**Reigning IJC Champion**

**Zac Purton**

**Age:** 38

**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 two 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 came to an end in 2020/21 as great rival Joao Moreira reclaimed the title. He did claim a second G1 Hong Kong Cup triumph that term, 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. That term, he also sealed a second LONGINES International Jockeys’ Championship title. So far, Purton has enjoyed a flying start to the 2021/22 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); Brisbane Champion Jockey (2003 - when still an apprentice); LONGINES IJC (2017 & 2020); World Super Jockeys Series (Japan) winner (2012).

**IJC record: 2020 - WON;** 2019 - 9th**;** 2018 - 10th (DH); **2017 - WON**; 2016 - 7th; 2014 - 6th; 2013 - 2nd; 2012 - 2nd.

**Hong Kong Champion Jockey**

**Joao Moreira**

**Age:** 38

**Background:** Brazilian sensation Joao Moreira, known as “Magic Man”, claimed the LONGINES IJC at his second attempt in 2012. Before arriving in Hong Kong, Moreira notched more than 1000 wins in South America before moving to Asia. He relocated to Singapore in 2009, and, after finishing third in the championship, he proceeded to dominate the Singapore circuit for four years with four consecutive titles in that time. He moved to Hong Kong in October 2013 and was champion jockey for three straight seasons, with record-breaking win totals (145, 168 and 170). Moreira departed for Japan at the end of the 2017/18 season but returned to Hong Kong in December 2018 to ride as stable jockey to John Size, ending that term with 90 wins. In the 2020/21 season he won his fourth championship in Hong Kong, notching a brilliant 157 wins, and was a close second to Zac Purton in last year’s LONGINES IJC. Currently, Moreira sits second in this season’s champion jockey race.

**Honours:** LONGINES IJC winner (2012); Hong Kong Champion Jockey (2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2020/21); Singapore Champion Jockey (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013); two-time Brazilian Eclipse Award winner (2006/07, 2007/08); fastest 100 in a Hong Kong season (22 February, 2017); Hong Kong record for most wins in a season (170 in 2016/17); most wins in a Hong Kong race day (eight: 5 March, 2017); Singapore record for most wins in a season (206 in 2012); eight wins from eight rides at Kranji (6 September, 2013); eight wins in a day at Cidade Jardim (March 2006). World All-Star Series (Japan) winner (2015).

**IJC record:** 2020 – 2nd; 2019 - 6th (DH); 2017 - 9th (DH); 2016 - 8th (DH); 2015 - 6th; 2014 - 2nd; **2012 - WON**; 2010 - 9th (DH).

**Australia**

**Damian Lane**

**Age:** 27

**Background:** One of the brightest young talents in Australian racing, Damian Lane achieved his 500th career win on the eve of his 21st birthday in February 2015. Apprenticed to his father Michael in 2009, he had his first race ride at age 16 and notched more than 100 wins in Western Australia before transferring his indentures to the Melbourne-based training partnership of Matthew Ellerton and Simon Zahra during the 2010/11 season. He graduated to the senior riding ranks during the 2012/13 season when he broke through the 100 wins in a season barrier for the first time (106 wins) at a strike rate of 16%. He repeated that achievement in the 2013/14 season with 105 wins and finished 3rd in the Victorian Jockeys’ Championship. His maiden G1 victory came atop Trust In A Gust in the 2014 Sir Rupert Clarke. Lane undertook a short-term contract in Hong Kong at the end of the 2014/15 season for five wins and rode with success in Japan in the summer of 2019. Also in 2019, Lane won three out of four of Australian racing’s 'Grand Slam', securing the Golden Slipper aboard Kiamichi, the Caulfield Cup aboard Mer De Glace and the Cox Plate with Lys Gracieux. Lane boasts two G1 wins in Japan, scoring atop Normcore in the 2019 Victoria Mile and Lys Gracieux in the Arima Kinen. He boasts in excess of 1,302 career wins (as at 16 November).

**IJC record:** Debut.

**Britain**

**Hollie Doyle**

**Age:** 25

**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, 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 last year. 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 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.  **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 (162 in the year 2021, as at 17 November). **IJC record:** 2020 – 3rd (DH).

**Tom Marquand**

**Age:** 23

**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 Flat racing 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. Last year 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 an impressive victory in the G1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes in Australia. He also enjoyed G1 success in Britain this year with Starman in the July Cup.  **Honours:** British Champion Apprentice (2015). **IJC record:** 2020 – 10th.

**Ryan Moore**

**Age:** 38

**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. 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 and has won 11 English Classics. Moore bagged eight G1 wins in 2020, and this year’s 13 G1s have taken his overall tally to 153 at the elite level in 11 different countries. 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.

**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).

**IJC record:** 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.

**Japan**

**Yuga Kawada**

**Age:** 36

**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 1,600 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 four-time JRA Award winner for the jockey with the highest winning percentage, achieving the feat in 2013, 2014, 2019 and 2020. Recently, he partnered Loves Only You to win the 2021 G1 Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Turf. 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, 2020 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).

**Honours include:** 2019 World All-Star Jockeys Champion; 2019 Shergar Cup winning team captain.

**IJC record:** 2019 – 5th.

**France**

**Mickael Barzalona**

**Age:** 30

**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. The latest of his 16 G1 wins came aboard Sealiway in the Champion Stakes at Ascot in October. **IJC record:** 2020 – 11th; 2018 - 8th (DH); 2016 - 10th.

**New Zealand**

**James McDonald**

**Age:** 29

**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 Premiership 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 Premiership in July, 2014, bagged a second in 2015/16 and has since added an astonishing three more. He now has 59 G1 wins and 1,783 career wins (as at 16 November), and is currently in terrific form this campaign, starring at G1 level with wins in The Melbourne Cup aboard Verry Elleegant, Darley Sprint Classic with Nature Strip, Coolmore Stud Stakes atop Home Affairs and Mackinnon Stakes with Zaaki. He also claimed the lucrative The Everest aboard Nature Strip.

**Honours include:** Sydney Champion Jockey (2013/14, 2015/16, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21); two-time New Zealand champion jockey (2008/09 & 2010/11).

**IJC record:** 2019 – 10th;2015 - 9th;2014 - 3rd;2012 - 10th (DH);2011 - 2nd.

**South Africa**

**Lyle Hewitson**

**Age:** 24

**Background:**

Lyle Hewitson hails from a racing family as his father, Carl Hewitson, is a former jockey who is now a trainer. Hewitson started out in the saddle playing Polocrosse, excelling at both a provincial and national level. At age 12 he set his sights on becoming a jockey and began riding work in Port Elizabeth during school holidays. Instead of heading directly to the South African Jockeys’ Academy, Hewitson’s parents were adamant he finish school first, which meant that he began his race-riding career in work riders’ races outside of school hours. With an education under his belt, Hewitson joined the well-regarded South African Jockey Academy in 2016 and landed his first win at his 10th ride, aboard Blizzard Belle at Fairview. The emerging talent finished runner-up in the apprentice championship that season with 73 wins. Hewitson secured the champion apprentice title in 2016/17 with 124 wins. He took the title again in 2017/18 with 184 wins and in doing so made history as the first apprentice to win the full South African Jockeys’ premiership since Michael Roberts in 1972/73. His most successful day in the saddle came when he landed a Group 1 double at Scottsville on Saturday, 25 May, 2019 aboard Eden Roc in the Sun Gold Medallion and Celtic Sea in the SA Fillies Sprint. After departing from his first contract in Hong Kong with three winners, Hewitson campaigned to Japan for a two-month stint which he finished with 19 wins and a pair of Group 2 triumphs after claiming the Spring Stakes atop Galore Creek at Nakayama Racecourse and Aoba Sho aboard Authority at Tokyo Racecourse. After his Japan stint, Hewitson returned to South Africa to capture a third champion jockey title, having ridden 263 winners through the 2020/21 season.

**Honours:** South African Champion Jockey (2017/18, 2018/19, 2020/21);SouthAfrican Champion Apprentice (2016/17 & 2017/18).

**IJC record:** Debut**.**