

Charlottetown Driving Park handles top notch show

One of the most popular races in Eastern Canada, the Charlottetown Driving Park enjoyed another great season as a number of regular race nights were lighted with the action served up throughout the summer campaign.

Through the pari-mutuel "handle" was on the decrease, both on Old Home Week's show and on regular race nights, this in no way lessened the great interest displayed by "slanders" for their sport of kings.

In all 34 race meets were staged, including the Old Home Week shows. Purses totalled in excess of \$77,500. The money wagered on the regular 1964 mutual race nights amounted to \$386,942 as compared with \$422,350 in 1963. The Old Home Week handle this past August was \$281,802 as against \$287,700 the previous Old Home Week. The overall picture show a decrease in betting of \$26,306.

Once again the weatherman wasn't nearly as co-operative as promoters hoped he would be. This factor undoubtedly cut down on attendances on several occasions and smaller attendances meant less money bet at the mutual windows. However, Charlottetown Driving Park promoters felt enthusiastic about the active campaign and are looking forward with much optimism to 1965.

Last season 96 local and 32 guest drivers participated in the 446 dashes run off. The number of mainland horses strutting their stuff here in 1964 was slightly lower than the previous summer. But this slight falloff in visitors in no way affected the calibre of racing. In fact some were proclaiming that last summer's activities were as exciting and crowd-pleasing as any ever presented at the Charlottetown oval.

It was a year in which favorites had their ups and downs and when the "downs" came some interesting mutual bettors were on hand to gather up the big juicy returns. Many lesser lights shone for more brilliant than the experts had predicted and each time they shone the payoffs were handsome. Indeed last summer at the CTF saw several terrific payouts as favorites faded badly and rank outsiders took full control.

Once again race secretary and classifier, Frank "Duck" Acera was faced with a mammoth task at Frank did his usual capable job. At times horses were all too plentiful but other times found Mr. Acera scratching his head in an effort to make up classes. These latter times were when the virus hit hard at the local plant and many horses were sidelined by illness for several weeks.

It was the first full year for Allison Profit as president of Charlottetown Driving Park and the Provincial Exhibition Association. Mr. Profit succeeded to the presidency on the death of Cecil J. Stewart in July 1963. Since that time he has given able leadership to the association, ably assisted by his vice-president Dr. H.H. Pierce.

Once again the directors of CTF endeavored to keep the plant as attractive as possible. Beautiful flower displays were to be seen in the centrefield area and drew much favorable comment especially from tourists. The entire plant was kept in top shape throughout the entire campaign and reflected much credit on the plant superintendent, Everett Blount.

Indeed it seems to be the aim of the Charlottetown plan to keep it in tip-top shape and Mr. Blount and those working with him have surely come through with flying colors. Several more improvements are planned for 1965 to further enhance the appearance of the grounds.

The Evening Patriot once again was in the spotlight in sponsoring the two greatest races of the 1964 season. Edgewood Scott owned by Stanley Mayhew, Ramsay and Howatt, and reined by Elmer Smith grabbed the second in straight dashes, with his time of 2:04.4 the best

over the Charlottetown track his past year. Avalon Worthy owned by Greenbrier Farms, Charlottetown, trotted the fastest mile of the year 2:07.3.

James "Roach" MacGregor did the driving.

Edgewood was back four nights later and gave a noble try at The Gold Cup and Saucer classic. It looked as though Edgewood was going to make it two big victories in the Old Home Week show after nabbing the opening dash. However, it wasn't to be as James "Roach" MacGregor teamed the Greenbrier Farms entry, June Eyrd, to an upset decision in the closing mile. The queen of Mary-

line pacers came through with the best summary, took the lion's share of the 19500 purse and Greenbrier owners accepted The Gold Cup and Saucer from His Honor Lt. Gov. W.J. MacDonald.

It was a tremendous night at the CTF as thousands jammed together despite a drizzle of rain which fell continuously throughout the proceedings. But this rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the clockers who came to see what has become Prince Edward Island's greatest sports spectacle.

The pacing record of 2:03.4 held by Mighty Lee and the trotting record of 2:07 hung up by Bill Boyles's Slocum Stag

withstood all attacks. Neither one got much of a scare despite the ambitions of several owners and drivers.

Accidents of a serious nature were missing as drivers appeared to exercise the greatest caution in their many drives. The few accidents, which unfortunately brought about no serious injury to drivers or horses.

James "Roach" MacGregor amassed the most points during the Old Home Week show and was the recipient of a beautiful gold watch from W.G. Barbour donated in memory of his late father, Senator G.H. Barbour. It was Len MacNeill who came through as the leading driver at Charlottetown as far

as the entire season was concerned. Len grabbed the Edg Taxii trophy which goes annually to the driver amassing the most points at the CTF.

In 1964 there were 65 miles raced at Charlottetown in 210 or better and 200 miles lower than 2:15. The race secretary's office had 366 papers on file and from these 313 actually faced the starter. Throughout the season 112 drivers raced out of Charlottetown.

Here are the money winners of Prince Edward Island owned horses this past season:

Slippy Queen 3683; Jolly Dick 1586; Helen's Dream 1300; Eleanor C125; Liberty L 1079. Ms. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A)



THE CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN extends SEASON'S GREETINGS To ALL MARITIME HORSEMEN!



Memento of 1964 Gold Cup and Saucer Parade and Race

... And extends sincere thanks to all who participated in and made possible the very successful Gold Cup and Saucer Day in August last.

John J. Butler
Comptroller

A. Walthen Gaudet
Mayor