

2024 / 2025

HONG KONG RACING MEDIA GUIDE



citi HONG KONG GOLD CUP



LOVE RACING



香港賽馬會
The Hong Kong
Jockey Club

140 年 YEARS

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RACE HISTORY

It's more than four decades since the Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup was inaugurated at Sha Tin Racecourse. In that time, a host of Hong Kong racing's equine greats have carried off the Gold Cup and today the contest is an international Group 1 race worth HK\$13 million.

The victory roll features standouts such as River Verdon, Golden Sixty, Romantic Warrior, Indigenous, Bullish Luck, Vengeance Of Rain, Viva Pataca, Ambitious Dragon, Military Attack, Designs On Rome, Werther, Exultant, Time Warp and Russian Emperor. Notable among the race's early winners are Silver Lining, Co-Tack, Gay Eighties and Yuno When, but the distinction of being the first ever Hong Kong Gold Cup winner will forever belong to Observatory, trained by Allan Chan and ridden by the great Pat Eddery, who took the spoils on 14 January, 1979.

That initial contest was an 1800m affair and it was not until 1993 that the race distance changed to its now familiar 2000m. One year earlier the race was granted HKG1 status and formed the second leg of the newly-established Hong Kong Triple Crown, sandwiched between the Stewards' Cup (1600m) and Champions & Chater Cup (2400m). Citi Group has sponsored the Hong Kong Gold Cup since 2008.

River Verdon won the first HKG1 edition in 1992 and proceeded to rattle off a hat-trick of Gold Cup wins – a feat unmatched by any horse to date. His 1993/94 triumph was the middle leg of a famous Triple Crown triumph, the first and only in Hong Kong racing history.

John Moore is the race's most successful trainer, having won the Hong Kong Gold Cup on 12 occasions, including nine since 2006. Tony Cruz and Douglas Whyte are the only successors in the race as a jockey and trainer. Cruz won twice as a jockey and boasts seven wins as a trainer, including three consecutive editions with Time Warp in 2018 and 2020, while Exultant triumphed in 2019. Meanwhile, Whyte won aboard Indigenous and Ambitious Dragon in 1999 and 2012, respectively, before achieving another milestone with Russian Emperor in 2022 as a trainer. The race's winning-most riders are Darren Beadman, Basil Marcus, Joao Moreira and Zac Purton with three wins apiece.

It was ranked 49th in the IFHA's LONGINES World's Top 100 G1 Races in 2024.



PAST WINNERS

(Since 1985)

YEAR	HORSE (COUNTRY BRED)	A/W/S	JOCKEY	TRAINER	OWNER	MARGIN	DRAW	ODDS	GOING	TIME
2024	ROMANTIC WARRIOR (IRE)	6/126/g	James McDonald	Danny Shum	Peter Lau Pak Fai	NK	11/11	1.6F	G	2:00.31
2023	GOLDEN SIXTY (AUS)	7/126/g	Vincent Ho	Francis Lui	Stanley Chan Ka Leung	HD	4/7	2.3	GF	1:59.98
2022	RUSSIAN EMPEROR (IRE)	5/126/g	Blake Shinn	Douglas Whyte	Mike Cheung Shun Ching	4-1/4	9/10	6.5	Y	2:04.11
2021	GOLDEN SIXTY (AUS)	5/126/g	Vincent Ho	Francis Lui	Stanley Chan Ka Leung	SH	4/7	1.3F	G	2:00.25
2020	TIME WARP (GB)	7/126/g	Joao Moreira	Tony Cruz	Martin Siu Kim Sun	3/4	8/11	26	G	2:02.00
2019	EXULTANT (IRE)	5/126/g	Zac Purton	Tony Cruz	Eddie Wong & Wong Leung Sau Hing	1-1/2	9/11	2.1F	G	2:00.87
2018	TIME WARP (GB)	5/126/g	Zac Purton	Tony Cruz	Martin Siu Kim Sun	1/2	7/9	3	G	1:59.97
2017	WERTHER (NZ)	5/126/g	Hugh Bowman	John Moore	Johnson Chen	SH	4/7	2.0F	G	2:03.78
2016	DESIGNS ON ROME (IRE)	6/126/g	Tommy Berry	John Moore	Cheng Keung Fai	1/2	5/11	4.4	G	2:01.51
2015	DESIGNS ON ROME (IRE)	5/126/g	Joao Moreira	John Moore	Cheng Keung Fai	1-1/4	3/8	1.8F	GF	2:01.57
2014	MILITARY ATTACK (IRE)	6/126/g	Joao Moreira	John Moore	Mr & Mrs Steven Lo	3	2/7	2.1	G	2:01.21
2013	MILITARY ATTACK (IRE)	5/126/g	Zac Purton	John Moore	Mr & Mrs Steven Lo	2-1/2	1/11	9.2	G	2:03.01
2012	AMBITIOUS DRAGON (NZ)	5/126/g	Douglas Whyte	Tony Millard	Johnson Lam & Anderson Lam	1-1/4	6/10	2.0F	G	2:02.88
2011	CALIFORNIA MEMORY (USA)	5/126/g	Matthew Chadwick	Tony Cruz	Howard Liang Yum Shing	1-1/4	12/12	31	G	2:01.63
2010	COLLECTION (IRE)	5/126/g	Darren Beadman	John Moore	07/08 John Moore Trainer Syndicate	1-3/4	5/11	2.1F	G	2:01.60
2009	VIVA PATACA (GB)	7/126/g	Darren Beadman	John Moore	Stanley Ho Hung Sun	NK	6/8	1.3F	G	2:04.61
2008	VIVA PATACA (GB)	6/126/g	Darren Beadman	John Moore	Stanley Ho Hung Sun	2-3/4	2/8	1.5F	G	2:03.90
2007	VENGEANCE OF RAIN (NZ)	6/126/g	Anthony Delpech	David Ferraris	Raymond Gianco Chow, et al.	NK	7/8	2.9	GF	2:04.40
2006	SUPER KID (NZ)	6/126/h	Shane Dye	John Moore	Wong Yuk Kwan	HD	3/14	9.1	GF	2:02.80
2005	PERFECT PARTNER (AUS)	5/126/g	Christophe Soumillon	Tony Cruz	Gowin Chan & Ringo Ng	1-3/4	9/14	6.6	G	2:06.30
2004	BULLISH LUCK (USA)	5/126/g	Felix Coetzee	Tony Cruz	Wong Wing Keung	1/2	13/13	20	GF	2:02.30
2003	OLYMPIC EXPRESS (GB)	5/126/g	Eric Saint-Martin	Ivan Allan	Larry C K Yung	NK	13/13	6	GF	2:02.90
2002	INDUSTRIAL PIONEER (IRE)	5/126/g	Gerald Mosse	Brian Kan	Albert Hu, Ngan Keng Hing, et al.	HD	5/14	3.6	G	2:02.40



PAST WINNERS (CON'T)

(Since 1985)

YEAR	HORSE (COUNTRY BRED)	A/W/S	JOCKEY	TRAINER	OWNER	MARGIN	DRAW	ODDS	GOING	TIME
2001	IDOL (NZ)	4/126/g	Mick Kinane	David Oughton	Wong Chi Muk	1	11/12	50	GF	2:02.10
2000	INDUSTRIALIST (GB)	4/126/g	Alan Munro	Brian Kan	Albert Hu & Peter Wong Yau Ming	2-1/4	5/11	5.2	GF	2:00.20
1999	INDIGENOUS (IRE)	6/126/g	Douglas Whyte	Ivan Allan	Mr & Mrs Pang Yuen Hing	NK	9/9	2.9F	GF	2:01.30
1998	INDIGENOUS (IRE)	5/126/g	Basil Marcus	Ivan Allan	Pang Yuen Hing	1-1/4	10/14	1.7F	GF	2:02.50
1997	DEAUVILLE (FR)	5/126/h	Eric Saint-Martin	Tony Cruz	Wilson Tam Man Shu & Tam Man Wai	HD	3/11	21	GY	2:03.10
1996	MAKARPURA STAR (NZ)	5/126/g	Felix Coetzee	John Moore	Frank Wong Wing Pak	1	3/7	1.6F	GY	2:03.40
1995	MAKARPURA STAR (NZ)	4/126/g	Tony Cruz	John Moore	Frank Wong Wing Pak	1-1/4	4/13	5.4	G	2:04.70
1994	RIVER VERDON (IRE)	7/126/g	John Marshall	David Hill	Sir Oswald Cheung & Ronald Arculli	6-1/4	4/10	1.6F	G	2:03.20
1993	RIVER VERDON (IRE)	6/126/g	Basil Marcus	David Hill	Sir Oswald Cheung & Ronald Arculli	3	4/9	1.2F	G	2:01.60
1992	RIVER VERDON (IRE)	5/126/g	Basil Marcus	David Hill	Sir Oswald Cheung & Ronald Arculli	3/4	13/13	1.3F	GF	1:48.10
1991	STARLIGHT (FR)	6/123/g	Paul Robinson	David Oughton	Albert Ho Chin Keung	1-1/2	7/14	21	G	1:48.10
1990	STARLIGHT (FR)	5/120/g	Paul Robinson	David Oughton	Albert Ho Chin Keung	SH	3/14	8.9	GF	1:48.30
1989	GOLD BELT (IRE)	6/123/g	Bartie Leisher	Brian Kan	Mr & Mrs U Tat Ming	HD	1/14	11	F	1:47.30
1988	CRUISE CONTROL (AUS)	4/122/g	Gary Palmer	Eric Collingwood	Patrick R Kroos	NK	4/12	4.4F	GF	1:47.90
1987	WING HO (FR)	6/122/g	Neil Williams	John Moore	Mr & Mrs Lambert Kwok	HD	2/14	17	GF	1:48.50
1986	YUNO WHEN (NZ)	4/141/g	C M Cheng	Brian Kan	D C da Silva	SH	6/14	4.2	G	1:48.40
1985	GAY EIGHTIES (GB)	6/128/g	Brent Thomson	T C Cheng	Dr Douglas Laing	1 3/4	5/11	9.5	GF	1:48.40

Previously a Limited Handicap for Class 1 horses, the race was run as a HKG1 from 1992, and as a G1 since 2015. Previous race distance was 1800m. It has been run at 2000m since 1993.



BARRIER DRAW DATA

(Since 1993)

DRAW	1ST	2ND	3RD
1	1	4	6
2	2	3	6
3	4	3	6
4	6	2	4
5	4	3	1
6	2	3	1
7	2	4	1
8	1	3	3
9	4	1	0
10	1	1	3
11	2	4	1
12	1	1	0
13	2	0	0
14	0	0	0

2024 CITI HONG KONG GOLD CUP

Romantic Warrior lifted his standing as one of the world's premier middle-distance gallopers with a gripping victory in the 2024 HK\$13 million G1 Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup (2000m) after a stirring battle with Voyage Bubble at Sha Tin on 25 February.

The first Hong Kong International Sale graduate to win the BMW Hong Kong Derby (2000m) in 2022, Romantic Warrior became only the third horse since the turn of the century after Vengeance Of Rain and Designs on Rome to snare all three of Hong Kong's top-level 2000m contests – the Hong Kong Gold Cup, G1 FWD QEII Cup (2000m) and G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Cup (2000m).

James McDonald was awe-struck by the gelding's effort to fend off fellow BMW Hong Kong Derby victor Voyage Bubble by a neck after the pair forged clear at the 300m in an electrifying tussle.

Having drawn the outside of 11 runners, McDonald crossed to the rails on Romantic Warrior after only 400m and then was stalked by Zac Purton on Voyage Bubble until the field approached the turn. While Purton fanned into the clear as Sword Point and Money Catcher faded before taking the lead, McDonald angled between runners to challenge.

After a fierce stoush in the straight, Romantic Warrior gradually edged out the 2024 G1 Stewards' Cup (1600m) winner in 2m 00.31s, with Nimble Nimbus a brave third, three lengths away under Andrea Atzeni.

"He (Romantic Warrior) is unreal, he just keeps surprising me – an unbelievable horse. He's the undisputed champion. He deserves all the accolades he gets. I can't stress how much of a privilege it is to ride him," McDonald said, revealing his absolute faith in Romantic Warrior was critical to tactical decision-making.

"He's the horse that does it all. He makes you look good all the time. His tenacity (and) will to win is phenomenal. I suppose instincts kicked in and (I) went with the flow. When you ride such good horses, you can do what you want to do and even if I made a little mistake during the race, he is probably good enough to overcome it and that was probably my mindset.

"Even though it worked out really, really well, I've got that much faith in the horse that you can do things on him that you would normally do."

Purse: HK\$13,000,000		Distance: 2000m		Status: Group 1				
Going: Good		Winning time: 2m 00.31s						
RANK	HORSE	AGE	WEIGHT	JOCKEY	TRAINER	DRAW	MARGIN (LBW)	ODDS
1 st	ROMANTIC WARRIOR	6	126	J McDonald	C S Shum	11	-	1.6
2 nd	VOYAGE BUBBLE	5	126	Z Purton	P F Yiu	7	N	4
3 rd	NIMBLE NIMBUS	6	126	A Atzeni	P F Yiu	1	3-1/4	24
4 th	STRAIGHT ARRON	5	126	H Bowman	C Fownes	6	4	6.8
5 th	FIVE G PATCH	6	126	M Chadwick	A S Cruz	3	4-1/4	35
6 th	BEAUTY JOY	7	126	K C Leung	A S Cruz	9	4-1/4	27
7 th	ENCOUNTERED	5	126	K Teetan	K L Man	2	5-1/2	16
8 th	SENIOR TOBA	6	126	A Hamelin	C Fownes	4	7-1/2	80
9 th	SWORD POINT	5	126	L Hewitson	F C Lor	5	11	75
10 th	CHAMPION DRAGON	6	126	A Badel	A S Cruz	8	13-3/4	78
11 th	MONEY CATCHER	6	126	L Ferraris	F C Lor	10	19	108

FIRST FOUR WITH SIRE

(Since 2013)

2024

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	ROMANTIC WARRIOR (IRE)	ACCLAMATION (GB)
2nd	VOYAGE BUBBLE (AUS)	DEEP FIELD (AUS)
3rd	NIMBLE NIMBUS (NZ)	SACRED FALLS (NZ)
4th	STRAIGHT ARRON (AUS)	FASTNET ROCK (AUS)

2023

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	GOLDEN SIXTY (AUS)	MEDAGLIA D'ORO (USA)
2nd	ROMANTIC WARRIOR (IRE)	ACCLAMATION (GB)
3rd	MONEY CATCHER (NZ)	FERLAX (NZ)
4th	GLORIOUS DRAGON (IRE)	TEOFILO (IRE)

2022

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	RUSSIAN EMPEROR (IRE)	GALILEO (IRE)
2nd	SAVVY NINE (FR)	ANODIN (IRE)
3rd	GOLDEN SIXTY (AUS)	MEDAGLIA D'ORO (USA)
4th	TOURBILLON DIAMOND (AUS)	OLYMPIC GLORY (IRE)

2021

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	GOLDEN SIXTY (AUS)	MEDAGLIA D'ORO (USA)
2nd	FURORE (NZ)	PIERRO (AUS)
3rd	EXULTANT (IRE)	TEOFILO (IRE)
4th	GLORIOUS DRAGON (IRE)	TEOFILO (IRE)

2020

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	TIME WARP (GB)	ARCHIPENKO (USA)
2nd	EXULTANT (IRE)	TEOFILO (IRE)
3rd	CITRON SPIRIT (IRE)	INVINCIBLE SPIRIT (IRE)
4th	DARK DREAM (AUS)	ALL AMERICAN (AUS)

2019

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	EXULTANT (IRE)	TEOFILO (IRE)
2nd	SOUTHERN LEGEND (AUS)	NOT A SINGLE DOUBT (AUS)
3rd	DINOZZO (IRE)	LILBOURNE LAD (IRE)
4th	SIMPLY BRILLIANT (GB)	FRANKEL (GB)

2018

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	TIME WARP (GB)	ARCHIPENKO (USA)
2nd	WERTHER (NZ)	TAVISTOCK (NZ)
3rd	SEASONS BLOOM (AUS)	CAPTAIN SONADOR (AUS)
4th	PAKISTAN STAR (GER)	SHAMARDAL (USA)

2017

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	WERTHER (NZ)	TAVISTOCK (NZ)
2nd	BLAZING SPEED (GB)	DYLAN THOMAS (IRE)
3rd	SECRET WEAPON (GB)	CHOISIR (AUS)
4th	BASIC TRILOGY (NZ)	MASTERCRAFTSMAN (IRE)

FIRST FOUR WITH SIRE (CONT'T)

(Since 2013)

2016

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	DESIGNS ON ROME (IRE)	HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR (IRE)
2nd	HELENE HAPPY STAR (IRE)	ZAMINDAR (USA)
3rd	MILITARY ATTACK (IRE)	ORATORIO (IRE)
4th	DOMINANT (IRE)	CACIQUE (IRE)

2015

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	DESIGNS ON ROME (IRE)	HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR (IRE)
2nd	HELENE SUPER STAR (USA)	WAR FRONT (USA)
3rd	BLAZING SPEED (GB)	DYLAN THOMAS (IRE)
4th	MILITARY ATTACK (IRE)	ORATORIO (IRE)

2014

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	MILITARY ATTACK (IRE)	ORATORIO (IRE)
2nd	DAN EXCEL (IRE)	SHAMARDAL (USA)
3rd	DOMINANT (IRE)	CACIQUE (IRE)
4th	BLAZING SPEED (GB)	DYLAN THOMAS (IRE)

2013

FINISH	HORSE (BRED)	SIRE
1st	MILITARY ATTACK (IRE)	ORATORIO (IRE)
2nd	PURE CHAMPION (IRE)	FOOTSTEPSINTHESAND (GB)
3rd	XTENSION (IRE)	XAAR (GB)
4th	FAY FAY (NZ)	FALKIRK (NZ)

LEAD SECTIONAL TIME

(Since 1993)

YEAR	400	800	1200	1600	2000
2024	25.39	49.28	1:13.44	1:36:95	2:00.31
2023	26.00	49.36	1:12.55	1:35.84	1:59.98
2022	25.91	49.55	1:14.41	1:39.22	2:04.11
2021	26.79	51.89	1:15.09	1:37.66	2:00.25
2020	26.54	51.38	1:14.76	1:37.74	2:02.00
2019	25.51	49.94	1:14.81	1:37.43	2:00.87
2018	25.68	49.03	1:12.42	1:35.74	1:59.97
2017	27.41	53.10	1:17.98	1:41.44	2:03.78
2016	25.29	50.19	1:15.42	1:38.99	2:01.51
2015	26.03	51.01	1:15.65	1:39.13	2:01.57
2014	26.74	51.97	1:15.52	1:38.50	2:01.21
2013	25.97	50.86	1:16.75	1:40.92	2:03.01
2012	25.61	50.47	1:16.38	1:39.79	2:02.88
2011	26.06	49.51	1:15.12	1:39.24	2:01.63
2010	25.25	49.75	1:15.48	1:38.79	2:01.60
2009	26.38	51.26	1:17.84	1:42.50	2:04.61
2008	25.90	51.20	1:17.20	1:41.60	2:03.90
2007	26.70	53.30	1:19.20	1:42.80	2:04.40
2006	25.50	49.80	1:15.90	1:39.70	2:02.80
2005	27.60	54.20	1:20.80	1:44.30	2:06.30
2004	26.10	50.30	1:15.70	1:39.30	2:02.30
2003	26.60	51.90	1:16.00	1:40.50	2:02.90
2002	25.60	49.10	1:14.00	1:38.60	2:02.40
2001	26.10	49.60	1:14.20	1:38.30	2:02.10
2000	25.50	48.70	1:12.80	1:36.90	2:00.20
1999	26.10	49.60	1:14.60	1:38.80	2:01.30
1998	26.30	50.60	1:14.90	1:39.00	2:02.50
1997	26.20	51.40	1:15.70	1:39.10	2:03.10
1996	26.40	50.80	1:15.50	1:40.20	2:03.40
1995	27.00	51.20	1:15.60	1:39.80	2:04.70
1994	26.20	51.00	1:16.20	1:40.20	2:03.20
1993	26.70	51.60	1:15.20	1:38.40	2:01.60