

## CHRISTINE DUNNETT 03/05/06

Although I can't be specific for obvious reasons, I have been set one hell of a challenge by one of my owners-get him eight winners this year and he will take me to Dubai for two weeks racing next spring-not bad!

We were casually chatting about the year ahead, when out of the blue he asked me how many winners I would get him this year-I have to say he did qualify his request by saying he would have three horses with me training at anyone time, so if one was taken out of training for any reason, he would replace it, which on the face of it gives me plenty of scope. Rightly or wrongly I said, '*I think we can have seven winners,*' I felt the horses we were talking about could give us some success, he then upped the ante by saying, '*Get me eight and I will pay for you to have two weeks in Dubai in the spring.*'

I have to say, I like a challenge and with the prize that is on offer I am certainly going to give it my best shot. I think he has great confidence in my ability, in that he has already made a provisional booking for one Mrs Christine Dunnett - that's me!!

I know on the face of it, we haven't been hitting the target lately, but I don't think it will be long before we are back on song, in fact I really feel that today, this evening to be exact, we have a cracking chance of getting back to winning ways with SILVER DANE at Kempton. He has been a revelation this season, since winning the Peggy Farley Memorial Handicap at Yarmouth-his only blip was at Thirsk on his second outing-he ran on good to soft, which he just doesn't act on, needless to say why I am running him at Kempton today.

We have covered some ground in taking no fewer than 13 horses racing since I last wrote-I have to say, I decided to stay over at Kempton last night, having run LIFE'S A WHIRL and NORCROFT in the seven furlong event. As it turned out, neither runner set the world alight, albeit, I was encouraged by NORCROFT once again who was always mid division, but wasn't able to run on inside the distance. I think he is more of a six furlong type, so he will revert to that next time I should imagine. As for LIFE'S A WHIRL, I am not entirely sure if longer is the answer, this one showed good headway over the first three furlongs then faded quickly, I will have to go back to the drawing board.

Looking back over the last week or so, I was encouraged by BOLD CHEVERAK, who ran a creditable sort of race, in which things didn't go entirely to plan. I think next time out we should hopefully be looking at an improved performance if things go our way.

I hope to have quite a few runners over the next week or so, including RUSSIAN ROCKET and GOODBYE GIRL at Folkestone on Thursday and GRAND MEMPARI and SHIFTY NIGHT at Haydock at the weekend.

Whilst the news hasn't been outstanding on the racing front of late, I am delighted to be able to tell you, three of my fillies have been scanned in foal so far, so given the top class stallions we used this year, I have to say I am hopeful that come next spring, we may have some decent foals.

For me it's as much about breeding as racing, one can not exist without the other-in an ideal world I would like to reach a balance with both aspects, producing decent stock that runs equally as well-may be one day?