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Party time for Quinlans as 25-1 Langs hangs on YESTERDAY AT ROYAL ASCOT

Published: 19/06/2008 (News) Tony Elves

LANGS LASH could have earned a return trip to York, scene of her only defeat, after providing the Quinlan brothers with a first winner at Royal Ascot in the Queen Mary Stakes, writes Tony Elves.

The trainers' licence may have Mick Quinlan's name on it, but the activities on the racecourse are handled by brother Noel. This larger-than-life character was inviting all within earshot back to the racecourse car park to continue the celebrations after 25-1 Langs Lash had obliged under Alan Munro, in the process reversing York form with her conqueror Bahamian Babe.

Noel Quinlan said: "Alan rode her last Thursday morning and said it was his best chance of a winner at Royal Ascot. I have got a pocket full of betting tickets to prove it.

"I'd like to say that I'm not like those other big-race winners - it's not better than sex, but it does come close!"

Quinlan added: "First time out she won by four lengths at Folkestone, but made all and learned nothing. She was drawn on the wrong side behind Bahamian Babe, got stagefright halfway through and was just touched off. I was pretty confident the winner that day wouldn't beat us again.

"I think she'll get six furlongs and we'll talk to the owner and think about the Lowther at York."

Langs Lash was in front from the stalls opening and was a couple of lengths clear in the final two furlongs.

Although she drifted left in the closing stages, she found extra to hold Shyrl by a neck with Connie Mac a head back in third.

Munro said: "She was first out of the gate and before I knew it she was at the two-furlong pole. I asked her to quicken and she found, and then it got down to a fight and she pulled it out.

"She might go six furlongs but this might be her best trip. It's a huge one for me and this is like our Olympics - riding at Royal Ascot is the pinnacle and it's just fantastic."

However, it was not all good news for Munro. He was found guilty of using his whip with excessive frequency and without giving his mount sufficient time to respond, and was suspended for three days (July 2-4).

Shyrl came close to improving a campaign that has already seen rookie trainer Simon Callaghan land Pattern-race success with Finalmente, who runs in today's Gold Cup.

He said: "She has run very well on what was only her second start. It was a great run, although you also realise just how close you were to winning.

"Frankie Dettori said she is very tough and very honest and she finished her race well. We will take her back and have a think about what we'll do next."

Like Shyrl, Connie Mac was having her second start, after being placed on her debut.

Trainer Andy Oliver said: "She put up a great run on her debut at the Curragh.

We thought she had come on and that we'd have a good chance with her.

"It was a bit of a rush getting her prepared and her inexperience probably showed early on here. I would have liked the opportunity of giving her one more run before here."

Result Queen Mary Stakes

1 Langs Lash 25-1

2 Shyrl 12-1

3 Connie Mac 25-1

Owner John Hanly

Trainer Mick Quinlan

Jockey Alan Munro

Groom Andy Cranley

Breeder Cathal Ryan

Distances Nk, hd

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