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pari-mutuel, n.

Pronunciation: Brit. /ˌparɪˈmjuːtʃʊəl/, /ˌparɪˈmjuːtʃ(ə)l/, /ˌparɪˈmjuːtʃʊəl/, /ˌparɪˈmjuːtʃ(ə)lw/.
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.