

## CHRISTINE DUNNETT 15/02/06

Do you believe in fate?

It's strange; they say things happen for a reason and how right they are!

As we have been extremely quiet on the racing front latterly, I have had time to look at other aspects of the business not least the breeding side, which I have mentioned on a number of occasions in the recent past.

Last Thursday Tattersalls held their traditional February Sale, at which in the past I have picked up the odd yearling or a mare in foal, so armed with my marked catalogue I took a trip to Headquarters. Convinced I would end up buying, I chose to take the lorry.

On arrival I visited the boxes of a number of lots I had marked off, after which I felt quietly confident about the impending sale. A few horses in, I felt as though 'luck' fate wasn't on my side, that was until lot 32, CAPSTICK, an unraced Machiavellian mare in foal to that superb sprinter Choisir. Initially I thought, she will go for a lot, but as the bidding failed to gather momentum, I was delighted to have her knocked down to me for just 6,500gns. I had bought a breeding dream in my eyes, for less than the stud fee for the stallion-added to which I think she is a nice sort of mare-I'll obviously let you know what happens over the next few months.

Somewhat chuffed things looked on the up, I was under bidder on several more, but finally I struck gold again and bought a really nice speedy, early type of filly by Danetime for just 1,500gns. A May foal, she looks every bit a racehorse in my eyes and with Rock of Gibraltar in her pedigree, I have to say I was just a little bit excited with my new power pack.

Happy with my two bargains, we boxed up and headed home at 4.30pm which meant we would be back in plenty of time-or so I thought.

So why did I open with the statement-Do you believe in fate?

My current horse box is a little tired and needs some TLC, I haven't been thrashing it up and down the country so far and thought last week I really need to do something with it.

So the 'fate' section-coasting home, we got on the Watton Road, within sight of home only for the gear box to break. Still on the highway and no where to go, I put the hazards on and phoned the fitter who was literally a few minuets away and do you know in the time it took for him to come out, a fiesta stoved into the back of the box. At first I thought one of the horses had gone mad, and then I looked in the mirror to see part of the ford fiesta sticking out.

As you can imagine, there were police cars every where, fire engine and ambulances and the local doctor on hand. I am staggered the lad got out of the car alive-if he had a passenger they would have been killed instantly. Once everything had been sort, we eventually got home at 8-30pm and thankfully no one had been killed or was seriously injured-except my horsebox.

We had to crow-bar the ramp down to get the horses off, so I immediately thought, this isn't going to be cheap to sort. FATE-yes now I have to do something about the box and yes, I think the reason why this happened is because I will be travelling distances in the summer and someone is trying to tell me to get it sorted now.

On the racing front as I explained last week I am really bullish about the string and expect to open my account on Thursday at Southwell, with one if not more of the three runners. Stable jockey Kirsty is riding really well and getting a few more outside rides, which helps her confidence.

I run GONE 'N' DUNNETT, SHIFTY NIGHT and SET ALIGHT, I would be over confident myself if I said I will have three winners, but I really think we will get one or two, but all of in the frame.

Next week, assuming nothing else has happened to me, I will tell you about my breeding plans, which are now completely sorted.