

HK WINNING FACTOR

HAPPY VALLEY – January 8, 2025

Rail position: A (good)

Market Guide: : ^ Expect to run longer odds. v Expect to run shorter odds. Suggested bets based on current or expected odds in Hong Kong, which can change dramatically at race time. Rated odds listed up to 30-1.

Maps: note race maps in HK racing very fluid. There is no requirement to notify officials of any change of tactics.

Race 1 – Class 5 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	9.7	CERVIN	3.2 ^	12	IVICTORIAM	>>>>
2	23.7	IVICTORIAM	15 ^	11	GOLD TACK	>>>>>>
3		PEGASUS GENERAL	12 ^	10	RED MAVERICK	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
4		CASA LEGEND	22	9	PEGASUS GENERAL	>>>>>>
5	7.8	GALLANT CROWN	10 V	8	PODIUM	>>>>>>
6	18.9	GOLD TACK	21	7	SO AWESOME	>>>>>>>>>?
7		SOLAR GOGO	23 ^	6	CASA LEGEND	>>>>>>
8		INVINCIBLE MISSILE	6.0 ^	5	INVINCIBLE MISSILE	>>>>
9	3.2	SO AWESOME	12 V	4	GALLANT CROWN	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
10	12.2	PODIUM	6.3	3	TATTENHAM	>>>>>>>>?
11	7.8	TATTENHAM	17 V	2	SOLAR GOGO	>>>>>>
12	15.2	RED MAVERICK	15 V	1	CERVIN	>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Average pace at best, leaning to slower. Cervin has enough speed to use his gate but will likely prefer to box seat and be led by more regular frontrunner Gallant Crown (ECW Wong). Red Maverick (Pouchin) has enough speed from his wide gate to look for the lead himself so he will push Gallant Crown along, though there is potential for the pace to come off midrace and the chemistry between these two will be the key. So Awesome an interesting runner stepping up to 1650m for just the third time and the first time for 2 and a half years. Has been a touch outpaced recently shorter races so wouldn't surprise to see him right up behind the frontrunners this distance but not as leader, especially with CY Ho aboard? Tattenham has a positive rider, Hewitson and a low draw as he steps Up in distance – he could be very handy but his starts can be untidy?

The market: Cervin won c/d two runs back, then caught wide l/s when 3d so going ok but looks overplayed, even with a good map from gate 1. He was 12.0 when he won with 8 pounds less to carry & well into double figures all other runs. He might well start favourite but there will be others well bet. Gallant Crown, likely leader with the claim, will be one & surprised to see So Awesome the price he is after excellent 2d l/s 1400m Sha Tin as 6.3 chance. Tattenham & Red Maverick, down in weights likely to have fans. Invincible Missile and Podium disadvantaged on the map but Podium in particular going well.

Recommendations: SO AWESOME's run Sha Tin deceptively good. Race was run quite slowly before Manythanks Forever ran strong final 400m sectional to score by 2 lengths. It was difficult to pull ground off him but SO AWESOME kept up and Podium did gain ground too. SO AWESOME map perfectly here & no reason to think he won't handle extra distance. Taking 11.0 with bookies for 6 units. TATTENHAM missed start 1200m l/s went ok & although he has tried 1650m without winning before, has run ok & 27.0 with bookies looks crazy. 2 units.

Race 2 – Class 4 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	29.3	SATIRICAL FAN	11	12	EXCELLENT PEERS	>>>>>>
2	11.9	STREET CONQUEROR	5.3	11	LOADED WITH FLUKE	>>>>>>>>
3	23.2	PRIME MORTAR	12	10	AFFIRM	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
4	4.9	GOLDEN RISE	2.7	9	HAPPY DAY	>>>>
5	14.8	HAPPY DAY	26 V	8	NIGHT PUROSANGUE	>>>>>>
6	4.9	EXCELLENT PEERS	25 V	7	SHINE BRIGHT	>>>>
7		NIGHT PUROSANGUE	61 ^	6	PRIME MORTAR	>>>>>>>>
8		LOADED WITH FLUKE	64 ^	5	GOLDEN RISE	>>>>>>
9		SHINE BRIGHT	85 ^	4	SPICY KNUCKLES	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
10		SPICY KNUCKLES	34 ^	3	SATIRICAL FAN	>>>>>>>>>?
11	29.3	AFFIRM	6.5	2	FORTUNE WHISKEY	>>>>
12	3.1	FORTUNE WHISKEY	5.3 V	1	STREET CONQUEROR	>>>>>>

The race: Genuine speed, some potential for faster. Spicy Knuckles always shown speed in trials, led both runs & has a low draw & Cheek Pieces going on. Will get competition from Affirm pressing forward out wide. That said, they will probably be the leaders & others will fold in behind. The horse that could upset that is Satirical Fan (ECW Wong). All runs have been over 1400m + & has been fast and aggressive. Is he sharp enough for 1200m - a query but is a very good beginner, likely first out of the gates.

The market: Golden Rise is Purton/Size combo so market will like him & probably keeps favouritism. Looking for weakness, he ran well l/s Nov 27, running on against tempo c/d but then not run for 6 weeks? There have been quite a few of these races available so have to wonder why he hasn't raced, though has trialed twice. Street Conqueror better drawn so will have support & Affirm always backed. Think there will be a firmer in Fortune Whiskey. Ran one very big rating l/season that makes him well placed here but rest of his form was rubbish. Moved to Eustace this season, both runs have been excellent from wide draws, now draws in.

Recommendations: He'll get back but happy to play WHSKEY FORTUNE from better draw – this horse is flying, it's just a case of how he handles the map. 5 units and taking 5.5 with bookies. Nothing at all on the map for HAPPY DAY and EXCELLENT PEERS but both better than the average C4 horse and going to be big prices from these draws. EXCELLENT PEERS 3.5 Units. HAPPY DAY 1 unit.

Race 3 – Class 4 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo => AVE
1	22.2	HYPER DRAGON BALL	44 V	12	HYPER DRAGON BALL	>>>>
2	27.4	MIGHTY COMMANDER	7.1 ^	11	VIVA HUNTER	>>>>>>>>>>
3		TEAM HAPPY	33 ^	10	TEAM HAPPY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
4	2.4	THE AZURE	5.6 V	9	U S S CONSTITUTION	>>>>>>
5	9.0	GOOD LUCK WIN	9.7	8	STARMEN	>>>>>>>>?
6	22.2	FOREMOST TEDDY	4.9 ^	7	MIGHTY COMMANDER	>>>>>>>>?
7		STARMEN	21 ^	6	NINJA DERBY	>>>>>>>>
8	14.0	APOLAR FIGHTER	17 V	5	SUPER BABY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
9	5.8	NINJA DERBY	3.5	4	THE AZURE	>>>>>>>>>>
10		U S S CONSTITUTION	35	3	APOLAR FIGHTER	>>>>
11		VIVA HUNTER	21 ^	2	FOREMOST TEDDY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
12	22.2	SUPER BABY	13	1	GOOD LUCK WIN	>>>>>>

The race: Pace doesn't look crazy but expect genuine speed and leaning to maybe a little faster, just because it looks a competitive situation where we could have a few wanting to be on speed. One who might have trouble with that is Good Luck Win – he was ridden along l/s to get the lead in a first section of 29.0 seconds this c/d when he won at long odds – in this they're likely to be going at least a second faster than that here & won't be surprised if he can't manage much better than midfield, though gate 1 will help.

The market: Market is going to zero in on two runners here, Purton's ride Ninja Derby and the horse he has jumped off after winning last 2 on him, The Azure. Can't explain that as Nina Derby has been racing well but had his chance often and won just once in C5 while The Azure has overcome difficulties winning in C5 and then especially in C4 and draws a lot better here. Purton's choice will impact the market and there is 7 pounds between them at the handicaps but will be surprised if they aren't at least close together at the top of the market. Foremost Teddy has a go-forward style so that always gets some support but is a pretty average animal from what we have seen to date.

Recommendations: Liked how THE AZURE was going even before he won his last 2 starts and has rated well both wins. Gets a great map and getting great odds to play him. 4.8 with bookies. 7 units. GOOD LUCK WIN had shown glimpses of ability before surprised at almost 100-1 l/s win leading, doubt he will get near the lead here but is lightly-raced, has gate 1. Might drift in market just because he was such a long price l/s. 0.5 unit

Race 4 – Class 4 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	4.9	BEAUTY LIGHT	2.5	12	SIGHT HAPPY	>>>>>>
2	15.1	BRAVE JOY	11	11	SHINKANSEN	>>>>>>>>>>>>
3		IRON LEGION	12 ^	10	BULB EMPEROR	>>>>
4	7.8	SIGHT HAPPY	13	9	JUDY'S GREAT	>>>>>>>>>>>>
5		HAPPY TANGO	18 ^	8	BEAUTY LIGHT	>>>>>>>>>>>>
6	9.6	JUDY'S GREAT	30	7	IRON LEGION	>>>>>>>>>?
7	7.8	LUCKY GENERATIONS	5.8	6	HAPPY TANGO	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
8		BULB EMPEROR	37 ^	5	LUCKY GENERATIONS	>>>>?
9	6.2	CIRCUS REEL	12 V	4	THE PRIME	>>>>
10		THE PRIME	30 ^	3	DRACO	>>>>>>
11	12.1	DRACO	12	2	BRAVE JOY	>>>>>>>>>>>>
12	18.9	SHINKANSEN	10 ^	1	CIRCUS REEL	>>>>>>>>>>

The race: This could get to average pace if we get a few pushing forward with intent but leaning to something slower, with queries. Happy Tango is a 9yo so, like all old horses, he can be a touch inconsistent and l/s he jumped ok then couldn't keep up at 1000m, which doesn't usually happen. Coming back up 1200m now, can see him flipping that & leading as he did his previous start this c/d, in a race where there is nothing all that quick. Iron Legion has been leading at the trials on a regular basis but in slowly-run trials before running very slow final sections. Expecting there will be intent to go forward here at his first race start though and that might take him a long way to achieving that? Shinkansen and Sight Happy have only average early speed and that's if they jump cleanly, and think Sight Happy more likely to go back from the outside after running on l/s win. Maybe the most interesting pace angle is Circus Reel, who drew well debut run Sha Tin and wasn't far off a very genuine speed that day but got well back next 3 starts wide draws. Now he draws in again and should be more prominent.

The market: Not sure how much value he is but Beauty Light is the one with no racing, won 1 of 2 starts and has some scope but draw looks tricky. Right fav and it's Size/Purton so expect he will run favourite despite his issues, especially as some of his main rivals also have issues – Sight Happy, Lucky Generations and Shinkansen. Thought the firmer would be Circus Reel, who maps to get into the box seat trail here. Only run 4 times, there has been some merit in all of them and now gets a draw again after getting back/running on 1000m l/s from wide gate. Draco having first run since June. Did show some ability but was quite green l/season. Now with PF Yiu after stable change, can't say trials have grabbed you but has had 3 of them to get him fit.

Recommendations: Won't be shocked if Beauty Light wins but not getting much of a price to find out. The best value here is CIRCUS REEL for the reasons above. He's 11.0 with bookies and taking that. 2 units. JUDY'S GREAT has a widish gate, HT Mo and his only win was on dirt so there are plenty of arguments against him but getting a big price. Overraced l/s dirt first run for 2 months, vet issues run prior but was ok f/up this c/d in Sept. 1.5 units. Nothing in the map is helping SIGHT HAPPY but hasn't run a bad race yet and will probably get to a silly price. 0.5 unit

Race 5 – Class 4 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo => AVE
1		MEGA BONUS	12 ^	12	KA YING POWER	>>>>>>>>>
2	11.7	CIRCUIT DUFFY	12 V	11	HAPPY PARK	>>>>>>>>>
3		ONE FOR ALL	12 ^	10	LA MOMENTO	>>>>>>>>?
4	28.6	HAPPY PARK	11 ^	9	TALENTS SUPREMO	>>>>>>
5	3.9	HAPPY SOUL	4.5	8	HAPPY SOUL	>>>>>>
6		ICONICAL	85 ^	7	MEGA BONUS	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
7		LA MOMENTO	24	6	SPIRIT OF PEACE	>>>>>>>
8	2.5	SPIRIT OF PEACE	3.4 V	5	LAKESHORE HERO	>>>>>>>>>>>
9	23.2	LAKESHORE HERO	7.0 ^	4	LUCKY PLANET	>>>>>>>>>>>
10		LUCKY PLANET	15 ^	3	ONE FOR ALL	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
11	28.6	KA YING POWER	21	2	ICONICAL	>>>>>>>
12	23.2	TALENTS SUPREMO	15	1	CIRCUIT DUFFY	>>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Fast pace. Would be very surprised if this isn't faster than average. There are others with speed but One For All is a one-trick pony, he wants to lead, runs fast in that position and he has a low draw and Ferraris, an aggressive jockey. Like One For All, Mega Bonus is fast but lacks any acceleration, so he has won his 5 races by pressing as fast as he can early & pressuring the lead. He isn't as fast out of the gates as One For All so he might not be able to match him but he will try and that will ensure a fast pace is maintained. La Momento has been leading at the trials but he will encounter a very different brand of speed here and could be anywhere from the wide draw?

The market: Market has been pretty good here finding the two best-suited runners & can see Spirit Of Peace in particular running a bit shorter than current odds. Rated well debut run Sha Tin when a good run was expected by the betting, does have to bring that to HV but the pace set up looks to suit and its Purton/Size. Happy Soul going well but he's one of those horses whose record – 28 starts 2 wins – probably doesn't reflect his ability but does reflect his lack of tactical talent. He will get back this draw but the right pace looks guaranteed. Lakeshore Hero disappointed l/s 1400m but prior 2 runs this c/d had been quite good with things against him. Still, looks short enough.

Recommendations: SPIRIT OF PEACE has never been to HV so that's the query but he's the winner on most metrics coming out of a decent race at debut and with map to suit. He's 3.0 at bookies and that looks a bet. 3.5 Units. HAPPY SOUL slightly more problematic on the map but suited tempo, going well. And the 5.5 with bookies looks ok. 2.5 units.

Race 6 – Class 4 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	2.7	HARMONY GALAXY	3.6	12	ATOMIC BEAUTY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
2		S J TOURBILLON	22 ^	11	TRADITION	>>>>
3	10.2	SILVER UP	6.2	10	YOUTH POWER	>>>>>>>>>>>
4	12.8	SMART CITY	14 V	9	AMAZING AWARD	>>>>>>>
5	25.2	ESCAPE ROUTE	10 ^	8	ESCAPE ROUTE	>>>>>>>
6		PERPETUAL POWER	50 ^	7	HARMONY GALAXY	>>>>>>>>>>>>?
7	8.2	TO INFINITY	11	6	FIREFOOT	>>>>>>>>>>>>>
8		ATOMIC BEAUTY	15 ^	5	TO INFINITY	>>>>>>>>
9	31.1	YOUTH POWER	15	4	PERPETUAL POWER	>>>>>>>
10	10.2	FIREFOOT	5.3	3	SMART CITY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>
11	15.9	AMAZING AWARD	14	2	SILVER UP	>>>>>>>
12	25.2	TRADITION	13 ^	1	S J TOURBILLON	>>>>

The race: Average pace at best, leaning to slower. This is a race where intent will play a big part. Harmony Galaxy, for example, was prominent in a number of his races early this season, ran well in one but failed in a few. Latest start, went back from wide draw fast-run 1650m and produced clearly his best rating in HK l/s. Bowman goes on first time & he defaults to conservative tactics but better draw, not a lot of obvious speed here - what will the approach be? Purton will be positive on Firefoot, expect Smart City forward, Atomic Beauty goes forward from out wide as a possible leader & expect Youth Power would like a handy position but likely not looking to the lead from his awkward gate. The rest are run-ons.

The market: Harmony Galaxy G1 placed twice in Brazil as 2yo and 3yo, has taken a while to acclimatize in his HK career but His latest run, coming from last with big finish this c/d and grade was very good & way better than anything anything else here has ever done. Some sort of query how he will map, given that he ran so well from the back, but that was gate 12 and he had shown some tactical speed prior so expecting he will take a position and think the market is saying the same thing. Although Firefoot has a chance after a couple of better runs lately and gets a good map and Purton, there is a real lack of quality in anything he has done so far, so the map and Purton are doing all the heavy lifting in his price. Silver Up drawn ok but hasn't looked very tactically versatile so there's a query on how much use to him that is.

Recommendations: Just not sure how much edge ill be in the price available for HARMONY GALAXY but horse to beat. 1.5 units. TO INFINITY winner of 5 races c/d, l/s winner too just a query whether the tempo will be any assistance for him. 0.5 unit.

Race 7 – Group 3 1800m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	28.9	HAPPY TOGETHER	8.9 ^	12	MONEY CATCHER	>>>>>>>>>>>>?
2	6.1	FIVE G PATCH	12	11	LA CITY BLANCHE	>>>>>>
3	14.8	LA CITY BLANCHE	11	10	HAPPY TOGETHER	>>>>>>
4	9.5	ENCOUNTERED	12	9	HELENE FEELING	>>>>>>?
5		THE GOLDEN SCENERY	24 ^	8	THE GOLDEN SCENERY	>>>>
6	2.5	MOMENTS IN TIME	3.9 V	7	STAR CONTACT	>>>>>>>>>>>>
7		HELENE FEELING	8.0 ^	6	MOMENTS IN TIME	>>>>>>>>>>>>
8		MONEY CATCHER	17 ^	5	ENCOUNTERED	>>>>>>
9		WOODFIRE BRO	15	4	WOODFIRE BRO	>>>>>>>>>>
10	23.4	FLAMINGO TRILLION	5.1 ^	3	FIVE G PATCH	>>>>
11		STAR CONTACT	16 ^	2	FLAMINGO TRILLION	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
12	11.9	ROMANTIC LAOS	17 V	1	ROMANTIC LAOS	>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo. We saw Money Catcher back to leading l/s in C2 and he probably only needs to go as fast to be part of the lead here but that was from gate 1 and this time from gate 12 he will need to cross the field? Flamingo Trillion looks a willing leader with a low draw & light weight and has won 3 times c/d positively-employed like that by this jockey. A number capable of being on the speed trailing without looking to lead but Moments In Time one of the more interesting. Ran on from last 1650m l/s after being in a scrimmage at the start from a wider gate but his pattern generally has been for positive tactics so anticipate we will see him forward here. He can be keen in races and become a contributor to a stronger speed but that won't be the plan with Bowman aboard. Not sure what the approach will be with Helene Feeling, who has some history going forward in his races but been ridden more quietly lately, with mixed results and his draw here looks a problem either way?

The market: The last 2 winners of this race are here, Happy Together and Money Catcher, but Money Catcher has been out of form for some time and Happy Together won with 115 pounds to carry last year, now has 135 and isn't a better horse. Will be surprised if both of them aren't soft in the betting. Likewise, Helene Feeling could be cool in the market – recent efforts below his best, draw doesn't help. Moments In Time looks the right favourite – right place, right time for this. Knocked down start l/s ran on for strong 2d C2 with big weight, but likely maps closer here, drops in weights and performed ok l/season in good races. Like most of these G3 races, weights do mean something but several of those down the bottom of the handicap here, inc second fav Flamingo Trillion don't seem to be getting much weight relief for being up in a stronger grade. Horses like Five G Patch, La City Blanche and Encountered are not badly handicapped as second tier type Group horses vis a vis some of the real lightweights.

Recommendations: MOMENTS IN TIME 3.7 at bookies 6 units. ROMANTIC LAOS 0.5 unit. Looks some value in FIVE G PATCH even though this distance might not be perfect. Back in class, drawn to follow the rail and think he'll get a true tempo here and be running on. 2.5 units. ENCOUNTERED going ok in better races, this looks the right kind of assignment and should map ok. 1 unit and taking the 15.0 at bookies.

Race 8 – Class 3 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	6.9	KYRUS DRAGON	7.7 V	12	POWER KOEPP	>>>>>>
2	21.0	SUPER JOY N FUN	9.5 ^	11	GOLDEN EMPIRE	>>>>>>>>>>>>
3	5.6	A AMERIC TE SPEC SO	5.5	10	YOUNG ARROW	>>>>>>
4	6.9	ETERNAL FORTUNE	6.4	9	SUPER JOY N FUN	>>>>>>
5	21.0	ALLGREEKTOME	23	8	ALLGREEKTOME	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
6		POWER KOEPP	50	7	ETERNAL FORTUNE	>>>>>>>>>>>>
7	21.0	CALIFORNIA DEEPLY	13	6	CALIFORNIA DEEPLY	>>>>>>
8	3.5	SPICY GOLD	3.0 V	5	SERGEANT PEPPER	>>>>>>>>>>>>
9		HAPPY FAT CAT	15 ^	4	KYRUS DRAGON	>>>>
10		SERGEANT PEPPER	48 ^	3	SPICY GOLD	>>>>>>
11		GOLDEN EMPIRE	25 ^	2	A AMERIC TE SPEC SO	>>>>
12	21.0	YOUNG ARROW	19	1	HAPPY FAT CAT	>>>>>>>>>>>>?

The race: Average tempo, potential for faster, Not many with genuine speed here, and 1000m specialist Sergeant Pepper has tended to be ridden with a sit so don't see him looking to get into a battle with a quick regular leader like Allgreetome with an aggressive jockey, Ferraris. What might kick the pace up to faster than average isn't competition in this case but Ferraris has a move he often employs on clear leaders in HV sprints, where he ramps up the speed going into the turn at the 600m and tries to break the field up. If Allgreetome establishes such a clear lead, it wouldn't surprise if he does it here. Happy Fat Cat has pace, hasn't begun all that well last couple but with a more experienced rider from gate 1 tonight he may be more prominent & doesn't have much speed to his outside even if he doesn't fly from the gates? Eternal Fortune doesn't have the pace of Allgreetome, he has been racing prominently but has a key jockey change to the more conservative Bowman. Golden Empire's draw is going to work against him but he has a history of jumping very fast for Hewitson & expect he will attempt to be forward but whether he gets there or not he will burn some fuel trying. Both A Americ Te Specso and Kyrus Dragon capable of being a pair closer than mapped, if they begin well, but both have a history of slow jumps, and the early speed here might be too slick for California Deeply to be as close as he was l/s win in C4 from gate 4.

The market: Spicy Gold rated highly winning C4 two starts ago here then didn't run for almost 2 months before just ok behind Aurora Lady when should have finished closer all the same. Fitter here, gets a nice map and horse to beat but market isn't missing him. In fact, market here looks to have done a pretty good job.

Recommendations: See no value here. NO BET.

Race 9 – Class 3 1800m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	9.6	NOBLE PURSUIT	5.6	12	SPEED DRAGON	>>>>>>
2		SPEED DRAGON	14 ^	11	QUANTUM PATCH	>>>>>>
3	11.9	SAMARKAND	9.9	10	CALIFORNIA TOTALITY	>>>>>>>>>>
4	9.6	CALIFORNIA TOTALITY	8.4	9	SURE JOYFUL	>>>>>>>>?
5	9.6	SIMPLE HEDGE	12	8	SUPER UNICORN	>>>>>>>>>
6	7.6	SUPER UNICORN	7.6 V	7	SIMPLE HEDGE	>>>>>>
7	6.1	COMET SPLENDIDO	19	6	SAMARKAND	>>>>>>>>>
8		QUANTUM PATCH	14 ^	5	SUNSTRIDER	>>>>>>
9	18.6	SUNSTRIDER	6.4 ^	4	NOBLE PURSUIT	>>>>>>
10	23.3	TOY SOLTERO	6.6 ^	3	DILBAGH	>>>>>>>>
11	9.6	DILBAGH	31 V	2	TOY SOLTERO	>>>>>>>>?
12	15.0	SURE JOYFUL	12	1	COMET SPLENDIDO	>>>>>>?

The race: Average tempo at best, leaning to slower. Intent will have a lot to do here with who ends up where and how fast they have to run to get there. The start will also be key as suspect Purton would be happy to be very positive on Toy Soltero from the inside but this horse has a spotty history at the jump, inc missing away l/s? Samarkand very likely positive but has tended to prefer being led rather than leading; Super Unicorn is up in distance but falls into the same category of preferring a sit; but Californiatotality and Avdulla have been comfortable leading or sharing the lead and have been successful that that way. None of them is wickedly quick but the most intent may come from Avdulla and Purton, provided they jump cleanly, but see no reason to think either would look to set a strong gallop, with Samarkand and Super Unicorn happy to let them go. Maybe the spoiler to all of that is Sure Joyful – he’s not especially fast to begin & has raced midfield a lot more often than forward but has a light weight, up in grade & Chadwick has only ridden him twice 1650m & been quite positive on him both times inc one from gate 10? Just still suspect he would be a reluctant leader. Although Quantum Patch a surprise leader this c/d l/s, he was wearing Blkrs first time – they come off here – and fresh at first run for 4 months. That was not his previous pattern, he ran poorly so not expecting to see a repeat? Comet Splendido capable of racing closer?

The market: Not sure who starts favourite in very tough race but Noble Pursuit or Super Unicorn as likely as any. Noble Pursuit won 4 of 13, inc this c/d, and draws a gate, though hasn’t run for 2 months? Market found Toy Soltero early, with Purton jumping on, but form is just ok and same goes for Sunstrider, who seems to be backed all the time.

Recommendations: Tough race. SUPER UNICORN is 9.0 with bookies. 1 unit. SIMPLE HEDGE had not been going that well before l/s 3d 2200m. Back in distance but best is well up to it & may have been a sign he’s on the way back 1 unit. COMET SPLENDIDO a horse we’ve tried a couple of times at odds recently, latest when missed the start l/s, & could have done more 1650m but race shape against him. Looking well handicapped, has gate 1 & getting a big price to gamble in open race. 2.5 units. Taking 41.0 with bookies DILBAGH, whose latest was better at third HK start, making up ground in decent race at Sha Tin 1600m. 1.5 units.

20250108	Trk	Cl	No.	Selection	Rated	Bookie Price	Units
1	H	5	9	SO AWESOME	3.20	11	6
1	H	5	11	TATTENHAM	7.80	27	2
2	H	4	5	HAPPY DAY	14.80	31	1
2	H	4	6	EXCELLENT PEERS	4.90	20	3.5
2	H	4	12	FORTUNE WHISKEY	3.10	5.5	5
3	H	4	4	THE AZURE	2.40	4.8	7
3	H	4	5	GOOD LUCK WIN	9.00	10	0.5
4	H	4	4	SIGHT HAPPY	7.80	9.5	0.5
4	H	4	6	JUDY'S GREAT	9.60	35	1.5
4	H	4	9	CIRCUS REEL	6.20	11	2
5	H	4	5	HAPPY SOUL	3.90	5.5	2.5
5	H	4	8	SPIRIT OF PEACE	2.50	3	3.5
6	H	4	1	HARMONY GALAXY	2.70	2.8	1.5
6	H	4	7	TO INFINITY	8.20	10	0.5
7	H	G3	2	FIVE G PATCH	6.10	13	2.5
7	H	G3	4	ENCOUNTERED	9.50	15	1
7	H	G3	6	MOMENTS IN TIME	2.50	3.7	6
7	H	G3	12	ROMANTIC LAOS	11.90	16	0.5
9	H	3	5	SIMPLE HEDGE	11.90	13	1
9	H	3	6	SUPER UNICORN	7.60	9	1
9	H	3	7	COMET SPLENDIDO	6.10	21	2.5
9	H	3	11	DILBAGH	9.60	41	1.5
							53