

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 22/02/06

'Bloody fantastic, I feel absolutely exhausted as if I ran each race myself-almost lost my voice as well,' is a text message I sent to a good friend of mine after we got our first winner and first double of the year at Southwell last Thursday.

It's great when things go right, you know I have been confident about the progression of the string and last week, the horses proved me right. When I arrived at the track, the lads from 'attheraces' television channel, collared me and wanted me to do an interview, based on the intense activity on the betting front surrounding my runners. If you saw the said interview, I explained I thought the horses would run well, but hadn't any idea who was putting all the money down-I can only assume it was all the readers of the Evening News after what I said last week.

I am not sure if you all read the Racing Post, but we got quote of the day, from one of club members who was present, Terry Eames, who said, 'I was shouting so much, I nearly lost my teeth.'

I was delighted GONE 'N' DUNNETT won for the members of the racing club, of which five were present last week. They had a wonderful time and a winner to boot-talking with some of the other members, with the prize money they have collected from just two runs, coupled with the bets they have had on the old boy at 40-1 third and a 12-1 winner, they have more than covered the cost of their membership and we have months to go.

On the subject of membership to the club, I have decided I will have an end date for the 2005/06 club of the last day in March and then look to start another club, with different horses, dependant on how much interest is shown. At first I wasn't convinced it would work, but having had such a cracking start with GONE 'N' DUNNETT and seen how much happiness I have brought to peoples lives I am pleased I decided to go ahead. I am hoping to give the members a morning on the gallops, to see all three of the clubs horses working. I thought it would be nice if I provided bacon rolls and hot coffee and everyone could see how well they are, in readiness for the forth coming turf term.

Those of you who love statistics and who follow patterns, will have no doubt realised, that GONE 'N' DUNNETT has been my first winner of the year for the last few years-how long can I keep that one going?

Things are just getting busy at home, I have to hire a box at the moment, until I get the insurance side sorted out-but thankfully my new girl, and the horse box driver still loves it with us. I have been planning which mares I intend to put with which stallions and at the same time, begin planning how we are going to cope with as many as eight foals in March, the first of which is due on the first day of the month.

I appear to be jumping about today with my thoughts, sadly that's par for the course at the moment, and I have so many things on the go.

Coming back to Southwell last week, I forgot to mention a couple of things, not least the performance of SET ALIGHT, who duly did the business and who I hope will go back this week and do it all over again.

You might not appreciate this, but last week, I really thought SHIFTY NIGHT was my best chance, she finished fourth, but should make amends this week on Thursday and hopefully I will have another double.

Whilst I was enjoying the moment, I got talking to a chap, who very quickly became another owner and I was pleased to sell him the Danetime filly I bought a week earlier at Newmarket-if I can have a few days like that this year I will be delighted.

Other runners this week will probably be SILVER DANE and DUNNETT AGAIN, the former will probably figure the better of the two.

I haven't told you yet about the breeding plans for my mares, so next week I will make a point of explaining my thoughts and why I have chose particular stallions. As a taster to that, I can confirm that SHIFTY NIGHT will be covered by FANTASTIC LIGHT. Although not an outstanding performer on the track, she has a pedigree to die for in racing breeding terms, which is why she is more than well suited to the chosen stallion. Her pedigree fits well, with the up and coming generation of horses and she could well produce a Group type animal, so I am delighted that we have been able to agree terms for her. All in all things are on the up, I can't complain about anything and to be quite honest I am really excited about the forth coming turf term. I think taking a pull on the all weather was a good thing for a number of reasons, not least of which because I haven't had to cover so many miles.