

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 28/06/06

Sometimes, I can't help thinking, no matter what I do; I am just not going to hit the heights of last season. Just lately I seem to have been rushing here there and everywhere and have very little to show for my efforts.

As you may remember a few weeks ago, I really thought we had turned the corner and things would pick up for us-they did, but sadly it was short lived and now we are back to the drawing board wondering just what we have to do to get back to the winning ways of last season.

If I am honest, although the results don't reflect it particularly, the string appears in great shape and extremely well-that's what is so frustrating, we are doing our homework, but when it comes to the exams, we are often the no show, which really doesn't add up.

I was really pleased with GONE 'N' DUNNETT performance at Ripon over five furlongs beaten a length and a head into third, in what I thought was a very hot contest. Sadly, and there always seems to be a sad note these days, KENNINGTON finished last of the field of 13, which was disappointing, given he was sent off the 11-2 favourite. Interestingly, I think if my runners had swapped draw positions, good old GONE could well have come home the winner.

Of late I have come to the conclusion that different jockeys suit different horses, certainly John Egan, who I rate a lot, is the ideal choice for a number of my horses; he really does seem to get the best out of them. Ideally I would love him to ride one of the other club horses MASTER MALARKEY next time out, but given his success at Royal Ascot, I expect he will be in serious demand-sadly it has taken a meeting like that for people to realise just how good he is.

Take yesterday at Beverley, where I had two runners, DETONATE and PERFECTIONIST, the former, who has come on leaps and bounds since finishing third at Yarmouth, was just out of the money finishing fifth of 16, less than four lengths behind the winner-that so of shows how my luck is going right now. That said, I thought our stable apprentice Kirsty Milczarek gave him a decent ride. I am not sure if you have been following her progress just lately, but she has had a number of outside rides and won three of her last five rides, before yesterday, all being returned at decent odds. I think she is gaining in confidence with every mount-interestingly at Newmarket on Friday evening last, the programme had a feature on her, which merely underlines how well she is currently riding. People keep saying to me, all the best lady jockeys start their career with you, first Hayley Turner, now Kirsty Milczarek.

On the other hand PERFECTIONIST, who came to me from James Toller's Newmarket yard, just didn't make a show at all and finished nearer the back than the front.

As to the rest of the week, I am not sure what my exact movements are likely to be, albeit, tonight we run NORCROFT at Kempton and yes I have managed to get John Egan to ride. I thought on his last two starts, he was badly drawn, so I am hoping for better things tonight, although because of his recent form, he is ranked the extreme outsider of the field.

I could well opt to run SILVER DANE and POLAR FORCE at Lingfield tomorrow and maybe CANARY GIRL. Towards the end of the week I have options for RUSSIAN ROCKET, GONE 'N' DUNNETT and TATA NAKA at Windsor and SHIFTY NIGHT, WARDEN WARREN and LIFE'S A WHIRL at Newmarket.

I sincerely hope by the next time I put pen to paper, we are performing better in the field-lets hope so!