

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 29/03/06

It's definitely been a case of the lull before the storm, an easy start to the year and then like a thunderbolt one of my worst weeks in racing since I took out my licence. This last week has been stressful, difficult, disappointing and has tested my resolve to the extreme, I can't begin to tell you how distraught I have felt, which is in complete contrast to how I felt before the turf term started.

Have you ever had a really good plan that for no fault of your own has gone horribly wrong? I hadn't to any degree, that was until last week - you might recall last autumn, I was delighted to have bought a good topped Machiavellian colt, named REGISTRAR from Amanda Perrett's string for 31,000gns, who was billed as being our next stable starlet, which is why I gave him MR MALARKEY'S box.

The three year old settled in well - as you know I am not an impatient person and think the world of all the horses in the stable. I certainly don't rush horses, I think it is important to let them come to themselves, I certainly don't advocate galloping them till they drop.

So with all this in mind, I gave REGISTRAR a very easy build up, nothing too hard to begin with, probably because it's not every day you get this sort of horse to train. Last week, my head lad who was working him, said, he thought there was something wrong with the horse, like he had something wrong with his leg - he was walking as though he was on his toes. We checked him over and couldn't see anything that was visible. The following day things looked worse and when I recounted the symptoms to the vet, he said immediately, it sounds as though the horse has a fractured pelvis. He subsequently came out and confirmed the worst - I was devastated, I found it extremely difficult to contain my emotions, all my dreams for this year blown away - and even now I haven't any idea how it happened.

The change in weather has further delayed the foals being born, which isn't helping my sleeping pattern, I don't mind telling you and to cap it all I have got three bus loads running at Yarmouth this afternoon.

In the Peggy Farley Memorial Handicap six furlongs sprint I run four GONE 'N' DUNNETT with Kirsty in the plate and who is probably my best bet of the meeting, BOLD CHEVERAK, SILVER DANE and SHIFTY NIGHT. Originally I was only going to run GONE 'N' DUNNETT and then Evening News racing correspondent John Farley wanted a runner in his mother's memorial race and approached me. As it turned out he is running his own horse YORKSHIRE LAD trained by Gay Kelleway and instead I have agreed to lease him TATA NAKA, who runs in the last race - remember this one, 20lbs out of the handicap when she won at Yarmouth at 100-1, I think John is hoping that history will repeat itself.

In the opening contest, I run two, SOUTHBOROUGH LAD and my racing clubs MISTER MALARKEY, so I will be hoping for a good showing for the members who attend.

A little later on the card I run DISTANT MIND and SHE'S DUNNETT in the seven furlong handicap, both of whom are just outside the handicap.

On the one hand things are really going well, the club goes from strength to strength and I am delighted with the support members are giving me, which I have no doubt will be evidenced by those present at Yarmouth this afternoon.

The flip side of racing has never been more apparent than last week, which just goes to show, you have to savour success, because failure is hard to stomach.