

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 08/02/06

As you know we have been particularly quiet on the racing front this year so far, 28 runs and no winners a far cry from this time last year. That said, we have now had eight placed and yesterday we were so unlucky with SHIFTY NIGHT being beaten in the end by half a nostril. When they went past the post I really thought we were off the mark, but it wasn't to be our day. Looking back over the last week or so and the runners we have saddled, I was particularly pleased with SET ALIGHT on her come back race, finishing third at 100-1. Its funny she has had a lot of what I call mental problems, but when we got to the course I really thought she seemed up for it, I almost suggested to the owners she could win.

I expect by now you have gathered I am feeling really upbeat about the end of the all-weather season and the start of what should I think be a really good turf season for us.

In reality I think we could be on the money as soon as next week, I intend running both SHIFTY NIGHT and SET ALIGHT at Southwell and if they get in on the same day we could kick our season off with a double. I really believe we are coming out of the winter clouds, in fact I would go so far as to say, we will be firing on all cylinders very very soon, albeit, I haven't got any more runners this week.

They say everything comes to those who wait-yes you have guessed it, I have finally found a driver who at the moment loves the job and who has taken so much pressure off me.

As a direct consequence of one of these articles, Paula, wrote to me enquiring if the job was still vacant-needless to say she sailed through the interview and is for me like winning the lottery. Not only can she drive, she can lead up and help out in so many ways. At last I can eat, drink and be merry on the way to and from the races-I can work on my lap top, making entries and working schedules out. I can contact owners and suppliers alike, which mean my trips to the races, have never been more productive. I feel so much more relaxed both at work and at home, I can't begin to explain the relief-I just hope Paula enjoys it enough to stick with us, she is a first class driver and has taken over the running of the lorry in its entirety, which includes dealing with the mechanics and so on.

I am still undecided on what stallions I will be using for my mares, but I hope by this time next week to have come to some conclusions.

As we are getting close to the start of the turf term, I have eased up on a few like POLAR FORCE, WARDEN WARREN and KENNINGTON to name but a few. I believe we will have one of our best ever turf campaigns this year and I just want to get started.

The racing club continues to flourish, I have been promised no end of new members, and I think a number are waiting for the turf term to start before they join up. What I would say is the website is growing in size with more and more information being added weekly, it is really taking shape. The majority of it is available to anyone; however, there is a club exclusive bit which can only be accessed with a password and user ID.

As you know we ran GONE 'N' DUNNETT again at Southwell the other day and I am pleased to say five members made the trip to the track-they had a great time, but something which came out of their trip was it would be good to have a members chat room, so that they could arrange lifts, buses or what ever to get to the races. In addition they can ask me questions and talk about racing topics with like minded people. I am still hopeful of getting 100 fully paid up members in the club, by the end of March. I suppose the only thing I want to say to end this week's column-WATCH THIS SPACE, WE ARE READY TO FIRE ON ALL CYLINDERS. I can hardly believe I have now been doing this column for over a year.