ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH COLUMBIA RACING COMMISSION

FOR

1980

BRITISH COLUMBIA

HON. L. ALLAN WILLIAMS, Q.C.
ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF THE PROVINCE OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

R. BRUCE HARVEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE
BRITISH COLUMBIA
RACING COMMISSION

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Honourable L. Allan Williams, Q.C.
Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia

SIR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Annual Report of the British Columbia Racing Commission for 1980.

R. BRUCE HARVEY
Chairman
British Columbia Racing Commission

Burnaby, B.C., March 1981.

The Racing Commission, during 1980 consisted of:

The Commissioners

Chairman—R. Bruce Harvey

Commissioner—Reverend Desmond Kimmitt

Commissioner—J. R. C. (Jack) Short

Commissioner-Secretary—Robert E. Collis

Commission Staff

Thoroughbred Racing Steward—W. D. F. Dunn

Thoroughbred Racing Steward—Joseph L. Horton

Standardbred Racing Judge—Brian M. V. Middleton

Standardbred Racing Judge—John F. Monkman

Standardbred Racing Judge—Edward J. Stewart

Veterinarians—Dr. Alan D. Purvis, D.V.M.

Dr. Gordon Davis, D.V.M.

Dr. David Gaunt, D.V.M.

Office Supervisor—Glenna Perkins

Chief Investigator—Wilfred E. Denty

Investigators—Kenneth A. F. Yarker

Gordon K. Simonson

William R. Goodwin

Joseph Shepherd

Licencing Supervisor—Mary-Lou Garrison

Clerk-Typists—Marjorie Hakkinen

Daphne Kreese

Annual Report of the British Columbia Racing Commission

To the Honourable L. Allan Williams, Q.C.
Attorney General, Victoria, B.C.

SIR: 1980 will long stand as a year of unique importance in the history of horse racing in British Columbia.

In March, 1979, your Government had established the Horse Racing Study Committee, in whose work our Chairman, Mr. R. Bruce Harvey, and our Commissioner-Secretary, Mr. Robert E. Collis, as the Committee's secretary, were closely involved.

As a direct result of that Committee's confidential report to yourself and your Government, you, on June 16, 1980 announced that it was the intention of the Provincial Government to return a full two percent of the total mutuel handle to the province's breeders and owners of race horses.

This far-sighted and imaginative action had been preceded in 1979 by the reduction of one percentage point in the revenues received by the Provincial Government under the terms of the *Pari Mutuel Betting Tax Act*.

The creation of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund, following upon your June announcement and the subsequent enactment of the enabling legislation, ensures a steady evolution towards an ever greater excellence in the quality of horse racing provided to the people of British Columbia.

Your Racing Commission has welcomed the responsibility of determining the administration of the Improvement Fund.

After numerous meetings with all segments of the racing confraternity within the Province, and with the particular assistance of the specifically created Thoroughbred Advisory Committee and Standardbred Advisory Committee, we had, by year's end established a most detailed and comprehensive format for the disbursement of the Fund.

We are pleased to advise you that this resulting formula is receiving high praise from the organizations and individuals involved in breeding and racing in British Columbia.

The establishment of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund is, almost certainly the single most important event in the whole story of horse racing within our Province.

Your Commission is conscious of your own participation in the achievement of this happy event. We are of the respectful opinion that you should be aware of the profound appreciation of the whole racing community for this action of the Provincial Government, and for the high esteem in which you are personally held, because of your close interest and concern for the best interests of racing in British Columbia.

Throughout the year, your Racing Commission continued its supervision of horse racing within the Province. Thoroughbred, standardbred, and quarter-horse racing was presented before 1,456,412 patrons who wagered $171,992,147.

The purse money paid to the horsemen was $8,586,844. Under the provisions of the *Pari Mutuel Betting Tax Act,* the Provincial Government received net revenues of $6,457,823.

During 1980 the Commission held 47 formal meetings to allocate dates for racing, make rule amendments, hear appeals from Stewards' and Judges' rulings, and consider numerous other racing matters, including of course the proposed distribution of the new Horse Racing Improvement Fund.

The Members are appreciative of the Government's action which allows the Commission full responsibility in allocating racing dates.

Your Commission was privileged to host the meetings of the Governing Bodies of Canadian Racing, which took place in Vancouver in January, 1980

The Commissioners from British Columbia continue to take an active and influential role in these meetings, especially in response to what we perceive as an increasing tendency to over-involvement in matters of provincial jurisdiction by the Race Track Division of Agriculture Canada.

Of particular concern to us is that Division's continued promotion of forms of legalized off-track betting.

Your Commission is not implacably opposed to such wagering, and indeed recognized the possibility for increasing revenues and stimulating a wider interest in the sport through a greater opportunity for all within the Province to place a bet on horse races.

However, of fundamental concern to us is the development of the largest opportunity for presenting horse racing itself, and we are very sensitive to the experience within other jurisdictions which have permitted off-track betting, that such wagering tends to reduce the amount of actual racing.

We are, therefore, of the firm view that any introduction of off-track wagering in British Columbia must be preceded by the most rigorous provincial study of the total issue.

The Members of your Commission continue actively to participate in the meetings of the National Association of State Racing Commissioners, and now retain senior positions on several committees.

This inter-communication with the experience of Commissions throughout North America, and indeed internationally, continues to be invaluable, especially in view of the expanding nature of the sport within our own Province; and the increasingly important responsibilities which you have granted to us as the members of your British Columbia Racing Commission.

THOROUGHBRED RACING

1. Exhibition Park, Vancouver, B.C.

(April 14 through October 18, 1980)

The British Columbia Jockey Club presented 113 days of thoroughbred racing at Exhibition Park, and their fans wagered in excess of $118,000,000 which provided purse money to the horse owners of $7,384,103 including the Provincial Government incentive programs.

British Columbia Jockey Club

Comparative Statistics for Exhibition Park, 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
976	104	79,620,397	765,580	+ 1.7	9,240	+3.9
977	108	89,347,766	827,294	+ 8.0	9,268	+ .3
978	110	96,301,132	875,465	+ 5.8	9,122	−1.6
979	108	106,781,374	988,716	+12.9	9,135	+ .1
980	113	118,145,642	1,045,537	+ 5.7	8,665	−5.1

Rulings of the Stewards

There were 116 rulings issued by the Stewards at Exhibition Park. These ulings consisted of 55 for personal misconduct; 25 for careless or faulty riding; 29 'or irregular licensing procedures (21 of these being falsification of licence applica- ions); 4 for reinstating licencees; and 3 drug related offences.

In the case of the drug related offences, two of the rulings were related to one nother for the drug Methocarbamol (Robaxin), disclosed in a post race urine test in vhich the trainer was found responsible and fined $300 for failing to properly rotect the horse against the administration of any drug which may affect the racing condition or performance; the Veterinarian was found responsible for failing to dvise the trainer that the drug was on the Prohibited Drug List. The third ruling was 'or the drug Guaiacol Glyceryl Ether (an expectorant on the Prohibited Drug List), lisclosed in a post race urine test in which the trainer was found responsible and ined $300 for failing to protect his horse. This third ruling was appealed for the everity of the fine, but the Commission dismissed the appeal and confirmed the enalty imposed by the Stewards. In both cases the horse was disqualified from the ace and the purse money redistributed.

The Stewards utilized the race video on 97 occasions to conclusively confirm r refute suspected and reported rider infractions. These viewings resulted in the Stewards altering the order of finish in 23 races.

2. Sandown Park, Sidney, B.C.

Capital City Turf Club

(October 22 through November 15, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for Sandown Park, 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1976	16	3,436,401	214,775	+22.1	3,303	+17.7
1977	19	3,711,847	195,360	− 9.0	2,801	−15.1
1978	16	2,597,353	162,335	−16.9	2,209	−21.1
1979	16	2,276,006	142,250	−12.4	2,056	− 6.9
1980	15	2,407,031	160,469	+12.8	2,144	+ 4.3

3. Desert Park, Osoyoos, B.C.

(June 13, 14 and August 15, 16, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for Osoyoos, 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1976	4	74,255	18,563	+20.6	874	+30.0
1977	8	121,616	15,202	−18.1	595	−31.9
1978	6	108,477	18,080	+18.9	469	−21.2
1979	6	94,311	15,719	−13.1	420	−10.4
1980	4	95,266	23,817	+51.5	563	+34.0

4. Sagebrush Downs, Kamloops, B.C.

(August 20, 22, 23, 29, 30 and September 1, 5, 6, 8, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for Kamloops, 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1976	7	245,275	35,039	− 4.6	1,280	+12.0
1977	7	239,830	34,261	− 2.2	2,261	+76.6
1978	7	254,759	36,394	+ 6.2	791	−65.0
1979	16	375,587	23,474	−35.5	696	−12.0
1980	9	291,504	32,389	+38.0	775	+11.4

5. Fair Grounds, Williams Lake, B.C.

(July 1, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for Williams Lake, B.C., 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1976	3	39,161	13,053	− 34.1	428	− 78.6
1977	2	55,212	27,606	+111.8	3,450	+706.0
1978	2	44,247	22,124	− 19.9	1,850	− 46.4
1979	2	49,799	24,900	+ 12.5	1,905	+ 3.0
1980	1	23,589	23,589	− 5.3	2,136	+ 12.1

6. Sunflower Downs, Princeton, B.C.

(July 11 and 12, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for Princeton, 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1976	2	47,008	23,504	+57.0	1,052	+ 31.5
1977	2	53,406	26,703	+13.6	1,087	+ 3.3
1978	2	55,315	27,658	+ 3.6	2,300	+111.6
1979	2	59,182	29,591	+ 7.0	1,150	− 50.0
1980	2	61,885	30,943	+ 4.6	1,703	+ 48.0

7. Kinsmen Park, Vernon, B.C.

(July 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 28, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for Vernon, 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
976	2	56,035	28,017	+28.3	1,823	+35.0
977	3	97,764	32,588	+16.3	2,816	+54.4
978	3	108,747	36,249	+11.2	2,067	−26.6
979	6	185,806	30,968	−14.6	1,287	−37.7
980	6	227,115	37,853	+22.2	1,302	+ 1.2

STANDARDBRED RACING

Standardbred horse racing continues to increase in popularity and interest. Orangeville Raceway Ltd., the operators of the two standardbred tracks in the Province, at Cloverdale and Sidney, have undertaken the redevelopment of the Sandown Park grandstand-clubhouse facility. This improvement is expected to encourage the further growth of standardbred racing on the Island, and will result in year round racing for that sector of the industry.

There were a total of 426 rulings issued by the Judges during the entire standardbred schedule for various violations of the Rules and Regulations of Standardbred Horse Racing. Careless and irregular driving practices accounted for 308 of the rulings; personal misconduct required 35 rulings; 74 rulings were for administration of the course; irregular licencing procedures required two rulings; and seven rulings were related to drug offences.

In the case of the drug related offences, one ruling was for the drug Guaiacol Glyceryl Ether (an expectorant) in which the trainer was fined $600 as a second offence; three were for the drug Flunixin (an analgesic) in which all three trainers were fined $250 as well as 15 days suspension each. One of the trainers appealed the ruling to the Racing Commission and after careful consideration, the Commission ordered the fine be increased to $500, but eliminated the remainder of the 15 day suspension; one ruling was for the drug Ethyl Aminobenzoate, administered externally as a "leg freeze," in which the trainer was fined $500; and two were for the drug Hydroxyphenylbutazone (Bute), in which one of the trainers received a $250 fine and 15 days suspension, and the second trainer received a $250 fine due to the fact that it was only a qualifying race.

In all cases, with the exception of the ruling on the drug Bute, which was a qualifying race, the horses were disqualified.

During the course of the 1979/80 racing season at Cloverdale Raceway, a major investigation was conducted into a race which was considered to be driven in a questionable manner by a number of the participants. Numerous drivers, trainers, grooms, and other licencees were interviewed, the result of which was the suspension of one trainer/driver for a period of seven years; two trainer/drivers for a period of five years; one driver for a period of two years; one owner for a period of two years; and two trainer/drivers not involved in the race were suspended for 30 days and fined $1,500 each.

All penalties were appealed with the exception of two of the drivers involved in the race in question. The Commission heard the evidence and testimony of the principals and concluded that one of the drivers originally determined by the Judges

to be a party to "the race fix" conspiracy was only guilty of misleading the Judges during the investigation, and his suspension was reduced to one year. The remaining appeals were dismissed and their penalties were confirmed. The Commission will not consider licencing the two principal conspirators for seven and five years respectively.

8. Orangeville Raceway Ltd.
Cloverdale Raceway, Surrey, B.C.
(January 1 to April 12 and October 20 to December 31, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for Cloverdale, 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1976	111	16,483,073	148,496	—	1,828	—
1977	107	21,718,493	202,979	+36.7	2,124	+16.1
1978	120	29,569,889	246,416	+21.4	2,313	+ 8.9
1979	120	35,887,853	299,065	+21.4	2,508	+ 8.4
1980	120	42,128,560	351,071	+17.4	2,653	+ 5.8

9. Orangeville Raceway Ltd.
Sandown Park, Sidney, B.C.
(May 17 through September 6, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for Sandown Park 1978–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1978	57	4,599,112	80,686	—	1,308	—
1979	65	6,389,101	98,294	+21.8	1,340	+ 2.4
1980	65	7,851,981	120,800	+22.9	1,478	+10.3

10. Lower Fraser Valley Exhibition Association
Cloverdale Raceway, Surrey, B.C.
(September 9, 11, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 1980)

Comparative Statistics for L.F.V.E.A., 1976–80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1976	2	21,021	10,510	—	515	—
1977	3	91,759	30,586	+191.0	1,064	+10.6
1978	3	152,348	50,783	+ 66.0	1,072	+ .8
1979	—	—	—	—	—	—
1980	7	759,574	108,510	+114.0	1,157	+ 7.9

N.B. Due to construction of the new grandstand at Cloverdale Raceway in 1979, the Lower Fraser Valley Exhibition Association was unable to conduct their race meeting.

REVENUE FROM HORSE RACING, 1980

All personnel employed within the confines of the major race tracks in 'ancouver, Surrey, and Sidney, and the owners, trainers, and jockeys at the interior ıce-meetings are required to be licensed by this Commission.

Assistance is also offered the Consumer Taxation Branch in that the Commis-ion collects the social services tax on the sale of horses at the supervised race-ıeetings.

To obtain a more clear picture of the revenues received by the Provincial reasury from the racing industry, the following breakdown also includes the total ari mutuel betting tax:

Licence Fees and Fines

(January to December 1980)

	$
)ccupational (129 @ $1)	129.00
)wners (1,625 @ $5)	8,125.00
rainers (250 @ $5)	1,250.00
robationary trainers (54 @ $5)	270.00
ockeys (46 @ $15)	690.00
\pprentice jockeys (20 @ $5)	100.00
ockey agents (18 @ $5)	90.00
ockey valets (12 @ $1)	12.00
/eterinarians (9 @ $15)	135.00
3lacksmiths (27 @ $5)	135.00
radesmen (9 @ $15)	135.00
table names (236 @ $10)	2,360.00
artnerships (478 @ $1 per horse)	478.00
\uthorized agents (543 @ $2)	1,086.00
olours ($1 for annual; $5 for life)	848.00
ompany registration (12 @ $25)	300.00
eissue of lost licences	141.00
icence fees from interior race meets	294.00
icence fees from Sandown Park	194.00
icence fees from Cloverdale	1,083.00
icence fees from Sandown Park (harness)	1,026.00
TOTAL	18,881.00
ines	25,170.00
TOTAL	44,051.00
½ per cent social services tax collected by Commission on bills of sale at Exhibition Park, Sandown Park (thoroughbred) and interior circuit	8,024.00
½ per cent social services tax on horses claimed at Exhibition Park and Sandown Park (thoroughbred)	98,318.00
½ per cent social services tax on horses claimed at Cloverdale Raceway and Sandown Park (harness)	35,071.00
ari mutuel betting tax	6,457,823.00
TOTAL	6,643,287.00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BRITISH COLUMBIA RACING COMMISSION

R. BRUCE HARVEY, *Chairman*

DESMOND KIMMITT, *Commissioner*

JACK SHORT, *Commissioner*

ROBERT E. COLLIS, *Commissioner-Secretary*

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