



Good afternoon,

PRIME THOROUGHBREDS UPDATE 4 JANUARY 2014

Freddie Forstner

I was very sad to hear of the tragic death of our good friend Freddie Forstner who drowned while holidaying in Tonga on 30 December. Freddie was a legend around Hobart and had friends across all walks of life. He was a terrific personality who regularly welcomed and entertained our interstate clients with his stories in the main relating to a life well lived. Our thoughts are with his family and friends who like me are shocked by his sudden passing. He is pictured below at the races in Hobart late last year and as usual was immaculately attired.



Freddie Forstner RIP

Happy New Year

Happy New Year. Let's hope there are plenty of winners in the coming months. The New Year has started well although we didn't have much luck on New Year's Day. I thought Unchain My Heart was a good thing beaten. Chad had no luck in running and he had a lap full of horse under him as he went to the post. Also Faith'N' Courage, Excellent Style, and Hoop were placed which was good.

Today Tigerish steps out at Caulfield in a tough race and On Toast, Hot To Trot, Too Many Reds, Terra Amata, Mossgiel Village, Hoop and One More Red are running in Tasmania during the next week.

Bill Vlahos and BC3 Thoroughbreds

This is my final comment on Mr. Vlahos and his activities. A lot has been written in the media over the past few weeks about Bill Vlahos, Black Caviar's half-brother and BC3 Thoroughbreds.

I am looking forward to the full story coming out once investigations are completed by the host of agencies involved. It will make interesting reading but could take a long time for the investigations to be completed. I think it is important for people to realize the 'Punters Club' really appears to have had no involvement with the racing industry other than providing funds to BC3 Thoroughbreds.

I'm not going to comment on Black Caviar's half-brother. This appears to me to be a completely separate issue and again many honest people appear to have been caught up in it.

Investigations are ongoing into BC3's activities and again it is best to wait and see what the findings are forth coming. If the reports in the media are correct it would appear BC3 Thoroughbreds had been operating with significant losses for some time. Sadly, many service providers in the industry who were supplying BC3 could suffer substantial losses. BC3 Thoroughbreds were operating without an AFS Licence and as such were not subject to the regulations and rules applying to Licence holders.

I have held a Licence now since November 1997. The reason licensing of racehorse syndicators was introduced in the first place was to ensure that the general public that wished to race horses had their interests protected and gave them a legitimate pathway into the industry. I'm not sure who was responsible for the introduction of licensing for syndicators but they had great foresight and did a good job in putting together the guidelines under which we operate.

Our company has operated within the rules since I obtained my Licence and as has been the case every year since we commenced business in 1997. As has been the case since we started business nearly 17 years ago I head to the upcoming sales with a clean slate with no money outstanding to either Magic Millions Sales Company or William Inglis and Son.

I have found these two companies to be outstanding to deal with throughout our long association and any criticism of them over the Vlahos and his activities is not warranted. Australia is very fortunate to have two strong companies in Magic Millions Sales Company and William Inglis and Sons leading our industry. Without them I couldn't imagine how our industry wouldn't be able to function.

The sooner the whole grubby Vlahos affair is put to bed the better.

Magic Millions Sale

I'm off to the Gold Coast for the sales on Saturday and will be away until 14 January. The catalogue looks very good. I'll be posting results on the website as I purchase the yearlings. I will also be attending the Inglis Classic Sale in Sydney later in January.

Joe O'Neill

0433762700