

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 22/03/06

If I said I am suffering from exhaustion it would be an understatement, at the moment I seem to be working twenty hour days, with very little sleep, as I am trying to keep an eye open for any foals which are due.

As you know I really love the breeding side, but, I am finding it more demanding as the years go by-on the one hand it is extremely rewarding, seeing your plans come true with the birth of a decent colt or filly, but on the other, it's probably the hardest part of my year.

I am pleased to report, this years crop started in the early hours of Sunday morning, 2am to be exact, with the birth of a really nice Carnival Dancer colt. The day got better when the second foal arrived at around 5pm, a much more sociable time.

Its funny, I had a hard time of it last year, but because I love the breeding side so much, I had completely forgotten how demanding it is, this is until last weekend.

If this week's article seems a little disjointed in context, I apologise, I am writing it whilst trying to get ready for my daughters 22nd birthday celebrations - not easy I can assure you.

In a combined racing yard and breeding operation, sadly everything doesn't stop because we are foaling, quite the opposite, like all you keen gardeners; it's a really important time for us as well. We have been harrowing and rolling the gallops and paddocks, getting them ready for the long spring summer season ahead - which can't start quick enough for me.

That said, I really can't wait to have a crack on the new all weather track at Kempton, which opens at the weekend. I have spoken to a number of trainers and jockeys on the subject, all of whom say it will ride a little slower than Lingfield, which will be ideal for my horses. Unlike Lingfield it has a good length straight, which again, will certainly suit my horses. It's a really exciting prospect for us and not that hard to get to - at least we haven't got to go over that 'bridge' over the Thames!

At the moment, I am unlikely to have any runners, that is until next Wednesday at Yarmouth's first meeting, when I am planning to send two bus loads, if they get in.

Those that I have pencilled in are MASTER MALARKEY for the maiden, one of my club racehorses, then four horses for either the seven furlong or mile events or any combination of the same, depending on how the weights drop out and what entries these races attract - they are GOODBYE GIRL, SHE'S DUNNETT, SOUTHBURGH and DISTANT MIND, all of whom are syndicated horses, so we could have a cracking day out if all goes to plan. I have to say, I really want to get all of them on the track.

One of the feature races on the card is the six furlong sprint, in which I will be entering SILVER DANE, BOLD CHEVERAK and of course my club horse GONE 'N' DUNNETT. I had thought about giving SHIFTY NIGHT a run as well as it is likely to be her last chance before taking up a breeding position.

The only other possible runner could be TATA NAKA, who may well be 20lbs out of the handicap with a run, but we have been successful off that mark before, so may be again?

Ignoring my physical well being I have to say, I am the most upbeat I have been at the start of a new season, more particularly because this year we seem to have some depth in the string.