

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 19/04/06

A year ago, I celebrated one of my finest days racing at Yarmouth, a year on and things seem a great deal different. As you know racing is a passion in my life, I have affection for the animals from conception to racetrack and beyond. Its days like Easter Monday at Great Yarmouth that you wish never happened, 'you are full of expectation and return empty handed.'

In recent weeks I think I have given the impression I was only too eager for the turf term to start proper, particularly as we had such a good start at the first Yarmouth meeting. All that said, I suppose if training racehorses was that easy everyone would be at it!

At first glance, only one of the seven raiders I took to the seaside made the frame, which reads a lot worse than the reality of the afternoon's performances. I know it may seem hard to believe, but on the whole I was pleased with the way they ran, albeit we didn't quite get the success of a year ago.

Regulars to Yarmouth will recall we landed a top class treble, with KENNINGTON in the claimer returned at 9-2, MILADY'S PRODE won the feature race of the day the fillies handicap at odds of 11-2 and we completed our treble with SHIFTY NIGHT in the seven furlong handicap who was another 11-2 shot.

In my defence, I would say, we had just finished a very successful all weather campaign and the horses were in the main super fit. Clearly we have got some more work to do to get them to that standard this year.

So looking back, what I can say that is positive and encouraging-NORCROFT who ran third in the claimer is a decent sort, he is clearly back to himself and he must have a decent chance at Wolverhampton on Saturday night. SHOPFITTER I had expected better, but having looked at the race again, this one isn't far short of hitting the target, which is definitely the case for SET ALIGHT and TATA NAKA. In the latter's case, jockey Adam Kirby got off and said, 'I was going well on the mare, until the weather conditions changed and made steering difficult, the horse got checked and then didn't want to know, a different run race would have been a different result.'

The rest ran creditably and with further work at home will improve for the races they all had, I have no doubt at all. Those who follow my runners will no doubt be aware from Thursday to Sunday I have made no fewer than 35 entries for fifteen of the string, of which six or seven have already raced this season. What I am really saying is I don't think we are that far off having a run of luck, I would like to think, horses like GONE 'N' DUNNETT,

NORCROFT, SET ALIGHT, GOODBYE GIRL and TATA NAKA will figure in the money very soon.

Being totally realistic, there are something like 16,000 horses in training combined, so the odds of winning are somewhat slim, but I have no doubt, we will have our share again this season.

On the breeding side, I am pleased to say, all the foals have now arrived and all the coverings have taken place of my mares in and out of racing-so life does have its compensations. I am now back to normal sleeping patterns and things are getting back to normal all round.

Don't get me wrong, racing is a great life, I wouldn't have it any other way, but sometimes, when you have a day like Monday, things just seem a far cry from success, its just having experienced great days, bad ones are the last think you want to have to deal with at your local track-tomorrow is another day thankfully!!!!