 2 months in the summer, yet she so enjoyed the experience that she asked her dad if she could stay over for the season. Fergal kindly agreed yet there was one condition however – and that was, that on her return to Ravenswell, she should have made enough notes to be able to explain to her dad exactly how to train a racehorse!!!

On that note I must return to work as it's time for evening stables but I'm feeling very proud as yesterday I managed to fit my very first ever tongue tie!!!



STABLEGOSSIP

On a slightly windy October Sunday, on the top of the Malvern Hills our own Charlotte Parkins was proposed to by long term partner Max Kendrick!

Charlotte is a huge part of the team at Ravenswell, she is the secretary, and she is also the person who keeps everyone and everything well organised! Max is a professional jockey and the pair have been together for 8 years.

They plan to tie the knot next summer and their labrador Ned is incredibly excited to be the ring bearer!

Congratulations to you both, we wish you a lifetime of happiness!





JOIN US ON NEW YEARS' DAY

Monday 1st January 2024.

Cheltenham Racecourse, *The Istabraq Room*.

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

2024 RACING TRIPS WITH VENATOUR.CO.UK

Marc Blackford, who heads up The B Lucky Partnership and currently has Lord Landen (aka Walter) in training, is one of our long standing owners having had horses with us since the early days at Cilldara.

Our biggest success would be a Cheltenham winner with Landen Calling a few years ago!

Marc has recently joined forces with the Venatour Sports Travel Group to offer a dedicated and bespoke horse racing division, offering horse racing trips around the world.

Some of our owners at Ravenswell have already enjoyed two fantastic trips earlier this year, the first to the wonderful White Turf Festival in St Moritz during

February, and more recently to the beautiful northern Italian town of Merano, where we viewed quite possibly the most stunning racecourse in the world.

Marc has a wide range of racing trips for 2024 to choose from including Cape Town, Dublin Racing Festival, St Moritz, Dubai World Cup, Punchestown Festival, Auteuil, The French Derby in Chantilly, Killarney, Durban, Galway, Waregem/Bruges, Laytown, Merano, Prix De l'Arc De Triomphe, Velka Pardubicka, Breeders Cup, Melbourne Cup and the feature trip of 2024.....The Japan Cup!

For further information, please visit venatour.co.uk or email Marc directly at marc@venatour.co.uk.



INSIDE INFORMATION

BECKY HARES

BEEN AT RAVENSWELL FOR 3 YEARS

What is your position at Ravenswell?

I am an admin assistant. I help the secretary with racing operations, including staffing at the racecourse and general admin. I started off as a part time work rider whilst in my first year of studying at the Royal Agricultural University, and then quickly became a full-time stable lass and I moved into my role as admin assistant in the February of this year. I graduated from university in May this year.

Can you describe your job?

My main focus in the office is organising the staff and transport for racing each day. I email owners to let them know of all entries and declarations for their horses. I help Charlotte with anything she needs. I also look after two horses on the yard, mucking them out every day and riding a couple of lots before I start working in the office.

I really enjoy the variety of the role, one day I could

be in the office all day and the next I could be away racing with one of the horses I look after.

Who is your favourite horse?

My favourite horse is Gumball. I met him two years ago when he initially came to Ravenswell, and I looked after him while he was here. He has recently retired and Mr Warner, his owner, kindly allowed me to have him. He is a very special horse with the kindest personality.

Which is your favourite racecourse?

My favourite racecourse, despite working in National Hunt racing, has to be York. I took Gumball to York when he won in 2021, and I just loved everything about it! Most importantly, the stable lad's canteen is definitely the best one I've been in; there is so much food! I also love all the flower beds around the paddock, there are even rose beds in the stable yard.

And most importantly, what is your favourite cake?!

My favourite cake is a Victoria sponge. I love anything with fresh cream in!



STABLE TOURS @ RAVENSWELL

At Ravenswell Farm we love welcoming new and old friends through the door and there is no better way to do this than through our newly established yard visits. These offer a unique and memorable insight into our Cotswold-based yard for a 'behind-the-scenes' tour of Ravenswell Farm. Perfect for a Christmas present or just a treat; we would love to meet you and show you around our state-of-the-art facility.

There are 2023 dates available for the Steeplechase and Hurdle Tours as well as the option to purchase vouchers that can be redeemed next year! Buy all online at fergalobrienracing.co.uk/stable-tours

HURDLE

PRICE: £45.00 | MAX NUMBERS: 15 | 7.15 – 9.00am

What's Included:

Tea and Coffee on Arrival
Watch two lots on the Gallops
Look Around 'Behind the Scenes'

STEEPLECHASE

PRICE: £95.00 | MAX NUMBERS: 8 | 7.45 – 9.45am

What's Included:

Tea and Coffee on Arrival
Watch two lots on the Gallops
Tour 'Behind the Scenes' and Meet the FOB Team
Hearty English Breakfast at a Local Pub
FOB Merchandise Included



FOB RACING PARTNERSHIPS



Ajp Kingdom (FOB1) in the winners enclosure after winning nicely at Kempton on 1st May 2023.

We have been running the FOB Racing Partnerships since 2017.

It all started as a Racing Club venture set up in 2016 by Chris Coley and Simon Gillson for a bit of fun with 6 horses and a nice group of people. We enjoyed many a success including a listed bumper success with Poetic Rhythm at Cheltenham!!!

We then moved to individual Racing Syndicates using the same colours and on the 5th October 2017 'Sissinghurst' (FOB2) won his first start for us at Huntingdon. 'Ocean Cove' (FOB1) followed shortly with a good 2nd in a Ffos Las Bumper on the 24th November 2017.

This was the start of a 6 year climb to 12 Syndicates and a lot of winners and places!

The syndicates are mainly broken down into 8 shares and we have generally purchased Irish Point to Pointers which have shown some form and are ready to run.

We do an 'all in' monthly fee of £300 which keeps things simple and every April at the end of the season we zero the syndicate bank accounts back to the share holders and in 6 years there has never been a time we haven't sent money back!

The syndicates are always fun and sociable and that's the main priority but it is always a big bonus to have a winner!

'Blue Sans' (FOB12) and 'Ajp Kingdom' (FOB1) have been a lot of fun this summer winning 6 races and 3 places between them! Our gorgeous friendly giant 'Manothepeople' (FOB2) won 2 chases last season and deserved his shot at the Scottish National but it was just a step too far. He ran well for a long time. In the spring we purchased 'Shy Love' (FOB8) who is the half brother to 'Brandy Love'. He is a fine big horse who floats along the ground.

We are in the process of setting up another syndicate so please get in touch if you are at all interested or want further details. Or contact **Sally on 07868 728440** to express your interest.

THE FOB SHOP



END OF LINE SALE!

Still time to make the most of the End of the Line Sale at Fergal O'Brien Racing!

Dive into a treasure trove of racing merchandise where all items are available at incredible sale prices. Now's the perfect time to snag your favourites before they gallop away! With an extensive range still available, this is your chance to source top-quality gear at unbeatable prices.

Don't miss out – shop the End of the Line Sale and make a statement with Fergal O'Brien Racing style!

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 track into your home!

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



Grade 1 winning National Hunt trainer based in the heart of the Cotswolds.

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