

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 24/05/06

As you know I love what I do, I have that passion, which drives me, because I believe in the horses and what they can achieve, but sometimes, things just don't go right what ever you do. To add to my woes of last week, 'for my racing club members I have a phone line they can call to get the latest information on the club horses, where they will be running, when and what jockeys I have got lined up' - sadly, for some unknown reason, the message I recorded about MASTER MALARKEY didn't transmit, needless to say I wasn't everyone's favourite when they discovered the horse was running.

The whole concept of being able to plan, is something extremely rare at our level of racing - I can enter a horse with the best intentions of getting a run, but if a myriad of trainers like the look of that race, we stand next to no chance often of getting in. Conversely, because of weather conditions, availability of jockeys and so on, races cut up at declaration stage and I take a chance, even if it means my horse is lbs out of the handicap, like TATA NAKA at Nottingham at the weekend - sometimes the gamble pays off. The advent of more racing is great for punters, but I have to say it's a logistical nightmare for me, trying to place my horses and for ever keeping an eye on the calendar for the next event.

I think club members are beginning to understand, exactly what I am saying, I would love to be able to say with confidence, some weeks before hand, we are running 'a club horse,' in the 2.30pm at Yarmouth in three weeks time - not so, which believe it or not, is as frustrating for me as the members and my other owners.

On the subject of the club, it is and has been extremely successful - I think it will continue to be so, given there are discussions now on moving it to the 'next level.' Unlike other racing club syndicates, I think this one has many like minded racing enthusiasts who not only want the thrill of going racing and being a real part of it, but also want to understand the mechanics. The discussions have centred around having racing days out as a club, visits to studs and other yards in Newmarket and possibly arranging racing trips to specific great racing days like Royal Ascot, Longchamp for the Arc and even Dubai for the World Cup has been mentioned I understand. I am more than happy to help in any plans, but first and foremost I am a racehorse trainer, not a hospitality organiser!

Given the success of the club, which boasts 99 members - how I wish I could make the 100, there must be someone who wants to be member number 100? - I can see no reason why they can't have a summer barbeque on the gallops or even a summer ball.

I started this column sounding a bit down again, well I am not, and in racing you learn to take both the good and the bad, at the moment I am in the middle. I have to say I am pleased with the way the horses are running, it's only a matter of time before we start hitting the target. Last weekend,

KENNIGTON and RUSSIAN ROCKET, both turned in performances that suggest they will not be long before winning and if you were at Fakenham on Sunday, you will have seen my jump horse QUEEN TARA ran a very creditable fourth.

If you are at a loose end, take a look at the entries for the five furlong Stanstead Express Every 15 Minutes Maiden Stakes - the 2.40pm at Newmarket on Sunday. Why? - because of the 25 entries, 7 are from David Elsworth yard, 3 each from my yard and that of Mick Channon and 2 each from Jeremy Nosedá's and Richard Hannon's strings - so almost two thirds of the entries come from just five stables. For the record I am running all three of mine BRECKLAND BOY leased to my 'Ladies' partnership, LOOSE CANON owned by a syndicate of Liverpool lads and JOINT EXPECTATIONS owned by my racing club, so one thing is for certain, with all those on hand we should have one hell of a party, win loose or draw, on Sunday afternoon.

To conclude, I am planning a big raid at Yarmouth next week, which is where everyone tells me my next winner is coming from!