



# Horse Racing Tour Commentary

## Season 2016/2017

Special Thanks: The Hong Kong Jockey Club for invaluable support

*The information is for general reference only. Reproduction, copying or transmission in any form or means without prior written consent of Hong Kong Tourism Board is strictly prohibited. The Hong Kong Tourism Board disclaims any liability for the quality or fitness for the purpose of third party products or services, or for any errors or omissions. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this commentary, the Hong Kong Tourism Board accept no responsibility, for any obsolescence errors or omissions contained herein.*

## QUICK GUIDE

Hong Kong, the Equine Capital, is home to world-class horse racing and top-tier equestrian events. It hosted the equestrian competitions of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Not only does the city have first-rate equine-related venues and facilities, but it also has the necessary “software,” professionals who know and love horses.

### **RACING**

#### ***The Figures***

- The horse racing turnover was HK\$106.14 billion for 2015/2016 racing season.
- The attendance for 2015/2016 racing season was over 2 million.
- Betting duty from racing paid to Government for 2015/2016 season was approx HK\$12.13 billion.
- The Hong Kong Jockey Club is one of the largest employers in Hong Kong, with over 6,400 full-time and 15,000 part-time staff

#### ***2016/17 Racing Season Highlights***

*Racing season* - from 3 September 2016 to 16 July 2017, a total of 88 race meetings (46 day meetings and 42 night meetings).

#### ***Group One Race Meeting Days for the 2016/17 Season***

1. Longines Hong Kong International Races (Int'l G1)*	11 December 2016
2. Hong Kong Classic Mile	22 January 2017
3. Stewards' Cup (Int'l G1)*	30 January 2017
4. Centenary Sprint Cup	30 January 2017
5. Hong Kong Classic Cup	19 February 2017
6. Citibank Hong Kong Gold Cup (Int'l G1)*	26 February 2017
7. Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup (Int'l G1)*	26 February 2017
8. BMW Hong Kong Derby	19 March 2017
9. Audemars Piguet QE II Cup (Int'l G1)*	30 April 2017
10. Chairman's Sprint Prize (Int'l G1)*	7 May 2017
11. Champions Mile – (Int'l G1)*	7 May 2017
12. Standard Chartered Champions & Chater Cup (Int'l G1)*	28 May 2017

### ***Group One Race***

Longines Hong Kong International Races 2016 is comprised of four international Group 1 events over different distances: Longines Hong Kong Cup (2000m, prize money HK\$25 million), Longines Hong Kong Vase (2400m, prize money HK\$16.5 million) Longines Hong Kong Mile (1600m, prize money HK\$23 million) and Longines Hong Kong Sprint (1200m, prize money HK\$18.5 million).

The 2017 Audemars Piguet QEII Cup is a 2000-metre event [run in April] worth HK\$20 million in prize money.

### ***MAKING OLYMPIC HISTORY***

The Hong Kong Jockey Club established several Olympic records in providing the equestrian venues and facilities for the 2008 Games, including:

- First-ever Post-Arrival Elective Testing offered to Olympic equestrian teams
- First-ever on-site testing laboratory for Olympic equine samples
- Fastest ever turnaround promised for Olympic equine samples
- First-ever recycling of 100% of Olympic stable waste
- First-ever air-conditioned indoor training arena in Olympic history
- Fastest ever creation of Olympic equestrian facilities (under two years)
- First-ever mobile cooling units for horses
- First-ever “six-star” accommodation for horses

In recognition of its achievements, the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) designated the Club “Outstanding Contributor, Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Equestrian Events.”

## *Come Horseracing Tour Commentary*

### *HORSERACING IN HONG KONG*

Horseracing in Hong Kong almost immediately appeared after Hong Kong Island was ceded to Britain in 1842. However, official racing only began in 1884 with the establishment of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. All races between 1842 and 1884 were more or less private and only occurred once a year, usually at Chinese New Year.

The site of the present Happy Valley racecourse was originally a swamp where, because it was the only flat land on the island, the first settlers lived. However, malaria and other diseases soon forced them to move out. In the mid 1840s, the marshland was drained and the residents set up a racecourse in the area they called "Happy Valley". The original racecourse offered only bamboo grandstands which were burned down in the tragic fire on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1918 when the charcoal fires of hawkers caught on to the bamboo structures, more than 600 people died. Stands were replaced by temporary shelters.

The arrival of thousands of immigrants in Hong Kong in 1940's rapidly boosted the Happy Valley turnover to HK\$3 million every Saturday. The sudden rise in population, however, presented the Hong Kong Government with the dilemma of having to provide facilities for over a million permanent residents, many of whom were living in makeshift huts. One way of solving the difficulty was to raise the betting tax. British morality, however, would not allow it. Luckily the Chairman of the Jockey Club's board of Stewards, Sir Arthur Morse, understood the difficulty and proposed to the grateful Governor that the Jockey Club would henceforth voluntarily donate one third of its earnings to civic and social undertakings. Since then, the Jockey Club has become one of the largest charity institutions in existence. In recognition of its contributions to Hong Kong society, the Club was granted a Royal prefix in 1960. However, the Club has been renamed THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB in July 1996 due to the return of the sovereignty to China on 1 July 1997.

The next date of major importance in the history of the Club was 1971 when, following the discovery that several horses had been doped, it was decided to make racing totally professional. This allowed the Club to have total control over this sport in Hong Kong, and also substantially raised the standard of racing here. First-class trainers were taken on top, jockeys, sponsored and local boys indentured as apprentices. It was not long before the world's best jockeys, such as Lester Piggott, began to make guest appearances here.

In 1978, the HKJC opened the second racecourse at Sha Tin in the New Territories on 250 acres of reclaimed land from the Hing Mun Channel

Night racing started in 1973, and in the same year the Government authorized the Club to set up off-course betting (OCB) centres to help combat illegal bookmaking. The following year a telephone betting service was started. Today, there are about 100 Off-course Betting Branches.

## **HORSE RACING IN HONG KONG (cont'd)**

The Jockey Club today has an information website featuring a databank of video racing replays which extends back for three seasons. The club also streams footage of all barrier trials, with full audio call support, and edited segments of trackwork, all in the name of providing maximum information for the punters.

Race meetings take place on most Sundays, most Wednesdays and some Saturdays between September and mid July. There are about 88 race meetings in each season.

Day meetings normally start around 1:00 pm, and night meetings around 7:15 pm.

Nearly every newspaper has at least a page devoted to horseracing during the entire racing season. There are many other publications which record the horses' past performances as well as track work.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club and TVB will offer plenty of horse racing programmes on its Channels in the coming 2016/2017 racing season. A variety of racing information will be provided in the exciting series of programmes.

Meanwhile, the English programmes of "Racing to Win" and "Trials from the Grass" will continue to provide useful analysis and reports on the TVB Pearl Channel for the English speaking racing fans.

## **BETTING**

### **Horse Race Betting in Hong Kong:**

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is renowned of its racing entertainment over the world. The Club is the only authorized legal operator of horse racing in Hong Kong.

In the 2015/16 season, over \$106.14 billion was generated from horse race betting in which over \$ 12.134 billion are estimated to be contributed as Horse Racing Betting Duty to the Government. The Club is actually the largest single taxpayer in Hong Kong.

### **Comprehensive Pools and Bet Type:**

The Club offers a comprehensive range of betting products for you to experience the betting entertainment. There are Pari-Mutuel Betting and Fixed Odds Betting for your choices.

**1) Pari-Mutuel Bet Types** - Dividend will be shared by the number of winning combinations of a particular pool. Winners will share the Net Pool in proportion to their winning stakes.

Single-race Bet Types are gateway for beginners to place simple bets to get a taste of our betting entertainment.

PARI-MUTUEL BET TYPES	TOTAL BET AMOUNT		
	< \$24	\$24 - < \$100	≥ \$100
	Minimum Unit Bet		
Win, Place, Quinella, Quinella Place, 3 Pick 1 (Composite Win), Winning Trainer (Composite Win), Winning Region (Composite Win), Double	\$10		
Trio, Tierce, First 4, Double Trio, Treble		\$10	\$1
Triple Trio, Six Up	\$10	\$10	\$2
Quartet		\$1	

Single-race Pool	Dividend Qualification
<b>Win</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> in a race
<b>Place</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> in a race, or 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> in a race of 4 to 6 declared starters
<b>Quinella</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> in any order in a race
<b>Quinella Place</b>	Any two of the first three placed horses in any order in a race
<b>3 Pick 1 (Composite Win) Winning Trainer (Composite Win) Winning Region (Composite Win)</b>	Composite containing the 1 <sup>st</sup> horse in a race
<b>Tierce</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> in correct order in a race
<b>Trio</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> in any order in a race
<b>First 4</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> in any order in a race
<b>Quartet</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> in correct order in a race

To increase the challenge, you may consider the [multi-race bet types](#).

<i>Multi-race</i>	<i>Winning Qualification</i>
<b>Bet Types</b>	
<b>Double</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> in each of the two nominated races  <b>Consolation</b> : 1 <sup>st</sup> in 1st nominated race and 2 <sup>nd</sup> in 2nd nominated race
<b>Treble</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> in each of the three nominated races  <b>Consolation</b> : 1 <sup>st</sup> in the first two Legs and 2 <sup>nd</sup> in 3rd Leg of the three nominated races

Experience surprises with attractive jackpots from the jackpot pools.

<i>Pools with Jackpot</i>	<i>Dividend Qualification</i>
<b>Double Trio</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> in any order in each of the two nominated races
<b>Triple Trio*</b> <i>*Quick Pick Tickets are available if you do not have any favourite horses in mind</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> in any order in each of the three nominated races  <b>Consolation</b> : 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> in any order in the first two Legs of the three nominated races
<b>Six Up</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> in each of the six nominated races  <b>Six Win Bonus</b> : 1 <sup>st</sup> in each of the six nominated races

**2) Fixed Odds Bet Type** – Dividend will be calculated based on the odds fixed at the time the bet is accepted and will not be affected by any subsequent changes in odds.

<i>Bet Type</i>	<i>Dividend Qualification</i>	<i>Unit Bet (HK\$)</i>
<b>Jockey Challenge</b>	Select correctly the jockey with the highest accumulated Jockey Challenge points in a race meeting.	<b>\$10 or its multiple</b>

*Extensive Selling Channels:*

The Club provides comprehensive & innovative betting channels for the ease of customers. Betting Account customers could obtain up-to-date racing information and place bet via website, telephone or other Interactive Services channels with greater flexibility and mobility.

As a tourist, to experience the excitement of live racing and betting in Hong Kong, you could enjoy the horse racing live at world-class Shatin and Happy Valley Racecourses on race days. Besides, there are over 100 Off-Course Betting Branches (OCBBs) in the city for tourists to drop by and obtain the

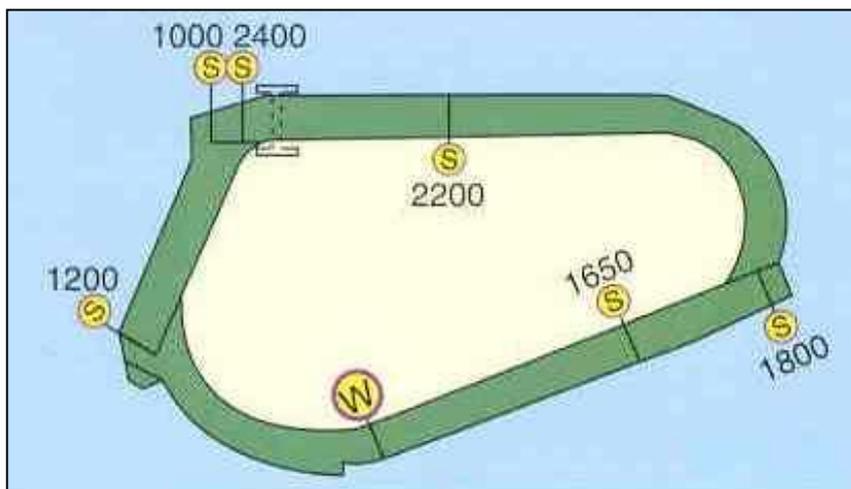
latest information for betting entertainment.

## THE RACECOURSES

### Happy Valley Racecourse

Happy Valley was the site of the original racecourse in Hong Kong. What you see there now is quite different from the original swampy fields and the bamboo stands of the last century.

Since 1930s, different stages of development and expansion has taken place to enlarge the viewing capacity and improve betting facilities. The most major upgrading was to close the racecourse for redevelopment from Nov 1994 and reopened in late 1995 to upgrade the track to an international grade one racecourse. This redevelopment provides all-turf racing on a much wider track, the new one is 30.5 metres wide, and with a smoothing out of Happy Valley's notoriously tight bends. **Its seating capacity was increased to over 47,000** and is fully equipped to host international races such as the International Jockeys' Championship.



#### *Facts on racing track*

##### **HAPPY VALLEY**

Width:	30.5 metres	Circumference:	1,417 metres
Total area:	5.4 hectares	Home straight:	310 metres

### Sha Tin Racecourse and Penfold Park

The magnificent racecourse in Sha Tin is the second horseracing track in Hong Kong (opened in 1978) and it stands on land reclaimed from Tolo Harbour. Sha Tin racecourse is one of the most up-to-date and well-equipped racecourses in the world.

In designing new facilities, even Fung Shui principle were applied: 8 water sprouts are placed in the lobby of one of the stands as eight in Cantonese sounds like the word meaning "to get rich". Transports have also been given a lot of thought, the train system runs to the course on race days and there are many good access roads.

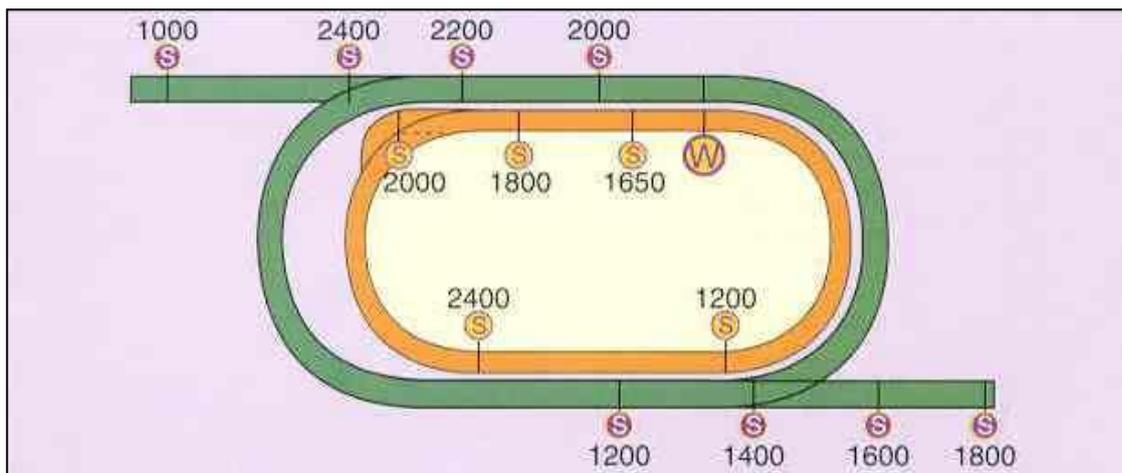
There are modern stables, which are air-conditioned and have closed-circuit television security, as well as piped-in music to help the horses relax. (They are said to prefer Mozart!) Inside the stable complex is a heated indoor swimming pool for exercising the horses, and beyond the stables lies another complex of buildings containing an administration centre and apartments for officials and trainers.

## Sha Tin Racecourse and Penfold Park (cont'd)

**Sha Tin racecourse can accommodate over 80,000 spectators on each race day.** Instead of a vast and empty lawn, the middle of the Sha Tin racecourse has been landscaped as Penfold Park, a tranquil site with flowerbeds, fountains and a goldfish-stocked lake dotted with lotus leaves and gliding swans. It is open to the public whenever race meetings are not being held.

Sha Tin racecourse is also the holder of a few World record:

- The world's longest diamond vision screen, with height at 8-metre and width at 70.4-metre, which provides first-class cinematic titillation. It is equal to the total area of 4,500 21-inches TV sets, or its width is equal to a Boeing 747 aircraft.
- The world's first ever retractable parade ring, commenced in November, 2004, making Sha Tin as the first racecourse in the world with a retractable paddock roof. The new parade ring has a total area of 13,000-metre square and seating capacity of 4,800 racing fans.



### *Facts on racing tracks*

#### **SHATIN RACECOURSE**

##### *The main Turf Track*

Width: 30.5 metres      Circumference: 1,899 metres  
Total area: 9.6 hectares      Home straight: 430 metres

*\*\* Further features for the turf track are a 1,000-metre chute; allowing for the running of a straight 1,000-metre race, an a 1,800-metre chute; an extension to the back straight*

##### *All Weather Tracks (total: 2 tracks)*

###### *Larger track (for training and racing)*

Width: 22.7 metres      Circumference: 1,558 metres

###### *Smaller track (for slow work training only)*

Width: 10.7 metres      Circumference: 1,429 metres

## Sha Tin Racecourse and the Olympics

In line with the Club's not-for-profit business model and its long track record of contributing to the community, The Hong Kong Jockey Club invested HK\$1.2 billion in providing the venues and facilities for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events as a way of both supporting the nation and realizing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share in the excitement and glory of china's first ever staging of the Olympic Games.

With the Club's vast experience in equine sports, the project was completed within two years, four years shorter than the traditional Olympic schedule. This was possible due to Hong Kong's "can do spirit" and the Club's innovative plan of combining racing and equestrian facilities for maximum cost and time effectiveness.

For the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Equestrian Events, the Sha Tin Racecourse was incorporated with the Hong Kong Sports Institute to become the Hong Kong Olympic Equestrian Venue (Sha Tin). It is the main venue for Dressage and Jumping competitions. Three training tracks were built at the Penfold Park: an 800 metre cross-country training course; a 1,200 metre bridle path and a turf gallop track.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Sha Tin Racecourse was part of another history in the making - Hong Kong was the first city in China that the Olympic flame has come to and the equestrian venue in Sha Tin is the first Olympic venue to welcome the Olympic flame. The highlight was when Hong Kong equestrian team member and Club-sponsored rider Kenneth Cheng created the magic moment of lighting the Torch Relay cauldron that forever etched on the memories of all those who witnessed this piece of Hong Kong history being played out on the turf of Sha Tin Racecourse.

To celebrate the 100-Day Countdown, the Club decorated the strip running behind the Sha Tin Racecourse Grandstand and call it the Equine Avenue where a series of cleverly designed triangular pillars depict an equestrian horse in motion. The special design of the 150-metre long Equine Avenue means that a moving vehicle – or indeed a running Torchbearer – will be able to see the horse in action as though it's jumping. And if you were to travel in the opposite direction, the flags depict a racehorse in full-flight, symbolising the coming together of the two sports, equestrian and racing and once again validating Hong Kong as The Equine Capital.

The Equine Avenue leads directly into the 350-metre Flag Boulevard. Sited behind the Racecourse Parade Ring, the Flag Boulevard features more than 200 flagpoles which flew specially-branded Olympic flags during Games time.

At the end of the Flag Boulevard, the Flag Plaza can be seen on the roundabout in front of the Clubhouse and the Members' Entrance to the Racecourse. As well as five dressage-style horse statues decorated in the five Olympic colours, the Flag Plaza has 50 flagpoles set out in the pattern of the figure eight, the most auspicious number in Chinese culture. The special configuration also reflects the lucky 8s in the Olympic opening ceremony, which started at 8.08pm on 8/8/08.

Post-Olympics, Penfold Park is to become an interactive public equine park for riding and horse shows and competitions.

## **MORNING TRACKWORK SESSION**

Early morning trackwork takes place daily at the Sha Tin Racecourse, where full use can be made of the equine swimming pool and the horsewalker. Trackwork starts each day at dawn to avoid the heat later on, and most of the day's work is done before 8:30 am.

## **HORSES**

As Hong Kong has neither space nor the environment for breeding, the Club imports all horses from different major racing countries in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The average number of horses in training is about 1,100. Some 350 to 400 horses are brought in each year to maintain this population level.

Approximately more than half of the annual intake of horses are griffins, a term originally applied to all unraced newcomers to the Far East. These griffins can be purchased privately or through the Hong Kong International Sale held by the Club in each year. Some of them are bought abroad as yearlings, and broken and schooled in their country of origin while some are bought as two year olds. All griffins must be imported into Hong Kong at the age of two or three.

The other imported horses are previously raced horses. They are purchased privately and imported entirely at the discretion of the intended owner. The Club lays down criteria regarding performance of a privately purchased horse in its country of origin to ensure evenness of standards for competitions.

Since 1986, more than 900 retired horses have been sent to Mainland China to help foster interest in the equestrian industry there. The majority of retired horses are geldings and therefore have no breeding value. Occasionally a mare or stallion is sent overseas or to China for breeding at the end of its racing career.

## **OWNERS**

Horse ownership is restricted to Jockey Club Members only. They can apply either as an individual, in partnership with up to four Members, or as a syndicate consisting of five to fifty members. Non Jockey Club Members who wish to enjoy the ownership experience may join the Racing Club. The prize money structure allows about 40% of the horses to earn more annually in stakes than the basic cost of their upkeep. There are more members who apply to become owners than horses available in the approximate ratio of three to one; applicants take part in an annual ballot to decide who will be allocated an import permit for importing a griffin or a previously raced horse.

## **TRAINERS**

The Club is the sole licensing authority for all trainers and jockeys. It also takes care of all stables and staff administration, provision of fodder and training facilities. All these services and facilities are provided to the trainers free of charge.

## **LOCAL RIDERS**

Before racing turned professional in 1971, local riders learned riding at the Club and at private riding establishments. In September 1972 the Club opened an Apprentice Jockey Training School at its Beas River Country Club where retired racehorses are also stabled for riding by Club Members.

The requirement for apprentice Jockey is: he should be at the age of 16 or above, completed Form 4, excellent physique and good eyesight. The young boys and girls selected for admission to the school are provided with board and lodging and are required to undergo intensive training under the Club's instructors. On successful completion of the course, apprentices are indentured to trainers, by mutual agreement, for periods of not more than 6 years and they have to ride 70 winnings before qualifying as jockeys. One of the Hong Kong's Champion Jockeys, Tony Cruz is a graduate of the Training School.

## **THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB**

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is Hong Kong's only authorised operator of horse racing. While all horse race betting are conducted by its subsidiary, HKJC Horse Race Betting Limited, the sole legal operator of horse race betting in Hong Kong. Because of the popularity of the races, the large amounts of money punt into the sport each year and the world class racing experience it offers, the Club has developed into one of the largest racing organisations in the world. The Club operates under a unique, not-for-profit business model and is known throughout the world for its success and enterprise. Since 1915, the Club has given money to charities and community projects.

The Club is Hong Kong's largest taxpayer by paying Betting Duty of the total betting turnover (horse racing, football and Mark Six) and Profits Tax, a figure that represents approximately 10% of government revenues.

The Club is one of the largest employers in the territory. The majority of the part-time staff work on racecourse or at off-course betting centres. Other part-time staffs work in catering outlets and the kitchens at the two racecourses.

## **CHARITIES**

Since 1915, the HKJC has been contributing donation of its surplus earnings to community and charitable projects.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has been set up to administer donations to support charitable organisations and community projects in Hong Kong. It is Hong Kong's largest private charity donor organization.

The majority of funds are supplied by a yearly appropriation from The Hong Kong Jockey Club. It donates an average of HK\$1 billion a year to over 100 charities and community projects, making it the largest provider of charity funding after the Government and ranks among the top 20 US philanthropic foundations.

Allocations have covered a wide range, including (1) community services, (2) medical and health, (3) education and training, and (4) sports, recreation and culture. Increasingly, the Club takes a proactive approach to tackling pressing social issues – from funding the establishment of the Centre for Health Protection in the wake of the SARS epidemic, to nurturing positive attitudes among Hong Kong's young people, fostering new approaches to care for the elderly and promoting family harmony.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB**

The Hong Kong Jockey Club has always been a membership club ever since its establishment. It is one of the oldest and best membership clubs in Asia, dating back to 1884.

To become a member, the applicant has to obtain the application form from one of the Club's 200 Voting Members, have the endorsement of two Voting Members and support from three current Members. The Stewards of the Club are leading members of the community and are ultimately responsible for the integrity and organisation of the races.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club offers its Members a wide range of activities and facilities. Members and their guests have exclusive access to the racing, betting and catering facilities in the special enclosures at Happy Valley and Sha Tin during race meetings.

There are three clubhouses in Hong Kong and one in Beijing, which provide a wide range of sports and leisure amenities all year round. The Club's top chefs create exciting seasonal menus while the guest chef programmes offer Members exclusive gourmet experiences from around the world. The Club provides series of up-to-dated recreational activities based on the fashionable trend of the community.

The Happy Valley Clubhouse at Shan Kwong Road is our flagship Clubhouse that has an unrivalled variety of dining and recreational facilities in the heart of Hong Kong. Right next door to the Sha Tin racecourse is the Sha Tin Clubhouse where members and their family gather on both race days and non race days to enjoy Chinese and international cuisine, squash, swimming, gymnasium facilities and many other holistic programmes.

Beas River Country Club is a haven for Members and their family to retreat from the busy pace of city life. They can dine, ride, swim, play tennis, golf and croquet, as well as having overnight or short stay in private and personal chalets. The Jockey Club transformed part of the country club and part of the adjacent Hong Kong Golf Club property into a temporary cross-country course for the 2008 Olympics equestrian competition. Spectators were surprised by the green expanse and mountain backdrop, a relatively unknown side of Hong Kong.

In view of the increasing ties between the Mainland and Hong Kong, the new Beijing Hong Kong Jockey Club Clubhouse - the Club's first physical presence on the Mainland - was officially opened in April 2008. The Club's decision follows a recent survey that showed more and more Members were traveling to Beijing on a regular basis and some 75% of the Club's Corporate Members had a presence there. Located in the Wangfujing area in the heart of the capital, the Beijing Clubhouse is built in a style that crosses over between the traditional courtyard structures of the Ning and Qing Dynasties and contemporary architecture concepts, making it a masterpiece of modern aesthetics. It provides Members with a "home away from home" when they visit Beijing for business or leisure.

Apart from the wide range of diversified facilities at the Clubhouses, Members and their families can also host large private parties in the boxes at both Happy Valley and Sha Tin racecourses 7 days a week. The views from the boxes are spectacular and truly represent the unique position of the Jockey Club.

## **LONGINES HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL RACES**

Over the past decade the Hong Kong International Races has become among the most important stops for horsemen and owners from all across the globe. The event is recognised as the "Turf World Championships" offering excellent prize-money and will take place at the stunning Sha Tin Racecourse in Hong Kong's New Territories on the month December every year.

Featuring four international Group 1 races: the Hong Kong Cup (2000m), the Hong Kong Vase (2400m) and the Hong Kong Mile (1600m) and the Hong Kong Sprint (1200m), the HKIR is the largest international sporting event staged in Hong Kong and is also the third richest day of racing in the world with HK\$72 million in prize-money spread across these four international Group 1 races.

Sunday 8 December 2013, Hong Kong will become the centre of world racing attention and over one billion racing fans will tune in to enjoy such top class and quality event.

### Historical Landmarks of Hong Kong International Races

- 1988** The first international race, Hong Kong Invitation Cup, run over 1,800 metres at Sha Tin. Prize money HK\$1.5 million.
- 1991** Creation of the second international race, the Hong Kong Invitation Bowl, at 1,400 metres. Prize money HK\$2 million. After 3 years of winning raids from overseas runners, Hong Kong champion galloper River Verdon wins the HK\$3 million Hong Kong Invitation Cup.
- 1993** HK Invitation Cup and Invitation Bowl rename as Hong Kong International Cup and Hong Kong International Bowl respectively.
- 1994** The Hong Kong Jockey Club launches a third international race, the Hong Kong International Vase at 2,400 metres with total prize money of HK\$4.5 million.
- 1999** A top-level strategic meeting at the Hong Kong Jockey Club decides to build international day to become the world thoroughbred championships. The Cup distance changes to 2,000 metres and renames as Hong Kong Cup. The Bowl becomes the Hong Kong Mile and the distance was changed to 1,600 metres. The name and distance of the Hong Kong International Vase remained as is. The fourth race, the Hong Kong Sprint was introduced and run over the distance of 1,000m at the Sha Tin straight turf course.
- 2002** Hong Kong's greatest day on turf. Home-trained horses win three of the four international races – Cup, Mile and Sprint.
- 2003** Hong Kong wins two of the four international races – Sprint & Mile. The winner of the Sprint – Silent Witness officially recognized as the world's leading turf sprinter by an international panel of handicappers at the end of 2003.
- 2004** Cathay Pacific Airways Limited became the official sponsor of the Hong Kong International Races. Silent Witness once again became the winner of the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Sprint and was named as the best sprinter in the world.
- 2005** Vengeance of Rain, the first Hong Kong-trained horse, is crowned as the World Champion of the World Racing Championship, after his outstanding win in Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Cup.
- 2006** Three of the four Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Races received a major boost in prize money. The Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Sprint saw its distance extended to 1,200m to attract the best sprinters in the world to run here.
- 2007** Home-trained horses won two of the four international races – Mile and Sprint.
- 2008** Inspiration led home an almighty shock Hong Kong quinella in the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Sprint while Good Ba Ba produced a devastating surge to win the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Mile for the second consecutive year

2009

Good Ba Ba made history when running out the dramatic winner of the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Mile for an unprecedented third time in a row. Sacred Kingdom upheld local dominance in the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Sprint by regaining the title he won so impressively two years ago.

---

### **Longines Hong Kong Cup**

HK\$25 million

2000m /10f /turf /3yo+

Few racing events in the world match the prominence and prestige accorded the HK\$22-million Hong Kong Cup (G1). Contested at Hong Kong's Sha Tin Racecourse, the Hong Kong Cup is the world's richest 2000-metre turf race.

The Hong Kong Cup was initially run as the Hong Kong Invitation Cup (1800m) in January 1988 when the overseas entries were confined to Malaysia and Singapore. The race was granted Group 3 status in 1993, Group 2 in 1994, and it became the first race in Hong Kong with full international Group 1 status in 1999. The Cup's distance was increased to 2000m in 1999.

---

### **Longines Hong Kong Vase**

HK\$16.5 million

2400m /12f /turf /3yo+

The Stewards of the Hong Kong Jockey Club introduced the Hong Kong International Vase as a third international race in December 1994 to encourage Hong Kong owners to import top class stayers. The race was accorded Group 2 status in 1996 and further upgraded to Group 1 in 2000.

---

### **Longines Hong Kong Mile**

HK\$23 million

1600m /8f /turf /3yo+

The Hong Kong Mile is the richest mile turf race in the world worth HK\$20 million. The Hong Kong International Bowl was renamed the Hong Kong Mile and run over 1600m from the old distance of 1400m for the first time in 1999. The Bowl was first run in 1991 to mark the staging of the 22nd Asian Racing Conference in Hong Kong.

---

### **Longines Hong Kong Sprint**

HK\$18.5 million

1200m /6f /turf /3yo+

The Hong Kong Sprint (1000m) was introduced in 1999 as a new addition to the Hong Kong International Races. The race was initially run as a Listed Race. It was accorded Group 3 status in 2000, then promoted to Group 2 next year. In 2002, the International Cataloguing Standards Committee further upgraded the Sprint to Group 1 status. The Hong Kong Sprint increased its distance to 1200m in 2006.

---

## **THE HONG KONG RACING MUSEUM**

The Hong Kong Racing Museum is located next to Happy Valley Racecourse. Its entrance is at the Happy Valley Stand, making it the perfect landing spot before taking in a day or night at the races.

Through a variety of historic exhibits, the museum showcases over 100 years of racing history and culture, and introduces the Club's contributions to the community and the close relationship it has in the daily lives of Hong Kong people. Valuable exhibits include a life-size model of a Mongolian Pony that was used in the early amateur days of racing, the skeleton of three-time Horse of the Year SILVER LINING, the preserved specimen of the legendary RIVER VERDON, major racing trophies, and so much more.

The museum offers free guided tour service to members of the public and group visits.

### 1. Walk in guided tour

Time:

Monday to Friday at 3pm

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays at 3pm and 5pm

Meeting Point: The Hong Kong Racing Museum Reception Counter

### 2. Group visit

The Hong Kong Racing Museum provides a free guided tour service to groups of 10 or more people. Tours are designed with the interests and ages of participants in mind. Groups of 10 or more should download and complete the Hong Kong Racing Museum Group Visit Application Form from the website.

- Opening Hours:
  - Mon to Sun                    12:00 noon – 7:00 pm
  - Night race meetings    12:00 noon – 9:00 pm
  
- Location: 2/F, Happy Valley Stand, Happy Valley Racecourse, Happy Valley
  
- Admission: Free
- Other facilities: Museum Souvenir Shop
- Contact:
  - Tel : (852) 2966 8065
  - Fax : (852) 2966 7057
  - E-mail : [museum@hkjc.org.hk](mailto:museum@hkjc.org.hk)
  - Website: <http://entertainment.hkjc.com/entertainment/english/racing-museum/index.aspx>
  
- Directions:
  - MTR: Causeway Bay Station, Exit A - Times Square
  - Bus:  
10, 37B, 38, 42, 72, 72A, 76, 77, 90, 96, 97, 109, 113, 590A, 592
  - Minibus:  
36A, 36X, 39M

- END -