

Where is everyone?



Okanagan Track Racing Association and Tillicum Raceway officials spent countless hours last winter working on ideas which would ensure local races would be more entertaining for spectators this year.

As a result of their hard work, there are a large number of super stocks on hand each week, always at least 12 hobby stocks, and a growing number of mini-stocks.

The only thing that hasn't improved this year is the crowds.

In the three local races to date, including last Sunday's Lions Charity Race, the grandstand has been unusually empty. June 1, a new record was set for the smallest crowd in track history.

While some people, including yours truly, feel the uncertain economy is playing an important role in this problem, Track Manager Sandy Boyd cites two other things as the main reasons.

Boyd feels that bad weather on every racing day so far has kept the people away. Last Sunday, it didn't rain, but clouds threatened all day.

The other reason Boyd feels is hurting attendance is past-performances. During past years, particularly in 1974, the local shows often lacked both excitement and cars. However, this year, that problem has been rectified.

Boyd said, "The local races this year have provided some of the most exciting races we've ever had at Tillicum. Hopefully, when we switch to Saturday nights this week, it will help the crowds."

Time trials Saturday are at 7 p.m. with racing at 8 p.m.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

During the past two weeks, the directors of the Vernon Vikings have been meeting and trying to decide how to run their junior A hockey club during the 1975-76 season.

Although actual figures have not been released, last year's budget was a record high of about \$90,000. Some directors feel a club, in a city this size, simply cannot operate with a budget approaching \$100,000.

They are looking at where they can cut costs and increase revenue, so the team does not suffer through another financially disastrous year.

One way to cut costs would be to use more local players on the Vikings. By using more local boys, and not paying them the standard living allowance, the club could save a considerable amount of money.

With training camp only three months away, and a lot of work to be done between now and then, it is hoped that the executive can reach some decisions this week.