

Upstate New York



James J. Moran

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Jim Moran's 48 year career started at Vernon Downs back in 1962 when his first job was Clerk of Course. He soon became the assistant race secretary and began calling races part time. His career took off swiftly and he was named full time race caller in 1964. Moran soon took over as Director of Publicity and Public Relations and also coordinated the track's marketing activities.

During his Vernon career, Jim has called over 59,000 races. When you take into consideration the races he has called at other tracks, fairs, and qualifiers, that number escalates to more than 60,000 races in his announcing career.

His longevity has provided him the chance to call champions from several generations including the likes of Bret Hanover, Nevele Pride, Albatross, Niatross, and Deweycheatumhowe! He was also privileged to make the call when Vernon native Brian Sears steered My Little Dragon and broke the track record, pacing the first ever sub-1.50 mile in the long and storied history of Vernon Downs.

When Tom Durkin was moving from the Meadowlands to NYRA in the late 1980's, they were looking for a replacement for him. The Meadowlands called Moran's boss at Vernon to ask permission to speak with Jim about the job. Vernon's response was that he was under contract to them and they would rather not give him permission to speak with them about the position in New Jersey.