

# HK WINNING FACTOR

## SHA TIN – January 24, 2024

**Rail position: All Weather Track (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. Fields are declared 3 days before, giving jockeys, owners & trainers 72 hours+ to work out pace & often change tactics accordingly, even radically. There is no requirement to notify officials of any change of tactics.

### Race 1 – Class 4 1800m AWT

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	10.3	KIMBERLEY	7.3	11	SAMARKAND	>>>>>>>>>>
2	25.3	SAMARKAND	15	10	KIMBERLEY	>>>>>>>>>>
3	2.2	AMAZING TEENS	4.6 V	9	YEE CHEONG WARRIOR	>>>>
4	8.3	HARRY'S HERO	6.8	8	READY PLAYER ONE	>>>>>>
5	6.6	BLISSFUL STAR	4.2	7	SPLENDID STAR	>>>>>>
6		WINNING STEPS	5.4 ^	6	PAKISTAN FRIEND	>>>>>>>>>>
7		PAKISTAN FRIEND	33	5	WINNING STEPS	>>>>
8		RIGHTEOUS DOCTRINE	9.1 ^	4	BLISSFUL STAR	>>>>>>>>>>
9	25.3	READY PLAYER ONE	25 V	3	RIGHTEOUS DOCTRINE	>>>>>>
10		SPLENDID STAR	32	2	HARRY'S HERO	>>>>>>>>
11		YEE CHEONG WARRIOR	55 ^	1	AMAZING TEENS	>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo at best, leaning to slower. Quite a few options for a leader here but still doesn't have the look of a race with any genuine competition for the front, so the tempo might not make it to average. Amazing Teens, Blissful Star, Pakistan Friend are all horses who could lead but generally don't & won't get into a fight for the front. Out wider, Kimberley (Purton) and Samarkand (apprentice YL Chung) do have some speed & likely want to get forward and across to offset their wide draws but not sure they're going out to set a good gallop and might be just as happy to back off the speed once they get over.

The fav: Blissful Star hasn't had much luck last 2 starts 1800m, 1650m this surface after drawing wide and having too much to do in the run, beaten a neck in one and and half length in the other. Draws better here and should enjoy a softer trip. That said, he has won only 1 from 25 while Amazing Teens has won 4 races inc 3/8 this c/d and expect him to be well bet coming off a very good effort l/s HV.

Recommendations: AMAZING TEENS was good 1650m l/s, running on behind a good speed that helped but it is the bare minimum of his distance range & his record over the extra 150m here is very good – 8 starts 3 wins 3 placings. 8 units and the 4.8 at bookies looks a good price.

### Race 2 – Class 2 1650m AWT

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	1.5	CHANCHENG PRINCE	2.0	8	NEARLY FINE	>>>>
2		ALL FOR ST PAUL'S	9.3 ^	7	ALACRITY	>>>>>>>>?
3	27.4	APACHE PASS	6.9 ^	6	APACHE PASS	>>>>>>>>>>
4		FIND MY LOVE	12	5	CHANCHENG PRINCE	>>>>>>>>>>
5	7.2	MR ASCENDENCY	6.9	4	FIND MY LOVE	>>>>>>
6		ALACRITY	8.1 ^	3	BERLIN TANGO	>>>>>>
7	11.2	BERLIN TANGO	12 V	2	ALL FOR ST PAUL'S	>>>>>>>>>>>>
8		NEARLY FINE	22	1	MR ASCENDENCY	>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo at best but leaning towards slower than that. YL Chung on regular leader All For St Paul's is the key – this horse does tend to set a worthwhile tempo but there's every chance he won't have a rival for the front here & not sure that Chung will be able to resist the temptation to step on the brakes midrace. Chancheng Prince has speed this distance but will be happy to sit in behind the more committed frontrunner, and Apache Pass, who has Blks going back on after a couple of runs without them, is also more likely to sit just off the leader than fight him for the front. Alacrity has been racing handier this season in Blks, but they come off tonight, which should help with his tendency to overrace but will he lose some of that early speed too?

The fav: Very genuine horse Chancheng Prince, caught 3 wide when beaten by All For St Paul's this c/d in Oct & several other recent runs hasn't had best of luck. Got too far out of 1200m l/s, this distance where has won 4 races suits better and Bowman jumps on. Think he will start warm fav.

Recommendations: CHANCHENG PRINCE gets a perfect set up here in a race where others look weighted right to their best. 11 units. MR ASCENDENCY is 14.0 with bookies and do think that's a price that should be taken. Returned from short break l/s running on 1600m. His recent form patchy, with a few breaks that suggest has not been straightforward to train but back to the races after 17 days here. First run dirt but 2 runs polytrack in UK for a win and 2d so expect will handle it. 1.5 units.

**Race 3 – Class 4      1650m AWT**[illegible]

The race: Average tempo, some potential for slower. A large slice of this field wants to get back and just 3 going forward early with any real purpose – Lucky Banner (Bowman), Viva Hunter (Ellis Wong) and most importantly Mission Bravo (Ferraris) from an outside gate. So, the tempo is very much in the hands of their riders but, even if Bowman prefers to take a sit, which is more his style than getting into a fight, the other two will probably roll along ok. G Liner and Young Horizon more likely to be look for positions just behind the speed runners. Some queries around Smiling Collector – who overraced when sent forward l/s gate 10 on the turf but probably more likely to be ridden conservatively wide draw – and Noble Win – who managed to get out of the gates ok l/s HV gate 4 and was handy in a slow pace but his starts have not been reliable previously?

The fav: Looks a logical favourite here Lucky Banner for Bowman. Leads or takes on-pace position, been beaten in photos his last 2 attempts this c/d and is an easy one for the market to find.

**Recommendations:** Can't say NOBLE WIN has ever been a horse we've liked much – even his NZ win was a moderate race but it was on a synthetic surface & he tries the dirt for the first time & is by Deep Field, whose stock love this track. He has also dropped a long way in the handicaps to the point where he looks well handicapped. The draw an issue and can do things wrong but you do get Purton and a reasonable price to find out. 2 units. G LINER sound enough 3d two runs back Sha Tin turf good draw then sent forward wide gate, got outside the leader but was really kept busy there, with the tempo picking up a long way out and he gave nothing. Now back to a good gate to take a trail and get a softer trip. Hasn't tried this surface but had soft form UK so it might suit. 1.5 units.

**Race 4 – Class 5      1650m AWT**

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	6.0	BIG TWO	14 V	14	PRECISION GOAL	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>?
2	9.4	STARSHIP EIGHTY	4.4 ^	13	REGENCY HAPPY STAR	>>>>>>>
3	9.4	ASIAN ONE	10	12	SUPER JOY	>>>>
4	22.9	GO GO GO	8.0	11	STARSHIP EIGHTY	>>>>>>>
5	18.3	REGENCY HAPPY STAR	20	10	CHARMING STEED	>>>>>>>>>?
6	7.6	UNITED ENDEAVORS	15 V	9	BAEBAE TSOI	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
7		BAEBAE TSOI	44 ^	8	COMPULSORY	>>>>>>>>>>>?
8	28.5	PRECISION GOAL	10	7	CHIRON	>>>>>>>
9	22.9	CHARMING STEED	17	6	GO GO GO	>>>>>>>
10	4.8	SUPER JOY	6.1 V	5	BIG TWO	>>>>>>>>>>>
11	18.3	DEVIL AND GOLD	16	4	DEVIL AND GOLD	>>>>>>>>>>>?
12		SHENZHOU TWELVE	42 ^	3	UNITED ENDEAVORS	>>>>>>>>>>>?
13		CHIRON	8.8	2	SHENZHOU TWELVE	>>>>
14		COMPULSORY	22	1	ASIAN ONE	>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo, but this is really tricky once we take the jockey changes into account & could swing sharply either way. Precious Goal has been ridden aggressively in a lead-at-all-costs style lately this distance by Jerry Chau & racing well, but now switches to Bowman, who generally doesn't ride like that but is still on the fastest horse in the race? On the other side of the coin, United Endeavors and Devil And Gold would be expected to show some speed without necessarily leading but have YL Chung and E Wong riding tonight, which looks a signal of intent? Baebae Tsoi likely ridden positively from the sticky gate but queries either side of him in Compulsory – who can miss the jump – and Charming Steed – who has been going ok ridden to run on lately but up to this distance for the first time?

The fav: Starship Eighty and Super Joy not ideally suited on the map but come here with the best form and 2 of the best riders this surface, Teetan and Purton, in a race where nothing else has been that convincing. Purton factor and a weight pull might see Super Joy challenge for top billing in an open race.

**Recommendations:** Super Joy likely to be shorter than current odds available so passing on him as a bet but got as good a chance as anyone. BIG TWO overraced then didn't have much luck home straight l/s HV 1650m at first start for 2 months and first attempt this class. Fitter here, even his best form isn't anything flashy but it's good enough for this C5 and draws well. Happy to play him at the big odds and 16.0 at bookies a good price. 2.5 units. No excuses l/s UNITED ENDEAVORS but is was 1800m, loomed up and didn't finish off. The best of his form is 1650m and back to that distance here with good map. 1 unit. DEVIL AND GOLD may be worth a spec at big odds – been pushed forward in solid tempos last 2 runs behind Starship Eighty and not finished. No weight and maps ok. 0.5 unit.

#### Race 5 – Class 4 1200m AWT

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo => AVE
1	3.5	FLYING DRAGON	5.5 V	12	ACA POWER	>>>>>>
2	10.8	SKY FOREVER	17	11	SKY FOREVER	>>>>
3	8.7	EVERYONE'S VICTORY	12	10	SHINING FORTUNE	>>>>
4	21.1	COLOURFUL PRINCE	4.9 ^	9	EVERYONE'S VICTORY	>>>>>>
5		ROBOT KNIGHT	24 ^	8	ROBOT KNIGHT	>>>>>>>>
6	10.8	SHANGHAI STYLE	11	7	DIAMOND SOARS	>>>>>>>>>>
7		SHINING FORTUNE	23 ^	6	REGENT GLORY	>>>>>>>>>>
8	16.9	REGENT GLORY	6.5	5	FLYING DRAGON	>>>>>>
9		DIAMOND SOARS	12	4	COOL BLUE	>>>>>>
10	10.8	ACA POWER	9.4	3	SHANGHAI STYLE	>>>>>>>>>>
11		RED MAVERICK	33 ^	2	COLOURFUL PRINCE	>>>>>>>>>>
12	5.6	COOL BLUE	6.8 V	1	RED MAVERICK	>>>>>>

The race: Pace looks good, maybe faster than average. Colourful Prince, Shanghai Style (Blkrs on) and Diamond Soars (YL Chung going on in place of CY Ho) all have good speed and there looks some competition in the run to the first turn, though Colourful Prince has not been such a reliable beginner this season. Perhaps Diamond Soars will be too quick & head the other pair off but, even if he gets the front to himself, he is a horse who just runs and don't see him slowing it up anywhere. Regent Glory (Blkrs on) won this c/d 2 starts ago similar scenario for Purton when he was able to just camp on the leaders and expect Purton will look for the same spot here.

The fav: A little surprised to see Colourful Prince as favourite in a race where he will get pressure, even if he jumps well enough to lead. It's a while since Flying Dragon has won but is a 3-time winner c/d and racing ok this season with excuses. Bowman on, inside draw and plenty of pace to run at all suits him and think favourite will be him or lightly-weighted Cool Blue, who was terrible l/s in Blkrs first time, the Blkrs swapped for Visor here and has trialled very well in the new gear.

Recommendations: Happy to bet against Colourful Prince and FLYING DRAGON has been consistent without winning this season. Gets the right set up and nothing wrong with run down the straight l/s stuck out in the middle of the track. 3 units. SKY FOREVER will get a long way back but looks another who will be running on with the strong pace. 1 unit. EVERYONE'S VICTORY is 26.0 with bookies and that looks a price to take. Badly checked at the jump l/s similar race, never really got balanced and running after that, prior run dropping back to this grade very good. 1.5 units. Do think 7.5 at bookies COOL BLUE also needs to be backed. Was awful l/s when Blkrs went on first time, must have resented them because they come straight back off here. Prior form similar races good without luck, trialled well coming into this and weight pull in his favour. 2 units.

#### Race 6 – Class 4 1200m AWT

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	13.9	JOLLY COMPANION	12	12	VALIANT ELEGANCE	>>>>>>>>>>
2	21.7	MAGIC SUPREME	17	11	JOYFUL LIFE	>>>>>>>>>>
3	17.3	TOP TOP TEA	9.2 ^	10	STRIVE FOR GLORY	>>>>>>
4	8.9	JUDY'S GREAT	6.8	9	NISHIKADO	>>>>>>
5	5.7	SOLID SHALAA	15 V	8	DIAMOND FLARE	>>>>>>>>>>
6	8.9	DIAMOND FLARE	3.0	7	TOP TOP TEA	>>>>>>
7	8.9	MAYHEM	8.1	6	SPEEDY SMARTIE	>>>>>>>>>>
8	8.9	SPEEDY SMARTIE	11 V	5	MAGIC SUPREME	>>>>>>>>>>
9		JOYFUL LIFE	11 ^	4	JUDY'S GREAT	>>>>>>>>>>
10	11.1	NISHIKADO	22	3	MAYHEM	>>>>>>
11		VALIANT ELEGANCE	23	2	SOLID SHALAA	>>>>>>
12	13.9	STRIVE FOR GLORY	22 V	1	JOLLY COMPANION	>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo, potential for faster. Diamond Flare looks the leader here, he is a one-trick pony who rolls along in front but Ferraris also has a tendency to up the tempo on leaders after the 800m turn, so it could even be a touch faster than average. Magic Supreme and Speedy Smartie will look to stay in touch with the leader and the interesting one out wide is Valiant Elegance, stepping back up in distance, who could push forward aggressively if he jumps cleanly.

The fav: Diamond Flare gets a weight drop with the swap of CY Ho for Angus Chung's claim and we know where he'll be – out in front – and that is what is driving his position as favourite.

Recommendations: Not usually a fan of anything from Hayes yard on this surface as he has the worst dirt record of any HK trainer but think SOLID SHALAA might actually be suited. Two of his 3 wins in Australia were on soft going, his best runs in HK all on soft going and that can be a pointer to this surface. That said, is going ok on firm turf & should have finished a fair bit closer l/ss 1400m running on against the tempo. Is 18.0 with bookies and definitely should be backed at that price. 3 units. NISHIKADO just a run on Sunday 1400m but wins in Australia in very short sprints and maybe he didn't appreciate the extra trip. Prior form 1200m good enough to run well here and note YS Tsui has the best record with short back-ups amongst HK trainers and his best results are also this surface. 1 unit. STRIVE FOR GLORY good odds with bookies at 35.0. Has a few challenges here on the map but gone around just into double figures last couple of starts in similar set-ups when slow to jump and rider reported wasn't happy with his action l/s after the awkward start. 1 unit.

### Race 7 – Class 3 1200m AWT

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = > AVE
1	7.7	CAMPIONE	10	12	MARK THE MOMENT	>>>>>>>>>>>>
2	4.9	CAPITAL DELIGHT	4.0	11	GOOD BUDDY	>>>>>>>>
3		MAGNIAC	5.1 ^	10	TORONADO PHANTOM	>>>>
4	29.6	FIERY DIAMOND	18 ^	9	SPORTS LEGEND	>>>>>>>>>>>>
5		ALL IS GOOD	22 ^	8	FIERY DIAMOND	>>>>>>?
6	29.6	SMOKEY BEAR	8.5 ^	7	CAMPIONE	>>>>>>>>>>>>
7	15.1	TORONADO PHANTOM	16	6	CAPITAL DELIGHT	>>>>
8		GOOD BUDDY	12 ^	5	SMOKEY BEAR	>>>>>>>>>>
9	18.9	MARK THE MOMENT	13	4	LADY'S CHOICE	>>>>>>>>
10	2.5	LADY'S CHOICE	7.4 V	3	ALL IS GOOD	>>>>
11	18.9	SPORTS LEGEND	14 ^	2	MAGNIAC	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
12		SAVVY CHIC	25 ^	1	SAVVY CHIC	>>>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Good speed and leaning towards faster than average, with 4 going forward with purpose early and 3 of those in the outside half of the draw. Purton on Magniac has an option to take a sit but YL Chung will be aggressive on Campione, Mark The Moment will be very positive from the outside and then there's Sports Legend (ML Yeung). He has shown very good speed in his 3 HK starts at 1000m then this c/d, has now switched trainers but led all the way in a Jan 11 trial to win by a huge margin. That trial was at Conghua, so it might not mean a lot, but can see them trying to use the same tactics here down in the weights. Fiery Diamond (Ellis Wong) has some prior history as a frontrunner this c/d but is coming back in distance after a few tries at 1650m and they might be too sharp for him?

The fav: Capital Delight tried this c/d for the first time l/s and ran on strongly behind a fast pace to win narrowly, so he's an easy one for the market to find in a similar set up here and has only gone up a few pounds in the handicaps. Do expect strong support though for Lady's Choice, having his first start on dirt but coming off a good 3d high rating turf event l/s behind very smart Raging Blizzard and Gorgeous Win.

**Recommendations:** Really keen here on LADY'S CHOICE and take the 8.0 with bookies. 8 units. The warning is the surface – he has not tried it – but if this were run on the turf, he would be favourite or very close to it. Coming out of a strong C3 l/s, first 3 rated highly and beat the rest of the field by over 3 lengths. CAMPIONE is wearing out his welcome but is now particularly well graded on old form, dropping back to C3 here. Was not terrible l/s C2 after racing wide and maps better here. 2 units. Think we'll get better odds SPORTS LEGEND than current – is over 30.0 with bookies. Not easy to find on 3 runs HK but form in Australia was decent and had a chance of trainer. won by a lap in his trial at Conahua. 0.5 unit

**Race 8 – Class 3      1650m AWT**[illegible]

The race: Average tempo at least, quite possibly faster. At first look, there looks to be four pressing forward & YL Chung is the widest-drawn of them on Outgate, so can see him pressing strongly in the short run to the first turn & attempting to work all the way to the top. Teetan on Frantanck from gate 11 l/s elected to drop in behind the strong speed rather than overwork the horse to lead but now draws low & won't be surprised if he persists longer tonight. Yellowfin comes out of 2 races this c/d run completely differently – winning easily when he led, controlled then sprinted strongly in the second half but he had no control l/s in the same race as Frantanck when, having committed to looking for the early lead, Yellowfin took a strong hold outside the leader and pulled, leaving himself gassed in the straight. While it suits this horse to lead and control, with other leaders again tonight, just wonder if Hewitson will be wary of getting into a duel and setting him alight early - he might let the others lead him if the pace is as good as expected? Self Improvement also a query stepping up sharply in distance after showing good speed this surface over 1200m?

The fav: Frantanck racing well without winning. On face value, gets the better of things at the weights with Adefill, meeting him 4 pounds better for a neck defeat l/s, draws better and all of that might keep him favourite. Early market seems skewed by a big bet on Yellowfin so these prices likely change a lot by race time.

**Recommendations:** Straight read of the form from I/s and Frantanck beats ADEFILL but ADEFILL has the better form profile, has won 4 races and maps well again. Happy to be aboard again. 4 units. SELF IMPROVEMENT had his chance Is 1200m, which rated below his best. Looked a bit one paced so maybe the lift in distance helps him and getting a decent price to find out. 0.5 unit

20240124	Trk	Cl	No.	Selection	Rated	Price	Units
1	AW	4	3	AMAZING TEENS	2.20	4.8	8
2	AW	2	1	CHANCHENG PRINCE	1.50	2.1	11
2	AW	2	5	MR ASCENDENCY	7.20	14	1.5
3	AW	4	10	NOBLE WIN	4.70	7	2
3	AW	4	12	G LINER	7.40	12	1.5
4	AW	5	1	BIG TWO	6.00	16	2.5
4	AW	5	6	UNITED ENDEAVORS	7.60	8.5	1
4	AW	5	11	DEVIL AND GOLD	18.30	32	0.5
5	AW	4	1	FLYING DRAGON	3.50	4.4	3
5	AW	4	2	SKY FOREVER	10.80	15	1
5	AW	4	3	EVERYONE'S VICTORY	8.70	26	1.5
5	AW	4	12	COOL BLUE	5.60	7.5	2
6	AW	4	5	SOLID SHALAA	5.70	18	3
6	AW	4	10	NISHIKADO	11.10	20	1
6	AW	4	12	STRIVE FOR GLORY	13.90	35	1
7	AW	3	1	CAMPIONE	7.70	13	2
7	AW	3	10	LADY'S CHOICE	2.50	8	8
7	AW	3	11	SPORTS LEGEND	18.90	34	0.5
8	AW	3	4	ADEFILL	3.00	4.5	4
8	AW	3	7	SELF IMPROVEMENT	18.10	31	0.5
							55.5