

# HK WINNING FACTOR

## HAPPY VALLEY – February 21, 2024

**Rail position: C+3 (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 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	<b>4.7</b>	SAVVY CHIC	4.9 v	12	KILINDINI	>>>>>>>>>>
2	<b>17.7</b>	WOOD ON FIRE	20	11	GOLDEN LUCK	>>>>>>>>>>
3		BRAVO WARRIOR	43 ^	10	GLORY CLOUD	>>>>>>>>
4		GLORY CLOUD	14 ^	9	WOOD ON FIRE	>>>>>>>
5		KILINDINI	13 ^	8	HARMONY N HOME	>>>>>>>
6		PHILOS	19	7	ISLAND GOLDEN	>>>>>>>>>>
7	<b>17.7</b>	ISLAND GOLDEN	12	6	YEABOI	>>>>
8	<b>22.2</b>	GOLDEN LUCK	8.5 ^	5	BRAVO WARRIOR	>>>>>>>
9	<b>22.2</b>	JOYFUL LIFE	6.2	4	SAVVY CHIC	>>>>>>>
10	<b>9.1</b>	YEABOI	7.9	3	JOYFUL LIFE	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
11	<b>3.0</b>	HARMONY N HOME	8.6	2	BEAU GOSSE	>>>>>>>?
12	<b>11.4</b>	BEAU GOSSE	7.2	1	PHILOS	>>>>>>>>>>?

The race: Average tempo. Joyful Life has led at only one of his 4 starts but has been very prominent in some fast-run races and think he looks the most likely frontrunner here from this draw, with only Island Golden & Kilindini looking anything like alternative leaders but they would have to work hard to get the front from these draws. Kilindini has an extra problem to get across as Golden Luck does have some speed under him. That said, there is not a lot of pace amongst the rest. We saw Beau Gosse much closer than usual l/s from a low draw this c/d but he has generally been an untidy beginner so whether he can be as close again is a question mark? Philos (YL Chung) has displayed a bit of speed over 1000m in 2 starts and has always shown some pace at the trials so he might be taking the box seat?

The fav: Couldn't say Savvy Chic has been flying in C3. Now has big weight dropping back to C4 but his record this grade is good, gets a draw & a race that looks to have some pace for him run at. Joyful Life had had support every start, was just ok first 2 runs but had excuses last 2 & might have support here where he looks the leader.

Recommendations: HARMONY N HOME back up in grade here but coming off a high-rating C5 behind Hercules l/s when ran on well for 2d. Form in C4 prior had been sound, this is a very average race & just wants some good pace to run well. 6 units. SAVVY CHIC is 4.8 with bookies, probably not going to be any better than that. 1 unit.

### Race 2 – Class 1 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	<b>18.3</b>	TELECOM FIGHTERS	11	7	MR ASCENDENCY	>>>>>>>>
2	<b>11.7</b>	HAPPY TOGETHER	3.0 ^	6	TELECOM FIGHTERS	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
3	<b>23.2</b>	LA CITY BLANCHE	5.8 ^	5	DANCING CODE	>>>>>>>>?
4	<b>2.5</b>	DANCING CODE	2.8 v	4	RISING FROM ASHES	>>>>>>>
5	<b>4.8</b>	NORDIC DRAGON	19 v	3	HAPPY TOGETHER	>>>>>>>>>>>
6	<b>28.6</b>	RISING FROM ASHES	17	2	LA CITY BLANCHE	>>>>
7	<b>6.0</b>	MR ASCENDENCY	6.3	1	NORDIC DRAGON	>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Slow pace. This is the template for a number of Telecom Fighters' 7 wins at this c/d – he leads, slows the pace right down and sprints at the finish – and there doesn't look any serious rival for the lead. Mr Ascendency raced handy this distance on the dirt l/s from a low draw in a very slowly-run race – he draws wider here but still looks most likely to be sitting second and he could use Telecom Fighters to bring him across. Dancing Code has been racing well running on, is not without tactical speed to attempt to be closer but Happy Together and perhaps Nordic Dragon, up sharply in distance, might be looking to hold a position?

The fav: Do think Dancing Code will keep the favouritism here despite making his first attempt this distance. This isn't any easier but racing well and is rarely far from the top of the market. Happy Together no luck in G3 l/s and this race basically sets up as a C2 but he is up sharply in weights.

Recommendations: No knock DANCING CODE but little margin on price. 2.5 units and the 2.7 available at bookies probably top odds. Did think there's a decent gamble here at big odds in NORDIC DRAGON with Blks coming off after he failed in them dirt track first time that surface. Only run beyond 1200m, he went forward, keen 1400m and had plenty of excuses. Maps to get a soft trip here behind the leader & has an ability to sprint quickly at the finish that might suit this race. 3.5 units and the 19.0 at bookies looks a good price.

Race 3 – Class 4 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo => AVE
1		ENFOLDED	27	12	SHANGHAI STYLE	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
2		JOLLY COMPANION	9.4 ^	11	THE KHAN	>>>>>>
3	22.8	HAPPY FAT CAT	5.4 ^	10	ALLOY KING	>>>>>>?
4	4.8	GREAT ACHIEVER	4.9 V	9	WOODFIRE CHAMP	>>>>
5	11.7	THE KHAN	10	8	VALIANT ELEGANCE	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
6	14.7	SHANGHAI STYLE	18	7	JOLLY COMPANION	>>>>>>>>
7		LAPRAS	25 ^	6	HAPPY FAT CAT	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
8	3.8	HERCULES	6.1	5	HERCULES	>>>>>>
9		HAYDAY	11 ^	4	LAPRAS	>>>>
10	18.3	WOODFIRE CHAMP	16 ^	3	GREAT ACHIEVER	>>>>>>>>>
11	6.0	ALLOY KING	8.8	2	HAYDAY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
12	11.7	VALIANT ELEGANCE	16	1	ENFOLDED	>>>>>>?

The race: Average tempo at least, likely faster. Hayday has shown pace at 1000m, this is his first run over further but won't be surprised if he is content to take the box seat and let runners coming across from wider draws set the pace. Primary amongst them will be Happy Fat Cat but also anticipate positive tactics on Valiant Elegance and Shanghai Style (YL Chung). We saw Alloy King lead I/s when he began quickly in what turned out to be a slowly-run race & the rider told stewards post-race that he had intended to look for cover. There's more pace here & more likely we will see him looking for cover this time, which looks awkward? Enfolded an interesting map runner too – did show more speed in Australia than he has in 3 starts C3 HK but has drawn wide the latest 2 of those and he could be closer here from gate 1 with a class drop?

The fav: Great Achiever early fav and expect he will keep that top billing. Ran well first 2 starts then was caught wide & overracing I/s very slow tempo this c/d. Has had a tendency to look a bit keen so looks suited inside draw and solid speed.

Recommendations: HERCULES rated highly in C5 win I/s, up with some of his better C4 form of the past, and a repeat of that would be good enough to be right in this C4 where not meeting any stars and down in the weights. 2.5 units. ALLOY KING somewhat flattered I/s when ran well similar event from wide gate after getting forward in very slow early speed. Not sure we'll see him in the same role here but is just as capable running on. 2 units. VALIANT ELEGANCE failed down the straight I/s but he always does and is a much better proposition this c/d. Will have opposition for the lead so not the ideal map but capable of surprising with the light handicap. 1 unit and the 21.0 at bookies appeals.

Race 4 – Class 1 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	15.9	DUKE WAI	10	8	MAJESTIC KNIGHT	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
2		ADIOS	7.9 ^	7	TOMODACHI KOKOROE	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
3	6.6	SON PAK FU	2.4 ^	6	DUKE WAI	>>>>>>
4	19.9	KURPANY	16	5	BUNDLE OF CHARM	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
5	24.8	MAJESTIC KNIGHT	10 ^	4	ADIOS	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
6	4.2	BUNDLE OF CHARM	7.1 V	3	KURPANY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
7	5.2	BEAUTY CHARGE	9.4 V	2	SON PAK FU	>>>>>>
8	4.2	TOMODACHI KOKOROE	6.2 V	1	BEAUTY CHARGE	>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo, even in the small field. We do see Majestic Knight very aggressively-riden for the lead at times but that's when he is apprentice-riden. Ben Thompson is brand new in town, won't be looking to get into a speed duel with the apprentice on Kurpany, who is drawn under him, so Kurpany likely gets the front if he begins cleanly. He probably won't get any serious rest though – between Majestic Knight and Kurpany, we have Adios, Bundle Of Charm and Tomodachi Kokoroe, and all of them probably aren't looking to lead but they do want positions right on the speed and that makes Majestic Knight work early.

The fav: Son Pak Fu not far away I/s in a G1 and has caught the eye of the market but in a very low rating race. Prior C2 form very good this c/d running on from rear & has won 6 races here so perhaps he'll hold favouritism but won't be at all surprised if plenty of money for these lighter weighted horses to beat him. Couldn't find Adios any better than 17.0 on the best day he has ever had and hasn't run for 4 months.

Recommendations: Can't knock Son Pak Fu & is a great chance but that G1 I/s was rubbish form & happy to play the light weights against against him at the odds. BUNDLE OF CHARM's dirt win a new career peak 2 runs ago then caught wide close 3<sup>rd</sup> I/s in strong race Sha Tin behind Howdeepsyourlove. Maps better here. 3 units and happy to take the 6.5 at bookies. TOMODACHO KOKOROE has been a revelation this season, pulling out big ratings lower classes and I/s win C3 was his best yet. Think he's right up to this with no weight even if draw is a touch sticky. 3 units. He's also 6.5 bookies and think it's a good price. And BEAUTY CHARGE 9.5 with bookies and would be taking that. Has had excuses every run this season, mostly maps but also internal bleed when he did get a draw 2 starts back. Drawn ideally, particularly well handicapped now. 2.5 units.

**Race 5 – Class 4 1800m**

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1		PRECISE EXPRESS	20 ^	12	TURTLE AGAIN	>>>>>>
2		PEGASUS GENERAL	8.4 ^	11	FOREVER GLORIOUS	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
3	<b>26.3</b>	OWNERS' PRAISE	15	10	MR ALADDIN	>>>>>>>>>
4	<b>3.5</b>	SERANGOON	4.5 V	9	PEGASUS GENERAL	>>>>>>?
5	<b>8.7</b>	TAKE ACTION	8.6 V	8	OWNERS' PRAISE	>>>>>>
6	<b>13.5</b>	MR ALADDIN	6.5	7	TAKE ACTION	>>>>>>>>>>>>?
7	<b>13.5</b>	FOREVER GLORIOUS	10	6	PRECISE EXPRESS	>>>>>>
8		ROBOT FIGHTER	38 ^	5	KYRUS UNICORN	>>>>>>
9		CASA COSMO	23 ^	4	CASA COSMO	>>>>>>
10	<b>13.5</b>	KYRUS UNICORN	6.7 ^	3	SUNNY BABY	>>>>>>>>
11	<b>4.4</b>	SUNNY BABY	13 V	2	ROBOT FIGHTER	>>>>>>
12	<b>26.3</b>	TURTLE AGAIN	9.8 ^	1	SERANGOON	>>>>>>>>

The race: Soft tempo, with some queries. The face value look at the map is Mr Aladdin and particularly Forever Glorious going forward to set a slowish pace but they do have outside draws, so there could be some inclination from others drawn lower to punch up. Most of these are m/field or worse kind of runners, on paper, but a number are tackling 1800m for the first time. Serangoon and Sunny Baby aren't the fastest early but the way this sets up they could be fairly handy from these draws. The one who might be a lot closer is Take Action – he doesn't actually fly out of the gates, so that's a negative, but has shown enough speed to within reach of the frontrunners at 1400m in 2 starts and now steps up sharply in distance?

The fav: Serangoon early fav in open race and he looks the right fav from this draw. Although he's a run-on type of horse, a moderate pace, particularly in the early stages, should help him to use that draw and stay in striking range.

Recommendations: Think the real value here is SUNNY BABY rising from C5 where his form is way better than Turtle Again, who is ahead of him in the market. The race SUNNY BABY won l/s did not rate as highly as some of his other C5 form but was his first run for 7 weeks & still good enough figures for this under a light weight. Looks a great play here at the 13.0 with bookies. 3.5 units. SERANGOON did have a series of races where there were some excuses, don't think l/s 2200m was one of them but ran well with tempo to suit. Gets a tempo change to a slower pace here in all likelihood but the draw helps. 2 units. TAKE ACTION interesting runner stepping up sharply in distance, not something Size does all that often, and run well both runs 1400m. He's 12.0 at bookies and think that's a price worth taking. 1 unit.

**Race 6 – Class 4 1650m**

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	<b>14.4</b>	GALLANT VALOUR	13	12	GALLANT VALOUR	>>>>>>?
2	<b>14.4</b>	WIN WIN FIGHTER	6.0 ^	11	TOP TOP TEA	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>?
3	<b>7.4</b>	PERFETTO	8.3 V	10	AMAZING BOY	>>>>>>
4	<b>28.1</b>	TOP TOP TEA	21	9	DUBLIN STAR	>>>>>>>>>
5	<b>4.7</b>	GALVANIC	6.7 V	8	V LOVE YOU	>>>>>>>>>>
6	<b>14.4</b>	MASTER HERO	7.7	7	WIN WIN FIGHTER	>>>>>>
7	<b>4.7</b>	SATIRICAL GLORY	4.9 V	6	SATIRICAL GLORY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
8		YOUNG VICTORY	25 ^	5	YOUNG VICTORY	>>>>>>
9	<b>28.1</b>	V LOVE YOU	20	4	NOBLE WIN	>>>>>>
10	<b>7.4</b>	NOBLE WIN	7.3	3	MASTER HERO	>>>>>>>>>>>
11		DUBLIN STAR	33 ^	2	PERFETTO	>>>>>>>
12		AMAZING BOY	14 ^	1	GALVANIC	>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo. Satirical Glory has been a regular frontrunner, had a bit to do during the run all 3 starts in C4 to keep the front but has done so, and he looks like getting the front here, with Master Hero (YL Chung) and V Love You likely handy. The interesting pace factor is Top Top Tea, who hasn't run at this distance since last season, is usually positive anytime he starts beyond 1200m and, with the 10-pound claimer here, have to think that positive tactics will be the plan? Gallant Valour also a question mark – this is his first run beyond 1200m so it isn't impossible he could be positive but Richards' runners have a profile of going back when wide-drawn at HV and anticipate they won't ask too much of him early here?

The fav: Satirical Glory well supported last 2 starts, had excuses after having to cope with pressure the run. That's not out of the question here but has drawn better, likely finds the front again.

Recommendations: GALVANIC didn't have any excuses first go this c/d l/s behind Lovero but not far away. Maps very nicely here from the inside and only has to repeat that to be very competitive. 1.5 units. Think 6.0 at bookies looks top odds.

Race 7 – Class 3 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	5.4	GALAXY WITNESS	4.6	12	LOYAL BABY	>>>>>>
2	10.5	PRIME MINISTER	17	11	MASTER OF FORTUNE	>>>>>>
3		I AM THE BOSS	14 ^	10	STAR CONTACT	>>>>>>>>
4	25.7	TOURBILLON PRINCE	9.2 ^	9	ESCAPE ROUTE	>>>>>>
5	16.4	WINNING DRAGON	9.2	8	TOURBILLON PRINCE	>>>>>>>>>>>>
6		MASTER OF FORTUNE	13 ^	7	GALAXY WITNESS	>>>>>>
7		STAR CONTACT	21 ^	6	GLORIOUS JOURNEY	>>>>>>>>>>
8		ESCAPE ROUTE	9.4 ^	5	PRIME MINISTER	>>>>
9	3.4	LOVERO	8.4 V	4	LOVERO	>>>>>>>>>>
10		GLORIOUS JOURNEY	15 ^	3	WINNING DRAGON	>>>>>>>>>>
11		LOYAL BABY	39 ^	2	RED HARE KING	>>>>>>>>>>
12	4.3	RED HARE KING	4.6 V	1	I AM THE BOSS	>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo, potential for better. Tourbillon Prince has built a profile as a regulation leader in his races this c/d & has a very positive jockey so he is likely the frontrunner. But it's a field with plenty of horses looking to race on the front end, several of them drawn under Tourbillon Prince so even if they don't want the lead they might want to make the leader work. Glorious Journey didn't bounce the gates f/up 1200m but showed good speed to be handy and he was an on-pace runner in Australia so expect will be amongst the leaders here. Having the pace mostly drawn inside would make it tough for anything drawn out to get forward.

The fav: Not a whole lot between the main picks in the betting but think the market will come for the Tony Cruz-trained pair at the foot of the weights, Red Hare King and Lovero. They race forward, down in handicaps, while Galaxy Witness comes back to C3 where unbeaten in 2 attempts but has the big weight and gets back.

Recommendations: LOVERO up in class but rated well enough last 2 C4 to be as good a chance as any here with a light weight and positive run style up in grade. He's 8.0 at bookies and that looks a good bet. 4.5 units. PRIME MINISTER running on well similar race before latest when disappointing slow tempo with the 10-pound claimer. Senior jockey back on looks a positive along with better pace. 1 unit.

Race 8 – Class 3 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	10.2	WONDER KIT	6.6	12	NEVER TOO SOON	>>>>>>
2	19.9	ASTROLOGER	24	11	PLEASANT ENDEAVOR	>>>>>>>>>>?
3	3.3	COPARTNER AMBITION	3.5	10	MAGNIAC	>>>>>>>>>>>>
4	10.2	MAGNIAC	17	9	GRATEFUL HEART	>>>>
5	5.3	WINNING ICEY	6.5 V	8	GOKO WIN	>>>>>>
6	19.9	HARMONY N BLESSED	9.5 ^	7	ASTROLOGER	>>>>
7	6.5	BON'S A PEARLA	7.0 V	6	WONDER KIT	>>>>>>>>>>>>
8	24.9	PLEASANT ENDEAVOR	29	5	BEAUTY GLORY	>>>>>>>>>>
9		GRATEFUL HEART	15 ^	4	WINNING ICEY	>>>>>>>>
10		NEVER TOO SOON	20 ^	3	COPARTNER AMBITION	>>>>>>>>
11		GOKO WIN	13 ^	2	HARMONY N BLESSED	>>>>>>>>>>>>
12		BEAUTY GLORY	17 ^	1	BON'S A PEARLA	>>>>

The race: Average tempo. Not crazy pace engaged in this & quite a few backmarkers, but Harmony N Blessed, Wonder Kit and Magniac all going forward with some purpose early should generate a decent pace, even though a real contest for the front might not happen. YL Chung on Beauty Glory will be looking to be part of the first few as well. Pleasant Endeavor some sort of wild card to push the ace along, stepping up to 1200m with the 10-pound claimer on from a wide gate?

The fav: No argument with Copartner Ambition as fav, hit new career best l/s win and has scored at 4 of last 5 starts this c/d. Expect Winning Icey will have support to beat him but Copartner Ambition will keep top billing.

Recommendations: WINNING ICEY is back in class off a couple of decent runs since long break. Blkr on, drawn a gate and has good record this c/d. 1.5 units and he's a good price at 7.5 with bookies. MAGNIAC had his chance l/s C2 on the dirt, back in grade, previous win this grade rated highly on the dirt and has raced well previously HV. Awkward draw but very consistent, genuine horse and worth a play at the big odds. 1 unit. Can't knock COPARTNER AMBITION, just not going to be any margin on his price. 1 unit.

