

BANHAM POULTRY HANDICAP YARMOUTH 9th AUG 06

Under normal circumstances, the Banham Poultry Handicap over an extended six furlongs tomorrow evening at Yarmouth would be regarded as just another sprint at the seaside track for horses rated between 0-75, however, this year for the first time in the history of racing we believe, this race has been chosen to stage a race within a race for charity.

The origins of the 'sport of kings' was when one land owner or horse owner pitched his horse against another, a sort of match racing, which soon progressed to several land-owners or horse owners racing against each other, with fields of ten or more. As we are acutely aware, two horse races are very rare these days, so to local racehorse owners have decided to have their own race within a race.

Norwich City Football Club director Michael Foulger, whose company Banham Poultry are sponsoring the sprint, is technically in the red corner and Evening News racing journalist John Farley is in the yellow equivalent. Foulger, owner of several horses in training with East Harling based George Prodromou and a couple with Gay Kelleway and Farley owner of several horses with Gay Kelleway at Newmarket are having a match contest within the Banham Poultry Handicap.

Interestingly, neither Prodromou nor Kelleway have strength in depth within their yards to provide the runners for this exciting contest, so those wanting the match have had to rely on another locally based handler Christine Dunnett, who has agreed to provide the runners.

By some serious twist of fate, the two horses nominated for the challenge are both of similar ability, off the same mark and weight and have both been running well recently, within the last week or so.

Foulger and Farley tossed a coin to establish which horse they would be allotted, Foulger ending up with KENNINGTON a former course and distance winner and Farley NORCROFT a previous distance winner.

Christine saddles a third horse in the race GONE 'N' DUNNETT who she is hoping will follow in the footsteps of a former winner of the race MR MALARKEY who won two years ago.

So what is the match bet, seemingly, Foulger and Farley have agreed which ever runner comes across the line in front of the other, the owner of the loser will give £500 to the nominated charity of the winner. In Farley's case it is the Bryan Gunn Leukaemia Trust and Foulger the Macmillan Cancer Trust.

Early tissue betting forecasts would indicate Farley has the edge with his runner NORCROFT being quoted at 13-2 and KENNINGTON a touch off that at 10-1.

Farley and Foulger will be hoping for success in an earlier race with MUGIBA which they jointly own, having bought out of a selling race two years ago and who was so successful at the seaside track last year. One thing is for certain, one charity will benefit from what we think is the first match of its kind since racing begun.

Farley commented, 'It's a great idea and thanks to Christine Dunnett we can have the match-may the best man win.' Whilst Foulger said, 'The result of this match will be as important to me as MUGIBA winning an earlier race-this is when racing meets football head-on for the first time, I will be rooting for football clearly in my position, even though I have a passion for racing.'