

## Love Letter to Racing

In 1964 my ship came in namely the Fairstar delivering us from the UK to Princess Pier in Port Melbourne.

I knew or rather felt that Horse racing was a National Sport and this was brought home when someone stirring me about my "Norf" English accent when he corrected my pronunciation of Australia to "Horse Trailer".

It was rather fitting that being from the UK in 1964 Polo Prince was the winner of the Melbourne Cup that year and even more fitting was the fact that we had been given a Public Holiday for this occasion.

Of course the traditional Cup Day Sweep was almost mandatory and the organisers said that I wouldn't get my citizenship if I didn't join. One of my colleagues, Jerry bought a ticket for himself and one for his wife and his wife won the \$70 prize, which in 1966 was considerable sum.

What he didn't bargain on was another workmate or rather soon to be ex workmate rang Jerry's wife to congratulate her on her win. When Jerry came into work the next day he was livid for he hadn't planned on letting his wife know she had won the \$70 prize. He subsequently drowned in the Sea of Galilee.

I also joined the sweep the following year and was initially given the horse Red Handed but due to a stuff up although this time it was more a conspiracy I'm sure I ended up with a horse that later fed hundreds of dogs. So I guess there was a policy of no Bart Cummings trained horses for any apprentices including me.

As Melbourne won the Grand Final the year we came to Australia and won it again this year, will a blood line of Polo Prince win the prestigious Melbourne Cup this year?