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# Raider rules in Audemars Piguet QE II Cup

## 日本佳駟統馭女皇盃

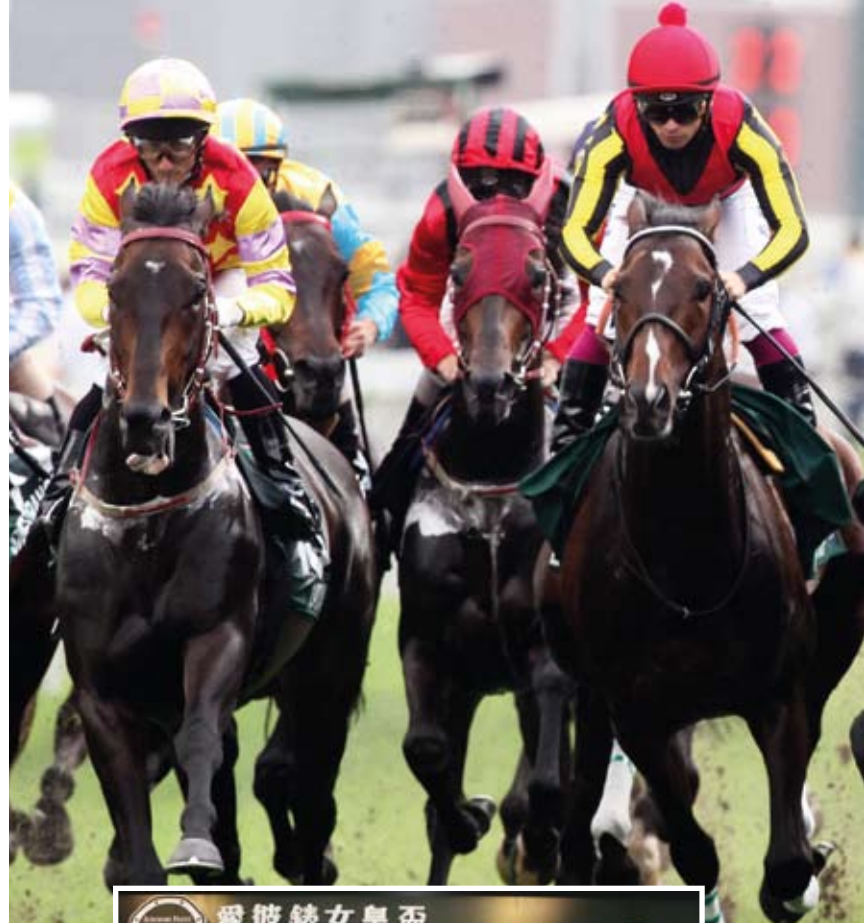


愛彼錶女皇盃  
AUDEMARS PIGUET QEII CUP

Japan visitor *Rulership's* remarkable win by 3¾ lengths in the International Group One Audemars Piguet QE II Cup at Sha Tin on 29 April was a testimony to the persistence of both trainer Katsuhiko Sumii and Italian jockey Umberto Rispoli. For Sumii, it echoed his 2005 success in the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Mile with *Hat Trick*, the last Japanese horse to taste victory in Hong Kong. And for Rispoli, this top-tier win was the perfect send-off to his first riding stint in Hong Kong, which had begun with a barren spell of more than 70 races.

Despite keen overseas competition, the local team filled all the remaining placings, with Caspar Fownes-trained *Thumbs Up* taking runner-up slot and David Ferraris's stable star *Sweet Orange* finishing third, one place ahead of the John Moore-trained *Zaidan*.

An array of special on-course events helped keep racing fans' spirits high despite the adverse weather, with the day recording a satisfactory turnover of HK\$1,043 million. Attractions included a glamorous watch and fashion show and a prize-laden game session, both starring well-known celebrities, as well as photo opportunities with Shetland ponies and a crystal-decorated horse statue.



日本賽駒「統治地位」於四月二十九日在沙田馬場舉行的國際一級賽愛彼錶女皇盃中，輕鬆地以三又四分三馬位取勝，印證練馬師角居勝彥及意大利籍騎師李寶利的非凡功力。這是繼二〇〇五年勝出國泰航空香港一哩錦標的「三連冠」後，首次有日本賽駒在香港摘桂，而兩駒更同樣由角居勝彥訓練。「統治地位」一舉摘下重量級殊榮，亦為李寶利在港的客串期劃上了完美句號。李寶利自今年二月底起首度來港策騎，曾於最初的七十多場賽事中未嚐勝果，但他最終可以取得如此重要的勝利，可算苦盡甘來。

港隊於外敵環伺下力保四連環其餘三個席位，包括方嘉柏馬房賽駒「自由好」跑獲第二名；霍利時馬房新星「甜橙」攻克季軍席位；約翰摩亞麾下的「續領風騷」取得殿軍。

同日加演的一系列精彩節目，包括由本地紅星帶領的星級名錶時裝匯演和有獎遊戲環節，以及於場內展出的星閃水晶駿馬雕塑，和供公眾拍照留念的可愛雪特蘭小馬，讓馬迷在大雨後熱情不減，而當日的投注總額亦達十億四千三百萬港元，成績令人滿意。



## New adrenaline booster at Happy Valley

A whole new way to enjoy the excitement of horse racing was launched by the Club in April at *adrenaline* bar and lounge in Happy Valley Racecourse. At the centrepiece of the rejuvenated venue is the revolutionary *ibu*, where the world's largest multi-touch racing table interface combines technology and social interaction to create a unique environment of entertainment for customers, from browsing racing information to making cashless transactions. Its digitally interactive, intuitively simple and graphically attractive features are designed to match the technology-savvy lifestyle of the younger generation. The *ibu* is the crystallisation of concepts gleaned from in-depth customer studies conducted by the Club, which confirm that today's customers increasingly expect social, interactive entertainment in a sleek, relaxed venue.

### 嶄新賽馬娛樂地帶

一個嶄新的賽馬體驗，四月降臨於跑馬地馬場重新登場的時尚熱點 *adrenaline*。最矚目的當數結合科技及社交娛樂的革命性 *ibu* 地帶，讓顧客透過多點觸控桌面瀏覽賽馬資訊，以至使用電子儲值咭進行投注，帶來別具一格的賽馬娛樂新體驗，以及休閒互動的時尚社交場所。集數碼互動、簡約直接、精美圖案設計於一身的 *ibu*，迎合年輕一代時尚的生活方式。馬會透過顧客調查及研究分析，明白現今顧客需要有更多氣氛休閒及格調時尚的社交場所，相約一班好朋友相聚暢飲和消閒娛樂，*ibu* 地帶正好回應有關客群的需求，帶來別具一格的賽馬娛樂新體驗。



## Salute fit for a Kingdom

Tens of thousands of fans bid farewell to *Sacred Kingdom* at Sha Tin Racecourse on 21 April before his retirement to an Australia farm, leaving behind fond memories of the 17 thrilling wins achieved by this former Hong Kong Horse of the Year and three-times world champion sprinter, bringing him total prize money of nearly HK\$46 million.

### 告別一代馬王

四月二十一日，沙田馬場逾萬馬迷一同送別剛退役的一代馬王「蓮華生輝」。服役期間共取得十七場頭馬的「蓮華生輝」，曾榮膺香港馬王及三奪世界短途馬王寶座，所贏獎金總額接近四千六百萬港元。退役後，牠已移居澳洲一個牧場頤養天年。



Club Chairman T. Brian Stevenson (centre) presents a souvenir to Owner of *Sacred Kingdom* Sin Kang Yuk along with trainer Ricky Yiu. 馬會主席施文信(中)致送紀念品予「蓮華生輝」馬主冼鏡焜與練馬師姚本輝。