**Vincent Ho Chak-yiu**

**Age:** 33

**Background:**

Hong Kong Jockey Club Apprentice Jockeys’ School graduate Vincent Ho racked up 44 wins as a young rider in New Zealand under the tutelage of leading trainer Lance O’Sullivan. He made a sound start to his Hong Kong career with 10 victories in his first season in 2009/10, including a trio of wins he achieved on only his fourth race day in Hong Kong. He sealed the 2010/11 Champion Apprentice title with 39 wins. Ho reached the graduation benchmark on 1 October, 2012 by claiming his 70th win in Hong Kong on board Castle Hero and he notched 33 wins in 2014/15 to be the season’s leading homegrown rider. On number of wins, Ho enjoyed his best season to date in 2022/23 when he amassed a career-high 96 wins. In that season he also became the second homegrown jockey in history to ride 500 wins in Hong Kong, and took a fourth Tony Cruz Award. However, 2020/21 could easily be regarded as his best season when winning five Group 1 races, including victories aboard Hong Kong’s champion Golden Sixty and Japan’s Loves Only You. Ho added a trio of Group 1 wins to his haul with Golden Sixty throughout the 2022/23 season. Ho rode a short stint in Europe during the off-season in 2018 and notched a first United Kingdom win at the first attempt, partnering the Mark Johnston-trained X Rated to success at Haydock on 9 August. He returned to Great Britain during the 2019 off-season and competed at the Shergar Cup at Ascot where he won the Shergar Cup Mile aboard Power Of Darkness, helping the Rest of the World team secure Shergar Cup glory. Expected to feature once more at the 2023 Shergar Cup, injury in Japan unfortunately ruled Ho out, resulting in his off-season riding stints abroad being shortened ahead of the 2023/24 Hong Kong racing season.

**Honours:**

Hong Kong Champion Apprentice (2010/11); Best Freelance Jockey Award (2014/15); Tony Cruz Award (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2022/23).

**IJC record:** 2022 – 3rd (DH);2021 – 10th (DH**);** 2020 – 8th (DH);2019 – 3rd; 2018 – 3rd; 2014 – 5th.

**Karis Teetan**

**Age:** 33

**Background:**

Mauritian rider Karis Teetan was well ensconced in the top 10 of the South African Jockeys’ Championship when he left for Hong Kong in August, 2013. He entered the South African Jockey Academy at the age of 14 and went on to be crowned South Africa Champion Apprentice in 2008. He graduated in 2009 with 147 wins to his credit. Teetan passed the 100-win mark in every season as a senior jockey in South Africa. His first top level win was in his native Mauritius on 24 November, 2008, aboard Halo Hunter. Teetan represented South Africa in the 2012 International Jockeys’ Invitational in Seoul, Korea and in the 2008 Macau Apprentice Jockeys Invitation Races. He notched an impressive 50 wins in his first Hong Kong season and has continued to build on that good start. He finished third in the 2017/18 championship race with 52 wins, which included a trio of Group 3 triumphs. He topped that in 2018/19 with 84 wins as he secured his first Hong Kong Group 1 win aboard Mr Stunning in the Hong Kong Sprint and again went better in 2019/20 with a personal best 93 wins, cementing third place in the championship race. He reunited with Mr Stunning in the 2020 Chairman’s Sprint Prize. Teetan enjoyed plenty of success through 2021/22, finishing third in the jockeys’ championship with 73 wins. Teetan was sidelined due to illness early throughout the 2022/23 season before returning to his best to reach 600 career wins in Hong Kong.

**Honours:**

South Africa Champion Apprentice (2008); International Jockeys’ Championship winner (2019).

**IJC record:** 2020 – 8th (DH); **2019 - WON;** 2018 – 7th; 2017 - 9th (DH).

**Lyle Hewitson**

**Age:** 26

**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 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’ Championship 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 in the Sun Gold Medallion and 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 a short stint in Japan, Hewitson returned to South Africa to capture a third riding title in 2020/21, having ridden 263 winners. Returning to Hong Kong at the end of 2021, Hewitson struck with early success before a shocking fall in December stalled his headway. The affable South African made a remarkable return to race-riding in January, 2020 to close out the season with 27 wins. He enjoyed his first 50-win season through the 2022/23 term.

**Honours:**

South Africa Champion Jockey (2017/18, 2018/19 & 2020/21); South Africa Champion Apprentice (2016/17 & 2017/18).

**IJC record:** 2022 – 6th (DH); 2021 - 10th (DH).