



HORSE WHISPERS

ISSUE FIVE

PADDY BOWS OUT
AT CHELTENHAM

LIFE AFTER
RACING

EVE NICHOLLS & FALLOWAY DUBREAU

FOB'S FIRST EVER

GOLF DAY

ISSUE FIVE

HORSE WHISPERS

WITH FERGAL O'BRIEN RACING

IN THIS ISSUE:

Season Round Up

By Dr. Simon

Racing Stories

The launch of Cotswold Film Co. new talk show

Inside Information

Meet Jack Hogan, and learn more about his role

Royal Ascot Review

by Sam Jukes

Farewell

A farewell to Daire Davis, one of our own

FOB Golf Day

Join us on our golf day at Brickhampton

Life after Racing

with Falloway Dubreau & Eve Nicholls

Merchandise for sale

Check out all the latest clothing on offer

Out N' About

Where have our team been spending their free time

Become an owner

All the details to join a partnership



Welcome!

Reflections on a successful 2023/24 season and there are exciting times ahead.

The horses are all back in now after their summer holidays and they are slowly building up to race fitness.

Special dreams are very much alive again...

from
Fergal x

SEASON ROUND-UP

BY DR. SIMON

To say that the 2023/24 season was a time of great change for the team would be massively understating the matter.

For the previous couple of seasons we had trained in collaboration with Graeme McPherson, his Martins Hill yard in Stow on the Wold. That arrangement came to an end last summer and all operations returned to Ravenswell Farm. However, we're delighted to see that Dave and Graeme have made an excellent start to their partnership. As a direct consequence of the demerger we built a new barn at Ravenswell Farm, it's now fully operational and a fantastic addition to the overall operation.

At the end of the season we said goodbye to Paddy Brennan as he retired after a win on Manothepeople at Cheltenham. Great to see him go out on his own terms but a seismic shift for us. He rode our first winner (Horsham Lad on 20th Oct 2011) and has partnered over half of our total tally of wins. He'll be missed but we're looking forward to continuing to work with him in his new bloodstock agent role.

In between these two events we amassed 107 wins for the season, our fourth consecutive century. The highlight was obviously Johnny Burke guiding Crambo home to win the Grade 1 Long Walk hurdle at Ascot, our second ever win at the highest level. We also had an Aintree festival winner for the second year running when Horaces Pearl pipped stablemate Tripoli Flyer in the bumper on National day. Kamsinas and Springtime Promise were also Grade 2 winners during the season.

We're really looking forward to 2024/25...



Kamsinas



Horace's Pearl



Crambo

RACING STORIES

AN EXCITING NEW VIDEO TALK SHOW SERIES
BY COTSWOLD FILM COMPANY, PRESENTED BY LOUIS GILL

Introducing 'Racing Stories', an exhilarating new talk show brought to you by 'Cotswold Film Company'. Join us as we dive into the heart of horse racing, where we sit down with some of the sport's biggest personalities.

From legendary jockeys, renowned trainers and racing people from various areas of the sport we'll uncover untold stories that have shaped the racing world. Hear first hand accounts of glory, challenges and the indomitable spirit that drives these personalities. With an exclusive interview, and until now, untold insights, 'Racing Stories' will bring you closer to the action and passion of horse racing.

Episodes from the series will be released in the Autumn, available to watch on the Cotswold Film Company YouTube channel as well as being able to listen to them as podcasts on Spotify!

"Growing up I was always glued to Channel 4 Racing and have always been inspired by the work of Alistair Down. I wanted to try and create a similar 'in depth' but relaxed interview with some of racing's biggest personalities, without the restraints of having to create this on behalf of a client."

"The 'This Racing Life' series on Racing TV is very good and I feel the sport needs to tell its stories more often, it's home to so many interesting characters".

"Running a production company with our small team has made creating a series like this incredibly possible. Although I'm not yet a polished presenter (bare with me), I hope these episodes will attract an

audience and hopefully grow with each one".

"I also want to create a platform that can help the interviewees promote their businesses and careers, it's important to stick together in this industry". -
Louis Gill (Cotswold Film Company)

Every episode promises excitement, inspiration, and a deeper understanding of the wonderful world of horse racing. The series kicks off with Paddy Brennan, our former stable jockey who recently retired from the saddle to set up 'Cotswold Bloodstock' and 'Paddy Brennan Racing'.

Watch the first episode below.

EP 1: PADDY BRENNAN



To watch future episodes of Racing Stories, **SUBSCRIBE** to the Cotswold Film Company Youtube channel

INSIDE INFORMATION

with JACK HOGAN

AIMS FOR THE SEASON

Tell me a little bit about your background and how you got into racing?

I always had ponies growing up so naturally I got interested in pony racing. But the racing really took off when I started riding out and working in racing yards when I finished school.

Did you always want to be a jockey when you were growing up?

Yes, really. It was always going to be that or a carpenter. Being a jockey gave me more of a thrill so I decided to go with that.

How long have you been at Fergal's and do you find settling into Ravenswell difficult?

I have been working at Fergal's for two years now and yes really enjoying it. It was very easy to settle in, most of the people that I lived with have been Irish so that has helped! Most of the people on the yard are pretty sound so that helped a lot settling into Ravenswell.

Looking back on last year, obviously a great year for us in which you played a significant role. Could you give us a particular highlight of the season?

The highlight for me last year would have been riding my fiftieth winner on Kamsinas at Kempton. This marked a magic milestone for me and would certainly have been the highlight.

Lowlight?!

The lowlight would have probably been going four months without a winner last season. I hope that doesn't happen this season!!!

Looking ahead, you've started the 2024/25 season in great style and we all hope this continues. What are your goals for the year ahead?

Yes, the season has started really well for me. I



am
riding
for

Fergal and
also for some

really
high profile trainers which has allowed me to sit
on some better horses.... Long may it continue!

In terms of aims I am just trying to ride as many winners as I can for Fergal, whilst also trying to build up relationships with other trainers. This should hopefully stand me in good stead for the years to come.

Final question, when the time comes and you are looking back on your riding career, is there anything you especially want to look back on and think 'that's pretty cool I achieved that?'

Winning the big races. At the end of your career no one remembers the 'wet Wednesdays at Ludlow' or the 'Thursdays at Sedgefield'. A Cheltenham Festival winner would be the obvious pick. That's what you are remembered by at the end of your career.

Many thanks, Jack. I hope you continue as well as you have started this season and keep firing in the winners!

JACK HOGAN

*Conditional Jockey
2 years at FOB*



ROYAL ASCOT REVIEW

by Sam Juckes, *our Ravenswell Reporter*

The Royal Meeting took centre stage in the racing calendar last month, with the much anticipated five days in June bringing together its usual glamour, ensemble of colour and display of pageantry. The racing itself lived up to the billing too, producing high class action, and attracting competitors from around the globe to the prestigious Ascot turf.

International success is not an uncommon sight at the Royal meeting. Australia tends to send its sprinters; the French send their middle-distance stars, and the Americans send whatever runs fastest in a four-furlong dash on the dirt.

This year, the sole Australian representative in the King Charles III Stakes, Asfoora, blitzed the field in a lightning quick time to the delight of trainer Henry Dwyer. Before the race, the Aussie trainer said one of the only reasons he brought the mare over was because of the level of competition in Australia – Ouch!

Success for international raiders was slightly harder to come by thereafter. The French had to wait until day four, with Calandagan demolishing the field in the King Edward VII Stakes, with the only problem moving forwards, being the gelding's limited eligibility to compete in many races this campaign due to his "missing parts".

As for the American candidates this year, they flattered to deceive. Gabaldon the closest they came in the Windsor Castle, narrowly beaten by Kevin Ryan's Ain't Nobody, the 1983 song by American funk band Rufus and Chaka Khan... how ironic!

Reflecting on the week as a whole, the Queen Anne Stakes kicked off the card on day one, and there was an immediate disagreement on where was best to be positioned on track. The French contingent seemed to follow the trajectory of their political landscape in running – far right! Whilst the remaining eleven came to the nearside. Spoiler alert! In this instance, the French were wrong, with fan favourite and lovable grey Charyn, trained by Roger Varian, storming past them to record his first Group 1 success.

Aidan O'Brien didn't have a winner on Tuesday to the surprise of many, but he didn't feel the pressure. He fired in a duo of winners on days two and three, which included Auguste Rodin, meaning the master trainer achieved his landmark 400th Group 1 winner across the globe and ended the week as top trainer following more success.

It was teenage kicks for 18-year-old Billy Loughnane, who shone in both the Coventry and Sandringham, whilst Willie Mullins, yes you heard that correctly, won the Copper Horse handicap with Bellocchio, giving a whole new meaning to 'back Willie's in the bumper'. I think it's fair to assume the "NH" in the champion trainers twitter (X) handle can now be removed without dispute.

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.

A FAREWELL TO DAIRE DAVIS

Conditional Jockey at Fergal O'Brien Racing



When did you arrive at Ravenswell and where were you before?

I arrived at Ravenswell on the 1st of April for a meeting with Fergal and wasn't actually supposed to start for another week but he said I'll see you in the morning and I didn't want to tell him I wasn't starting for another week so I was there the next morning! I was previously in Olly Murphy's so I didn't have too far to travel.

Obviously a very popular figure at Ravenswell, did you manage to adapt to Ravenswell-life pretty easily?

I felt I did adapt easily enough to the job. The only thing that took awhile was getting used to living in the area as I didn't really know anyone so that took awhile I suppose. It probably took people time to adapt to me as they probably weren't used to someone so energetic at 6am.

You've been a loyal servant for around a year and-a-half and a very dedicated member of staff. In this time what has been your favourite memory?

There were plenty of great memories so it was hard to pick my favourite. I think riding-wise winning on Uncle Arthur after my suspension felt like a big relief. Not on horseback, there were many funny memories that

would probably get us into trouble if Fergal reads this so I won't say too much.

With highs come lows, anything that you won't look back on fondly?

Unfortunately there were a few lows but the one that probably was the worst for me was when I received 21 days for taking the wrong course. That was a hard pill to swallow and was very embarrassing. It took awhile to get over that one but Ferg and team were great to me during that period.

Can you share with us what plans are moving forward?

I've nothing really set in stone as of yet. I'm heading home for a couple of weeks and coming back over to ride out in Lambourn and hopefully something sticks and we get back on the racecourse as soon as possible.

From everyone at Ravenswell I would just like to wish you the very best for the future. We certainly will miss you around the yard and it will definitely be quieter without you!

Thank you and best of luck for rest of season!

FOB RACING

Golf Day.

**BRICKHAMPTON
GOLF CLUB**

12.09.24

**ENQUIRIES
CHARLIESTQUINTON@GMAIL.COM**



JOIN US AT THE **FOB GOLF DAY**

12 . 09 . 24

Brickhampton Golf Club

in between Cheltenham and Gloucester

Cheltenham Rd, Churchdown, Gloucester GL2 9QF

Time: First tee off time at 1 o'clock (tee times to be forwarded later).

Cost: £260 per team of four, which includes a pre-round bacon roll and coffee, supper afterwards and prizes. All proceeds to the Injured Jockeys Fund.

Book with Charlie via:

CHARLIESTQUINTON@GMAIL.COM



FALLOWAY DUBREAU & EVE NICHOLLS

I'm Eve and I own former racehorse Falloway Dubreau, who was trained here at Ravenswell Farm. I started working for Fergal when beginning my degree in International Horse Racing Business at Hartpury, I thought I should probably get some experience with racehorses and have been working here since.

I would have never thought of having an ROR as my own horse originally until I came across Falloway Dubreau. He came into my stables when he arrived at Fergals and then I chose to look after him because he was a really sweet natured horse. I decided to have him in his retirement, sort of on a whim. I hadn't had a horse for a couple of months and he was just lovely, he was lovely in training, really easy going, so I spoke to my mum about it and we could afford him so we chose to buy him.

I retrained him myself, he was quite quiet at first, but I'd be telling fibs if I said his personality didn't change a lot... at one point I probably spent more time on the floor than I did on top of him but that was almost a phase. The more you get to know them, the more they change and he's a completely different horse now. You could do anything on him and he'd be fine.

Now he does a lot of showing, dressage

and he's just started doing some ROR challenges. I haven't done too much jumping because before he came to Fergals to train, he sustained a fracture in his pastern and he's got four pins in one of his legs so I don't want to overwork him because I'm planning on keeping him forever and wouldn't want to risk injuring him. We just do a bit of jumping, but not too much.

He's really excelled in his showing career. He always goes to the Aintree National Championships, he went to the London International Horse Show as well last year and we're hoping to qualify again this year. We did Hickstead as well, which is the ROR Amateur Ridden Show Series Finals.

At Hickstead, he did a beautiful go around and we got pulled up first, which was great. We came second behind the 2018 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Native River after the judge rode, before becoming reserve champion in the championship, held in the main arena. I was really excited to compete at Hickstead because it's like my home, it's near where I grew up, so it was really nice and the family could come and watch.

The Amateur Ridden Series is quite cool, competing alongside the likes of Native River. You would have never

seen them together in a race because Falloway Dubreau was nowhere near to that standard!

It's such a big atmosphere and it's amazing to see how these ex racehorses cope with it. I was probably a bit nervous going to the main arena because it was quite a buzzy thing to do, but he kept his head on quite well so I was really pleased with that. He was always so relaxed at the racecourses so I wasn't too concerned.

I believe that racehorses can excel in pretty much anything after racing. It's amazing how versatile they can be. They can pretty much do any discipline, endurance, polo, showjumping, eventing, dressage, there's not many things I would say they can't do. Especially if you find the right horse, most of them will do all of those things.

If I was giving advice to someone thinking of retraining a thoroughbred I would say 'Don't rush them'. It does depend on the horse though, as when I bought Falloway Dubreu he didn't have a break and I took him straight out of training. I got on him right away which suited him. He was a

big six year old and he grew a lot more after I bought him and he changed shape completely. Keeping him in just level work probably benefited him and strengthened him. Some horses would see a break, it's just about understanding them.

You might find that the horse isn't suitable for the discipline you originally bought it for, whether it be for a temperamental reason or a physical one so be prepared that you might not end up with the horse you thought you were buying because they can change a lot. Don't be disheartened, there are lots of other things they can do and as I said before they're extremely versatile!

As for Falloway Dubreau and me, we won the Welsh Regional Dressage Championships a few weeks ago which was fantastic and he's now going to Aintree for the National Championships at Prelim and Novice dressage. He'll also go for the Amateur Showing Special and I'm hoping to qualify for the ROR Challenge Championships, so that'd should be fun too!



BREEDERS CUP 2024

30th October to 4th November 2024 | *San Diego, USA*



JAPAN CUP RACING TOUR

1st April to 6th April 2025 | *Dubai, UAE*

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Also announcing the launch of our limited edition Fergal O'Brien Racing Winners Merchandise, available to buy now.

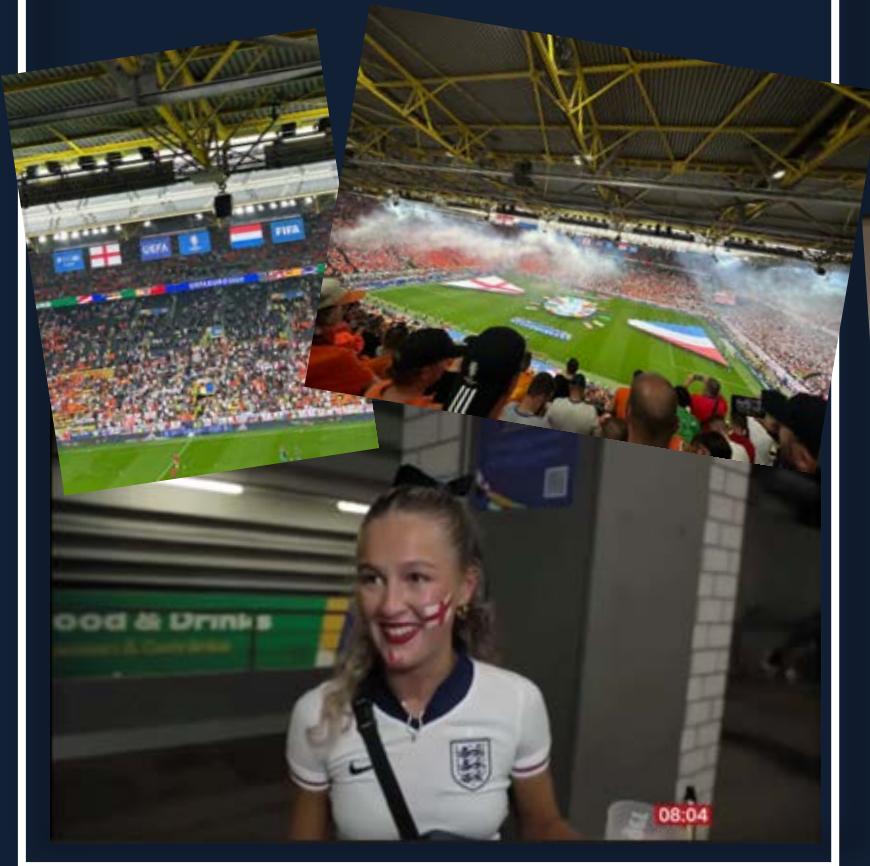
After a hugely successful 23/24 season, we're celebrating our victories with this exclusive collection. These special items are designed to commemorate our triumphs and allow our fans to join in the celebration.

Don't miss out on the chance to own a piece of this incredible season—shop our winners merch today and celebrate with us!



PHOEBE AT THE FOOTY

Phoebe represented FOB Racing in Dortmund, watching England beat the Netherlands in the semi-finals of EURO 2024. She also ended up being interviewed by no less than BBC news itself and described the experience as being“PHENOMENAL” as England won 2-1, scoring in the last minute of the game.



OUT N' ABOUT

SOPHIE

WILL BE GOING DOWN THE
'HORSE WALK' RATHER THAN
THE 'CATWALK'



Sophie Pumfrett, who lives locally to the yard and by profession is a full-time model, has been riding out on Saturdays for the last six months. She is riding in the Magnolia Cup during the Glorious Goodwood festival on Thursday 1st August.

If you would like to support her cause, you can donate using the link below...

DONATE HERE



CHARLIE & CHRIS AT MIDLAND AIR AMBULANCE

Charlie and Chris recently visited the Midland Air Ambulance Charity, based in Cosford.

It was an eye-opening experience and great to fully understand the life-saving work the charity undertakes. We look forward to working more closely with the charity in the future.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT BECOMING AN OWNER?

We have an excellent opportunity for you.

FEET ON THE GROUND



SYNDICATE DETAILS:

15 share syndicate

£1,000 per share

£160 'all in' per month starting July

To enquire about 'Feet On The Ground', please email us today

admin@fergalobrienracing.com

INSIDE INFORMATION

Feet On The Ground is a 6 year old Mare by Westerner, out of the Milan mare, Eyes On The Stars.

She has run in three Irish point to points and has improved with every run. On her first start she pulled up on Heavy ground in a race where only two horses finished. However she has since finished 4th and 2nd on good ground. On her last start she was beaten only 2 lengths after leading for most of the way round.

Physically she's a well put together mare standing at 16.2. She has plenty of experience jumping fences from her point to points in Ireland and after watching the replays of her races, her jumping really impressed us.

She has two siblings, both have won under rules and have taken their racing well. She has a progressive profile and there are lots of options to aim at going forward. We're delighted to have been able to secure her and offer her as our latest FOB Racing Partnership horse.

SUMMER GALLERY



images by LOUIS GILL



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

Ravenswell Farm, Withington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 4DD

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