

**CHRISTINE DUNNETT 19/07/06**

Although at first glance, my stats are not even in the same league as a year ago, it might surprise you greatly to think I am extremely upbeat about the season so far and the year ahead. Honestly, I feel as though we are really making massive strides forward, in that finally I am being recognised as having the ability to train horses of any type.

If you look closely at my achievements so far this year, I may very well have had fewer winners, but the win and place prize money I have received is considerably greater, which shows we now have a better quality of racehorse in the yard. I always wanted to improve the standard, in that I would far rather have one really good handicap win than five banded winners-and that's not a joke.

Talking with jockey John Egan, who rode for me last night at Yarmouth, he said virtually the same, albeit slightly different to my tale the principal is the same-'when you only have a few rides, as a jockey you work hard to get that big race winner-one win like that and people think it's a fluke, have a couple close together and everybody wants you to ride for them, so instead of having 20 rides a week shall we say, you suddenly are getting 60-100. Sadly a number of the additional rides might turn out to be no hoppers though, but it's nice to be recognised.'

It's funny, but just lately, if I said I had been inundated with new people wanting me to train their horses, it wouldn't be a lie. I seem to have attracted several new owners, which I think is the greatest accolade any trainer can have-in that people approach you because of what you can do, not you effectively begging existing owners or potential owners to believe in you and have horses with you.

I know several trainers in Newmarket and other parts of the country are struggling to keep the wheels on the bus, so to have people knock on my door is like winning the lottery without entering the competition, if you see what I mean.

Coming back off what John said, I have no doubt he has taken several indifferent rides, but in my case, when luck comes knocking on your door, you don't have to take the horses in-what I am really saying is I can be extremely selective and so continue to improve the standard within the stable.

I know we are not exactly setting the world alight with winners, but I had more pleasure in seeing RUSSIAN ROCKET win at Lingfield, knowing the animal is on the mend and back to normal. As for the rest of my runners last week, some have improved and the rest are coming along-what do they say, perseverance is rewarded-I believe that.

Last night at Yarmouth I ran SILVER DANE, who is getting over an injury, but who ran really well and whom I might run early next week back at the seaside. If I do, I think he will be my best bet of the next few days. I haven't

**decided fully on my other entries which include LIFE'S A WHIRL, GONE 'N' DUNNETT and BOLD CHEVERAK at Leicester tomorrow, DETONATE at Wolverhampton also tomorrow and LOOSE CANNON at Newbury, NORCROFT, and RUSSIAN ROCKET and GONE 'N' DUNNETT at Newmarket on Friday. My thinking now is to run the three sprinters at HQ on Friday evening as they are all in good form, if nothing else it would give them all pipe openers for Yarmouth next week.**

**I am hoping to have several runners at Yarmouth early next week, so all I can advise is look at the declarations.**