

# 1953 Maritime Harness Racing Review 1953

## Great Racing Recalled, Featuring More Money Raced For, More Dashes Raced

### More Horses Raced and More Photo Finishes with performances over Six Night Racing Plants and other tracks.

#### HERE THEY ARE!!!

By Lt. Col. D. A. MacKINNON, D.S.O., V.D. (Fr. Croix de Guerre)

Bang up racing that greatly pleased the fans, with more night racing, more matinee racing and over \$65,000 more money raced for, featured the Maritimes' biggest racing season of all time.

Fifteen tracks gave purses totalling \$305,100.16 as compared with \$239,286.03 the previous year. Six night racing plants were in operation—Sydney, Truro, Charlottetown, Summerside, St. John and Woodstock, one more than the previous year.

They paid out as follows: Truro—\$73,700.24; Charlottetown—\$62,755; Sydney (including North Sydney)—\$50,638.75; St. John—\$37,905; Summerside—\$36,549.96; Woodstock—\$20,508; with other tracks, Halifax—\$8,225.85; Windsor, N.S.—\$6,216.00; Fredericton—\$5,336; Moncton—\$3,050; Chatham—\$1,833.66; Sackville, N.S.—\$1,173.70; Port Elgin—\$600; Middleton—\$208. Matinee races were held at Buctouche, N.B., Middleton, N.S., Parrsboro, N.S., St. Anthony, N.B., Sussex, N.B., Windsor, N.S. and Woodstock, N.B.

Racing started May 18th at North Sydney and was concluded October 12th at Sydney, Truro, St. John and Windsor.

A very popular feature of the past season was the holding of a magnificent new racing plant at Summerside with commodious grand stand, stables and up-to-date lighting and sound system. The track was re-built and resurfaced and the plant cost in the vicinity of \$175,000.00.

On the opening day, July 1st, the largest crowd ever assembled in Prince County was present—over 8,000. It was a beautiful day and the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, spoke eloquently and was enthusiastically applauded. He must have been very greatly impressed with the appearance of the track, the grounds and the enormous crowd of well-dressed people with the various colors showing brightly in the glittering sun, evidence of prosperity that would be difficult perhaps to match. The racing program was well handled and Summerside Raceway, Ltd. started on a very promising career which future events amply justified.

Through the kindness of Harold M. Haswell, co-inventor of the Universal Driver Rating System and Chart, Saratoga Springs, New York, we are enabled to give a list of the leading drivers in the Maritimes during the 1953 season. Those having 200 or more starts during the season and those having 100 to 199 starts. Only their performances on Maritime tracks are taken into account. In explanation we may say that Halifax Raceway, Ltd. (a five-eighths of a mile track), which is conducted as a purse racing track, is now a member of the United States Trotting Association, and drivers over it are included in this rating. As we do not have reports of these races, horses winning there are not included in our heats or dashes won.

It is with pleasure that we salute George S. Turner of Dartmouth, N.S., as the leading driver in the Maritimes with 200 or more starts, and we also have equal pleasure in congratulating Don MacNeill of Summerside, P. E. I., as the leading driver having between 100 to 199 starts.

Pontiac 204, owned by Rimouski Stables, Rimouski, Que., and driven by Harvey Cormier, paced the fastest mile over a Maritime track, winning at Charlottetown, August 13th in 2:06 4/5. Nell Kalmuck 2:09 1/5, dark brown mare, by Kalmuck 2:15, owned by L. C. Dysart, Irishtown, N. B., and driven by H. Mount, trotted the fastest heat in the Maritimes—2:09 1/5, at Fredericton, Sept. 8th.

and she also lowered the track trotting record at St. John to 2:12 1/5. Wee Michael 2:15 3/5, 10-year-old bay gelding by Elmwood Chief, owned by Percy Leighton, Newport, N. S., is top dash winner with 19 wins. In second place with 16 wins is Abbeled 2:06 2/5, a black stallion by Bert Abbe 1:59 1/4, owned by James Watts, Chandler, Que., driven by M. Goguen. He also lowered the track pacing record at St. John to 2:09 3/5.

More horses were raced and more new or reduced records were made than in any previous year. The number of persons who witnessed harness racing in the Maritimes is estimated at over 600,000. A lot of new speed was purchased at the fall sales and also by individual purchases at various places and they will add to the interest in racing next season.

The 21st annual Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Club's Colt Stakes were held at the Summerside Raceway September 16th and 17th with \$2,800 in purses. Several good performers showed up and gave promise of being worthy contenders in the years to come. The President of the club is Dr. R. F. Seaman and the Secretary-Treasurer, W. G. Gillespie, both of whom deserve the greatest credit for the time and energy they have given to make these Colt Stakes a success.

Two new track records were made during the season, both at St. John, N.B. and the new track at Summerside established records of 2:12 3/5 trotting and 2:08 2/5 pacing.

Fifty-four miles in 2:10 or better were clocked in the Maritimes the past season, which is 16 more than the previous year. The all-time high record for 2:10 miles for a single season is 96, trotted or paced in 1947. Honors for first place are shared by Babe Britton 2:08 1/5, owned by George Thompson of Summerside, and driven by Len O'Meara, and Lucky Chief 2:04 1/5, owned by P. J. Cadegan, Glace Bay, N.S., one of them driven by Mr. Cadegan, two driven by Worrell Lewis and five by Rannie MacDonald. Babe and Lucky each stepped eight of the fast miles. Dividing second honors with five each are Abbeled 2:08 2/5, owned by James Watts, Chandler, Que., and driven by M. Goguen, and Headway 2:06 3/5, owned by James Given, Halifax, and driven by him in four of the miles and once by Harley Harrison. Two horses had three to their credit, Future Counsel 2:04 1/5, owned by A. D. Napke, New-castle, N. B., driven by Johnny

Conroy in two and G. Mauger in one, and Iola Henley 2:07 2/5, owned and driven by Clayton MacLeod, Westville, N. S. Seven horses stepped two 2:10 miles. A. G. Scott 2:09 4/5, owned by Lorne Letcher, Springhill, N. S., driven in one by James MacGregor and in the other by Free Spirit 2:05 2/5, owned by Fred Violette, Edmundston, N. B., driven by R. Hamilton; Handbook 2:03 2/5, owned by Richard Jubilee, North Sydney and driven by D. Ratchford; Johnnie Kalmuck 2:08 3/5, owned and driven by Walter Kelly, Southport, P. E. I.; Nell Kalmuck 2:09 1/5, owned by L. E. Dysart, Shediac, N. B., and driven by Harry Mount; Prince Maplecroft 2:08, owned by R. J. Logue, Sydney, N. S., and driven by W. Carroll; Shamrock Thoughts 2:04, owned by J. E. Forbes, Fredericton, N. B., and driven by H. Mount. The following horses had one each: Dominion D. 2:09 4/5, owned by Herb Lindsay, Woodstock, N. B., and driven by F. McAllduff; Gahagen 2:10, owned by Dr. George Bishop, Lexington, Ky., and driven by E. Shaw; Hedgewood Chief 2:06 2/5, owned by Amfco Stables, Summerside, P. E. I., and driven by R. Somers; Jerry's Nightmare, 2:09, owned by James O'Brien, Elmsdale, P. E. I., and driven by E. Semple; Jo-Jo Spencer 2:10, owned by Andrew Perry, Summerside, P. E. I., and driven by Malcolm Munro; Harry LeVatte, Sydney, and driven by R. MacDonald; Pontiac 2:04, owned by Rimouski Stables, Rimouski, P.Q., and driven by H. Cormier, and Victory Dale 2:05 3/5, owned by B. C. Cruikshank, Halifax, N.S., and driven by B. Cruikshank.

town, are tied for first place as leading driver of 210 miles with eight to their credit, followed by M. Goguen with five, James Given and H. Mount with four each, Clayton MacLeod three, Welly Carroll, Bob Hamilton, Walter Kelly and Worrell Lewis two each, and P. J. Cadegan, Johnny Conroy, H. Cormier, B. Cruikshank, H. Harrison, L. Letcher, Frank McAllduff, James MacGregor, George Mauger, Don Ratchford, Earle Semple, Tyndall Semple, Elmwood Shaw and Reg Somers with one each.

**FASTEST PERFORMERS ON MARITIME TRACKS — SEASON 1953**

Fastest Pacing Stallion—PONTIAC 2:04 (H. Cormier). Owned by Rimouski Stables, Rimouski, P.Q. Aug. 13, Charlottetown, P. E. I.—2:06 4/5.

Fastest Trotting Stallion—COBBLESTONE 2:11 1/5 (G. MacDonald). Owned by Archie Shore, Glace Bay, N.S. Aug. 11, Charlottetown, 2:11 4/5.

Fastest Pacing Gelding—JOHNNIE KALMUCK, 2:08 3/5 (Walter Kelly). Owned by Walter Kelly, Southport, P. E. I. June 28, Charlottetown—2:08 3/5.

Fastest Trotting Gelding—Question V. 2:09 2/5 (A. Cameron). Owned by Arthur Lipton, Sydney, N. S. Aug. 14, Sydney, N. S.—2:12 1/5.

Fastest Pacing Mare—Babe Britton 2:08 1/5 (L. O'Meara). Owned by George Thompson, Summerside, July 25, Charlottetown—2:08 1/5.

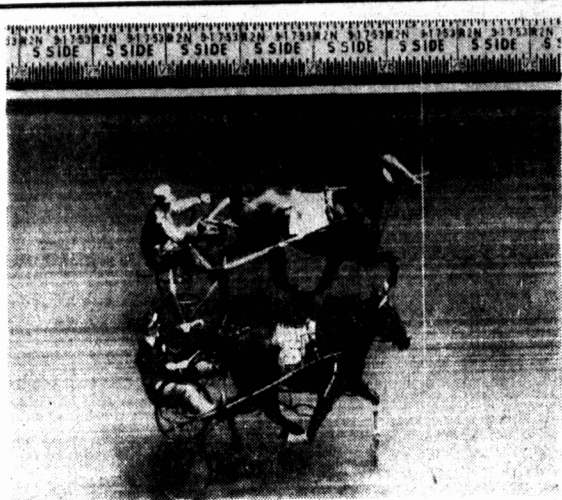
Fastest Trotting Mare—Nell Kalmuck 2:09 1/5 (H. Mount). Owned by L. E. Dysart, Shediac, N.B. Sept. 8, Fredericton, N. B.—2:09 1/5.

**WHERE 2:10 MILES WERE STEPPED**

This year the 2:10 list is headed by Charlottetown with 20, followed by Summerside with 9, then Sydney and Truro with 8 each, Woodstock 3, with Chatham, Fredericton and Saint John having two each.

**DRIVERS OF 2:10 MILES**

Rannie MacDonald, Sydney, N. S., and Len O'Meara, Charlottetown, are tied for first place as leading driver of 210 miles with eight to their credit, followed by M. Goguen with five, James Given and H. Mount with four each, Clayton MacLeod three, Welly Carroll, Bob Hamilton, Walter Kelly and Worrell Lewis two each, and P. J. Cadegan, Johnny Conroy, H. Cormier, B. Cruikshank, H. Harrison, L. Letcher, Frank McAllduff, James MacGregor, George Mauger, Don Ratchford, Earle Semple, Tyndall Semple, Elmwood Shaw and Reg Somers with one each.



Babe Britton, 2:08 1/5, owned by George Thompson, Summerside, and driven by Len O'Meara, winning one of her 12 races. She was the champion pacing mare of the Maritimes in 1953.

town, are tied for first place as leading driver of 210 miles with eight to their credit, followed by M. Goguen with five, James Given and H. Mount with four each, Clayton MacLeod three, Welly Carroll, Bob Hamilton, Walter Kelly and Worrell Lewis two each, and P. J. Cadegan, Johnny Conroy, H. Cormier, B. Cruikshank, H. Harrison, L. Letcher, Frank McAllduff, James MacGregor, George Mauger, Don Ratchford, Earle Semple, Tyndall Semple, Elmwood Shaw and Reg Somers with one each.

**FASTEST MARITIME BRED PERFORMERS 1953**

Fastest M. B. Pacing Gelding—Johnnie Kalmuck 2:08 3/5 (W. Kelly). Owned by Walter Kelly, Southport, June 28, Charlottetown—2:08 3/5.

Fastest M. B. Trotting Gelding—Mack Fingo 2:12 2/5 (F. Moreside). Owned by Fulton Moreside, Windsor, N.S. June 27, Truro—2:12 2/5.

Fastest M. B. Pacing Mare—Babe Britton 2:08 1/5 (L. O'Meara). Owned by George Thompson, Summerside, July 25, Charlottetown—2:08 1/5.

Fastest M. B. Trotting Mare—Nell Kalmuck 2:09 1/5 (H. Mount). Owned by L. E. Dysart, Shediac, N.B. Sept. 8, Fredericton, N.B.—2:09 1/5.

Fastest M. B. Four-Year-Old Trotter—Betty Play (R. MacDonald). Owned by C. Sutherland, Sydney, N.S. Sept. 8, Sydney—2:18. Ginger Worthy G. MacDonald, owned by George MacDonald, Marmal, P. E. I. Sept. 16, Summerside—2:18.

Fastest M. B. Four-Year-Old Pacer—Dominion D. 2:09 4/5 (McAllduff). Owned by Herb Lindsay, Woodstock, N. B. Aug. 20, Woodstock—2:09 4/5.

Fastest M. B. Three-Year-Old Trotter—Play Safe (B. Andrew). Owned by R. N. Dawson, Crapaud, P. E. I. Sept. 17, Summerside—2:27.

Fastest M. B. Three-Year-Old Pacer—Jerry's Nightmare (E. Semple). Owned by James O'Brien, Elmsdale, P. E. I. Aug. 4, Charlottetown—2:09.

Fastest M. B. Two-Year-Old Trotter—Royal Train (A. Llewellyn). Owned by Dr. Preston Mc-

Intyre, Montague, P. E. I. Sept. 16, Summerside—2:31.

Fastest M. B. Two-Year-Old Pacer—Janet Clegg (G. Sobey). Owned by George Sobey, Summerside, P. E. I. Aug. 13, Charlottetown—2:17 2/5.

Fastest M. B. New Performer—Jerry's Nightmare (E. Semple). Owned by James O'Brien, Elmsdale, P. E. I. Aug. 4, Charlottetown—2:09.

**FASTEST MILES IN MARITIMES**

Fastest Mile Paced—Pontiac 2:04 (H. Cormier). Owned by Rimouski Stables, Rimouski, P. Q. Aug. 13, Charlottetown—2:06 4/5.

Fastest Mile Trotted—Nell Kalmuck 2:09 1/5 (H. Mount). Owned by L. E. Dysart, Shediac, N. B. Sept. 8, Fredericton, N.B.—2:09 1/5.

Fastest three heats trotted or paced in the Maritimes—Aug. 13, Charlottetown, Lucky Chief 2:04 1/5, owned by P. J. Cadegan, Glace Bay, N. S. 1-4-Dead Heat, Pontiac 2:04, owned by Rimouski Stables, Rimouski, P.Q., and driven by Harvey Cormier 3-1-5, Prince Maplecroft, 2:08, owned by R. J. Logue, Sydney, N. S. 7-5-Dead Heat for first with Lucky Chief. Time: 2:07 4/5, 2:06 4/5, 2:08 1/5.

**MARITIME RACE WINNERS (Purse Races)**

There were 1717 heats or dashes raced in 1953 as compared with 1455 in 1952. Nova Scotia again tops the list with 840 for 99 heats. Truro had 38 meets—333 dashes; Sydney, 29 meets—236 dashes; North Sydney, 3 meets—22 dashes; Windsor, 21 meets—178 dashes; Sackville 5-46 dashes and Middleton 3 meets—25 dashes. New Brunswick race tracks are next with 444 dashes for 53 meets: St. John, 25 meets—214 dashes; Woodstock, 16 meets—132 dashes; Moncton, 8 meets—62 dashes; Fredericton, 2 meets—20 dashes; Chatham, 1 meet—10 dashes; Port Elgin, 1 meet—6 dashes. Prince Edward Island had 55 meets with 433 dashes; Charlottetown, 33 meets—272 dashes; Summerside, 22 meets—161 dashes.

In addition to the above purse races, matinee racing under U. S. T. A. rules was held at Buctouche, N. B., Lr. Sackville, N.S., Middleton, N. S., Parrsboro, N.S., St. Anthony, N.B., Sussex, N.B., Windsor, N.S., and Woodstock, N. B. These matinees were well attended and well conducted and added greatly to the pleasure of many horse lovers in parts of the Maritimes where purse racing was not held extensively. Some promising performers showed up that will no doubt be testing their mettle against other Maritime trotters and pacers on purse racing tracks next season. The matinees were also the training ground where preparatory work was given to a number of record horses that later on won their share of the money in purse races. We believe that matinee racing could be held on many other tracks that

have been idle and if so even greater interest in our sport would be brought about. As our list of race winners is confined to those competing in purse races, the names of matinee winners are not included, but are included in our records lists.

This season the top dash winner of the Maritimes is the 7-year-old bay gelding Wee Michael, by Elmwood Chief, owned by Percy Leighton, Newport, N. S. He started the season with a record of 2:22 2/5 and ended it with a new mark of 2:15 3/5. In second place is the 7-year-old stallion Abbeled 2:08 2/5, by Bert Abbe 1:59 1/4, owned by James Watts, Chandler, Que., with 16 wins. There is a four-way tie for third place with Lucky Chief 2:04 1/5, by Chief Abbeled 2:00, owned by P. J. Cadegan, Glace Bay, N. S., Howie Budlong 2:19 2/5 by Calumet Budlong 2:02 3/4, owned by Harley Phillips, Sweets Corner, N. S., Peter Clegg 2:12, by Abner T. Clegg 2:04 1/2, owned by George Brookins, Kensington P. E. I., and Tru Single G. 2:02, owned by Laurie O'Brien, Halifax with 14 wins each.

With 13 wins each are Stranger Boy 2:24 and Whispering Hope 2:06 3/5.

With 12 wins—Babe Britton 2:08 1/5, Dixie Belle B. 2:13 1/5, Freddie Scott 2:10 1/5, Gahagen 2:10, Johnnie Kalmuck 2:08 3/5.

With 11 wins—Ariaway 2:13 2/5, Crusader Chief 2:09 4/5, Josedale Clipper 2:08 1/2, Rajah Hanover 2:13 3/5, Shamrock Thoughts 2:04 1/5, Honan Crowley 2:07, Iola Henley 2:07 2/5, Margy Frisco 2:11, May S. Grattan 2:12 1/5, Miss Playfair 2:13 3/5, Patrick Budlong 2:16 2/5, Royal Scott Jr. 2:13 3/5.

Nine wins—Abbie's Boy 2:13 3/5, Callie Lee 2:23 1/5, Cedric Hanover 2:14, Cobblestone 2:11 1/5, Colonel Hansford 2:10 1/5, Commodore Stout 2:17 1/2, Esso 2:11 3/5, Flaxcott 2:08 1/5, Headway 2:06 3/5, Hedgewood H. 2:13, Miss Judy Hal 2:09, Shining Hour 2:10 1/5, Signal Bill 2:20 2/5, Titan's Lucy 2:14 3/5, Tonymite 2:13 3/5, Vella Grattan 2:16.

Eight wins—A. G. Scott 2:09 4/5,

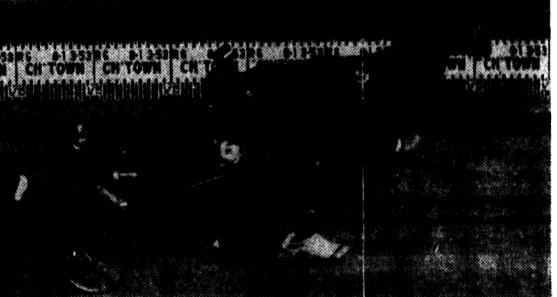
Ann's Boy 2:11 1/5, Chocolate Dip 2:11, Dade 2:09 4/5, Danny Dale Boy 2:11 2/5, Future Counsel 2:04 1/5, Jo-Ann Castle 2:08 2/5, Just Rita 2:13 1/5, Neil Budlong, 2:12 2/5, Nell Kalmuck 2:09 1/5, P. E. I. Budlong 2:14 4/5, Rosalie Hooper 2:11 2/5, Rusty Miller 2:11, Viola McKinney 2:14 1/2.

Seven wins—Adam's Orphan 2:11, Anyway 2:15 3/5, Cumberland Scot 2:17 1/5, David McLean 2:12 1/2, Duke of Hyland 2:12 4/5, Frisco Flagg 2:18, George R. 2:15, Jerry's Nightmare 2:09, Josedale Clansman 2:09, June Bee 2:10, Just Lucky 2:11 3/5, Lahey's Dream 2:13 3/5, Lucky Senator 2:19, Mack Fingo 2:13 2/5, Robert Bruce 2:11 3/5, Symbol Majesty 2:12 1/5, Volon 2:11 2/5, Whirlaway 2:15 3/5.

Six wins—Bonnie H. 2:10, Bud's Best 2:15 1/5, Bud's Boy 2:17 3/5, Cella Sharon 2:16 3/5, Cinczno 2:06 1/4, Clean Up 2:09 1/5, David G. 2:14 4/5, Dominion D. 2:09 4/5, Eva Budlong 2:14 1/5, Frankie Budlong 2:13 1/5, Free Spirit 2:05 2/5, Friar 2:09 1/4, Jacob Withrow 2:12 3/4, Janet Clegg 2:17 2/5, Joey Harvester 2:09 3/5, Kerwin Hanover 2:15 4/5, Leah Federal 2:14 2/5, Monty Budlong 2:12 2/5, Oliver Chief 2:15, Ramona Chips 2:13 3/5, Resourceful 2:13 4/5, Roy Jr. 2:01 1/4, Senator Falcutt 2:24 3/5, Vesta Budlong 2:24 3/5.

Five wins—Arden's Mowey 2:11 1/5, Bud's Echo 2:15 3/5, Chet Lyn Clever 2:13 2/5, Danny Scott 2:18 3/5, Diana O. Grattan 2:13 1/2, Dizzie Dean 2:16 2/5, Earl's Prince Charming 2:10, Eddie Hooper 2:15 4/5, First Again 2:18, Futuramic 2:09 2/5, Gallant Bobby 2:13 4/5, Jean Aubrey 2:14, Jock Martin 2:11, John Clegg 2:11 2/5, Junior Hal 2:10, Lee C. Brewer 2:16, Lena's Bob 2:09, Mae Josedale 2:12, Marion E. 2:13 1/5, Miss Cherry Valley 2:15, Morris Direct 2:13, My Darling 2:08 1/5, Nellie Watson 2:21, Polly Reynolds 2:11, Princess Tina 2:14 1/5, Pure Gold 2:07 3/5, Riot Junior 2:15, Sandy Mar 2:17 2/5, Scotty Boy 2:16 4/5, Senator Charles 2:23 3/5, Senator Cragnyle 2:16, Senator's Son (H.M.), Shimar Direct 2:18 2/5, Sonny

(Continued on page 7)



Pontiac, 2:04, owned by Rimouski Stables, Rimouski, Que., and driven by Harvey Cormier, winning the second dash of the Free-For-All at Charlottetown, Aug. 13. Time: 2:06 4/5, the fastest heat paced in the Maritimes in 1953.

## The Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association

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And To

**HARNESS RACING FOLLOWERS**

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DR. J. P. LANTZ, President

GEORGE H. BUNTAIN, Secretary

A dead heat in the Free-For-All at Charlottetown, Aug. 13, 1953, between Lucky Chief 2:04 1/5, owned by P. J. Cadegan, Glace Bay, N. S. and driven by R. MacDonald, and Prince Maplecroft, 2:08, owned by R. J. Logue, Sydney, N. S. and driven by N. Carroll. Time: 2:08 1/5.