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pari-mutuel, *n.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /,parɪ'mju:tʃuəl/ , /,parɪ'mju:tʃ(ə)/ , /,parɪ

'mju:tʃuəl/ , /,parɪ'mju:tʃəl/ , U.S. /,pɛrə'mjutʃə(wə)l/

Inflections: Plural *paris-mutuels*.

Forms: 18 **pari-mutual**, 18– **pari-mutuel**.

Etymology: < French *pari mutuel*, lit. 'mutual stake or wager' (dated 1872 in Robert ...

1. Horse Racing. A form of betting in which those backing the first three horses divide the total of the losers' stakes (less the operator's commission). Also in extended use (in other sports) and *fig.* Freq. *attrib.*

The earliest system of pari-mutuel betting was set up and managed by the French government.

- 1881 *Standard* 7 Sept. 5/2 That the accounts of their horseracing should sometimes puzzle English readers by the mention of 'pools' and 'Paris mutuals' is possible.
- 1891 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 511/1 For this rough horde of human beings the only interest that the races offered was the betting..by means of the mutual pool or *pari mutuel* system.
- 1894 *Daily News* 13 Oct. 5/3 The Minister of the Interior has prohibited throughout France the opening of pari mutuel offices at cycle races.
- 1931 E. WAUGH *Remote People* 12 There had been a horse-race..with a pari-mutuel.
- 1955 'S. RANSOME' *Deadly Bedfellows* xiii. 123 The legislature..will choose to legalise *pari-mutuel* horse-racing.
- 1971 L. KOPPETT *N.Y. Times Guide Spectator Sports* x. 172 Pari-mutuel betting refers to a system in which all the participating bettors are betting against each other.
- 1995 *Esquire* Oct. 64/2 Jackson and Perot have become locked as well, much like a field entry at a pari-mutuel track.

2. A booth for placing bets under such a system; (also) the machine which issues tickets recording such bets.

- 1892 *Scribner's Mag.* Nov. 583/2 No totalizators or Paris Mutuels are allowed in the grounds.
- 1913 'F. SUMMERVILLE' *Spirit of Paris* v. 38 But there is a great keenness on the animals too, and men and women bet at the *pari-mutuel* with much earnestness.
- 1934 'A. BRIDGE' *Ginger Griffin* xvi. 200 They strolled towards the *pari-mutuel* windows, which

extended in a long row between the paddock and the grand-stand.

1983 D. FRANCIS *Danger* xvii. 236 Dollars flooding..into the Pari-mutuel and losing tickets filling the trash cans.

Oxford University Press

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