
**Full Commission Meeting
Monday, July 19, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Creekside Community Center – Minnesota Valley Room
9801 Penn Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431**

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Approval of Minutes

Old Business

- 5) Tabled Item: Running Aces Request to Amend Plan of Operations (Laid on Table at June 21, 2021 Minnesota Racing Commission Meeting)

New Business – Action Items

- 6) Approval of Track Superintendent for Canterbury Park
- 7) Authorizing Resolution to Proceed with Rulemaking and Publish Request for Comments:
 - a. Pari-mutuel Wagering
 - b. Class C Licenses
 - c. Horse Races
 - d. Prohibited Acts

New Business – Informational Items

- 8) Status Reports
 - a. Canterbury Park Entertainment
 - b. Running Aces Casino, Hotel, and Racetrack
- 9) Staff Reports
 - a. Chief Commission Veterinarian's Report
 - i. Canterbury Park
 - ii. Running Aces
 - b. Chief State Steward's Report
 - c. Presiding Judge's Report
- 10) Deputy Director's Report
- 11) Executive Director's Report
 - a. COVID-19 Update
 - b. Licensing Report
 - c. Legislative Update
 - d. Rulemaking Update
 - e. Other
- 12) MQHRA/MTA/MHRI/MNHBPA Reports
- 13) Future Meetings
 - a. August 16, 2021 – Full Commission Meeting – Location to be determined
- 14) Adjourn

MINNESOTA RACING COMMISSION

**Full Commission Teleconference Meeting
Monday June 21, 2021, 4:00 p.m. CDT**

MINUTES

Call to Order: Chair Lane called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present – Commissioners Colombo, Dehn, Erhart, Gingold, Goodman, Johnson, Lane, and McArdle.

Adoption of Agenda: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with an addition of agenda item 6B to appoint an additional State Steward. Second by Commissioner Erhart. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner McArdle made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021 Commission Meeting. Second by Commissioner Dehn. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee Meeting – Commissioner Gingold gave an overview of the Finance Committee Meeting that took place on June 15, 2021. He said topics of discussion included a request from Running Aces Casino, Hotel, and Racetrack to Amend Plan of Operations, a budget update from Deputy Director Robert Schiewe, a report from Executive Director Steve May on a potential state-wide government shutdown and Commission preparedness, and a report on employee retirement.

Action Items:

Running Aces Casino, Hotel, and Racetrack Request to Amend Plan of Operations – Commissioner Gingold Reported on Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack’s request to amend their plan of operations to increase the number of dealer-assist player stations from 11 stations to 30 stations. The Finance Committee first received this request at a previous committee meeting on March 15, 2021. The Committee, and subsequently the Commission, requested that the Commission staff perform a detailed review of the approval history of the dealer assisted card games in the request, along with a review of the applicable statutes for the approval and amendment of a Plan of Operation at one of Minnesota’s pari-mutuel racetracks. As a result of that request, Mr. May provided a memorandum to the Committee for review. Taro Ito explained this request further to the Commission and answered questions from each member. Commissioner Dehn motioned to table the request until the July 2021 Commission Meeting. Motion Carried by roll call vote - Commissioner Colombo: aye, Dehn: aye, Erhart: no, Gingold: no, Goodman: aye, Idelkope: not present, Johnson: no, Lane: aye, and McArdle: aye. Motion carried.

With staff recommendation, Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve appointment of David Hooper as an additional State Racing Steward. Second by Commissioner Colombo. Motion carried.

General Counsel E. Joseph Newton gave a review of Open Meeting Laws and Data Retention Policies to the Commission. He highlighted various protocol from the Commissioner’s Open Meeting Law Handbook, which was provided to Commission members prior to this meeting. He also briefly explained proper data practices and he and Mr. May said they could address any questions.

Status Reports:

Running Aces Casino, Hotel, and Racetrack - Taro Ito updated the Commission on the racing at Running Aces. He said the excessive heat has been difficult to deal with. He also said the new food truck area of the track has opened and has shown success. Mr. Ito said that business in the card casino has picked up and he hopes to continue to hire on more employees as capacity restrictions continues to lift.

Canterbury Park - Andrew Offerman reported that Canterbury Park's 2021 season is "off to a solid start." He said finding staff to hire has been difficult, but that they are adapting their recruiting strategies to help. He said that he is proud of where racing numbers are at this season and noted that field sizes have been slightly low. He also said that Canterbury's "biggest day of stakes racing," Northern Stars Racing Festival, will take place on June 23, 2021 and it will be broadcasted on Fox Sports 2. Mr. Offerman also updated the Commission on road construction around the property. He finally noted that the Canterbury Minnesota Fund acted upon \$28,312 in contributions to retired racehorse initiatives in Minnesota.

Staff Reports:

Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Lynn Hovda, DVM, reported that the total number of medication violations so far this year is very low, and she recognized the judges and stewards for the effectiveness of their preseason "meet and greet" meetings with our licensed trainers. Dr. Hovda reported that the level of testing is similar to last year, and that we continue to see some elevated TCO₂ concentrations in need of attention. The veterinary staff will be doing AQHA hair testing for challenge series. Dr. Hovda reported that the Veterinary staff has voided 3 claims due to the claimed horses being unsound in the Test Barn and that the voided claim rule is working, and she complimented the race secretaries at both tracks for competitive programs consistent with our horse populations. Dr. Hovda reported on her staff's efforts to ensure the safety of the horses racing in extreme heat.

Chief Racing Steward, Mr. Randy Blaseg, invited the members of the Commission to call him with any questions. He reported an increase in claiming at Canterbury Park, with a record number 78 horses claimed during the race meet. Mr. Blaseg further reported, in response to a question from Commissioner Dehn, that of the 78 horses claimed, 64 received multiple claims, which required the Board of Stewards to conduct a random shake to determine the claimant. Mr. Blaseg complimented the race office at Canterbury Park for conducting good, competitive races and complimented the Veterinary Staff for their excellent operation of the Test Barn.

Presiding Harness Racing Judge, Mr. Robert Corey, referenced the written report that the Board of Judges had submitted prior to the meeting. Mr. Corey further reported that he is pleased with the quality of racing this year despite a shortage of horses at Running Aces, and he complimented the director of racing, Steve Carpenito, for carding good races given this shortage of horses. Mr. Corey reported that the drivers have behaved well on the racetrack, and he highlighted Assoc. Judges, Mr. Mike Hall's and Mr. Peter Hanley's, experience and contributions.

Deputy Director's Report: Mr. Schiewe reported that ADW Handle increased from \$6.5 Million in April 2021 to just over \$9.0 Million in May 2021. Mr. Schiewe reported that ADW and the overall handle at Canterbury Park continues to be strong, and he provided an update as to the ADW Regulatory Fees collected and used by the Racing Commission to offset MRC regulation of live horse racing.

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. May reported that COVID-19 safety procedures continue to be relaxed per guidance from the State of Minnesota. Mr. May reported that Rebecca Roush, Licensing Clerk Communications, has resigned. Mr. May reported on licensing, on licensing fees and fines collected, and on rulings, which he reported

to be on par with past years. Mr. May provided an update regarding rulemaking and advised that we are hoping for new rules to be in place on July 4th or July 11th. Mr. May reported on a possible state-wide government shutdown tentatively set to begin on July 1, 2021 if Minnesota state legislature does not pass a biennial budget plan. Mr. May provided a memorandum that highlights preparedness of Commission staff. He said that both SMART and Minnesota Management and Budget has worked with Commission staff to prepare. The MRC has been evaluating the statutory requirements if there is a government shutdown. Mr. May reported that HISA has named an interim executive director who has the monumental task of implementing new federal oversight by July 2022.

Industry Updates: Kay King of MTA referenced their newsletter for a detailed update, and she invited members of the commission to save the date of Sunday, Aug. 1st at 10 AM for the MTA Awards brunch in the Triple Crown Suite at Canterbury Park. Cathy Dessert of MHRI thanked Chairman Lane and Commissioners Colombo and Dehn for their service as their current terms will soon end. Cathy also thanked Rebecca Roush for her service and support. Cathy announced that MHRI will host standardbreds at the Minnesota State Fair and reported on MHRI efforts to market harness racing. Mike Cronin of MNHBPA recognized and thanked Canterbury Park management for working in the face of much adversity to make this year and last a great success from a racing standpoint. Mike further reported that the increased claiming has produced more fee income to support benevolent programs. The Furlong Learning program has 12+ students and Abijah's Hope is provided equine assisted therapy to backstretch workers.

Announce Future Meetings: The next Full Commission Meeting will take place Monday, July 19, 2021, 4:00 p.m. CDT at a location that is to be determined.

Adjournment: Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

ADOPTED THIS DAY OF _____, 2021 BY A QUORUM OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE MINNESOTA RACING COMMISSION.

MRC Executive Staff

Minnesota Racing Commission

Date: July 8th, 2021

Subject: Withdrawal of the request to update Dealer Assisted Games-V1.2 letter

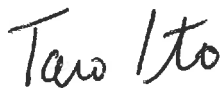
Dear MRC Executive Staff:

Running Aces respectfully requests that the agenda item regarding our Standard Operating Procedures related to Dealer Assist player stations be withdrawn from the July 19th, 2021, Commission hearing.

We would like additional time to consider a number of options and possible language updates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Taro Ito

President & CEO

Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack

Memorandum

To: Minnesota Racing Commission Members

From: Steve May, Executive Director, Minnesota Racing Commission

Date: July 12, 2021

RE: Request from Canterbury Park to Approve George Moncreif as Track Superintendent

On June 21, 2021, the Minnesota Racing Commission (“Commission”) received a letter from Andrew Offerman, Vice President of Racing Operations at Canterbury Park, requesting emergency approval of George Moncreif as the Track Superintendent for the remainder of the 2021 live racing season.

Minnesota Rule 7877.0145, Subpart 1 states:

If a racing official approved by the commission becomes incapacitated or is unable to perform his or her duties, the stewards may approve an emergency license. The approval shall be based on the standards in part 7877.0175 and must be reported to the commission for consideration at the next commission meeting. If the emergency licensee has not previously been considered by the commission, the association shall be responsible for immediately submitting a completed license application and personal resume to the commission.

While Minnesota Rule 7877.0175 does not have any approval standards directly associated with a racetrack superintendent, the stewards did approve Mr. Moncreif via letter from Chief State Steward Randy Blaseg on July 11, 2021 based on Mr. Moncreif’s history as a racetrack superintendent both at Canterbury Park and elsewhere.

Pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7877.0145, Subpart 1, this approval is being reported to the Commission for consideration. Commission staff recommends approval of this request from Canterbury Park



June 21, 2021

Minnesota Racing Commission
Attn: Randy Blasig, Chief Steward
1100 Canterbury Road
Shakopee, MN 55379

Dear Mr. Blasig,

Canterbury Park respectfully submits the following request to cover our staffing needs and to ensure a safe racetrack as a result of extenuating circumstances.

Under Minn. R. 7877.0145, Canterbury Park requests the approval of George Moncrief to serve as Canterbury Park's Track Superintendent during the remainder of the 2021 meet or until further notice. George previously served as the Track Superintendent at Canterbury Park in 2015 and 2016 and presently was serving as Canterbury Park's Assistant Track Superintendent.

Please let me know should you require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Offerman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew Offerman
Vice President of Racing Operations
Canterbury Park

CANTERBURY PARK LOCATION
1100 CANTERBURY ROAD, STE. 100
SHAKOPEE, MN 55379
TELEPHONE: 952-496-7950
FAX: 952-496-7954
WWW.MRC.STATE.MN.US



RUNNING ACES CASINO. RACETRACK.
HOTEL LOCATION
15201 ZURICH STREET NE, STE. 212
COLUMBUS, MN 55025-7908
TELEPHONE: 651-925-3951
FAX: 651-925-3953
WWW.MRC.STATE.MN.US

July 11, 2021

Canterbury Park
Attn: Andrew Offerman, Vice President of Racing Operations
1100 Canterbury Park Road
Shakopee, MN 55379

Dear Mr. Offerman,

I, Randy Blaseg, am satisfied with approval of George Moncrief to serve as Canterbury Park's Track Superintendent during the remainder of the 2021 meet, or until further notice.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Blaseg', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Randy Blaseg
Chief Steward
Minnesota Racing Commission



Canterbury Park - June 2021 Minnesota Racing Commission Status Report

Summary of Canterbury Park Card Casino Operations

Business Segment	2021		2020		2019		% Comparison				
	June	Year-to-Date	June	Year-to-Date	June	Year-to-Date	June 2020	2020 Year-to-Date	June 2019	2019 Year-to-Date	Segment
Table Games	\$2,618,606	\$12,927,768	\$795,194	\$6,215,135	\$2,102,711	\$12,089,806	229.30%	108.00%	24.53%	6.93%	Table Games
Poker	\$748,709	\$3,827,997	\$0	\$2,141,232	\$719,050	\$4,701,162	100.00%	78.78%	4.12%	-18.57%	Poker
Total Card Casino Revenue	\$3,367,315	\$16,755,765	\$795,194	\$8,356,367	\$2,821,761	\$16,790,968	323.46%	100.51%	19.33%	-0.21%	Total CC

Summary of Canterbury Park Player Pool

CPE Minimum Player Pool Balance	Jackpot Balances	\$496,943	25% MVP Balance	\$59,287	.25% Trailing TG Revenue	\$132,909	
				CPE Minimum Player Pool Balance 6/30/21			\$689,138
CPE Maximum Player Pool Balance	Jackpot Balances	\$496,943				6% Trailing TG Revenue	\$1,422,885
				CPE Maximum Player Pool Balance 6/30/21			\$1,919,828
CPE Actual Player Pool Balance				CPE Actual Player Pool Balance as of 6/30/21			\$1,011,999

Summary of Canterbury Park Pari-Mutuel Operations

Business Segment	2021		2020		2019		% Comparison				
	June	Year-to-Date	June	Year-to-Date	June	Year-to-Date	June 2020	2020 Year-to-Date	June 2019	2019 Year-to-Date	Segment
Live Handle	\$2,047,356	\$2,929,355	\$635,022	\$635,022	\$2,715,889	\$4,462,570	222.41%	361.30%	-24.62%	-34.36%	Live Handle
Simulcast Handle	\$1,666,399	\$10,296,399	\$1,096,575	\$6,017,716	\$2,496,312	\$14,106,646	51.96%	71.10%	-33.25%	-27.01%	Simulcast
Total On-Track PM Handle	\$3,713,755	\$13,225,754	\$1,731,597	\$6,652,738	\$5,212,201	\$18,569,216	114.47%	98.80%	-28.75%	-28.78%	Total On-Track
Out-of-State Handle	\$21,216,866	\$33,026,481	\$13,390,936	\$13,390,936	\$6,920,343	\$10,547,553	58.44%	146.63%	206.59%	213.12%	Out-of-State

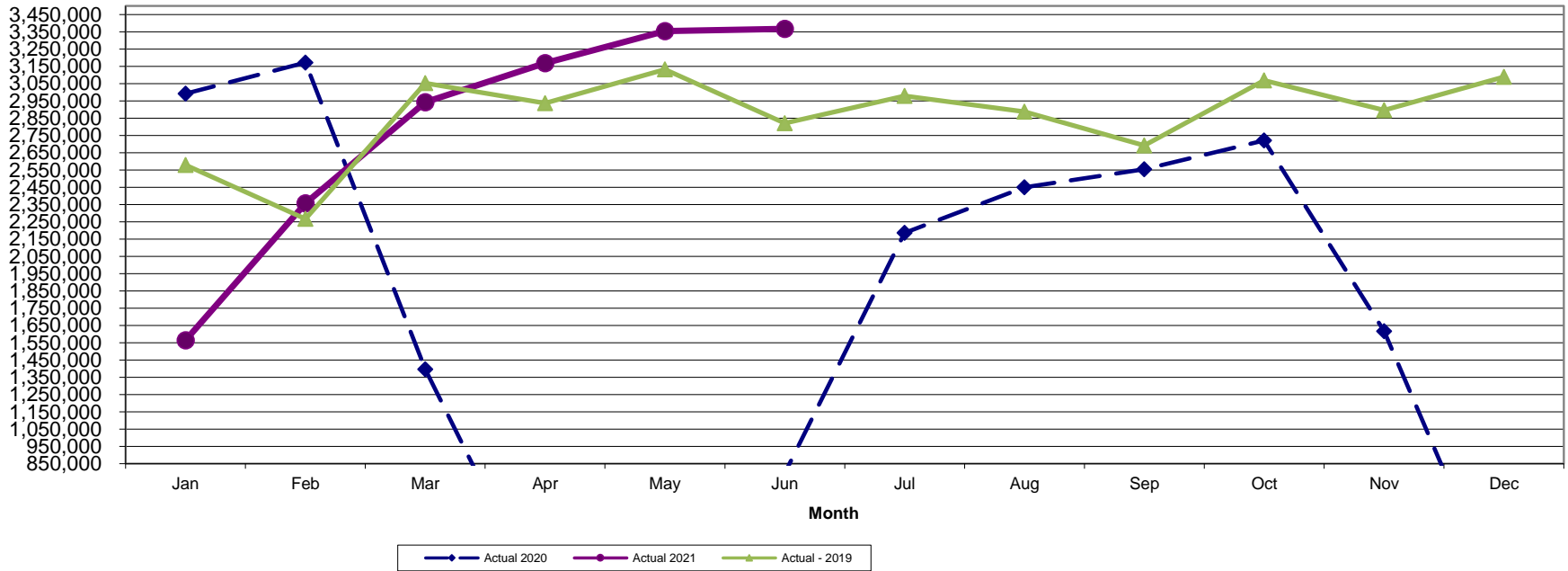
Summary of Canterbury Park & SMSC Purse Accounts

Beginning CPE TB Purse Balance			6/1/2021	\$3,761,290.07	Beginning CPE QH Purse Balance			6/1/2021	\$467,703.90
Live Racing Purse Earnings				\$162,875.76	Live Racing Purse Earnings				\$9,102.15
CPE Simulcast Purse Earnings (85% During Mixed Meet)				\$68,129.58	CPE Simulcast Purse Earnings (15% During Mixed Meet)				\$12,022.87
Running Aces Simulcast Purse Earnings				\$21,643.21	Running Aces Simulcast Purse Earnings				\$664.71
Card Casino Purse Earnings (91%)				\$386,096.27	Card Casino Purse Earnings (9%)				\$38,185.34
Out-of-State Host Fee Purse Earnings				\$311,805.68	Out-of-State Host Fee Purse Earnings				\$14,434.36
ADW Purse Earnings from Prior Month (67% of 82%)				\$49,639.17	ADW Purse Earnings from Prior Month (50% of 18%)				\$8,131.64
Interest Earned (Service Charges)				\$177.47	Interest Earned (Service Charges)				\$0.00
(Minnesota HBPA Admin Fees Paid)				(\$35,000.00)	(MN Quarter Horse Racing Association Admin Fees Paid)				\$0.00
(Thoroughbred Purse Transfers)				(\$2,060,390.00)	(Quarter Horse Purse Transfers)				(\$89,736.00)
Ending CPE TB Purse Balance			6/30/2021	\$2,666,267.21	Ending CPE QH Purse Balance			6/30/2021	\$460,508.98
Ending CPE TB Purse Balance			6/30/2020	\$1,445,989.90	Ending CPE QH Purse Balance			6/30/2020	\$182,346.71
Ending CPE TB Purse Balance			6/30/2019	\$1,432,330.97	Ending CPE QH Purse Balance			6/30/2019	\$254,167.82
CPE TB Purse Balance Difference 2021 vs 2020				\$1,220,277.31	CPE QH Purse Balance Difference 2021 vs 2020				\$278,162.28
CPE TB Purse Balance Difference 2021 vs 2019				\$1,233,936.24	CPE QH Purse Balance Difference 2021 vs 2019				\$206,341.17
Beginning SMSC TB Purse Balance			6/1/2021	\$3,317,287.90	Beginning SMSC QH Purse Balance			6/1/2021	\$410,001.87
SMSC Contributions & Interest Earnings (89%)				\$890,230.20	SMSC Contributions & Interest Earnings (11%)				\$110,028.45
SMSC Thoroughbred Purse Paid				(\$1,733,630.00)	SMSC Quarter Horse Purse Paid				(\$207,804.00)
Marketing Fund Transfers (89%)				(\$576,720.00)	Marketing Fund Transfers (11%)				(\$71,280.00)
Ending SMSC TB Purse Balance			6/30/2021	\$1,897,168.09	Ending SMSC QH Purse Balance			6/30/2021	\$240,946.33
Ending SMSC TB Purse Balance			6/30/2020	\$805,777.47	Ending SMSC QH Purse Balance			6/30/2020	\$120,807.84
Ending SMSC TB Purse Balance			6/30/2019	\$1,400,710.20	Ending SMSC QH Purse Balance			6/30/2019	\$290,025.30
SMSC TB Purse Balance Difference 2021 vs 2020				\$1,091,390.62	SMSC QH Purse Balance Difference 2021 vs 2020				\$120,138.48
SMSC TB Purse Balance Difference 2021 vs 2019				\$1,916,577.70	SMSC QH Purse Balance Difference 2021 vs 2019				(\$45,078.97)

CANTERBURY PARK - CPE
Card Casino Revenue - Trend

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>YTD Total</u>
Actual - 2019	2,579,696	2,266,974	3,053,294	2,936,958	3,132,286	2,821,761	2,979,571	2,888,090	2,692,274	3,069,283	2,896,583	3,089,426	<u>16,790,969</u>
Actual - 2020	2,992,752	3,172,174	1,396,246	-	-	795,194	2,186,413	2,450,255	2,554,940	2,721,436	1,616,452	-	<u>8,356,366</u>
Actual - 2021	1,564,348	2,356,728	2,943,218	3,168,717	3,354,992	3,367,315							<u>16,755,765</u>

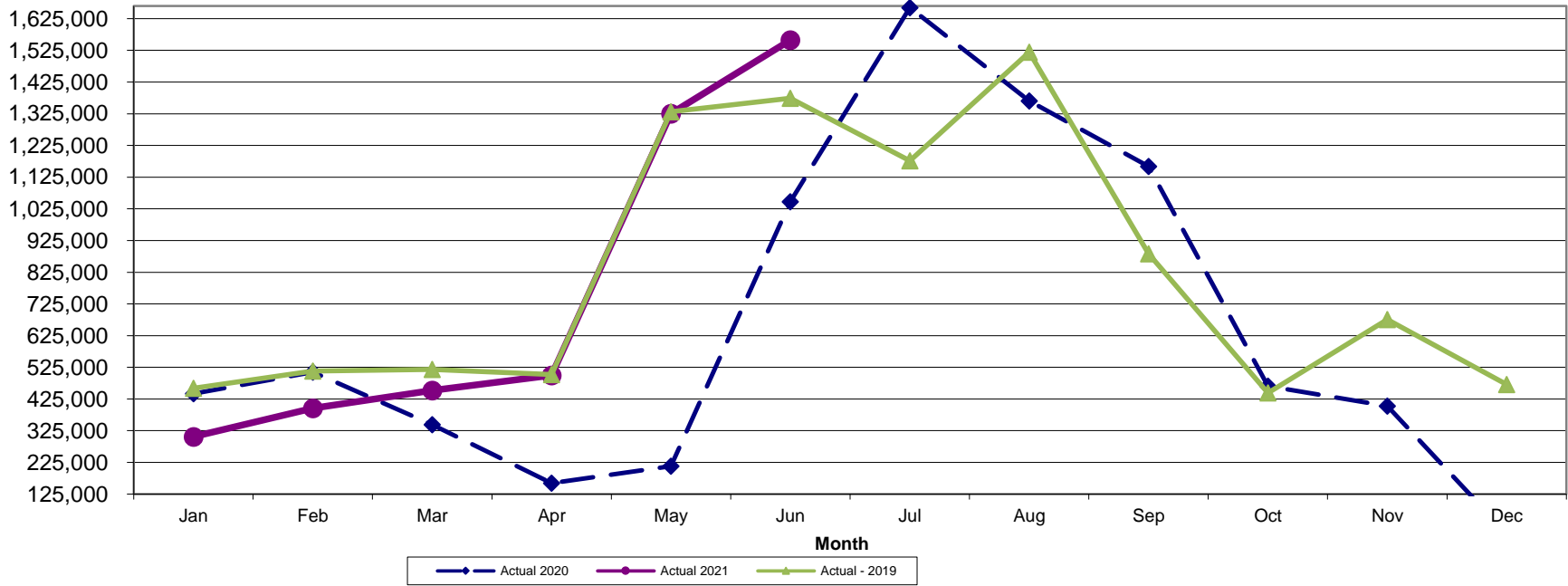
CARD CASINO REVENUES



CANTERBURY PARK - CPE
Pari-Mutuel Revenue - Trend

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>YTD Total</u>
Actual - 2019	459,020	513,260	518,529	502,265	1,331,695	1,374,116	1,176,584	1,519,150	883,107	444,188	675,662	470,868	<u>4,698,885</u>
Actual - 2020	441,696	509,949	344,381	159,865	213,522	1,047,197	1,660,012	1,365,475	1,159,045	466,131	402,863	-	<u>2,716,610</u>
Actual - 2021	306,119	395,952	451,773	499,703	1,325,622	1,557,251							<u>4,536,420</u>

PARI - MUTUEL REVENUES



Pages 11-14 have been
omitted under 2020
Minnesota Statutes
Chapter 13D.05

**Veterinarian's Report
Canterbury Park
July 9, 2021**

Medication Violations - 1 total

- Racing - 1
 - **Confirmed**
 - NSAIDS
 - CORTICOSTEROIDS
 - Dexamethasone
 - Betamethasone
 - Triamcinolone
 - Methylprednisolone
 - OTHER (1) - Medroxyprogesterone acetate
 - **Split sample or appeal - 0**
- Workout - 0
- Other - 0

DVM Violations - 0

Samples Submitted

- Post-race testing - 580 (through July 4, 2021)
 - Blood and Urine - 537
 - Blood only - 43
- Deceased Horses
 - Hair and blood - 5
 - Hair only - 2
- Out of Competition Testing - 0
- Research - 3
- Special (needles, syringes, bottles, etc.) - 0
- TCO2 - 230
- Workout – 43
- AQHA Challenge (hair) – 12 here; 6 elsewhere

Current Veterinarian's List

- **Total - 95 (55 from prior year; 40 from current year)**
 - Bled - 4
 - Ill - 11
 - Injured - 29
 - Non-Ill - 3
 - Unsound - 46
 - Medication Problem - 2

Horses Working for DVM

- **Total - 43**
 - Off greater than one year - 9
 - 4-Year-old and greater first-time starters - 14
 - On Vet's List (MN and other states) - 20
 - Cornell collar - 0

- Steward's List - 0
- Other - 0

Ambulance Use

- **Total - 19**
 - Backside - 2
 - Detention Barn - 3
 - Racetrack - 13
 - Main - 12
 - Turf - 1
 - Paddock - 0
 - Training Track - 1

Deceased Horses

- **Total - 7**
 - Racing - 3
 - Dirt Track - 3
 - Turf Track - 0
 - Starting Gate - 0
 - Paddock - 0
 - Training - 3
 - Illness/Other - 1

Claims (Total) - 127

Claims Voided Due to Veterinary Reasons - 2

**Veterinarian's Report
Running Aces Harness Park
July 8, 2021**

Medication Violations Reported by Industrial Laboratories

- **Racing**
 - NSAIDS - 0
 - CORTICOSTEROIDS - 0
 - OTHER - 2
 - Lidocaine
 - Clenbuterol
 - Out for split sample or appeal - 0

DVM Violations - 0

Testing

- **Post-race Testing** (through 7/6/21)
 - Blood Only - 124
 - Blood and Urine - 307
- **Workout Samples - 2**
- **Research Samples - 0**
- **Out of Competition Testing - 14** (hair)
- **TCO2 tests - 161**

Current Veterinarian's List - 46

- Bled - 0
- Ill - 19
- Injured - 15
- Non-Ill - 2
- Unsound - 8
- Medication Problem - 2

Horses Working for DVM

- Off > year - 0
- On Vet's List - 0
- Cornell collar - 0

Ambulance Use - 1

- Racetrack - 1

Deceased Horses - 0

Claimed Horses

- Number of claims - 14
- Voided claims - 1

Board of Stewards Monthly Report Through July 12, 2021

If you were to compare last year to this year, we've had 129 claims totaling one million two hundred and eight thousand dollars. Last year at this same time, there were 37 claims totaling three hundred and eighty-one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars. Bottom line is we've been very busy, daily.

We've had approximately twelve inquiries and six objections. This resulted in one disqualification where the rider received suspension, whereas during another incident there was no disqualification, but the rider received suspension. There have been 14 rulings, including one medication violation which resulted in a redistribution of the purse and a fine imposed on the trainer, as well as five riding crop violations

It is safe to say the turf course has been very popular with the trainers. We have had no complaints about the main track, nor have we seen any track bias. We have had a few quarter horse races which we believe to have gone excellently.

Randy Blaseg

Judges Report for June 2021 at Running Aces

The judges at Running Aces are pleased to report with twenty programs in the books everything is running quite smoothly thus far in the 2021 harness racing season at Running Aces. Despite a shortage of entries in the box, the racing has been very competitive with lots of action. Several races have had very close finishes resulting in numerous photo finishes.

The judges issued 11 rulings during the month of June, bringing the season total to 18. There were two whipping violations, each resulting in a one day driving suspension, and a fine. There was also one medication violation. The penalty was a \$300 fine. Over all the drivers have been doing a good job at following the rules of racing, and the cooperation from all horsemen participating at Running Aces has been outstanding.

The United States Trotting Association is the licensing and administrative body that oversees harness racing in the United States. Due to a shortage of qualified harness racing officials across the country, the USTA recently introduced the Racing Officials Internship Training Program. With the assistance of Steve May, the executive director of the Minnesota Racing Commission, Running Aces and the judges employed there were chosen to host the first participant. The program was formatted to give prospective clients exposure to all facets of being a harness racing official.

John Zawistowski, a driver, trainer with over forty years' experience in the business was selected to be the internship's first student. John was exposed to the daily duties of being a judge for the month of June, prior to becoming an associate judge at The Red Mile, a harness track located in Lexington Kentucky. Reviewing film, studying the rule books, proofing upcoming racing programs to ensure all horses were eligible to the races they were in, and clearing the drivers' board were some Johns' daily tasks. The program allowed John to assist the racing secretary with the draw of the racing programs, observe the duties of the paddock judge and horse identifier in the paddock during the races, and converse with the State of Minnesota's veterinary staff covering their duties as well.

John spent race nights in the judges stand watching the races for driving infractions, reviewing the racing charts for accuracy, and discussing the decisions made by the judges. He also spent time learning how the photo finish camera works, in addition to seeing how the charter goes about properly charting what happens during a race. Steve May followed up with an overview of what goes on in the State of Minnesota licensing department, as well as the activity in the mutuel room during the races. At Running Aces John received a very thorough crash course in what it entails to be a harness racing official.

T.C. Lane, the director of officials at the USTA, was very pleased with how the program was presented and considered it a huge success. It's more than likely the Minnesota Racing Commission and Running Aces will be asked to partner up in the worthwhile endeavor again in the future.

Here are the stats for June (and season totals)

Avg. Horses in the Box 70 (65)

Avg. Races per Card 8.8 (8.5)

Avg. Starters per Race 6.8 (6.8)

Avg. Handle on Track \$12,434 (\$11,837)

Avg. Total Handle \$163,304 (\$159,501)

Total Handle for the Meet \$3,190,030

Minnesota Racing Commission

June 2021 Licensing Report

Class C Applications Processed @ Canterbury Park: **613**

Class C Applications Processed @ Running Aces: **164**

Class C Large Gaming/Racing Vendors: **0**

Class C Small Gaming/Racing Vendors: **0**

Class C Non-Gaming/Racing Vendors: **5**

Class C Licensing Fees for June: **\$23,955**

Fingerprint Fees for June: **\$5,300**

(Fingerprint fees are forwarded to Public Safety for processing reports)

Fines Collect during FY21: **\$36,375**