

HK WINNING FACTOR

HAPPY VALLEY – February 7, 2024

Rail position: B (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 5 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	7.2	STORMTROOPER	6.1	12	CHARMING STEED	>>>>>>>>>>
2	11.2	NICE BIRDIE	11	11	YOUNG HORIZON	>>>>>>
3	21.8	YOUNG HORIZON	15	10	VIVA A LA	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
4	14.0	BIG TWO	8.0	9	NICE BIRDIE	>>>>>>?
5	21.8	CIRCUIT ELITE	24	8	SUPER HORNET	>>>>>>>>>>>>?
6	4.6	REGENCY HAPPY STAR	4.5 V	7	BIG TWO	>>>>>>>>
7	7.2	UNITED ENDEAVORS	7.0 V	6	DASHING GLORY	>>>>>>>>
8	21.8	CHARMING STEED	11 ^	5	BRILLIANT PIONEER	>>>>>>
9	8.9	BRILLIANT PIONEER	11 V	4	CIRCUIT ELITE	>>>>>>
10		DASHING GLORY	34 ^	3	REGENCY HAPPY STAR	>>>>>>>>
11	14.0	VIVA A LA	9.9	2	UNITED ENDEAVORS	>>>>>>>>>>
12		SUPER HORNET	17 ^	1	STORMTROOPER	>>>>>>>>

The race: Good speed, potential for faster than average. United Endeavors and Stormtrouper will look to race on the speed but are more likely to take a trail as the pace coming from the outside sets the tempo. The question out there is whether Super Hornet, with YL Chung aboard and only 110 pounds to carry, makes any attempt to go with the most obvious frontrunner Viva A La. Viva A La has mixed his distances lately but his tactic is always the same positive desire to lead, even from the wide draw and, even if he gets the front to himself he'll set a good speed rather than stack them up. Nice Birdie has been racing forward at 2200m but, back sharply in distance here, might find the early speed too sharp to do that?

The fav: In an open market, will still be surprised if Regency Happy Star does not keep favouritism. Has had excuses about his last 5 or 6 starts, some from wide gates, some just shocking rides, some both. Purton gets on tonight, draws in and looks to get a worthwhile tempo to run at so he gets all the right boxes ticked. On the negative side, he isn't any star but this is C5.

Recommendations: Market looking pretty well defined. BRILLIANT PIONEER never been a horse that we find but been heavily-bet every start since move to Yiu stable, has had mixed luck, finds a suitable race/draw here. 1 unit and considering the support for him lately the 13.0 at bookies probably is top odds.

Race 2 – Class 4 2200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	17.7	PRECISE EXPRESS	19			
2	14.2	WONDER YEARS	6.9 ^	10	READY PLAYER ONE	>>>>>>>>?
3	22.1	ROMANTIC FANTASY	11	9	PALACE PAL	>>>>>>
4	4.6	SERANGOON	6.8	8	WONDER YEARS	>>
5		MR ALADDIN		7	SERANGOON	>>>>>>
6		RUNNING AHEAD	23 ^	6	JUBILATION	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
7	22.1	JUBILATION	12	5	ROMANTIC FANTASY	>>>>>>>>
8	3.7	SHARPEN BRIGHT	2.8	4	PRECISE EXPRESS	>>>>>>
9	9.1	READY PLAYER ONE	21	3	HAPPY HERO	>>>>>>>>
10	27.7	PALACE PAL	8.9 ^	2	SHARPEN BRIGHT	>>>>>>>>
11	7.2	HAPPY HERO	6.8 V	1	RUNNING AHEAD	>>>>>>

The race: We have seen some of these 2200m races run more truly in recent times & quite a few more with big midrace moves that put pressure into the race from halfway & this one screams out the latter pattern. There is no serious pace in the race, other than Jubilation, and horses who are not great beginners, like Precise Express, Running Ahead, Serangoon and more reliably Wonder Years. So the most likely set up here is a steady or more likely slow speed for the first half, with a charge from the back as they come into the back straight with 1000m to go. Suspect that horses like Sharpen Bright and Happy Hero, not exactly tactically speedy horses under normal circumstances, will be more positive this distance/draw to stay handy early but Ready Player One a query, who could swing either way – they don't seem to have settled on the right pattern with him yet?

The fav: Since he began racing 1/season, Sharpen Bright has looked like he would probably want 2200m and gets it here at start 8, with Purton getting on. He is a bit of a plodder but down in weights will get a nice run for Purton and keep coming – he'll be the favourite.

Recommendations: These races have been very tricky lately. Looks to suit Sharpen Bright but market not going to let anyone on. Distance does suit SERANGOON, who has been running on at the finish with or without speed in his races. 2.5 units. READY PLAYER ONE never seems to have much luck but become very well handicapped. 1.5 units.

Race 3 – Class 5 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1		COURIER MAGIC	33 ^	12	HAPPY JAI JAI	>>>>>>>>>>
2	2.7	SUPERB MOVE	3.5 V	11	MIGHTY STAR	>>>>>>
3	20.0	DAILY TROPHY	9.5	10	CHIRON	>>>>>>
4		CHOICERUS	23 ^	9	COURIER MAGIC	>>>>
5		HAPPIHOOD	54	8	FAITHFUL TRINITY	>>>>>>>>>>
6	20.0	HAPPY JAI JAI	11 ^	7	MISTER ARM	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
7	4.2	MEDIC ELITE	3.5	6	CHOICERUS	>>>>>>>>
8		FAITHFUL TRINITY	23	5	MEDIC ELITE	>>>>>>>>
9	12.8	CHIRON	15	4	DAILY TROPHY	>>>>>>
10	25.2	FOXHUNTER WAY	6.3 ^	3	FOXHUNTER WAY	>>>>>>
11		MIGHTY STAR	16 ^	2	HAPPIHOOD	>>>>>>>>>>?
12	10.2	MISTER ARM	23 V	1	SUPERB MOVE	>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo but plenty of potential to swing either way with HT Mo and Ellis Wong on the two likely leaders. Dylan Mo has made a mess of his ride in front on Mister Arm 2 starts ago, going way too slow after finding the front, then l/s wasn't going too slow but became a target for YL Chung to loop the field and attack him midrace and set a fast tempo. So what happens here? He should find the front again but this time has 10-pound claimer Ellis Wong on Faithful Trinity following him forward from the start and the chemistry between them will then determine the speed. Might normally expect they will ease the pace midrace but that's not a given with these riders. Out wider, Happy Jai Jai is another with pace but has a senior rider and a pattern of preferring take a sit & expect ML Yeung will be looking to tuck in behind the first two. Inside, Superb Move, Medic Elite, possibly Choicerus looking for handy positions without wanting the lead while Happihood, with YL Chung aboard and a low gate, is a wild card. Has been ridden a few different ways without success, including leading a fast-run 1650m HV from gate 1, so he is a potential nuisance for the leaders. However, he has Blks off and Cheek Pieces on tonight & was ridden conservatively in a trial with those gear changes at HV on Jan 20?

The fav: Superb Move and Medic Elite having a good duel for favouritism and, in terms of personnel its Teetan and Yip vs Purton and Ng, which would put some public sentiment behind Medic Elite. Still leaning to Superb Move starting fav back down to C5 off some good runs C4 but won't be a lot in it.

Recommendations: This suits SUPERB MOVE after good runs tough trips lately C4. 2.5 units. Have to try MISTER ARM again at the prices after didn't get things to suit again l/s. Would love to see a change of rider on him but getting a price as a trade off. 1.5 units and he is 26.0 at bookies, which looks a bet.

Race 4 – Class 4 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = < AVE
1	2.9	BEAUTY INFINITY	2.8	12	JOYFUL FRIENDSHIP	>>>>
2	8.9	OUR LUCKY GLORY	15	11	YOUTH POWER	>>>>
3	14.0	TRAVEL GOLF	6.6	10	OUR LUCKY GLORY	>>>>
4		YOUTH POWER	47	9	SUPER JOY N FUN	>>>>>>>>>?
5		RUNNING BOY	43 ^	8	RUNNING BOY	>>>>>>>>>>>>
6	21.8	SUPER JOY N FUN	11	7	PO ON WAY	>>>>
7		JOYFUL FRIENDSHIP	49 ^	6	BEAUTY INFINITY	>>>>>>
8		BRAVE WITNESS	19	5	TRAVEL GOLF	>>>>>>>>>>
9	4.6	DIVINE ERA	6.0 V	4	NORTHERN BEAST	>>>>
10		NORTHERN BEAST	14 ^	3	BRAVE WITNESS	>>>>>>>>>>
11	11.1	PO ON WAY	8.1 ^	2	BEAU GOSSE	>>>>
12	21.8	BEAU GOSSE	11 ^	1	DIVINE ERA	>>>>>>>>>>?

The race: Slow tempo. This is dynamite – for a 1200m sprint, it has quite a high proportion of horses with no early speed and 2 of them, Beau Gosse and Northern Beast, are also milers coming back in distance as well. In addition, Our Lucky Glory and Divine Era are both running for a new trainer for the first time as well but that might even offer some clarity. Divine Era has early speed, he hasn't always been ridden to use that as he can overrace, but suspect that his new trainer Fownes will look at the set up here and think there's an advantage to using that speed here. Brave Witness isn't wickedly fast but has some sort of pace and feel that he will be ridden positively too with Travel Golf, but whether they are players for the lead is another thing? Debutant Running Boy has shown a bit of early pace & not much else in his trials so he likely goes forward but the other newcomer Super Joy N Fun is a mixed bag at the trials, winning from last in New Zealand and handy in one of 3 trials in HK?

The fav: Beauty Infinity the best horse here and would have been odds-on from a good draw but does have to deal with the kind of map that saw him beaten l/s at short odds. Nothing in the tempo for him either so, although he might still keep favouritism for Purton/Size, think he'll have opposition in the betting and the race from Divine Era, first run for Fownes and maps much better than the fav.

Recommendations: Two horses changing stables here and think both worth a play but not getting too involved. DIVINE ERA in particular with a good map at first run for Fownes and the speed to use it. 1 unit. OUR LUCKY GLORY was tried at 1650m last 2 runs but back to the 1200m course here where he has won. 1 unit.

Race 5 – Class 4 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	9.9	LOVERO	7.7 V	12	REACH GOAL	>>>>
2	4.0	DRAGON STAR	4.6	11	GALLANT CROWN	>>>>>>>>>>>>
3		GALLANT CROWN	14 ^	10	CHATEAU LE PECHE	>>>>>>
4	4.0	WIN WIN FIGHTER	5.0	9	STURDY RUBY	>>>>>>>>
5		CHATEAU LE PECHE	44 ^	8	DRAGON STAR	>>>>>>>>>>>>
6	9.9	GALVANIC	13	7	LOVERO	>>>>>>>>>>>>?
7	7.9	KASA PAPA	4.7	6	AMAZING BOY	>>>>>>
8		REACH GOAL	25 ^	5	MERCHANT PRINCE	>>>>>>
9		AMAZINGTEAMWORK	77 ^	4	GALVANIC	>>>>>>>>>?
10	7.9	STURDY RUBY	7.0 V	3	AMAZINGTEAMWORK	>>>>
11		MERCHANT PRINCE	51	2	KASA PAPA	>>>>>>
12		AMAZING BOY	12 ^	1	WIN WIN FIGHTER	>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo at least, with potential for faster. The serious speed is in mid-draw, with Dragon Star having established a pattern of leading his races, often at better than average speeds, and Lovero, a leader in Japan in his races, part of the leadership in his 3 HK starts stepped up to this kind of distance. Lovero (YL Chung) did sit behind the lead l/s from gate 1 this c/d at his first run C4 and in what was his best performance to date, so there is the chance that will be identified as the way to ride him and, after crossing the horses under him and finding the rail here, he may be happy to let Dragon Star go on and set the speed. If that happens then Gallat Crown likely rolls across with them and sits outside the leader but, if Chung elects to hold the front or attempt to, then we could have a faster tempo with a line of 3 early. Sturdy Ruby, with Purton going on, probably most likely to use the early speed he has shown at times this c/d and look to follow the speed across though don't see him as a leader. Galvanic was eased quickly out of his first run up in distance at 1400m then ridden conservatively wider gate l/s 1400m. He draws better here up in distance again and does have the speed to be one of the leaders but expect will not be aggressive & more likely looks for the rail trailing the pace?

The fav: Don't think there'll be a lot between the main chances & won't be surprised what starts fav but on a straight read of the handicaps, it could be Kasa Papa. He was beaten 2 lengths by Dragon Star a few starts ago, gets a 17-pound weight swing in his favour here as well as a good draw, so that's going to get him plenty of attention though he's a 16-starts maiden after 2 years in HK.

Recommendations: DRAGON STAR too much to do in running l/s but stuck on well for 2nd WIN WIN FIGHTER in a race that rated well. DRAGON STAR 1.5 units. WIN WIN FIGHTER 1 unit. GALVANIC capable of big improvement here. 1 unit and the 18.0 available at bookies looks overs.

Race 6 –Class 4 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	13.8	DREAM PURSUER	10	12	HAPPY FAT CAT	>>>>>>>>>>>>
2		HAPPY FAT CAT	16 ^	11	MISTER FOX	>>>>>>>>?
3	3.6	PARTY WARRIOR	6.1 V	10	SUPER EAGLE	>>>>>>
4	13.8	GORGEOUS VITALITY	16	9	SUPER AXIOM	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
5		MISTER FOX	37 ^	8	DREAM PURSUER	>>>>>>
6		SAVVY ELEGANCE	19 ^	7	GORGEOUS VITALITY	>>>>>>>>
7		HERO WARRIOR	33 ^	6	TATTENHAM	>>>>>>
8	8.9	SEE U AGAIN	6.0	5	SEE U AGAIN	>>>>>>>>>>>>
9		SUPER AXIOM	26 ^	4	SAVVY ELEGANCE	>>>>?
10	21.5	TATTENHAM	7.2 ^	3	DAN ATTACK	>>>>>>
11	8.9	SUPER EAGLE	4.1	2	HERO WARRIOR	>>>>>>?
12	3.6	DAN ATTACK	7.4 V	1	PARTY WARRIOR	>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo, potentially faster. Not actually too many with real speed here but Super Axiom (with the 10-pound claimer E Wong) is an habitual leader at 1000m & will be way too quick early here, even for another regular leader this sort of distance like Happy Fat Cat (YL Chung). Because Super Axiom should have the lead to himself and is a genuine distance query at the best of times, he shouldn't have to go crazy to keep the front but he is a naturally speedy horse anyway & then we do have YL Chung on the nearest chaser, who might have an itchy trigger finger to go out after the leader rather than let him get away? Savvy Elegance has shown some speed when he jumped with the field in one trial but has more of a pattern of missing the start? Mister Fox showed good speed at his debut run Sha Tin 1200m but that was from gate 3 and now he is out in 11? Hero Warrior also a query from a good gate – showed some pace slowly-run 1400m at debut then switched back to 1000m second start and struggled to keep up from a poor draw?

The fav: Super Eagle going well without having a race drop into place for him until l/s when looked to have his chance behind Happy Trio. Now goes from gate 5 to gate 10 so there's a negative but Purton stays with him and maybe that keeps him favourite but think there will others backed to beat him, especially Dan Attack and Party Warrior.

Recommendations: DAN ATTACK has always trialled well then had excuses in his races but latest effort was good, running on well after getting back out of the race from a wide gate behind Crystal Powerful. Not a whole lot between him and Super Eagle off that race but now Super Eagle goes to a wide draw and DAN ATTACK draws in. He's 8.5 with bookies and think that is a great bet. 5 units. PARTY WARRIOR unsuited race shape slow-run event l/s here in late Dec. Has had a bit of time since but draw/tempo suit. 3.5 units.

Race 7 – Class 3 1650m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo => AVE
1	3.3	EASON	17 V	12	LUCKY EIGHT	>>>>>>>>>>?
2		ROCKET SPADE	4.2	11	D STAR	>>>>>>
3	31.2	TOURBILLON PRINCE	5.5 ^	10	ALL BEAUTY	>>>>>>
4		LUCKY EIGHT	22	9	AESTHETICISM	>>>>>>
5	12.7	ALL BEAUTY	8.4	8	ABSOLUTE SUNSHINE	>>>>>>
6		LOYAL BABY	23 ^	7	SIXTH GENERATION	>>>>>>>>
7	10.1	SIXTH GENERATION	8.1	6	EIGHTEEN PALMS	>>>>>>>>
8	5.2	AESTHETICISM	8.2 V	5	U S S CONSTITUTION	>>>>>>>>?
9	15.8	EIGHTEEN PALMS	7.9 ^	4	TOURBILLON PRINCE	>>>>>>>>>>
10	31.2	U S S CONSTITUTION	15 ^	3	ROCKET SPADE	>>>>>>
11	8.1	D STAR	15	2	LOYAL BABY	>>>>>>>>
12		ABSOLUTE SUNSHINE	29 ^	1	EASON	>>>>>>>>?

The race: Average tempo at least, leaning towards faster. Tourbillon Prince has established a pattern of leading at a good tempo in his races, so expect he will be looking to do that again here. At his l/s this c/d though, the career short course sprinter Lucky Eight and U S S Constitution were also in the race. From a low draw & having his first attempt this distance, Lucky Eight was forward & keen early and made Tourbillon Prince work a little early to get around him but the real damage was done by U S S Constitution pressing on from gate 12 to the leader's outside and putting pressure on him through a very fast second section. This time U S S Constitution has a negative jockey change but a much better draw, so there won't be the same need for an aggressive ride to overcome the draw? Lucky Eight this time is the one from the wide gate and potentially a nuisance for the leader - seeing how keen he was last time, a positive ride from the outside might see him very aggressive & hard to relax? In addition to the speed runners, there is some second wave speed in the inside half of the draw as well. Eason a question first run this distance – been looking outsped at 1200m and even 1400m so assume he will make some attempt to use the draw this distance?

The fav: Odd race with Rocket Spade favourite and Tourbillon Prince second choice and both easy to oppose. There is plenty in the map to suit Rocket Spade, with pace on & inside draw, but he is a HK maiden from 18 starts coming off a break of 8 months since he last raced, due to a fetlock injury that required surgery. Has had 4 trials, gone ok with apprentices aboard & looks like he's fancied but even if he's at his HK best, could still have a discussion about whether he's the right fav. Tourbillon Prince going to get some pressure in the lead again but, that said, there are negatives for most in the market.

Recommendations: EASON Untried beyond 1400m but does drop back to C3 here, with a draw and has always been a strong finisher at the shorter trips. In a race where there are confusing issues for a lot of runners, he's fit and coming out of some good quality C2s behind Son Pak Fu and Mugen. Think he's a good gamble at 13.0 with bookies. 6 units. AESTHETICISM had awkward draws his last 2 runs Sha Tin and does again here think he'll get pace on. 2.5 units. D STAR also awkwardly drawn but good record c/d, no weight and will be running on. 2 units. SIXTH GENERATION back to his preferred c/d here, also an awkward draw. 1 unit.

Race 8 – Class 3 1200m

	Rating		Current	Draw		Tempo = AVE
1	5.5	CAPITAL DELIGHT	8.4 V	12	GOLDEN DARCI	>>>>>>
2	13.5	TORONADO PHANTOM	13 V	11	ENFOLDED	>>>>
3	21.1	ACE ONE	19	10	ACE ONE	>>>>>>>>>>
4	2.8	WATCH BUDDY	2.7 V	9	HEALTHY HEALTHY	>>>>>>>>>>>>
5	8.6	HEALTHY HEALTHY	8.9	8	CHAMPION METHOD	>>>>>>>>>>>>
6		NORTHERN BEACHES	13	7	CAPITAL DELIGHT	>>>>
7		LEEDOX	15 V	6	TORONADO PHANTOM	>>>>>>
8	21.1	GLORIOUS JOURNEY	7.1 ^	5	NORTHERN BEACHES	>>>>>>>>
9	26.7	CHAMPION METHOD	19	4	LEEDOX	>>>>>>
10		ENFOLDED	54 ^	3	STREET CONQUEROR	>>>>>>
11	10.8	STREET CONQUEROR	8.3	2	WATCH BUDDY	>>>>>>>>
12		GOLDEN DARCI	39 ^	1	GLORIOUS JOURNEY	>>>>>>>>>>

The race: Average tempo, potential for faster, with a number of potential leaders though not entirely clear who will be the frontrunner. Newcomer Glorious Journey (ex Top Torrent AUS) led winning in Australia, albeit over 1400m, but been showing good speed in HK trials. Potential leaders drawn wider are Champion Method (Blks first time and apprentice claimer), Healthy Healthy and even Ace One can be ridden for pace. Watch Buddy and Northern Beaches also have some speed but have the option to take a sit and that has been more their pattern?

The fav: Think Watch Buddy keeps clear favouritism here. Racing well, winning races and beat a smart horse Raging Blizzard l/s. Has an ideal map, others have some complications.

Recommendations: WATCH BUDDY at 3.3 with bookies and that's probably a bet. He's no star but gets everything to suit and racing well. 3 units. CAPITAL DELIGHT is map negative but going well, will run on strongly. 1.5 units

