

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 08/03/06

I can hardly believe it, it's the Cheltenham Festival next week and but a few weeks till the start of the new turf season-where has the winter gone? As you know we have been extremely quiet, for me, on the all weather racing front this winter, but the time has flown by and to be honest, I really can't wait for the new flat season to begin.

We had an exceptional morning on Saturday with a bigger turn out than I could have imagined which was great to see. I really want people to get involved and share those sorts of experiences with me. Its easy for me, I have a passion for both the animal and the sport, I live my dream-but having the racing club, has, if nothing else, shown me how much enjoyment can be gained by those on the fringe, who genuinely really want to have an insight into my world. I thought it was extremely thoughtful, that a member of the club instigated a whip round for the staff, they appreciated it and I was touched by the gesture.

The forum on my website which I mentioned last week has been extremely successful so early on-again I found it touching that some many members posted some really nice comments, which fully vindicates the effort we have put in to getting the club up and running.

Given we are heading for the summer; I was surprised how many members expressed a desire to come racing with me, when the clubs horses run. I thought that aspect would be popular, but I never imagined so many of the members follow and have followed the string since we really got going. I am just glad that we have a good track so close at Yarmouth and that it is particularly lucky for me.

Turning to the breeding side for a moment, I mentioned a few weeks ago, I was trying to be selective about what mares would be going to which stallions-well I can confirm that SHIFTY NIGHT has been paired with FANTASITC LIGHT, which I am delighted about for obvious reasons. Next week I will expand on this and the other matches I finally decided upon and why.

After an almost racing free period, we have or will have had, by the end of today six runners in two days, with nothing specific in the immediate future, albeit, I think we could be as busy towards the end of next week.

Yesterday I ran four at Southwell, three in the same race, GONE 'N' DUNNETT, RUSSIAN ROCKET, and SILVER DANE-talk about covering your odds and SHIFTY NIGHT later in the afternoon.

Although we didn't get a winner, I was more than pleased with the way they ran except for SILVER DANE who finished last-he broke well, but faded

quickly when beaten a couple of furlongs out and in hindsight may have just needed the run.

I think GONE 'N' DUNNETT lost his race at the start, in that he dwelt and then was always chasing the leaders, which he isn't best at. Kirsty gave him a ride in the closing stages, and he finished second, albeit he was a bit behind the winner who had flown. I put Hayley Turner on RUSSIAN ROCKET, who looked a little one paced at the turn, but if you saw the race, you will see the combination were short of room and I was pleased Hayley didn't knock the horse about for the sake of it.

Our other runner was SHIFTY NIGHT, who was sent off favourite, with Daryll Holland in the plate, she ran well enough to finish third and I think with all my horses yesterday the surface was riding too slow, which probably cost us the races in the cases of GONE 'N' DUNNETT and SHIFTY NIGHT.

Today I run GOODBYE GIRL and DUNNETT AGAIN both at Southwell and of the two the latter has to be the better. Given the track was riding slow yesterday, I can't really say how today will work out.