

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 26/04/06

How often do you find yourself in a good news-bad news situation-if you're anything like me you hate it, in that often, the bad news is always worse than the good news is good, if you get my meaning?

I have to say the bad news we had this week was devastating, it was just what I didn't want to hear, relating to my really useful filly in the making SHE'S DUNNETT. We have been extremely patient with her and brought her on at her own pace. At the start of the turf term, I was delighted when she finished second in a decent maiden at Yarmouth-in the unsaddling enclosure after the race, you would have thought we had won the Derby, The College Girls, who own her were so pleased it brought a tear to my eye. Not surprisingly, I felt we had a decent filly in the making now, so last week we headed to Thirsk for a six furlong maiden and to my surprise a few of the syndicate travelled north to see her come second again in a better class maiden.

Things on the surface looked to be heading in the right direction and given I had ear marked a race at Yarmouth on Thursday night for her, I was reasonably confident we would win and give my ladies syndicate that all important win. Sadly we discovered earlier in the week, she has chipped a bone and will be off the track for at least the year. That sort of bad luck is hard to accept, in that you put your heart and soul into getting those all important winners and when you are about to pull the trigger, the hammer fails to drop.

To counter such a disappointment, I was pleased that both SILVER DANE and NORCROFT hit the target for me and raised my winners total for the year to five-which means I am now a quarter of the way to my predicted total with a third of the year gone. Whilst at first glance it doesn't look that good, we never really got into gear until this month, so I am not at all disappointed with the overall performance of the string to date. I ran SILVER DANE at Thirsk, but as jockey Seb Sanders said, he just wasn't going on the soft ground, so when I discovered Kempton was riding faster, I was keen to give him a run there and I have to say John Egan gave him a masterful ride, winning by a very small margin, just a head, but enough to make it a win. I think on reflection John Egan made it look closer than it was, this is a

nice horse and with a fair wind, we could even get to Royal Ascot and then Dubai in the winter who knows.

There is no doubt, I was lucky not to loose NORCROFT in the claimer at Yarmouth a week ago-at £10,000 he would have been a steal now he has won at Wolverhampton. He's entered at Leicester on Saturday and the form he is in, I would like to think he could actually run a big race.

Another nice bit of good news we had this week was that SHIFTY NIGHT was scanned in foal, so fingers crossed we get a nice foal this time next year.

As you might expect I am really looking forward to Thursday evening's Yarmouth card, I hope to have a few runners there if they get in. I am particularly looking forward to seeing GRAND MEMPARI run along with GOODBYE GIRL, SHIFTY NIGHT and MASTER MALARKEY, who I think needs a kick up the backside to get the hang of racing, if available I might ask John Egan to show this what it is all about. I was pleased with the run of PANSHIR at the last meeting for my new owners, off this ones mark; it should have a good chance if we run this week.

I am thinking of giving club horse JOINT EXPECTATIONS a run at Leicester at the weekend or Brighton on Sunday. If we head off to the south coast on Sunday, I am tempted to take a couple more with me DETONATE and BOLD CHEVERAK.

I know I started the article off on the dark side, but in truth I am extremely upbeat, the foals have all been born, all the coverings have taken place and I have got the whole summer to look forward to-what more could a trainer want, oh and I have had five winners already this year.