**Reigning IJC Champion and Hong Kong Champion Jockey**

**Zac Purton**

* **Age:** 39
* **Background:** Zac Purton ended Douglas Whyte's 13-season dominance with his first Hong Kong jockeys' championship in 2013/14 (112 wins) and in earning his second title in 2017/18 he halted Joao Moreira's streak at three. Since then, Purton has added a further three titles to his collection and through 2018/19 he tallied a career-high 168 wins, a season in which he also became the second jockey in Hong Kong history to ride 1000 winners and set a new single season prizemoney record of HK$234,989,515. His triumph aboard Exultant in the 2020 QEII Cup meant he became the only rider in history to win every G1 on the Hong Kong calendar. Purton’s championship winning streak was stopped at three in 2020/21 but he soon reclaimed the title in 2021/22. He took his fifth title after another enthralling battle with Moreira, enjoying huge success with 136 wins, including his third Stewards’ Cup triumph, this time aboard the John Size-trained Waikuku. He also sealed a third LONGINES International Jockeys’ Championship title, beating off an all-star cast of rivals at Happy Valley. Throughout last season, Purton achieved his 1,400th career milestone win in Hong Kong. He claimed a second G1 Hong Kong Cup triumph in 2020, aboard Normcore for Japan to make him the most successful jockey in HKIR history with nine wins, ending the dead-lock he previously shared Gerald Mosse who has eight wins. So far, Purton has enjoyed a flying start to the 2022/23 season, comfortably sitting at the top of the jockeys’ championship. Purton started his career in Brisbane and enjoyed incredible success as an apprentice, winning the premiership there in 2003. Purton moved to Hong Kong in September, 2007 and he boasts a famous Royal Ascot win for Hong Kong aboard the Danny Shum-trained Little Bridge in the 2012 King’s Stand Stakes.
* **Honours:** Hong Kong Champion Jockey (2013/14, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2021/22); Brisbane Champion Jockey (2003 - when still an apprentice); LONGINES IJC (2017 & 2020); World Super Jockeys Series (Japan) winner (2012).
* **IJC record: 2021 – WON; 2020 - WON;** 2019 - 9th**;** 2018 - 10th (DH); **2017 - WON**; 2016 - 7th; 2014 - 6th; 2013 - 2nd; 2012 - 2nd.

**Britain**

**Ryan Moore**

* **Age:** 39
* **Background:** Ryan Moore is a two-time winner of the LONGINES IJC. He is the outstanding international rider of recent years and was the first recipient of the LONGINES World’s Best Jockey Award as a result of 15 G1 wins in 2014. He won that accolade again in 2016 and 2021. Moore hails from a racing family. His first win came for his trainer father, Gary Moore, on Mersey Beat over hurdles at Towcester in May, 2000. His first professional Flat win came on Marwell’s Kiss at Lingfield in January, 2002. He notched a first G1 aboard Notnowcato in the 2006 Juddmonte International Stakes at York. Moore has won some of the world’s foremost races including the LONGINES Hong Kong Sprint (2020 Danon Smash), LONGINES Hong Kong Cup (2016 Maurice), LONGINES Hong Kong Mile (2015 Maurice), LONGINES Hong Kong Vase (2015 & 2017 Highland Reel, 2020 Mogul), Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe, Melbourne Cup, English Derby, Japan Cup and Breeders’ Cup Turf. Through 2022, he has won no less than a further 15 G1s including a fourth Oaks success aboard Tuesday, a fourth Irish Champion Stakes atop Luxembourg and a third Ascot Gold Cup aboard Kyprios. He won three G1s at the recent Breeders’ Cup meeting at Keeneland, including his second Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Turf success atop Tuesday.
* **Honours:** British Champion Jockey (2006, 2008 & 2009); British Champion Apprentice (2003); LONGINES IJC winner (2009 [shared] & 2010); LONGINES World’s Best Jockey Award winner (2014, 2016 & 2021).
* **IJC record:** 2021 – 6th; 2020 – 6th; 2019 - 2nd; 2018 - 5th; 2017 - 6th; 2016 - 2nd; 2015 - 2nd; 2014 - 4th; 2013 - 5th; 2012 - 3rd; 2011 - 6th (DH); **2010 - WON; 2009 - WON (DH**); 2007 - 10th (DH); 2006 - 6th.

**Hollie Doyle**

* **Age:** 26
* **Background:** Hollie Doyle made a winning debut as a jockey, scoring at Salisbury in 2013 aboard The Mongoose. After completing high school, she joined the yard of David Evans in Wales, and during winter, would spend six weeks riding out at Santa Anita, California. In 2014, Doyle began her apprenticeship at the Wiltshire yard of four-time British champion trainer, Richard Hannon Sr., and she rode out her claim in November, 2017. Doyle rode her 152nd winner of the year on 22 October 2021, surpassing her own record for a British female jockey of wins through a calendar year after her 151 wins in 2020. She made a single-day record for a female jockey with five wins at Windsor Racecourse on 29 August, 2020. Doyle also secured her first Group race victory in the G2 Princess of Wales’s Stakes at Newmarket aboard Dame Malliot, and her first Royal Ascot success came with 33/1 chance Scarlet Dragon in the Duke of Edinburgh Stakes in 2020. Her biggest success to date also came at Ascot in the 2020 G1 British Champions Sprint Stakes atop Glen Shiel, who gave her a British Champions Day double after Trueshan had powered clear of his rivals in the G2 British Champions Long Distance Cup. Later that year she participated in the LONGINES IJC for the first time, and become the first female jockey to win leg of the IJC, helping her to finish joint third with Alexis Badel in the event. She won a second IJC race in 2021 on her way to finishing joint-second in last year’s event. She is the retained rider of Classic-winning owner and breeder Imad Al Sagar. She added a second Group 1 to her tally in 2021 with the victory of Trueshan in the Goodwood Cup and has since formed a strong alliance with Nashwa – winning a further two G1s aboard the youngster in 2022, including victory in the Prix de Diane. Hollie married Tom Marquand in March, 2022. Her latest G1 success came in the Prix de l’Abbaye de Longchamp atop The Platinum Queen.
* **Honours**: First female jockey to ride five winners in on day (Windsor Racecourse, 29 August, 2020); Single season record for most winners ridden by a female jockey (172 in 2021).
* **IJC record**: 2021 – 2nd (DH); 2020 – 3rd (DH).

**Tom Marquand**

* **Age**: 24
* **Background:** Tom Marquand doesn’t come from a racing background but at the age of 12 the decision to get riding lessons led him to pony racing, the British Racing School, and at the age of 15, Arab racing. Next came the biggest step of his career, which saw him undertake an apprenticeship with Richard Hannon Sr. at his Wiltshire yard. The following year he was British Champion Apprentice with 54 wins, and in 2017, he landed a first Group race victory, securing the G3 Dick Poole Fillies’ Stakes at Salisbury with Anna Nerium. In 2018 Marquand rode over 100 winners for the first time, and at the end of that year he spent six weeks in Australia riding for trainer John O’Shea. Marquand added two more G3 successes on his return to Europe, including one in France at Saint-Cloud, and another trip to Australia in 2020 produced a G1 double aboard the William Haggas-trained Addeybb in the Ranvet Stakes at Rosehill Gardens and the Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick. His success Down Under garnered him the nickname ‘Aussie Tom’ from Australians. In 2020, Marquand landed a first British G1 and Classic victory aboard Galileo Chrome in the St Leger Stakes at Doncaster, before reuniting with Addeybb to claim the Champion Stakes at Ascot on British Champions Day. In 2021 he achieved further success abroad atop Addeybb with victory in the G1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes in Australia and added victory atop Starman in the 2021 G1 July Cup to his top-level haul. In 2022, Marquand has added a further three G1s to his record in France, Ireland and Great Britain. Marquand’s second taste of the IJC saw him finish joint-second in the series with victory aboard Awesome Treasure. He married Hollie Doyle in March, 2022.
* **Honours**: British Champion Apprentice (2015).
* **IJC record:** 2021 – 2nd (DH); 2020 – 10th.

**France**

**Mickael Barzalona**

* **Age:** 31
* **Background:** Mickael Barzalona was born in Avignon, France, a grandson of Corsican trainer Christian Barzalona and nephew of former Flat and Jumps jockey Armand Barzalona. He began his career with France’s standout trainer, Andre Fabre, with whom he is still associated, and is Godolphin’s number one rider in France. A precocious sensation, he enjoyed a stunning Dubai Carnival in 2011, at age 19, winning major races for the Godolphin operation, and that momentum took him to a famous English Derby win in June of that year aboard Pour Moi for Fabre and Coolmore. He then headed to Hong Kong for a short stint in 2011/12, notching one winner from 42 rides. Barzalona won the 2012 G1 Dubai World Cup aboard Monterosso and the 2017 Breeders’ Cup Turf on Talismanic. In 2021, he claimed the Champion Stakes at Ascot with Sealiway before sealing the French Flat Racing Champion Jockey with 192 wins, while through 2022 the Frenchman has added a further three G1s to his haul in France and the United Arab Emirates.
* **Honours:** French Flat Racing Champion Jockey (2021)
* **IJC record:** 2021 – 2nd (DH); 2020 – 11th; 2018 - 8th (DH); 2016 - 10th.

**New Zealand**

**James McDonald**

* **Age:** 30
* **Background:** James McDonald made a big impression in Hong Kong on his LONGINES IJC debut when still a teenager back in 2011, finishing runner-up to Frankie Dettori. He returned the following May and partnered Xtension to victory in the 2012 G1 Champions Mile at Sha Tin. Champion Apprentice in his homeland, he went on to claim the Championship there twice, in 2008/09 and latterly with a New Zealand record tally of 207 for the 2010/11 season. In 2012 he won a first New Zealand Derby. He clinched his first Sydney Championship in July, 2014, bagged a second in 2015/16 and has since added an astonishing three more. He now has over 70 G1 wins and nearly 2,000 career wins, and is currently in terrific form. In 2021, he won the Melbourne Cup – Australia’s most-famous race – aboard Verry Elleegant, Darley Sprint Classic with Nature Strip, Coolmore Stud Stakes atop Home Affairs and Mackinnon Stakes with Zaaki, while through 2022 he has claimed no less than 14 G1s including a famous Australian victory aboard Nature Strip in the King’s Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot. He currently sits at the top of both the Australian and New South Wales Jockey Championships.
* **Honours include:** Sydney Champion Jockey (2013/14, 2015/16, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/22); New Zealand Champion Jockey (2008/09 & 2010/11).
* **IJC record:** 2021 – 2nd (DH); 2019 – 10th; 2015 - 9th; 2014 - 3rd; 2012 - 10th (DH); 2011 - 2nd.

**Australia**

**Jamie Kah**

* **Age:** 26
* **Background:** Jamie Kah has been a riding sensation ever since early on in her career. The 26-year-old has already ridden over 1,100 winners which has seen her claim honours in eight G1s. She won the South Australia Jockeys’ Championship as an apprentice – becoming the first to do so in 20 years before adding a further two crowns to her haul in South Australia. Kah switched tack to Melbourne where she rewrote history by becoming the first jockey to ride 100 winners in a Melbourne metropolitan season – the fifth time she’s brought up the ton in her career. In Melbourne and following her move from South Australia, she won the 2019 G1 Australian Cup and after her first top-level win she was selected to participate in the Shergar Cup at Ascot in Great Britain, helping the Ladies Team finish second. At the completion of her first full season in Victoria she was crowned World’s Top Female Jockey, beating the UK’s Hollie Doyle to capture a first title. Her eight G1 wins have her listed as the most successful female jockey in Australian racing history, this came after landing her sixth in the 2021 G1 Kingsford-Smith Cup success aboard Vega One. Recently she added two more G1 wins to her tally with Coolangatta in the Moir Stakes and Zaaki in the Champions Stakes. She also boasts G1 glory aboard the World’s Best Sprinter – Nature Strip. Away from racing, Kah runs a sanctuary for retired racehorses in her native Australia.
* **Honours:** South Australia Champion Jockey (2012/13, 2016/17 & 2017/18). Melbourne Champion Jockey (2020/21)
* **IJC record:** Debut

**Jye McNeil**

* **Age:** 27
* **Background:** Jye McNeil grew up in rural Victoria on the family farm and at age 13, he made the decision to become a jockey. First apprenticed to Gerald Egan in 2011, McNeil savoured a first win at his local track Kerang and each season following his first, the young Australian has continued to rise through the ranks. Following the 2014/15 season, McNeil won the Rising Star Series in Australia and subsequently went to South Africa to participate in the Asian Young Guns Series. In 2017/18, McNeil enjoyed somewhat of a break out season and he built on that figure in 2018/19, while in 2019/20 the rider savoured a first Group 1 win aboard Kings Will Dream in the Turnbull Stakes at Flemington. One year on, McNeil made history with victory at his first ride in the Melbourne Cup aboard Twilight Payment for trainer Joseph O’Brien. Since starting out his career, McNeil has forged a reputation in Australia as a highly-skilled and professional horseman with four top-level victories. In addition, McNeil is the winner of five Group 2 races, 17 Group 3 races and 24 Listed Stakes races. He boasts in excess of 850 wins and claimed the Scobie Breasley Medal last season as a recognition for excellence in riding on Melbourne racecourses. Through last season, McNeil was also crowned Melbourne Champion Jockey as the leading rider on metropolitan racecourses.
* **Honours:** Melbourne Champion Jockey (2021/22), Scobie Breasley Medal (2021/22)
* **IJC record:** Debut

**Japan**

**Yuga Kawada**

* **Age:** 37
* **Background:** Yuga Kawada’s great-grandfather was a jockey and his grandfather and father are both horse trainers, all plying their trade in the regional NAR racing circuit. The rider gained his JRA jockey licence in 2004 and has amassed more than 1,800 JRA wins, and he is just one of nine riders in JRA history to have won all five Classic races – the Satsuki Sho (2,000 Guineas) on Captain Thule in 2008, the Oka Sho (1,000 Guineas) on Harp Star in 2014, the Tokyo Yushun (Derby) on Makahiki in 2016, the Yushun Himba (Oaks) on Gentildonna in 2012 and the Kikuka Sho (St Leger) on Big Week in 2010. He has also been associated with horses like Maurice, Lovely Day and Fine Needle. Kawada is a five-time JRA Award winner for the jockey with the highest winning percentage, achieving the feat in 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020 and 2021. He partnered Loves Only You to win the 2021 Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Turf as well as the 2021 LONGINES Hong Kong Cup at her final start. Included among his top-level wins is: Takarazuka Kinen (2015 Lovely Day), Yasuda Kinen (2015 Maurice, 2017 Satono Aladdin, 2021 Danon Kingly), Queen Elizabeth II Cup (2014 Lachesis), Takamatsunomiya Kinen (2018 Fine Needle, 2021 Danon Smash), Sprinters Stakes (2018 Fine Needle), Champions Cup (2019 Chrysoberyl), Hopeful Stakes (2020 Danon The Kid), Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (2020 Grenadier Guards), Osaka Hai (2021 Lei Papale), NHK Mile Cup (2022 Danon Scorpion), Oka Sho (2022 Stars On Earth).
* **Honours:** 2019 World All-Star Jockeys Champion; 2019 Shergar Cup winning team captain.
* **IJC record:** 2021 – 12th; 2019 – 5th.