



Dear Member

EFFORTS to battle the Equine Influenza (EI) virus have been praised by the chairman of the Toowoomba Turf Club.

Neville Stewart said he had "good advice" that the multi-pronged approach undertaken by the Queensland Racing Limited and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to deal with the outbreak on the home front was the correct method.

He also believed the strategies used in other states was also right.

"It is my view that the course of action adopted in Australia to control the spread of the Equine Influenza virus and the vaccinations being used is the right way to go," Stewart said.

Stewart is confident the Toowoomba Turf Club, which lost some meetings to the lockdown in south-east Queensland through EI, will weather the storm.

"It is very fortunate that the Toowoomba Turf Club is a very well run club with good cash reserves," he said.

"We will be working closely with Queensland Racing to ensure Toowoomba Turf Club is back racing as soon as possible.

"I would like to thank everyone for their tolerance in the difficult times brought about by suspension of racing due to the Equine Influenza virus and encourage everyone to continue to work together.

"It is my personal estimation that racing should resume at Clifford Park in late November to early December."

THE suspension of racing at Clifford Park has cost the Toowoomba Turf Club (TTC) the chance of staging the Fitton Insurance Hopeful Plate in its regular timeslot.

The Fitton traditionally opens the racing season for the two-year-olds in Queensland.

It has unearthed several top flight gallopers. Past Fitton winners have included the subsequent Orr Stakes winner Special Dane, Doomben 10,000 hero Laurie's Lottery and Magic Millions Classic placegetter Reigart.

TTC chairman Neville Stewart said he would discuss the programming of juvenile events and prizemoney with officials from Queensland Racing Limited.

"It is important that the Toowoomba Turf Club maintains its profile as the club which continually produces top two-year-olds," he said.

"I believe that a substantial prizemoney injection is required to return confidence to the Queensland racing industry.

DESPITE the hiatus in horse racing activity, Clifford Park has maintained its popularity as a function venue. Nearly 400 people converged on the course for the St Vincent's charity day on September 1 and more than \$45,000 was raised for the St Vincent's cause.

The following week Toowoomba Grammar School's fundraiser went ahead with more than 450 people in attendance. The big crowd was entertained with 3-legged races, live music and auctions.

On September 15 about 250 people supported the Anglican race day and they enjoyed live music.

While the Fitton Insurance Hopeful Plate was cancelled, the associated charity race day went ahead as planned under the expert guidance of Del Fitton.

A fashion parade by of garments by renowned designer Richard De Chazal mesmerized the receptive crowd, who were delighted when models appeared in dressed Hollywood-inspired gowns.

The auction of a painting of super mare Gold Edition and other events raised nearly \$10,000 for Nurse of the Year entrant Deborah Petzler, who is raising money for cancer research at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. The Careflight helicopter team was on hand for the LJ Hooker fundraising race day on September 29. Over 300 people supported the auctions and raffles, which generated funds for the Careflight service and the Toowoomba Hospital Children's Appeal.

Yours faithfully

Neville Stewart, OAM
Chairman
Toowoomba Turf Club

