

HK WINNING FACTOR

HAPPY VALLEY – March 15, 2023

Rail position: C (good)

Market Guide: ^ Expect to run longer odds. v Expect to run shorter odds. Note, suggested bets based on current/expected tote odds in Hong Kong which can change dramatically in final minutes. Rating odds are displayed for runners up to 30-1 as a guide for subscribers with access to fixed odds.

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 5 1800m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	4.3	AI ONE	7.6 V	12	SMART COUSIN	>>>>
2	32.1	DRAGON PRIDE	7.5 ^	11	FORTUNE TRIPLE	>>>>>>
3		GOLDEN FAIRY	45	10	BARON ZEE	>>>>>>>>
4	16.4	LUCKY MISSILE	24 V	9	DRAGON PRIDE	>>>>
5	20.5	OWNERS' STAR	13	8	OWNERS' STAR	>>>>>>
6	8.4	JUBILATION	8.4	7	GOLDEN FAIRY	>>>>>>>>>?
7	2.8	LOYAL AMBITION	4.3 V	6	LUCKY MISSILE	>>>>>>
8		BARON ZEE	33	5	SMILING FACE	>>>>>>
9	20.5	SMILING FACE	9.1	4	CABLE SPEED	>>>>>>>>>>
10		SMART COUSIN	10 ^	3	JUBILATION	>>>>>>>>>>
11		FORTUNE TRIPLE	26 ^	2	LOYAL AMBITION	>>>>>>>>>>
12	20.5	CABLE SPEED	5.3 ^	1	AI ONE	>>>>>>>>

The race: Likely soft tempo. One of those tricky races where there are quite a few who would like to be forward, could even lead, but probably won't want to get into a real contest for it. The most interesting runner for the map is Golden Fairy, for the 10-pound claimer, YL Chung. He steps up sharply in distance here at his first run C5 and it was notable 1/s at Sha Tin that he clearly won the start over 1400m from the outside gate before the rider took him all the way back to last, then he made up ground in the run home. If he jumps like that, with Chung going on tonight, it wouldn't surprise to see him in front and, considering his form on paper, his rivals may not contest it with him?

Recommendations: Just a horse LOYAL AMBITION but he is racing well & coming back from 2200m, but his better ratings have been at 1800m. 3 units. AI ONE drops into C5 for the first time here after leading up 2200m 1/s and was a fair run C4. Should have won a C4 last season and looks well graded here with nice map. 2 units. LUCKY MISSILE worth a small play at big odds – got a horrible ride 1/s when dropped back into this grade as 5.1 chance. Have to overlook that run & had been going ok in C4 before the drop. 0.5 unit.

Race 2 – Class 5 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	18.7	EVER FORCE	13	12	ALLOY KING	>>>>>>>>>>
2	11.8	INSPIRING CITY	6.8	11	INSPIRING CITY	>>>>
3		GENERAL ACE	17 ^	10	M M JOHNNY	>>>>>>
4	18.7	M M JOHNNY	8.2 ^	9	GENERAL ACE	>>>>>>
5	28.8	JACK WIN	24	8	THE GOOD DEAL	>>>>>>>>
6		ALLOY KING	31 ^	7	RAGING BLAZE	>>>>
7		EUROMISSILE	11 ^	6	CIRCUIT SPLENDOR	>>>>>>>>
8	2.0	RAGING BLAZE	3.6 V	5	EVER FORCE	>>>>>>>>
9		THE GOOD DEAL	18 ^	4	EUROMISSILE	>>>>>>
10	7.6	HANDSOME GUYS	15 V	3	U W BROTHER	>>>>>>>>>>>>
11		U W BROTHER	6.7 ^	2	HANDSOME GUYS	>>>>>>>>>>
12	14.8	CIRCUIT SPLENDOR	9.4	1	JACK WIN	>>>>>>?

The race: U W Brother backs up from 1/week when he showed enough speed to stay with the lead over 1000m and can see him quickly to the front here from the low draw & leading a controlled, decent speed. Handsome Guys has good pace but the trend with him has been that he has gone a bit better sitting behind and he may be content to take the box seat. Ever Force, Circuit Splendour have enough speed to follow handy but The Good Deal, at first run for Whyte, has a choice to make early and Alloy King, probably the second fastest horse here doesn't appear to have many options but to push forward from the outside.

Recommendations: RAGING BLAZE has waited until the latest 2 of his 27 starts to post his best ratings with us, including breaking through for his first win this c/d. Going to get a long way back so market probably will risk him a little. 6 units. HANDSOME GUYS really interesting here with low draw and removal of Earplugs – a piece of gear we're not crazy about as horses tend to run very sleepily in them. Had excuses since beaten 2 lengths this c/d in Dec behind Hearty Wish, but that includes two internal bleeding episodes in last 3 runs. That's not ideal but have to play him at the odds. 1 unit.

Race 3 – Class 4 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1		CIRCUIT TEN	16 ^	12	CHEONG FAT	>>>>
2	22.3	TELECOM SPEED	10	11	HAPPY UNITED	>>>>>>>>>>
3	11.4	TRAVEL GOLF	6.2	10	TRAVEL GOLF	>>>>
4	3.8	H Z TOURBILLON	14 V	9	CIRCUIT TEN	>>>>>>>>>>
5		HAPPY UNITED	62 ^	8	HAPPY GATHERING	>>>>>>>>>>
6		CHEONG FAT	37 ^	7	TELECOM SPEED	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
7		SUPER EAGLE	15	6	H Z TOURBILLON	>>>>>>
8	14.4	E RAINBOW	5.3	5	E RAINBOW	>>>>>>>>>>
9		MELBOURNE HALL	15 ^	4	FLAMING EAGLE	>>>>>>?
10	9.2	ALL IS GOOD	3.1 ^	3	SUPER EAGLE	>>>>>>>>>>
11	3.8	FLAMING EAGLE	11 V	2	MELBOURNE HALL	>>>>>>
12	14.4	HAPPY GATHERING	15	1	ALL IS GOOD	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo. Telecom Speed has been pushing forward in his last few, not in particularly fast-run races but his intent probably makes him the leader in a race where others with speed don't look all that committed to the front but there are enough of them that the leader should be kept bobbing. Do have a small query on Flaming Eagle's tactics – rider told stewards his intention was to be forward l/s but, when he got a squeeze at the start, he rode him quietly. The horse seemed to appreciate that and hit the line very strongly to win – final 400m in 22.64s in Class 5 is eye-catching & one of the top 3 finishes at the meeting. Given that performance, assuming they have no intent to go forward this time?

Recommendations: All Is Good has a chance but not sure what he has done to deserve short priced favouritism and E Rainbow hasn't had a lot of excuses either, though he too is racing ok. Travel Gold was a very "interesting" run l/s for Victor Wong & now Bowman gets on but the map does him no favours. So there are your first 3 favourites and keen, at the prices to play away from them. H Z TOURBILLON disappointing to the eye l/s, even allowing for him missing the start, could have done more in final 200m. However, it was his first start for 10 weeks and maybe he needed the race. On best form, he would be the winner, it's just a case of how much he improves on that l/s. 3 units. FLAMING EAGLE jumped out of the ground l/s ridden quietly early, though it was not by choice. He rises from C5, gets the big weight drop and gets a map to suit. Would be surprised if not well bet this price. 3 units.

Race 4 – Class 4 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1		YEABOI	30 ^	12	NOBLE STEED	>>>>
2	8.1	LET'S DO IT	3.8 ^	11	SPLENDID LIVING	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
3	10.1	BLISSFUL STAR	8.0	10	AMAZING BOY	>>>>>>
4	10.1	KILLER INSTINCT	5.5	9	CLASSIC ARCHI	>>>>
5	15.8	SPLENDID LIVING	5.3 ^	8	YEABOI	>>>>
6	8.1	COMMANDING MISSILE	20 V	7	CIRCUIT ELITE	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
7	24.6	AMAZING BOY	16	6	KILLER INSTINCT	>>>>>>>>
8	3.3	GANG OF BROTHERS	8.0	5	TYCOON JEWELLERY	>>>>>>
9		NOBLE STEED	34 ^	4	LET'S DO IT	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
10	19.7	CLASSIC ARCHI	27 V	3	COMMANDING MISSILE	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>?
11	15.8	CIRCUIT ELITE	14	2	GANG OF BROTHERS	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>?
12		TYCOON JEWELLERY	16 ^	1	BLISSFUL STAR	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Calling it average but it might not get to that, depending on how positive a couple of these riders want to be. Gang Of brothers has been very positive lately all distances, though he gets a jockey change to Badel tonight and he is not that aggressive a rider? Think Circuit Elite (Blkrs back on) and Splendid Living will press forward looking for the lead from their wider draws but then the query is whether they get there easily and whether they get to slow the tempo. Commanding Missile a very interesting runner on the map, stepping up to 1650m for the first time. He raced handy behind the leaders in Australia at shorter distances, does have the speed to lead here, though circumstances haven't allowed it most recent runs, but notable he was quickly to the front in his recent trial since l/s & wouldn't surprise if he is part of the lead?

Recommendations: Tricky race. Have assessed Let's Do It on best form only because Purton goes on but he was just ordinary l/s Sha Tin and think both Killer Instinct and Splendid Living have some challenges on the map. Haven't yet abandoned the idea GANG OF BROTHERS can run this trip with the right ride though have to admit hasn't been convincing so far. Quite a one-paced horse, the very stop-start tempo of l/s might not have been ideal and think he'll see a smoother tempo here. 3 units. COMMANDING MISSILE really interesting here. Good run f/up for Richards 1200m in Oct then had excuses next 4 starts, latest bumped at gates and couldn't get into the race 1200m on dirt. Trial good since. 1 unit

Race 5 – Class 4 1000m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = > AVE
1		LIFE IS GOOD	56 ^	12	LIFE IS GOOD	>>>>>>
2	16.3	FARIBAULT	5.9 ^	11	FINGERS CROSSED	>>>>>>>>>>
3		SERGEANT PEPPER	11 ^	10	DIAMOND SOARS	>>>>>>>>>>
4	13.0	CHEER FOR SOUTH	10 V	9	G ONE EXCELLENT	>>>>>>
5		DASHING GLORY	39 ^	8	CHEER FOR SOUTH	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
6	25.4	HAPPY HORSE	10	7	HEARTY WISH	>>>>>>
7	5.4	G ONE EXCELLENT	4.0	6	SERGEANT PEPPER	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
8	25.4	HEARTY WISH	16	5	HANDSOME REBEL	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
9		HANDSOME REBEL	13 ^	4	HAPPY HORSE	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
10	4.3	DIAMOND SOARS	7.0	3	VAMOS	>>>>
11	3.4	VAMOS	6.9	2	DASHING GLORY	>>>>>>?
12		FINGERS CROSSED	19 ^	1	FARIBAULT	>>>>>>>>

The race: Looks to be plenty of speed on here, with 4 potential leaders and Fingers Crossed and Diamond Soars also pushing forward from wide out though probably looking to drop in behind the frontrunners. Handsome Rebel, Sergeant Pepper and Cheer For South are the obvious pace but Happy Horse showed some speed in his 2 race starts to date but even more when fitted with Blkrs two recent trials, where he has led going quite fiercely. He has the Blkrs first time in a race here. Dashing Glory also a query if he happened to jump well – shown pace at the trials but has not been a great beginner in most of them and missed away first race start too?

Recommendations: Two of these coming off very good recent ratings, G One Excellent and DIAMOND SOARS. If DIAMOND SOARS had drawn well, would have thought him a good thing and he does have Purton but there are some issues on the map. 1 unit. VAMOS having first run for PC Ng and stable has been sending them out f/up all season ready to perform. Will get well back but gets strong pace to suit and a couple of his best runs would win this with any luck. 2.5 units.

Race 6 –Class 4 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	3.3	HOLY POWER	5.2 V	12	ONE HEART ONE	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
2	8.0	VILLA FIONN	7.1	11	LEGION OF MERIT	>>>>>>>>>>
3	24.4	LEGION OF MERIT	13 ^	10	IRON WILL	>>>>>>>
4		MISSION BRAVO	48 ^	9	MISSION BRAVO	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
5	30.9	LUCKY BANNER	19	8	VILLA FIONN	>>>>>>>
6	30.9	RIGHT HONOURABLE	11 ^	7	YEE CHEONG WARRIOR	>>>>>>>
7	8.0	RIVER VIEWS	4.6	6	RIVER VIEWS	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>?
8	8.0	HAPPY WON	10	5	LUCKY BANNER	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
9	19.5	IRON WILL	5.7 ^	4	SUPER BUDDY	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
10		ONE HEART ONE	13 ^	3	HOLY POWER	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
11		SUPER BUDDY	34 ^	2	HAPPY WON	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
12	8.0	YEE CHEONG WARRIOR	18	1	RIGHT HONOURABLE	>>>>>>>

The race: Not a whole lot of speed here & not sure how committed to leading most of the on pace runners will be if they are left in front. Mission Bravo outpaced 1200m fast pace l/s but this is closer to his distance & expect to see him positive from the outside with One Heart One. Holy Power up in distance and has shown enough speed to be well forward here while River Views had gone out of his way to sit behind rather than lead before getting left with the front l/s? Some second phase speed drawn ok but think Happy Won, Super Buddy, Lucky Banner more likely to take a trail than seek to lead.

Recommendations: Like HOLY POWER up in distance after he won 1200m f/up despite being too short then two tough runs covering ground and working 1400m since. Purton has plenty of good options here, just querying what sort of price he's going to be by race time. 1.5 units. YEE CHEONG WARRIOR not suited by tempo, on paper, but comes back 14 days after very nice run 1200m when outpaced, found line well late. His 2 wins came this c/d, just querying the pace. 1 unit. HAPPY WON 0.5 unit. Iron Will backing up from good effort l/week this c/d when checked to last at start, ran on well from rear but likely to find himself again back there, with or without a check.

Race 7 – Class 3 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	25.6	YOU'REMYEVERYTHING	8.5 ^	10	JUMBO LEGEND	>>>>>>
2	1.8	HOWDEEPIYOURLOVE	1.7 V	9	EN POINTE	>>>>>>>>?
3		EN POINTE	21 ^	8	EVERYONE'S VICTORY	>>>>>>
4	32.1	COBHFIELD	10 ^	7	HELENE FEELING	>>>>>>>>?
5	20.5	HELENE FEELING	15	6	YOU'REMYEVERYTHING	>>>>>>
6	10.5	JUMBO LEGEND	7.5	5	PARTY WARRIOR	>>>>>>
7	25.6	PARTY WARRIOR	19	4	PULSAR STRIDER	>>>>>>>>>>>>?
8	6.7	PULSAR STRIDER	10 V	3	MIRACLE BEAMS	>>>>
9		MIRACLE BEAMS	44 ^	2	HOWDEEPIYOURLOVE	>>>>>>>>>
10		EVERYONE'S VICTORY	49 ^	1	COBHFIELD	>>>>>>

The race: For a sprint race, this is really bereft of pace, so the concern is that some runners might alter their tactics to suit. The horse who has good speed is Pulsar Strider, who has Blkrs going on today, and if he begins well and wants the lead Howdeepisyourlove probably lets him have it and then camps on his tail. The query runners on the map are the first starter Helene Feeling and En Pointe. Helene Feeling (ex Indian Dream UK) had form over a bit further overseas and that's not normally a good recipe for putting him on pace in the faster tempo in Hong Kong but his speed in the third of his 3 trials was ok down the straight at Sha Tin, ridden by Purton, who stays with him? En Pointe is not all that fast and is not an obvious leader at this sort of distance but it is always a red flag when the 10-pound claimer goes on as most stables send him forward as the default instruction?.

Recommendations: This sets up brilliantly again for the favourite, and this smart, progressive 3yo looks the winner but is going to be very short all the same. Year older PULSAR STRIDER likely to have control of the race in front, has been quite tough in his races even things have gone against him and does have a chance with a weight pull over the younger horse. 1 unit PULSAR STRIDER but also want to play the Quinella 2-8 the way this sets up. 3.5 units.

Race 8 – Class 4 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	23.6	SMOKEY BEAR	9.8 ^	12	LORIZ	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
2	5.0	A AMERIC TE SPEC SO	10	11	RACING FIGHTER	>>>>
3		RACING FIGHTER	14 ^	10	A AMERIC TE SPEC SO	>>>>>>
4	29.9	SEE U AGAIN	17 ^	9	SEE U AGAIN	>>>>>>>>?
5	5.0	PACHISI	2.2	8	PACHISI	>>>>>>
6	15.2	GO GO GO	24	7	GOODMANSHIP	>>>>>>>>
7		PLENTY PLENTY	56 ^	6	ISLAND SURPRISE	>>>>>>>>
8	18.9	ISLAND SURPRISE	8.8 ^	5	GO GO GO	>>>>>>>>>>>>?
9	18.9	LORIZ	33 V	4	YOO YOO KNIGHT	>>>>>>
10	3.2	WOOD ON FIRE	6.4 V	3	SMOKEY BEAR	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
11		YOO YOO KNIGHT	28 ^	2	PLENTY PLENTY	>>>>>>>>
12		GOODMANSHIP	19 ^	1	WOOD ON FIRE	>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo, potential for faster. Smokey Bear comes down a grade tonight & looks an obvious frontrunner from the low draw, with Loriz, ridden by the 10-pound claimer, pressing across from the outside but there are also a few here who might not be as obvious but could contribute to a faster speed, especially if they punch up under Loriz early and force the apprentice to send him along. One of them is Go Go Go, who is not that obvious on his 3 trials in HK but he also had 2 good trials in New Zealand and showed a lot of speed to lead in those, though one was on a very wet track? See You Again also a question mark – fast enough to play for the lead here, if he wants to, but has been ridden more quietly lately including 1/s win this c/d. But that was from a soft draw and he doesn't have the same luxury here?

Recommendations: Really not sure where WOOD ON FIRE was going to finish 1/s when he ran into a brick wall at the 200m but he was looking menacing and only beaten 2.5 lengths despite the interference anyway. Will get a similar run here. 3 units. A AMERIC TE SPEC SO rated well enough 1/s to win again though he faces a very different race from the wide gate. Expect he'll get well back and finish on so he needs pressure up front. 1 unit. Pachisi going really well with difficult maps and looks like he has another one here. Some query on Go Go Go – trials in NZ better than HK.

