

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 21/06/06

I have heard the expression, 'there is knout so queer as folk,' after last week I think it should read, 'there is knout so queer as racehorses.'

As you know I really thought a week ago, things were about to change for us - I know they did to a point, but I never expected we would experience the highs and lows that transpired.

After the first three races at Yarmouth a week ago, I was ready to call it a day, with all three runners finishing last or near last and to cap it, Adrian Nicholls came in and suggested BRECKLAND BOY hung both ways on the fast ground. Thankfully by the fourth race, things did improve a bit, with good old GONE 'N' DUNNETT finishing third of eleven in the sprint. Sadly, both BOLD CHEVERAK and NORCROFT who ran in the same contest failed to make any impression and were near the back of the eleven runners. Driving home from my favourite track, I felt confused and couldn't really work out why things had gone so bad for us.

I certainly wasn't looking forward to my trip to Nottingham on Friday, albeit I had thought earlier we might well get a one two in the sprint.

It seemed like a repeat of Thursday when racing club horse JOINT EXPECTATIONS trailed in last in the first, so you can imagine how low I felt saddling up KENNINGTON and RUSSIAN ROCKET, particularly as a week previous KENNINGTON could only finish ninth and RUSSIAN ROCKET lost it in the closing stages at Windsor.

To my total surprise they made RUSSIAN ROCKET the 13-2 favourite of 15, which made little or no sense, given none of my runners over the last few days, apart from GONE 'N' DUNNETT had shown any encouraging form. I know it was an open sort of contest, but I was still shocked to see my runner heading the market.

As it turned out, he tracked KENNINGTON through the race, before quickening away to win, which was the right trick to pull, as the following pack closed late on. I didn't realise, but his rating was fully 19lbs lower than when he won as a juvenile, lets hope that given he has got his head in front now, he can follow up. Coming back to my opening comments, I had hoped we would have a little cut in the ground at Nottingham, no so, it was fast ground and we still ran well - that said, I think KENNINGTON would have figured better had there been some juice in the ground.

Since that high, we seem to have reverted back to a low, which I really can't explain - at home they all seem in great shape and I would never have singled out RUSSIAN ROCKET as being head and shoulders above the rest. I know I have said it before, but I really do think we are almost on the money again, I have multiple entries for the rest of the week, with KENNINGTON, RUSSIAN ROCKET, PANSHIR, GONE 'N' DUNNETT and SILVER DANE all entered at Ripon on Thursday, SHOPFITTER, RUSSIAN

ROCKET and MASTER MALARKEY at Wolverhampton on the same day and QUEEN TARA at Southwell also on Thursday.

On Friday, GONE 'N' DUNNETT is entered at Goodwood, whilst POLAR FORCE and MASTER MALARKEY at Newmarket on Saturday, PERFECTIONIST, MASTER MALARKEY and PANSHIR at Redcar on the same day and at Lingfield on Saturday POLAR FORCE, GONE 'N' DUNNETT, SILVER DANE and PERFECTIONIST. To complete this week, I have made an entry for DETONATE at Warwick on Sunday. In reality it's a case of trying to pick the right races for each horse, whilst at the same time trying to ensure we don't have logistical nightmares.

I know I started this weeks column, as though I am down, I am not, words fail me as to what is the issue here, its got to change soon, lets hope its this week.