

# PORTRAIT OF WESTCOUNTRY RACING

Fiona Crawford

A *Portrait of Westcountry Racing* goes in front of and behind the scenes at four West country race courses: Wincanton, Taunton, Exeter and Newton Abbot, to show the people and horses who work so tirelessly to make the race days a success.

The book traces the journey that a racehorse makes from foal to retirement and looks at the characters of Westcountry racing: the owners, trainers, breeders, course officials, jockeys, stable lads and lasses, bookies and race goers.

Equestrian photographer Fiona Crawford captures the essence of the region's characteristic meetings, the months of hard training culminating in a day of pounding excitement, in this supremely colourful portrait of the Sport of Kings – Westcountry style.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Fiona Crawford** is completely driven by a desire for perfection in her work that is only matched by her appreciation and understanding of the athletic grace of the horse and its power to generate affection and emotion in its human counterpart. Even before Fiona completed her degree in photography in 2001 she had decided to specialise in equestrian photography. Fiona wanted to combine her creative nature with all the equestrian knowledge and experience that she had gained since early childhood. Fiona was given her first pony at age four and to the present day she has never been without an equestrian companion. Fiona is continually building her profile within the equestrian world. Commissions so far have included: The British Horse Society, The Pony Club, Newton Abbot Racecourse, *Horse & Hound*, *Horse Magazine*, and the *Western Morning News*.

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# PORTRAIT OF WESTCOUNTRY RACING



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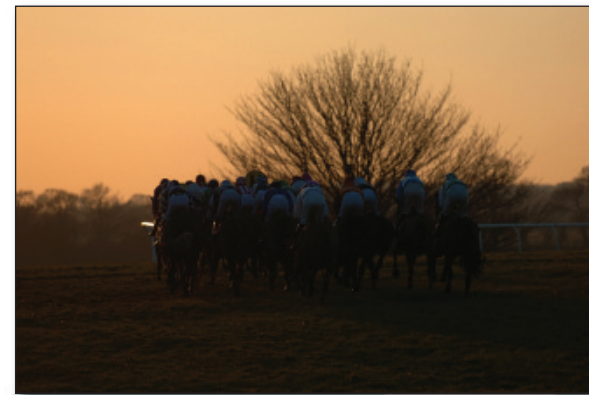
# PORTRAIT OF WEST COUNTRY RACING



5th January, Wincanton Racecourse  
1.10pm The Higos Insurance Somerton Novices' Handicap Hurdle Race (Class 4).



3.40pm The Bathwick Tyres Kingwell Hurdle Race (Class 1) (Grade 2)  
**Katchit** and Robert Thornton clear the last hurdle to go on to win.



16th February, Wincanton Racecourse  
4.50pm The Bathwick Tyres Dorchester Handicap Hurdle Race (Class 4).  
The field head off into the fast-setting sun in the last race of the day.



7th May, East Burrow Farm, Devon  
A field of East Burrow Farm-owned mares and foals.

Example of a double page spread



3rd June, East Burrow Farm, Devon  
John's (right) is doing just ahead of the others for the time.  
  
Caption:  
3rd June, East Burrow Farm, Devon  
The race is Double Trigger and the lead is by the stable Aid (right).  
The foals are not named and they are purchased to race.



3rd June, East Burrow Farm, Devon  
**Double Trigger**: 'Give an inch and he will take a mile...'



5th June, Newton Abbot Racecourse  
5.00pm The Car Boot Sale Here 29th June Handicap Hurdle Race (Class 4). Richard Johnson sharing the joke, on **Talkingstick** to finish 3rd. Leaders, right Bob Vallender, left Heddwyn Edwards.