

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 01/03/06

I eluded to you at the beginning of the year I was going to take things in my stride this year, not so, its been manic since I last put pen to paper. I can hardly believe it, I've been racing six days out of the last ten and we are only days away from having our first foals.

If that isn't enough, this weekend on Saturday, we are having our first gallops morning for members of my racing club, which now stands at 88 paid up members. I am delighted the way it has taken off and still feel confident we can get to my target of 100 members by the end of March.

The aim on Saturday is for members to meet, chat and see just what it takes to train a racehorse. I am hoping the weather will stay kind and allow me to show all three club horses working on the gallops, followed by a discussion with a warm cup of tea or coffee and a bacon roll.

When I first conceived the idea of a racing club, I was a shade naive on what demands would be made of me and perhaps more importantly the weight of administration required to get it off the ground-that said, I enlisted the help of computer wizard Mark Brown from Dereham, who I have to say is fantastic-give him an idea and before you know it, he's got it up and running. In fact yesterday we went live with a member's forum or chat room, where members can communicate confidentially with each other on all racing related subjects, or arranging trips to the races independently of me-in fact when it gets going, I think it will be really good fun and something which gives added value to the members of the club.

The biggest talking point about my racing week since I last wrote has to be the chaos on the M11 on Saturday. Having two runners at Lingfield, my usual route would have been along the M11, however, my trusted driver Paula told me when she arrived the M11 was blocked, with no sign of it reopening, so I contacted the AA who confirmed my fears. It's strange; we take travelling for granted, but once it all goes wrong all hell brakes loose. I contacted a mate in Essex who gave us an extremely scenic route, which would have been lovely if we were having a day trip out in the Essex countryside, not on a mission to get to Lingfield.

Once clear, we got on to the M25 only to be held up in traffic jam, the result of which an accident this side of the bridge.

Eventually we arrived at the track, with only an hour in hand, not the best build up for racing. I ran SILVER DANE over five furlongs and I have to say I was delighted with the performance, equally so I was more than pleased with SHIFTY NIGHTS run, finishing fourth of eleven. My intended pilot that day was Adrian Nicholls, who got caught up in the M11 problems, so Kirsty came in for both rides and I have to say she didn't disappoint me. I really

wanted to see if SHIFTY could act on the track and she did, but I have to say her next start is likely to be at Southwell next week, but sadly she is likely to be against two other runners from the yard GONE 'N' DUNNETT and SILVER DANE, which is a pity, but the way the calendar works I have to take my chances.

One horse in the yard who is a personal favourite is DUNNETT AGAIN who has to be the most frustrating animal I have ever worked with. On looks, the action and his whole demeanour are top draw. If you saw him work you would think he is a world beater, but get him on the track and he just didn't push the right buttons. Chris Catlin got off him and said, 'I think he may need seven furlongs, he tends to hold his head awkwardly in the race,' I would just like him to win-perhaps there is a banded seller I can win!?

SHE'S DUNNETT who ran at the same Southwell meeting was having her first run for a long time, but I thought it was a credible performance, as was the run of QUEEN TARA on Monday. She needs further probably a mile and half, but she is still a shade weak, so we will take our time with her. GONE 'N' DUNNETT had a very poor draw at the same Wolverhampton meeting, which is why he didn't really get into it; he hasn't lost any sparkle and came out of the race well.

Things are looking really good for the start of the turf season, just over three weeks off-hopefully all the foals will have arrived and then we can concentrate on getting winners, which I think we will this year.

Finally I am pleased many of you are looking at the website, according to the visitor counter, there has been a steady increase in the numbers week on week, and I expect the visitors will increase more when we really get going.

To contact Mark Brown the web designer, e-mail markbrown@mrbis.com or visit his website www.mrbis.com