

Scandinavia makes it seven on the spin in Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup

3.35pm Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup (Group 1)

Gold Cup hero Scandinavia (6/5F) extended his winning sequence to seven in an eventful edition of the G1 Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup, following up his win from 12 months ago.

There was drama after the stalls opened as Hector Crouch came out of the side door on Amiloc, which impacted the two-mile contest later on as the loose horse impeded the run of Trawlerman in the straight.

Scandinavia had moved upsides Trawlerman when the incident occurred passing the three-furlong pole and subsequently powered away under Ryan Moore to cross the line eight and a half lengths in front.

Trawlerman (13/8) boxed on to finish second behind the Aidan O'Brien-trained winner, with Yorkshire Cup victor Rahiebb (14/1) three-quarters of a length further back in third.

O'Brien said: "Scandinavia is a great horse, a real, real top stayer. He has a big cruising speed and relaxes when he finds his rhythm. Ryan said that the minute he started asking, he felt him coming alive underneath him.

"We felt he was really going the right way after Ascot. The Goodwood Cup is a great race to win, very prestigious, and it is great that Trawlerman came and all the horses were there. It is what we always want to see – win, lose or draw.

"The plan was that we thought Trawlerman would make the running, and we were hoping he would. Ryan was just going to follow him, like he did at Ascot. It was going to be very simple whether he was going to be good enough or not. That is what we thought and that is the way it played out. There was a little bit of drama. I think Trawlerman was a little slowly away and there was a loose horse. It was one of those eventful races.

"It was great though, Goodwood is a great track, and I think it was a great spectacle to watch. There was so much happening in a race like that and, over two miles, you get a great chance to look at it and take it all in."

Asked at what point he knows how many seasons he can campaign a horse like Scandinavia, O'Brien added: "He is very sound, he loves what he is doing, and I think the lads love having a horse like that. When you get a horse who can race year in, year out, with the ability he has, that is what makes it very special. They are very hard to find, nearly impossible, but when they come along the lads love it, and I would imagine he will race for as long as he is able to stay safe and sound."

Asked whether the horse could emulate Yeats, he said: "I think he could. He is a very high cruiser, very natural, easy to train, has a great rhythm and loves what he does. He has a great mind. He is by Justify, so he has that big rhythm."

Moore said: "I was just talking to Aidan there and he said it is probably as good a staying performance as he has ever seen. I never asked him for everything either. It was nice for him to have a horse to follow all the way – he probably thinks he got beat! He is a very good horse.

"He has an unbelievable race record now. His stride never shortened, he just kept galloping all the way to the line. What more can you say? He could not have done any more than he did today. He likes fast ground, is a high-class horse and hopefully there are a few more good days to come."

On the interference, Trawlerman's jockey William Buick said: "It was significant. It is hard to say how significant but Trawlerman is a Gold Cup winner, so he stays and he was just going through the gears down the hill.

"To try and outmanoeuvre or manoeuvre around a loose horse is never easy and my worry obviously was that if I found myself on his outside, we could give away a lot of ground and end up on the stand-side theoretically. I went the short route and really, he only got in the way at the most important part of the race.

"It definitely had an effect and it's unfortunate. I know the winner won well on the day but, on a horse like Trawlerman in a staying race, when you get hampered at that stage, it is obviously never ideal. He has run a super race considering."

Trawlerman's co-trainer John Gosden said: "It was a messy race. He got interfered with early and then the pace early was quite strong. He got into a nice rhythm down the hill and I noticed Ryan was beginning to ride on Scandinavia and we had a length and a half on him.

"The loose horse came back and visited us again and, once you check and lose your rhythm, that's it in any race, let alone when you're finding a rhythm over that trip. That is life and that's racing, it happens more in Jump racing than Flat racing.

"When you've been crossed like that and checked, he's not the type to turn around and start quickening. He has to build it up, which he was. But look, that's the way it is. We got the worst of it and we went from being a length and a half in front to a length and a half behind. That's racing."

Roger Varian said of Rahiebb: "He ran well. The race did not set up too well for us because it got a bit messy and they did not go very quick. He got locked away at the wrong time off a steady gallop, and the two big horses got first run. I am not suggesting it stopped us from winning, but I think it probably stopped us from finishing second.

"He got the trip well, which I was pleased about. I would not rule out going further again with him. Watching him today, all he looked like he was doing was staying, so you cannot judge it on one run. He will likely go to York and we will also look at the Irish St Leger. Next year we will see. He will be a stronger horse and I would not rule out going beyond two miles again. He looked a stayer today and I think he will keep getting better."

1 Scandinavia (Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith & Sue Magnier) Aidan O'Brien IRE 4-9-12 Ryan Moore 6/5F

2 Trawlerman (Godolphin) John & Thady Gosden 8-9-12 William Buick 13/8

3 Rahiebb (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) Roger Varian 4-9-12 Ray Dawson 14/1

8 ran

Aidan O'Brien – 32nd Qatar Goodwood Festival winner

Ryan Moore – 68th Qatar Goodwood Festival winner