

CHRISTINE DUNNETT 09/08/06

This will be a week to remember that's for sure, today I am providing the runners for a match bet at Yarmouth and tomorrow one of my horses in training will realise the dream of a horse crazy mother of four.

As they say, its all in a days work and that is on top of me trying to win races up and down the country-sometimes I think I must be mad to get involved in these side shows-not really I love people to get the most out of the sport, so if I can help in that quest, I will do my best for any reasonable suggestion.

I have to say, at first I was a little taken a back when racing journalist John Farley approached me about having a match bet with his good friend and joint owner of Mugeba, Michael Foulger. Seemingly, John had noticed I could be triple handed in the Banham Poultry Handicap sprint race, with two horses that run in my name. Surprise, surprise on Saturday morning, having spent the evening at Newmarket with Michael, he rang up and asked if I would be prepared to lease my two horses for a match bet. He added, 'we have looked at KENNINGTON and NORCROFT and both are off the same mark and therefore weight, not to mention, they have both been running well in the recent past. This is an ideal opportunity to stage a race within a race, with horses, which technically are as good as each other. The bet is in aid of charity and in a funny sort of way it's taking racing back to its roots and origins. We think it would be the first occasion something like this has taken place and given Michael's company is sponsoring the race it would be great fun-who knows one of the horses could even win the race-although I know you really fancy GONE 'N' DUNNETT.'

So put like that, I couldn't really refuse John, who was delighted when I agreed. I gather the deal is, the loser, that is the one whose horse finishes behind the other, irrespective of placing in the field, gives £500 to the chosen charity of the winner-so some good cause will benefit from it, which is nice.

Tomorrow, I will be giving Selena Farnese claiming 7lbs, the chance of a life-time and helping her to realise her dream to ride under rules, by giving her the leg up in the last an amateur lady rider's one mile and two furlongs contest again at Yarmouth. Selena, who has owned horses since a child, has had the odd runner with me since I have been training, but earlier this year she bought a horse at the Newmarket sales with the sole intention of racing it under rules one day. To her credit, she has really worked hard at this project and tomorrow she will get her chance, I sincerely hope she has a good run and if things go well, she has already muted she may have a crack at another similar conditions event at the same track in September-well done Selena-I really hope you do well tomorrow.

So what about my day job-racehorse trainer-after successfully predicting a few good things in recent weeks, my thinking hit the rocks last week, albeit by pure coincidence, I commented on the two horses who are in that match

bet today, namely NORCROFT who finished a good fourth at Leicester and KENNINGTON who was fifth at Nottingham. In fact what I actually said was, *'This evening I run NORCROFT at Leicester over an extended five furlongs on ground officially described as good to firm. I have to say he has been showing plenty at home lately and given the way he ran at Newmarket a couple of weeks ago, in this grade, although he is carrying a lot of weight, you would have to give him a chance-I really think he will run well and he is one of two of my best bets this week.*

At Nottingham on Friday I have made a triple entry for sprint race, of which I might very well run KENNINGTON who would have to be my second best bet.'

In truth both runs were the highlight of the week, this week coming; I suppose I should be tipping GONE 'N' DUNNETT as my good thing this afternoon and then RUSSIAN ROCKET possibly at Newmarket towards the end of the week and NORCROFT at Lingfield on Saturday.

Tomorrow at Yarmouth I run AWE for new stable owners Mr and Mrs Dennis Haynes who have and have had horses with Sir Michael Stoute and James Fanshawe. I have several entries around the country and I am still upbeat about the string.