

Oregon Racing Commission Annual Report

1997-98 FISCAL YEAR ACTIVITIES

RACES AND PURSES FOR HORSES AND GREYHOUNDS

During the 1997-98 fiscal year there were 2688 live pari-mutuel races run in the state of Oregon. Of these races 1596 were for greyhounds and 1092 were for horses. In addition to the races which were run live in Oregon, there were an additional 40,080 simulcast races brought in from other states. 24,573 of these races were greyhound races and 15,507 were horse races. Of the simulcast races Multnomah Greyhound Park brought in 19,060 of the races (11,836 greyhound and 7,224 horse); Portland Meadows brought in 21,020 of the races (12,737 greyhound and 8,283 horse).

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Of the twelve regularly scheduled commission meetings for the fiscal year 1997-98, eleven were held in the Portland area. The June 1998 meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

CONFERENCES AND NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the 1997-98 fiscal year the executive Director attended the North American Pari-Mutuel Regulators' Association Fall and Spring Conferences. This is a new association of racing commissions that was incorporated in June of 1997, to more fully address the needs of racing commissions. In less than one year the association grew from the original 13 members to 19 members.

LEGISLATION RELATED TO RACING

As was reported in the last annual report, the Commission pre-session file HB2104 that was amended by the racing industry to include account wagering. This bill passed and was signed by the governor. The Commission formed an advisory committee made up of industry representatives, handicappers and a representative from the Governor's office. Concerns raised by the Governor's office and the resulting restrictions that the Governor's office required to be placed in the rules made the program unworkable in the opinion of the industry and the handicappers on the advisory committee. For this reason rule drafting was suspended until such time that a workable solution can be determined.

The rule making required to implement the provisions of HB 3009 have not been started until such time as the issues in the account wagering system can be

worked out and until more is known about the over-all concept of a multi-jurisdictional simulcasting and totalizator hub.

The Commission has two legislative concepts in for the 1999 session.

The first removes the restriction against greyhound racing at the State Fairgrounds.

The second places the authority to operate simulcasting with the Oregon Racing Commission rather than individual commercial tracks.