



Cowboy Soldier shoots down rivals in Cowell sprint double

Windsor
Graham Dench



IT'S not by accident that Robert Cowell's name is often preceded by the words 'sprint king'. Anyone doubting the term is deserved should perhaps think again, as his only two runners of the day raced over five furlongs and combined for a 48-1 double.

Dubai Silk looked a filly we will hear more of when landing the novice in the hands of Pat Dobbs. However, the star turn was Cowboy Soldier, who took the feature £20,000 feature handicap under Eddy Greatrex. On his first ride for the stable he was told not to get to the front until the last strides and carried out the instructions to the letter.

Cowell made no secret of his admiration for Cowboy Soldier. He said: "He's a really nice horse. He was the apple of my eye last year and would have been my Norfolk horse but for picking up an injury.

"We've had to be patient, but if things had gone right he would be unbeaten - he just needs delivering as late as possible. Eddy gave him a fantastic ride and he's a sprinter going places. He'll probably go to Goodwood, or somewhere like that, and he's going to make a cracking four-year-old."

TOUGH FIRST DAY

Windsor's new clerk of the course Eloise Quayle had a tough first day on duty. Besides the eight thoroughbred races, there was also a race for Arabians and a parade put on by the Retraining of Racehorses team. It was a long day, and mixing horses from different disciplines on licensed premises creates additional integrity issues.

NO SHOW

Racegoers expecting to see champion jockey Silvestre de Sousa on Shomoos Athbah in the Arabian race at Windsor were disappointed. He was 260-odd miles away at Redcar, so Tadhg O'Shea switched to the filly, who won well and has a Group 1 on Dubai Day at Newbury on the agenda now.

Buick enjoys Moment

A big week for William Buick began in perfect fashion when the Mark Johnston-trained Seductive Moment justified strong support in the first division of the novice auction stakes.

Buick, who can look forward to Wild Illusion in the Oaks and Masar in the Derby, not to mention Hawkbill in the Coronation Cup, was quietly impressed with Seductive Moment, and said: "He's a nice, straightforward colt with scope and he'll get further."

Urban ability is no myth

Seductive Moment looks sure to go on to better things, but division two went to an even more impressive winner, the Richard Hannon-trained Urban Icon overcoming an outside draw to win by three and a half lengths in a time 0.80 seconds quicker.

Hannon rates Urban Icon, but he is in no hurry to commit to Royal Ascot. He said: "Urban Icon is a very nice horse with a lovely attitude. He was bred by Willie Carson and is an absolute gentleman. I'd love to say he's an Ascot horse, and he'll be that level I think, but a lot of horses are all the better for not going there, so there's no rush."

Thought for the day

Good weather brought the locals out in force, and various additional bank holiday attractions meant there was something for everyone. It was good to see the middle of the track opened up, enabling racegoers to get close to the longer starts.