

ISSUE THREE HORSE WHISPERS

INSIDE INFORMATION

WHO IS LOUIS?

Find out what Louis Gill really does at Fergal O'Brien Racing, and see some of his great work in our photo gallery.

VETS CORNER

Join us on a routine vet visit with Kevin Bishop

READY FOR ANOTHER QUIZ?

After the great success of our Christmas Quiz, we are back with a racecourse based quiz. Give it your best shot!

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...



ISSUE THREE

HORSE WHISPERS

WITH FERGAL O'BRIEN RACING



WHAT TO EXPECT

IN THIS ISSUE:

Vets Corner

Join Kevin Bishop on a routine treatment.

Racing Tour

Fancy a trip to Bruges in August 2024?

Inside Information

Meet more of the FOB staff members.

January Quiz

Test your brains with a new quiz!

Become an Owner

Learn more about a horse share opportunity.

Stop Press

Join us in a congratulating Shaun Greene.

Stable News

Catch up with the latest goings on at the yard.

The FOB Shop

Have you visited our online shop recently?

Welcome!

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter!

As we stride into the New Year, I extend my warmest wishes to our racing community. Here's to another exhilarating year of victories, camaraderie, and shared passion for the thrilling world of horse racing. May it be a year of triumphs both on and off the track!

from
Fergal x

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Shaun Greene on riding his very first winner in the UK on only his second ride.

Shaun has been with us since July and is a big part of the team. Well done Shaun, we are sure there is plenty more to come!!



NEW BARN

The expansion plan for the new barn at Ravenswell Farm was approved by Cotswold District Council at the end of August 2023. The first group of horses moved into the new barn in December, and it is now fully stocked. Operationally, the barn is working well and allows the horses to access the normal facilities and routine, which has made the change very easy for the horses and staff to get used to.

Fergal explained, "We are delighted to have the new barn in operation, we are all really pleased with it. GF Contracting have done a great job with the build, it is very easy to work in. The addition of the Galebreaker, rubber matting and automatic troughs has been invaluable. Hopefully, it will provide us with many winners!"

WE HAD AN

OLYMPIC VISITOR

AT RAVENSWELL FARM

The big freeze didn't stop us getting the horses on the gallop earlier this month, but it did stop the Olympic mix 4 + crew from getting on the water!

Hence we had a visitor to the yard, Erin Kennedy MBE, their cox and Olympic Gold medallist, 3 x World and 3 x European Champion who popped in to say hello.

We trust the weather will be somewhat warmer in Paris in the summer!



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 Owners 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.

We have received a fantastic response and urge our owners to book early to avoid

disappointment as the trip has limited numbers.

Contact 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 and Waregem 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 THINKING
ABOUT BECOMING AN
OWNER?

**We have an excellent
opportunity for you.**

MINELLA MIRACLE

Could he be your miracle?

**The FOB Racing Partnership 9
Shares for sale**

6 year old gorgeous gelding by
GETAWAY.

Placed 2nd in an Irish Point to Point
and placed in a Bumper in England.
Winning brother and from a good
family.

£2500 for a 10% share, £240 'all in'
monthly fee starting February.

He is here at Ravenswell Farm, so
please get in touch to come and see
him!

**Contact Sally on 07868 728440 for
more information**

INSIDE INFORMATION

with LOUIS GILL



What is your position at Ravenswell?

My position at Ravenswell is quite unique. I think my official title is 'Digital Marketing', but I generally take on any task that involves photography or video production. In the modern world that we live in, creating digital marketing content has become paramount for any business.

Horse Racing is my passion and I love showing it off to a wider audience. Fergal O'Brien Racing has always led the way on social media, due to the always entertaining and dedicated Simon Gillson. Being able to create content that gets released on a platform with a large following and giving a behind the scenes insight to a new audience is very exciting!

Can you describe your job?

My job role consists of creating content for our social media channels, newsletters and promotional materials through the use of photography and video production. Alongside this I create video updates to help with our owners' communications. One thing for sure is that you'll likely see me in and around the yard armed with my camera!

How did you start your career?

Well, my journey into the industry has been an interesting one as I don't come from a racing background. In fact, I'm the only person in my entire family that's into racing, with the exception of my mother who got into racing through me! I left school with the aim of combining my two passions; Videography and Horse Racing. I believed that, at the time, there was a large gap in the market for a production company that specialised in Horse Racing.

At the time, racing had not moved with the times and racing documentaries were rare. Media coverage, especially from the yards and behind the scenes, was non-existent. I left school and got a job for Coral, working in a small shop in Cheltenham. It was a brilliant experience and taught me a lot. It was also a way to watch racing all day while earning money to pay for a camera to get me started! I set up my business (The Cotswold Film Company) with my friend Pete.

The first trainer that gave me an opportunity was our friend over the valley, Kim Bailey. We approached a few trainers and Kim Bailey was the first to get us in for a meeting. We created 'Life At The Yard'. The aim was to show people what it's like to work in racing, an industry that has had struggles with staffing in the past. The video went down very well, being shown at many racing schools and colleges.

From there, I took on my first full time job in racing, working for Graeme McPherson. Graeme and I both had the same vision for trying to give our owners, and the general racing fan, a real insight into the daily routine of a racing yard. I helped update owners and created a weekly video newsletter. This was especially useful during the Covid pandemic, when owners couldn't watch their horses on the gallops! When O'Brien McPherson Racing was formed, I spread my work across both yards and although now spending more time at Ravenswell Farm, I do still work for Graeme at Martins Hill too.

The majority of my time is spent running The Cotswold Film Company. We are a video production company that specialises in creating video production for the racing industry, as well as also taking on large commercial projects. We have a studio in Lansdown, Cheltenham. We are lucky enough to work at a variety of yards and racecourses across the country on behalf of our clients.

What is your favourite horse?

A tricky one to answer so I'll give you three... My favourite horse currently would be my pointer, Boss Man Fred. He's just the apple of my eye really! My favourite FOB horse is Young Buster. I love staying chasers mainly and he's a big, strong, and genuine horse. I've enjoyed watching him progress. My favourite horse of all time was Simonsig. I never felt like he got to fully show what he could do, but he was a joy to watch.

What is your favourite racecourse?

Cheltenham. It's the town I've grown up in, the racecourse holds so many memories. I probably would have never found racing if it wasn't for Cheltenham Racecourse being on my doorstep. It's the obvious answer for most I'm sure, but in my opinion it's the HQ of our sport. Away from Cheltenham, probably Warwick or Chepstow. Both stayers tracks, the Classic Chase and Welsh National are two of my favourite races in the calendar.

What is your favourite cake?

My favourite cake would have to be a Victoria Sponge. You're never too far from a Vicky sponge at Ravenswell Farm, although they don't hang around for long!

GALLOP TO GLORY!

with OUR **RACECOURSE** BASED QUIZ

- 1 Which racecourse hands out world renowned sticky toffee pudding as part of the winner's prize?
- 2 Which racecourse is unique in Britain that it doesn't have a grandstand?
- 3 The main road, the A57, passed between the track and the grandstand of which racecourse which closed in 1964? (The road had to be closed on racedays!)
- 4 "The Racecourse Ground" is officially recognised as the oldest international football stadium now in use. Which club play their home games there?
- 5 The Jubilee public house is situated across the road from which racecourse, which hosts a race of the same name?
- 6 Which racecourse is comprised of two separate tracks stretched out over two counties?
- 7 What race was won at Aintree in 1955 by Stirling Moss?
- 8 Which racecourse is set in the estate of a palace where Robert the Bruce was once declared King of Scotland?
- 9 What is the most easterly racecourse in Great Britain?
- 10 Which county cricket club's ground formerly known as "The Racecourse Ground", was initially located inside the town's racecourse?

ANSWERS TO BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 1ST BY EMAIL TO CHRIS COLEY...

CHRIS@CHRISCOLEY.CO.UK

Answers will be revealed in Issue 4 of the Horse Whispers Newsletter

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

THE RESULTS

ARE IN:

In First Place:

Andy Ellis

(The only entrant to score 10/10!)

Runners up:

Ian Gladdy

Sally Meek

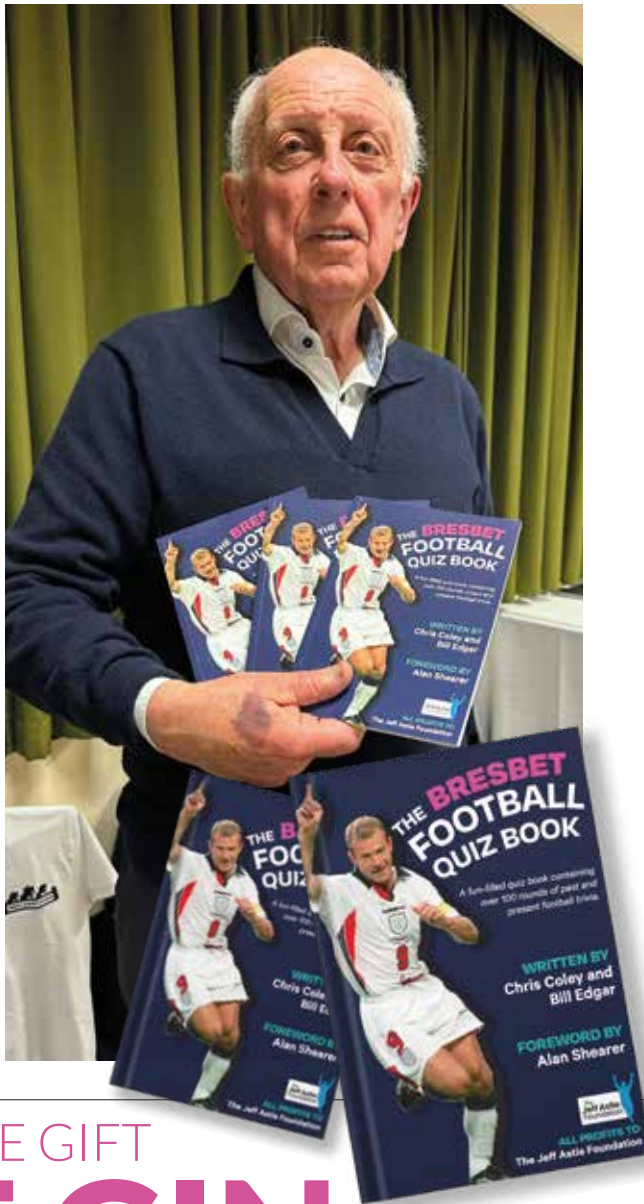
HUGE CONGRATULATIONS GUYS!

THE ANSWERS:

- 1 **Thirteen**
- 2 **Noel Fehily**
- 3 **Santa Claus**
- 4 **Plum Pudding**
- 5 **Balthazar King**
- 6 **Rosehill**
- 7 **Reindeer**
- 8 **Aintree**
- 9 **French Holly**
- 10 **Christmas Gorse**

WELL DONE TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!

NEED A THOUGHTFUL GIFT?
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!



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://www.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://www.fergalobrienracing.co.uk/shop)



VETS CORNER

ON **CONVERSATIONS WITH CHRIS**

Here is a video of a horse having a routine tracheal wash, which is performed by vet Kevin Bishop.



AN UPDATE ON THE LAUNCH OF FOBMERCH



We have a new collection of merch arrivals set to make their debut in the shop very soon. These additions are sure to elevate your Fergal O'Brien Racing experience.

Watch this space for updates of when it goes live, and keep subscribing to the Horse Whispers newsletter for a cheeky discount code in the coming issues...



FERGAL'S GRADE 1'S

We were all so proud of Crambo winning the Howden Long Walk Hurdle.

It was our second Grade 1 winner and it couldn't have come in a more memorable race.

In one of the finishes of the season, he was incredibly tenacious to win a titanic battle with top-class staying hurdler Paisley Park by a shorthead under jockey Johnny Burke in the prestigious Ascot contest. Dasher Drasher and Champ - another couple of old favourites - filled the other places.

Owned in partnership by Sullivan Bloodstock and Chris Giles, he is now one of the leading contenders for the Stayers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival.

Crambo's victory brought back memories of our first Grade 1 winner – Poetic Rhythm. Coincidentally, his top-level victory also came by a shorthead and it came around Christmas time, too.

Ridden by Paddy Brennan in the colours of Chris Coley's Yes No Wait Sorries, he landed the Challow Novices' Hurdle in 2017.

Sadly, injury stopped him from fulfilling his full potential but that wonderful day at Newbury just over six years ago, lives long in the memory.

We're pleased to report Poetic Rhythm – now 13-years-old – is still enjoying life and he has an important role teaching aspiring jockeys to ride at the British

Racing School in Newmarket.

Chris said: *"He wasn't ever going to be the easiest horse to rehome as he wouldn't have been suitable for everyone, so it is great that he found a home at the British Racing School."*

"I get regular updates from them and it's always wonderful to hear he's doing so well."

Let's hope many more horses join Poetic Rhythm and Crambo on the roll of honour as Grade 1 winners for Fergal O'Brien Racing in the near future.

With thanks to Steve Jones for writing this guest column.

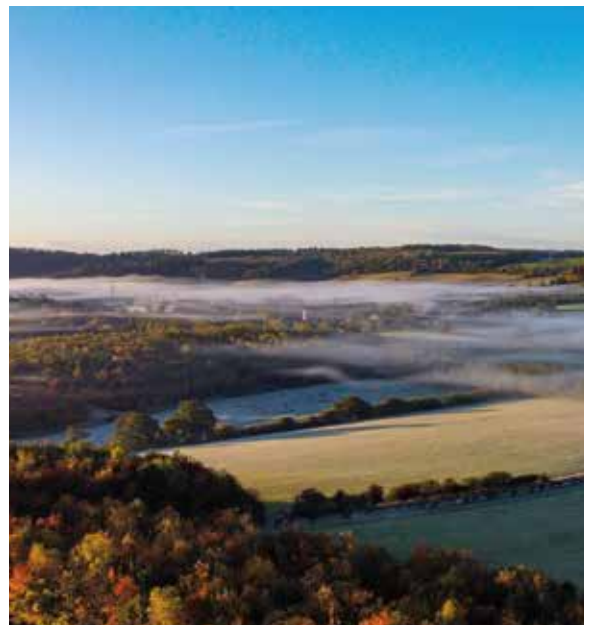


Crambo schooling at home



Poetic Rhythm at Ravenswell with Fergal, Paddy, Tori and Chris

A VIEW FROM THE SKY



images by LOUIS GILL



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

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

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

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