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RACING

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101



Racing in Hong Kong

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Racecourse



Sha Tin Racecourse

Mainly hosts Sunday day races or twilight races (June and July) with 10 to 11 races per race meeting.

Track: Turf or All-Weather (Dirt)

Number of starters: Maximum 14



Since 1978



Happy Valley Racecourse

Mainly hosts Wednesday night races with 8 to 9 races per race meeting.

Thematic 'Happy Wednesday' at night races

Track: Turf

Number of starters: Maximum 12





System



Racing Season

From September to July

Total 88 race meetings

Day races and twilight races mostly take place on Sunday and night races on Wednesday



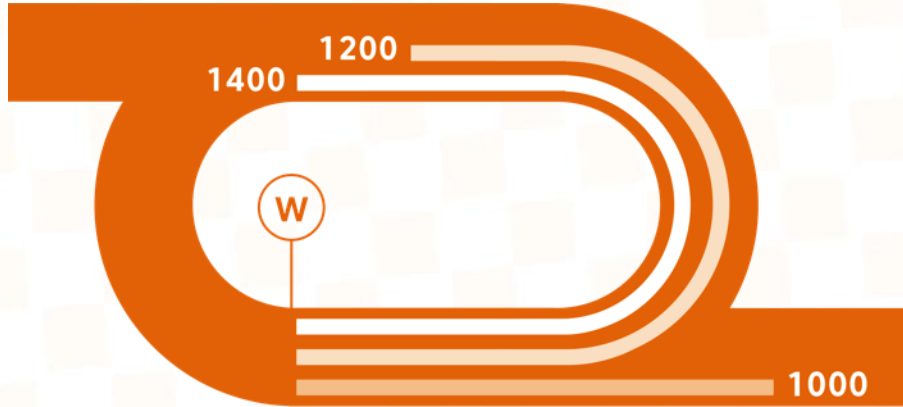
Distance

Distance can be classified as short, middle and long.

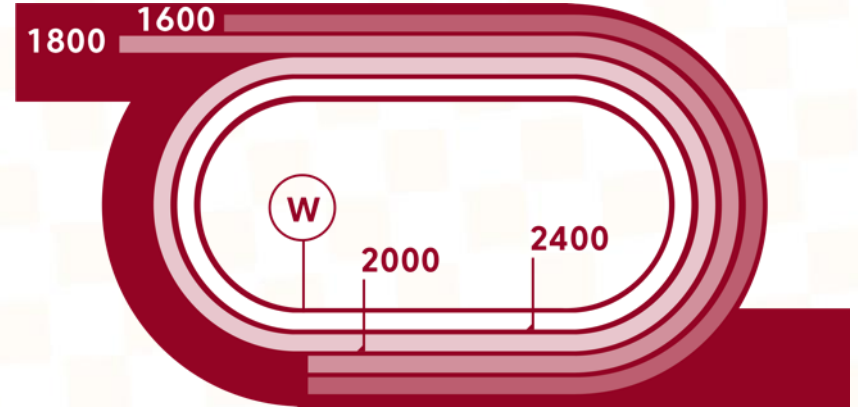
All races will finish at the same winning post, whereas the position of the starting gate will be adjusted according to the distance.



Sha Tin (Turf)



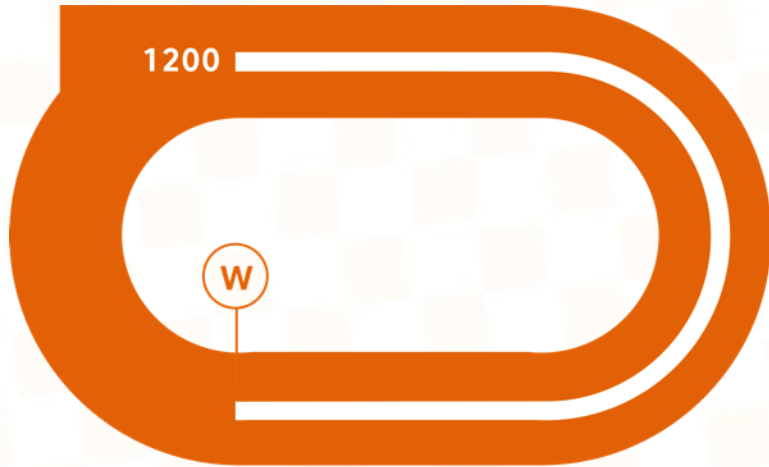
Short Distance (m)	1000	1200	1400
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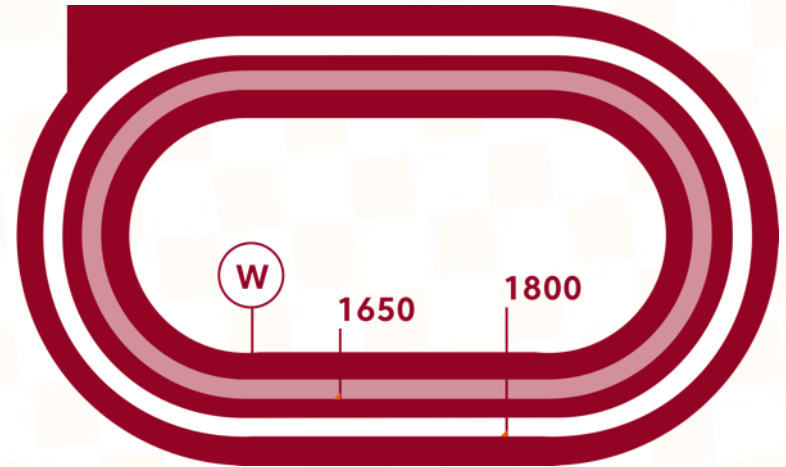
Middle Distance (m)	1600	1800
Long Distance (m)	2000	2400



Sha Tin (All-Weather)



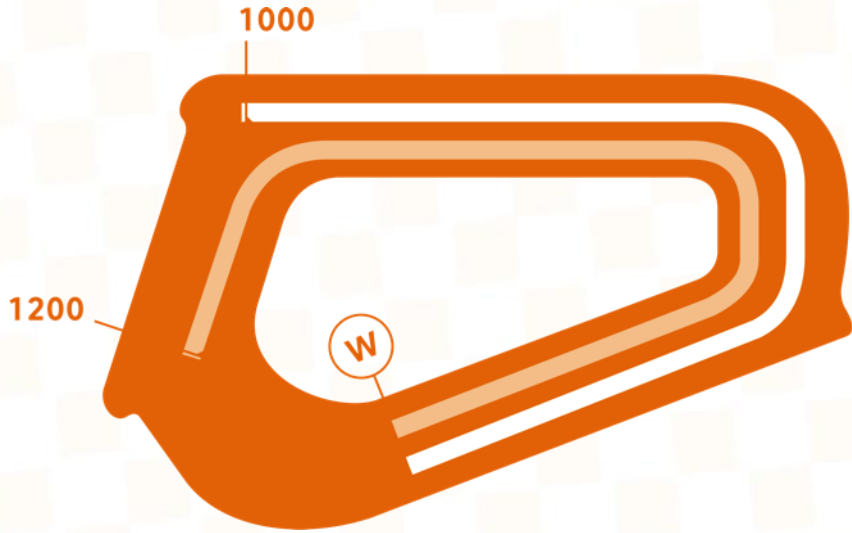
Short Distance (m)	1200
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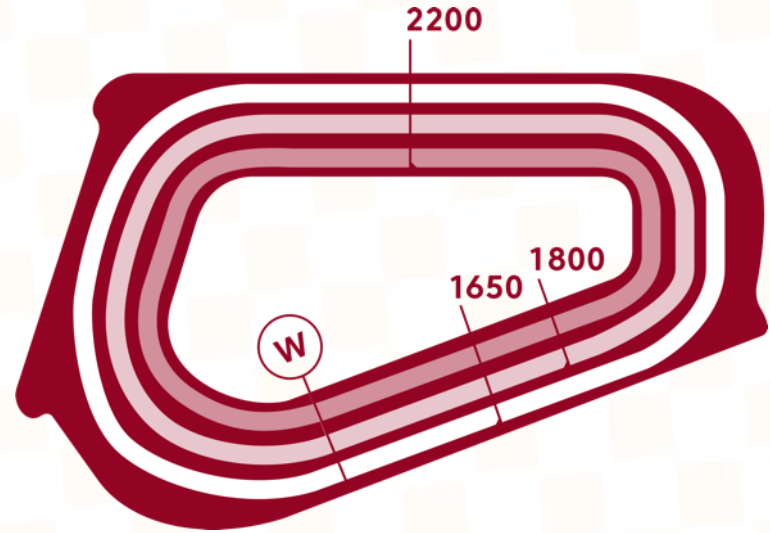
Middle Distance (m)	1650	1800
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Happy Valley



Short Distance (m)	1000	1200
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Middle Distance (m)	1650	1800
Long Distance (m)	2200	



Class and Rating

Race horses are classified from Class 1 to Class 5. Class 1 is the highest class.

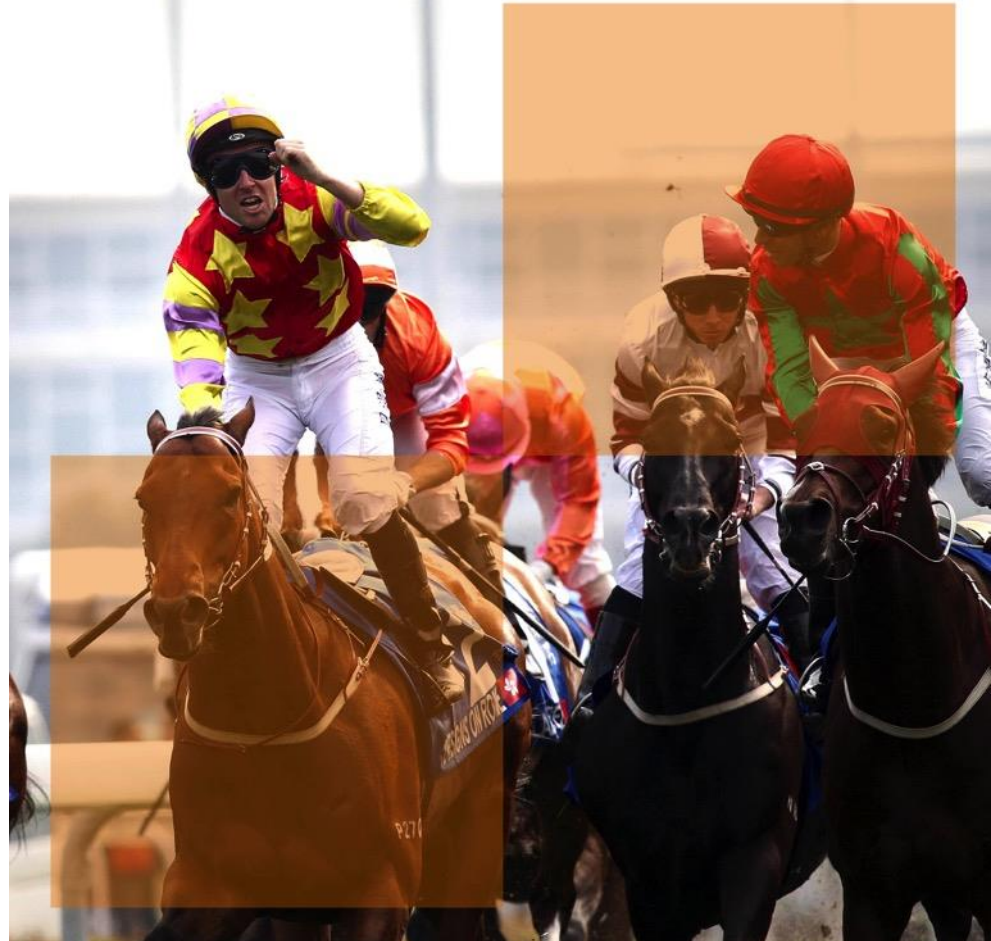
Runners in each race are of the same Class.

Rating determines the Class – the higher the rating, the higher the Class.

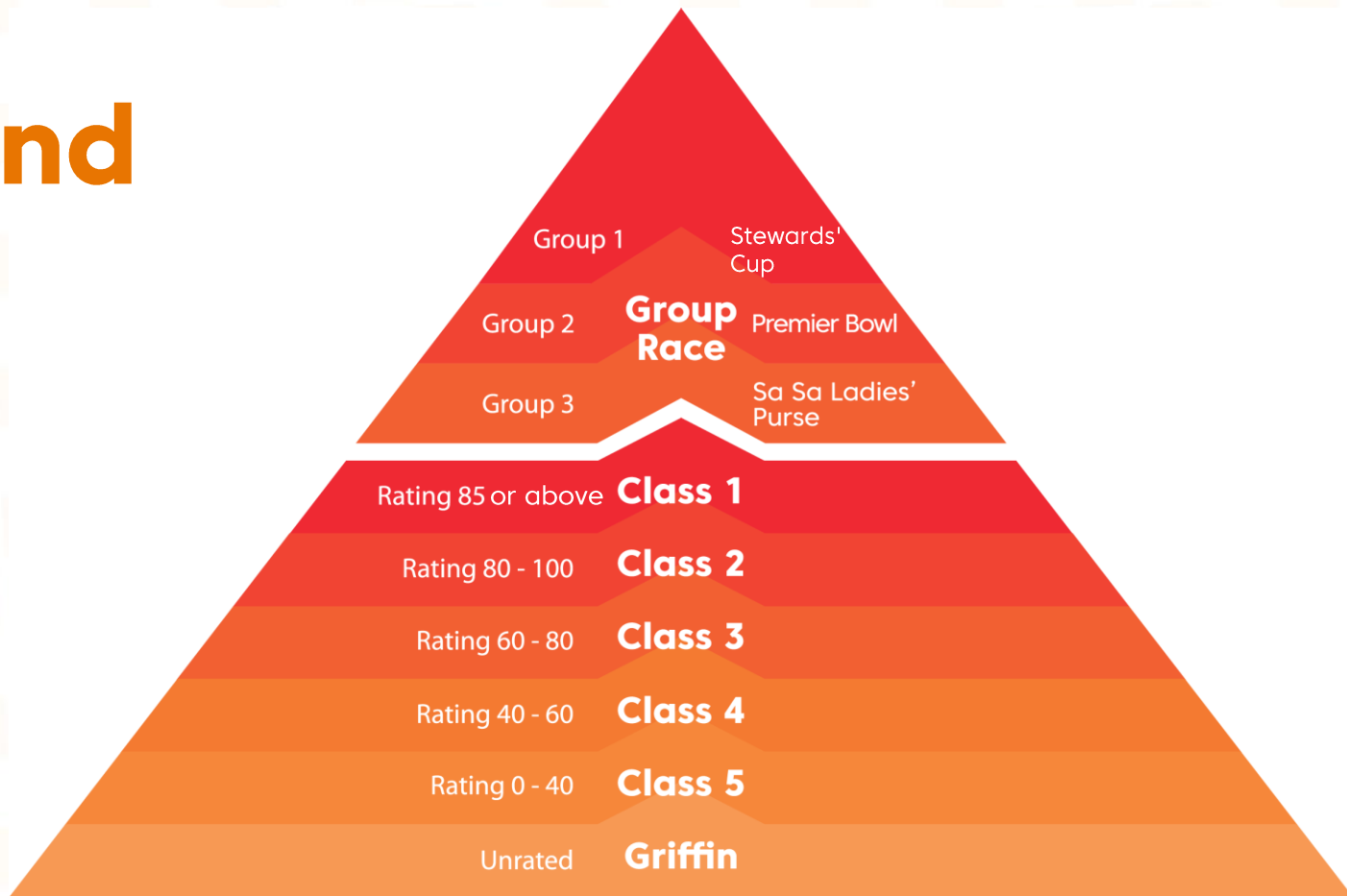
A new horse usually starts with a rating of 52. Generally speaking, 5 - 7 points will be added to the rating for each win.

It goes both ways:

- First-5 in race = likely to add points
- Losing in race = likely to deduct points



Class and Rating



Handicap

Most races are handicaps. This means runners carry different weights to equalise their chances of winning the race.

More weights are added to the runners with higher rating (Rating + 1 Point = Weight + 1lb).

Runner's weight ranges from 135lbs to 115lbs

Example: A Class 3 race horse rated 80 points will carry 135lbs. Meanwhile, a horse rated 75 points will carry 130lbs.



80 Points

VS



75 Points



Draw

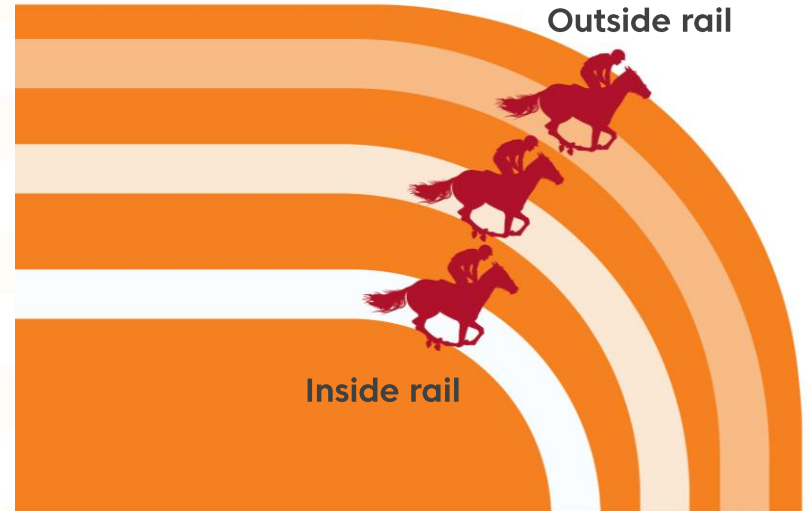


The draw refers to a horse's position in the starting gate.

Generally speaking, the smaller the draw number, the closer the runner is to the inside rail, hence a shorter distance to be covered at the turns and has a slight advantage over horses with bigger draw numbers.

Horse number \neq Draw number (Horse Number 1 can be drawn 14).

Each runner's draw number is randomly assigned by computer a couple of days before the race.





Horse



Runners

Gender:
Mainly classified into Gelding, Colt or Filly. Over 90% of the runners in Hong Kong are geldings.

Naming:
The Chinese name consists of 2-4 characters. The English name must contain no more than 18 letters (spaces included).

Colours:
4 major types: Chestnut, Brown, Bay and Grey.

Speed:
Horses typically complete 1000M in under 1 minute, while track athletes take approximately 3 minutes.

Racing Overseas:
Local elites may participate in overseas group races, while top horses from abroad (e.g. Japan) may also compete in group races in Hong Kong.



Gear

Some horses wear gear in hopes of improving performance. Blinkers and Hood are popular among all types of gears.

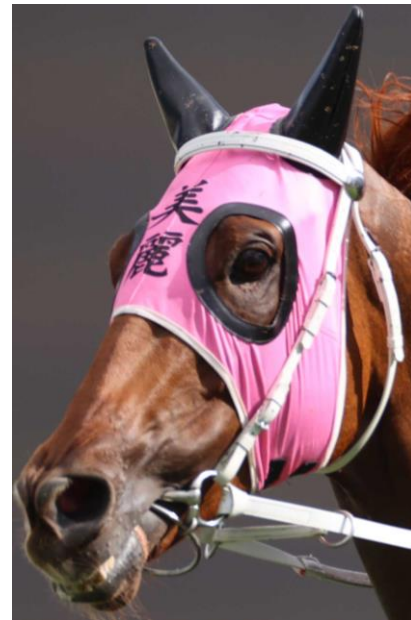
Blinkers:
Partially cover a horse's vision, helping it focus on racing without distractions, potentially boosting performance.

Hood:
In fact, they are ear covers. They help calm nervous horses by reducing sensitivity to noises during competition.

Blinkers



Hood



Career

Racing career:
Age 2-10; mandatory retirement at age 11.

Peak years:
Age 4-6

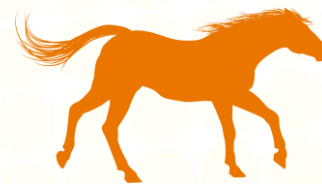
Horses born in the southern hemisphere are considered a year older on August 1 of each year (Horses born in South America are considered a year older on July 1 of each year). Horses born in the northern hemisphere are considered a year older on January 1 of each year.



Newborn



1 year old



2 years old



Newborn



12 years old



18 years old



Emotions

The ears of a horse can tell you all about his mood.



Unhappy and worried:
Ears flattened against the neck



Content and interested in the surroundings:
Ears are pricked forward



Feeling Curious:
Both ears tilted forwards



In doubt or feeling uncertain:
One ear is pricked forward and the other held back



Silks

Silks belong to the Horse Owners.

Unique colours and patterns are designed by each Horse Owner.



Julian Hui Chun Hang
& Michele Monique Reis

SAVVY TWINKLE



Seven Heroes Syndicate
(Members include
Alex Fong)

FORTUNATE SON



Kwok Fu Shing

DANCING CODE,
DANCING CLASSICS



Millions In One Syndicate
(Members include
Alan Tam)

HAPPY UNITED



Jockey



Jockey

Duties:

Trackwork and riding horses according to the trainers' instructions in races.

Current No. of Jockeys: 20+

Each jockey can ride in multiple races on each race day

Champion Jockey:

The jockey with the most wins in a season.

Season	Champion Jockey	Win
2023/24	Zac Purton	130
2022/23	Zac Purton	179 (New Record)
2021/22	Zac Purton	136



Jockey

Jockey	Achievements
Zac Purton	He sealed the seventh Champion Jockey title in last season. Also, he broke the record for notching the most winners in Hong Kong (179 wins) in 2022/23 season, and he made history in the winning of FWD QEII Cup in the 2019/20 season to become the only rider in history to have won every Group 1 race on the Hong Kong calendar.
Karis Teetan	He notched more than 650 wins since moved to HK in the 2013/14 season. His recent performances have been consistently strong, with him finishing in the top three of the Jockeys' Ranking in 6 out of the last 7 seasons.
Hugh Bowman	Four-time Sydney Champion Jockey. In 2019, he was inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame. In HK, he has won in Key Races such as the BMW HK DERBY, the QEII Cup, and the STANDARD CHARTERED CHAMPIONS & CHATER CUP. Also, he won the first and second leg of Four-Year-Old Classic Series last season.
Vincent Ho	He became Hong Kong's first home-grown jockey to win the LONGINES International Jockeys' Championship, and he won the Group 1 race LONGINES HONG KONG MILE last season with GOLDEN SIXTY, a three-time Horse of the Year.



Zac Purton



Karis Teetan



Hugh Bowman



Vincent Ho





Trainer



Trainer

Duties:

Training and caring for his horses, as well as managing stable operation.

Current No. of trainers: 20+

License:

Issued by the HKJC. A trainer must have 14 or more winners a season. If he fails to reach that total in three accumulative seasons, his license will likely be revoked.

Trainers can saddle multiple runners in each race.

Champion Trainer:

The trainer with the most wins in a season.



Trainer

Trainer	Achievements
Francis Lui	He staged a magnificent comeback on the final day of last season to claim the Hong Kong trainers' championship for the first time. Additionally, he is the trainer of GOLDEN SIXTY, who secured Champion Miler title again last season and also earned the Horse of the Year title for three consecutive seasons from 2020/21 to 2022/23.
John Size	He broke the record of 12 championships in 2022/23 season. Also, he broke the record for training the most winners in Hong Kong (94 wins) in a season (2016/17).
Tony Cruz	2-time champion trainer. The horses he trained have won Group 1 races in Japan twice, including the legendary HK champion SILENT WITNESS winning the SPRINTERS STAKES in 2005 and BULLISH LUCK winning the YASUDA KINEN in 2006. Last season, CALIFORNIA SPANGLE brought Cruz another overseas Group 1 success in the 2024 AL QUOZ SPRINT in Dubai.
Danny Shum	He is the trainer of ROMANTIC WARRIOR, who made history last season as the first HK horse to win the Group 1 race COX PLATE in Australia, and also won the Group 1 race YASUDA KINEN in Japan, leading to its election as Horse of the Year and Champion Middle-Distance Horse.



Francis Lui



John Size



Tony Cruz



Danny Shum





Wager



Bet types



Win	
9	Pick the winner

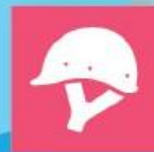
Quinella (QIN)	
7+9	Pick the 1 st and 2 nd horses in any order

Place	
6	Pick any one of the first three horses
7	
9	

Quinella Place (QPL)	
6+7	Pick any two of the first three horses in any order
6+9	
7+9	



ROMANTIC WARRIOR
2023/24 season
Horse of the Year



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