



Outback Traveller (bottom left) edges out Brando to give trainer Robert Cowell his second winner of the meeting

Result
Wokingham Stakes 6f

1 Outback Traveller.....	10-1
2 Brando.....	7-1jf
3 Glen Moss.....	25-1
4 Absolutely So.....	25-1
5 Buckstay.....	10-1
6 Burnt Sugar.....	20-1

Owner Lordship Stud and Mrs J Morley

Trainer Robert Cowell

Jockey Martin Harley

Breeder Tally-Ho Stud

Distances hd, 1½l, ¾l, 1l, nk

Graham Dench
 reports

SPRINT king Robert Cowell described it as “absolutely mind-boggling” but denied there was any great secret to it after Outback Traveller gave him a first win in the meeting’s oldest handicap just two days after the trainer landed the Norfolk stakes with Prince Of Lir.

The five-year-old, a 65,000gns purchase out of Jeremy Nosedá’s stable at last October’s Horses In Training Sale, had shown plenty of promise in two 7f

Outback Traveller puts top hat on ‘mindboggling’ week for sprint king Cowell

handicaps this year and proved well suited by dropping to this shorter trip, travelling well for Martin Harley throughout towards the near side.

He quickened to the front inside the final furlong before holding ante-post favourite Brando by a head and might now be dropped to the minimum five furlongs before long.

Cowell, who credited part-owner Tom Morley for sourcing Outback Traveller, as well as his King’s Stand winners Prohibit and Goldream and others, joked: “I need to go back to the yard and find out who is training these horses, as they need a pay rise!

“It’s been brilliant. We come to Royal Ascot with chances and hope to run well, but to come away with two winners is

pretty remarkable. It’s absolutely mind-boggling and it will take a long time to sink in.”

Asked how he infused his recruits with such speed, he replied: “I don’t know. We do what we do and I don’t really know what it is, but whatever it is it seems to work.

“I’m a bit flummoxed by the whole thing, but we have a certain way of training and it suits horses. He had form in the book and I try to put speed into them rather than stretch them out and maybe bring them back to their two-year-old days, when most horses were sprinters.”

He added: “I wouldn’t mind dropping him back to five. I think he’s nailed on to win something nice over it. Six is

stretching it in this company, but it could be even better.”

Harley said: “It all went smooth. I wouldn’t have liked to lose by another 100 yards. He has developed more speed than he used to have.”

Brando’s trainer Kevin Ryan, who has a gift with sprinters to congratulate Cowell. A Vase winner with York Glory in 2007, he was proud of Brando’s effort. “That was a fantastic run for [Eaves] gave him a great ride.”

“He is a young horse and probably He has an entry in a Group 1 race next month and I wouldn’t be surprised if we went there, but there are other handicaps and he could do well over five furlongs.”