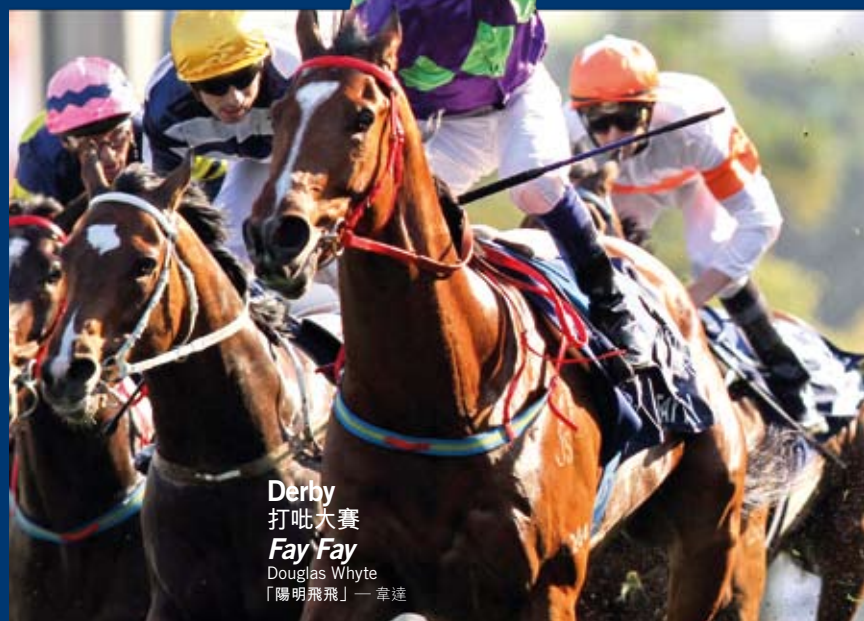




**Classic Mile**  
經典一哩賽  
**Sweet Orange**  
Weichong Marwing  
「甜橙」— 馬偉昌



**Derby**  
打吡大賽  
**Fay Fay**  
Douglas Whyte  
「陽明飛飛」— 韋達

MERCEDES-BENZ CLASSIC SERIES

# Rising stars at loggerheads in battle for Derby success

四歲新星力爭打吡榮耀



Racing fans who flocked to Sha Tin Racecourse looking for the surprises that Hong Kong's four-year-old classic series often throws up were in for a treat this year. And no-one was more delighted than trainer David Ferraris, who saw *Sweet Orange* rally to beat favourite *Fay Fay* by a neck in the 1st leg of the series, the Hong Kong Group One Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong Classic Mile on 25 January. It ended a barren Group One spell for Ferraris that stretched back to *Vengeance Of Rain's* 2007 Dubai Sheema Classic win, warming the hearts of racing fans in the bitterly cold weather.



**Classic Cup**  
經典盃  
**Zaidan**  
Olivier Doleuze  
「續領風騷」— 杜利萊



Hope were pinned high on *Sweet Orange* repeating his success in the next leg, the Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong Classic Cup, but there were more surprises when John Moore-trained *Zaidan* refused to relent to his challenger's trademark storming finish, and held on to win by a nose.

The enthrallment continued on 18 March in the climax to the Hong Kong Group One series, the Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong Derby, when *Fay Fay* prevailed by a neck from the persistent *Same World* in a battling drive to the wire. *Sweet Orange* was a further head back while *Zaidan* came home fourth. This time, the delighted trainer was John Size, who remarkably bagged the first Derby success of his glittering Hong Kong career. *Fay Fay's* perfectly-judged ride from the outside gate was a further testimonial to the legendary skills of jockey Douglas Whyte.

Boding well for future editions of this prestigious series, the 2012 Hong Kong International Sale held one day before the Derby drew an all-time high aggregate of HK\$114.4 million, with two sons of *Fastnet Rock* breaking the previous individual record by fetching HK\$8 million and HK\$9 million respectively.

為親睹四歲馬經典系列的萬鈞劇力而步入沙田馬場的馬迷，可謂滿載而歸。其中在一月二十五日賀歲賽最喜出望外的一人，當數練馬師霍利時。其麾下新星「甜橙」以一條頸位力壓大熱門「陽明飛飛」，奪得在當天舉行的香港一級賽 Mercedes-Benz 香港經典一哩賽冠軍，霍廐打破自「爪皇凌雨」二〇〇七年勇奪杜拜司馬經典賽冠軍之後，延續至今的一級賽頭馬荒，讓寒風中的馬迷熱烈喝采。

「甜橙」的精彩演出，令馬迷對牠於 Mercedes-Benz 香港經典盃再下一城寄予厚望。但出人意表的賽果再次誕生，由約翰摩亞訓練的「續領風騷」力拒「甜橙」的招牌式強橫衝刺，以一個馬鼻之先粉碎後者連過兩關的美夢。

扣人心弦的戰情，在三月十八日終極決戰中再度上演。「陽明飛飛」在韋達出色發揮下克服外檔劣勢，最終以短距離力壓「同個世界」，為練馬師蔡約翰帶來渴望已久的首個 Mercedes-Benz 香港打吡大賽桂冠。「甜橙」落後「同個世界」一個馬頭位得季軍，「續領風騷」跑入第四名。

打吡賽前一天，在沙田馬場舉行的二〇一二年香港國際馬匹拍賣會，錄得一億一千四百四十萬港元總成交額，刷新歷年紀錄。其中兩匹父系為「燈塔島」的拍賣馬，分別以八百萬及九百萬港元售出，相繼打破單匹馬拍賣價紀錄。

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL SALE FIGURES (HK\$M)  
香港國際馬匹拍賣會統計數字 (百萬港元)

Racing Season 馬季	No. of Horses 拍賣馬匹數目	Gross 總拍賣價	Average 平均拍賣價	Top Price 最高拍賣價
2011/12	26	114.4	4.4	9.0
2010/11	20	94.1	4.7	7.5
2009/10	19	70.4	3.7	5.7
2008/09	30	87.2	2.9	5.5
2007/08 (Part I 第一部分)	17	75.0	4.4	7.2
2007/08 (Part II 第二部分)	13	57.4	4.4	6.5
2007/08 (Total 總數)	30	132.4	4.4	7.2

