

HE'S BA-AACK

If you've been wondering where to find Roger Crombie, here he is.

Welcome to the Wild West (actually Wild East) section of BerBiz, the newsletter that will make you rethink whatever it is you think now. In fact, stop thinking that, at once.

I'm Roger Crombie. Some of you might know me, others not. I'll be here just as regularly as I can manage. I'll say something that will make you LOL, or change your mind about something. If I fail to do either, you can have your money back.

I'm an English chartered accountant who spent almost all his adult life working in Bermuda. In 1993, I switched careers full-time from bean-counting to become a reporter on a now-defunct Bermuda weekly newspaper. The belated start of my journalism career (I was a cub reporter at 43) coincided almost to the day with the arrival of the first wave of major Bermuda re/insurers. As the only business reporter there from the start (of the modern Bermuda business community), I have had a ringside seat and a backstage pass to the greatest migration of capital in the history of money.

I've been living in London for the past year, following the financial markets here and overseas, because it's the only thing I'm any good at, other than Kingdom Rush, a free online game for 10-year-olds.

This being my first appearance in this format, I feel I must make a statement on phone hacking. Based on my many years' experience as a financial journalist — and this is the truth, painful as it is to admit — I don't listen to my own phone messages, let alone anyone else's.

But enough about me. I'd like to hear from you. E-mail me at berbiz@logic.bm. Let's develop the architecture of a networking forum and a thought leadership thingie going forward outside the box and then we can have an IPO, buy some CDSs, take a haircut, merge our currencies and get bailed out, like everyone else.

What I'm saying is: write. Tell me what you'd like to have me write about. Tell me how much you love me. Tell me if you hate me and, if so, what's wrong with you.

Here in the world's leading newsletter, I have no brief, as such. I am, in journalistic terms, truly At Large, which is, I believe, the way the Metropolitan Police refer to me. The chances are that I'll write about business and money and insurance and all like that there.

Next week, I'll have a topic and a view on it, I promise. Meanwhile, read BerBiz and re-read it. Over and out.

January 15, 2012

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