

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 15/03/06

It's that funny time in the year for me, when it's neither one thing nor another, it's coming to the end of the all-weather season, not quite the start of the new turf term and when I should be in the thick of foaling.

The first two statements are true, but there are no signs of any foals quite yet - I think they are waiting for the weather to change and at least become a shade warmer - which is just as well, because I was able to have a night off last Friday and attend the first Yarmouth Racecourse Spring Ball.

I have to say it was an excellent evening and the racecourse executive is to be congratulated on their organisation and for laying on a fantastic night.

Needless to say, whilst enjoying the hospitality, I was able to mix business with pleasure and hopefully as a consequence, I will be able to arrange reduced rate admission for members of my racing club on race days at our only Norfolk based track. We felt that if I gave members a simple credit card type membership card that would act as a way of the turnstiles staff being able to recognise members and give them discount on the day.

I have to say I am delighted with the way the club is going, the website is fully operational and now members are using the forum we set up - it is a real success, so I have decided to sponsor the entire yard through the racing club. This will work nicely with the sponsorship I have for specific horses from Holden Jeep and the sponsorship they have with my stable apprentice Kirsty.

As I commented earlier, it's a funny time for us, which is why I will only be having a few runners on the dirt between now and the start of turf term, which is only two weeks away - it's been a long winter, not to mention a cold one.

This week I am only running two, SHIFTY NIGHT and BOLD CHEVERAK in the same six furlong handicap at Southwell tomorrow. Unfortunately it's the last race of the afternoon, SHIFTY will be ridden by Darryll Holland again and CHEVERAK Chris Catlin. I think the latter will be better suited by the shorter trip on the fibresand, albeit I think he may need the run. On the other hand, I would like to think the filly will give a good account of herself, which may well be her last run.

It's been a busy week at home, I have been entertaining potential new owners, not that I need any more horses, but it's nice to be recognised as a trainer to have horses with.

Looking ahead to the new turf term I am delighted with the way my juveniles are working. At the recent gallops morning, we named the clubs juvenile, thanks to Christine Chaloner, who came up with the name of JOINT EXPECTATIONS.

At this point in the season, I am no different to any flat trainer, the yard is full of swans-not, but I wish it was. That said, a couple you want to be

looking out for are REGISTRAR and LIFE'S A WHIRL. Others to put in the note books include BOLD CHEVERAK, SILVER DANE and RUSSIAN ROCKET. Next week I will talk more about each horse and what my expectations are for the coming season.