Race History

Reigning Hong Kong Horse of the Year Beauty Generation succeeded in defending his crown last year and he was the latest in a line of brilliant victors that have, in the space of only a quarter of a century, established the LONGINES Hong Kong Mile as one of the world’s elite mile contests. The classy gelding joined such mile luminaries as Maurice, Able Friend, Good Ba Ba, Ambitious Dragon, Eishin Preston and Sunline in winning what is now a lucrative HK$25 million race.

The race was inaugurated in 1991 to mark Hong Kong’s staging of that year’s Asian Racing Conference and so has the distinction of being the second of Hong Kong’s international races. However, it was not known as the Hong Kong Mile at that time; today’s Hong Kong Mile in fact started out as the Hong Kong Invitation Bowl, staged over 1400m. Ireland’s Additional Risk won that first edition for trainer Dermot Weld and jockey Mick Kinane. In 1994, the year Soviet Line prevailed for UK trainer Sir Michael Stoute, the race attained international Group 3 status. The race was then upgraded to a Group 2 in 1995 when Monopolize claimed the first of his two victories for Australian handler Grahame Begg. The John Hills-trained Docksider won the race the first time it was held in its now familiar guise, the Hong Kong Mile, in 1999. It was upgraded to International Group 1 status when New Zealand super mare Sunline took the race in 2000.

The outstanding champion Good Ba Ba has the distinction of being the only horse to have won this or any other HKIR contest three times. The great miler prevailed in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The race was ranked equal 29th in the World’s Top 100 G1 Races in 2018.

Record Dividends

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bet Type** | **Dividend (HK$)** | **Year** | **Horse (s)** | **Win Odds** |
| **Win** |  $668.50 | 2011 | Able One | 66 |
| **Place** |  $162.00 | 2012 | Packing OK (3rd) | 90 |
| **Quinella** |  $6,747.50 | 2011 | Able One (1st) | 66 |
| Cityscape (2nd) | 33 |
| **Quinella Place** |  $1,485.50 | 2011 | Able One (1st) | 66 |
| Cityscape (2nd) | 33 |
| **Tierce** |  $60,644.00 | 2011 | Able One (1st) | 66 |
| Cityscape (2nd) | 33 |
| Xtension (3rd) | 2.5 |
| **Trio** |  $7,324.00 | 2004 | Firebreak (1st) | 15 |
| Perfect Partner (2nd) | 13 |
| The Duke (3rd) | 42 |
| **First 4** |  $46,671.00 | 2011 | Able One (1st) | 66 |
| Cityscape (2nd) | 33 |
| Xtension (3rd) | 2.5F |
| Dubawi Gold (4th) | 99 |
| **Quartet** |  $50,040.00 | 2016 | Beauty Only (1st) | 6 |
| Helene Paragon (2nd) | 5.9 |
| Joyful Trinity (3rd) | 15 |
| Contentment (4th) | 15 |