

## **CHRISTINE DUNNETT 17/05/06**

Sometimes, things just don't go to plan, which has certainly been the case over the last week or so. I imagine you can sense I am not at my best when writing this-I don't want to sound down, but sometimes, just sometimes, you think things, people, events are sent to try you and I suppose that's where I am right now.

As ever we have been working flat out, but unlike other weeks, I haven't got bags of great news-I have to say, discovering that TATA NAKA, who ran creditably at Yarmouth last week, finishing fifth of 10, was in foal and has lost it, was a big shock. I love the breeding side as you know, so to find out that one of your nice fillies has to be covered again, is hard to swallow. That said, I have to look on the positive side-the filly is still in great shape and we have a second chance with her.

Since I last wrote, we still haven't hit the target, but the horses are all running well, it just seems the gods are against us-I had thought NORCROFT would do it at Thirsk at the weekend, but the ground came up soft, which virtually ruled out any chance we may have had-that is just how it seems to have gone, race after race. I was reasonably upbeat about SILVER DANE at Lingfield last Friday, but again we didn't get the rub of the green and finished third of eight-I suppose one thing is for certain, the only way is up, mind you even being mob handed in a race hasn't really helped me lately.

Take a look at yesterday's last race of the day at Southwell, not the hardest race in the calendar, a six furlong event for riders who haven't won more than twenty races. Given the string are all in great shape I ran, GOODBYE GIRL an 11-2 chance, SHOPFITTER an 8-1 selection and my club horse MASTER MALARKEY the outsider of the three at 9-1. Being totally objective and not being emotional about it, the betting market suggested we had more than a chance of getting one home, especially as the favourite was 4-1-and yes you have guessed it, I had one finish third and the result out with the washing, seventh and eleventh.

SHOPFITTER finished third two and a half lengths off the winner who was a 14-1 chance, which just about sums up my luck at the moment. I have always believed in this horse-he has shown me a lot at home, but as it turned out, he was short of room over four furlongs out and when in a position to challenge went all over the track. As for the

other two, they were never in a position to challenge and perhaps never got the run of the race.

That's the end of my gloom and despondency, the only way is up and looking ahead, I feel it may be just around the corner at Nottingham on Saturday, were I have no fewer than six entered, which include, KENNINGTON, BOLD CHEVERAK, DETONATE and RUSSIAN ROCKET in the same race, SHIFTY NIGHT in the listed contest and TATA NAKA in the toteextra Handicap. Whilst I would like to see RUSSIAN ROCKET get off the mark, the way DETONATE ran last time out, would suggest that could be my best bet in the sprint. 'SHIFTY' on the other hand it could be said will be out of her depth on paper, but as you know I have never been one to miss a chance of nicking the odd decent prize-which could be the case on Saturday, she is flying at home, what more can I say.

On the same day I have entered SILVER DANE and DISTANT MIND at Thirsk, if the plan works out, I would be looking for a big run from SILVER DANE. Depending on weather and conditions and of course entries in various events, I have kept my options open with SHIFTY and DISTANT MIND who have entries on Sunday at Ripon.

I am not sure what it is, but what ever it is, I think our luck is about to change-if you look at my stats, last year was exceptional, but the year before 2004 is almost a mirror image of this year-so if we follow that pattern, the end of this month and June will be a cracking time for us-lets face it, it can't get any worse!!