

PIONEERING PROJECT

**Guangzhou's Asian Games success
a triumph for Hong Kong, too**

Hong Kong celebrated its most successful Asian Games in the event's 60-year history when the 16th Games were held in Guangzhou from 12-27 November 2010, attracting a record 10,000 plus athletes from 45 countries and regions, competing in 42 sports. And playing a significant behind-the-scenes role in Hong Kong's success was the Jockey Club.

In total, the Hong Kong team won a best-ever 40 medals at the Games, namely 8 gold, 15 silver and 17 bronze. They included a bronze in the equestrian team jumping event, the SAR's first-ever equestrian medal at an Asian Games. This reflects the continued elevation of standards among local equestrian riders since Hong Kong staged the equestrian events of the Beijing 2008 Olympics two years earlier.

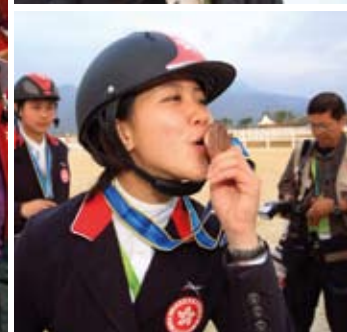
Most notably, all four of the athletes involved – Kenneth Cheng, Jacqueline Lai, Patrick Lam and Samantha Lam – are Club-sponsored riders who have been able to benefit from overseas training and competition experience in Europe with the Club's support. Cheng, Patrick Lam and Samantha Lam have all been members of the HKJC Equestrian Team since it was set up in December 2008, while Lai was formerly a

member of the HKJC Junior Equestrian Team and has been elevated to the senior squad since the Games.

However, this success of Hong Kong's equestrian team tells only half the story. For it was only thanks to the Club's strong support that Guangzhou was able to include equestrian events in the Asian Games programme at all, as previously the absence of internationally-recognised quarantine protocols on the Chinese Mainland meant it was virtually impossible for overseas horses to move in and out of the Mainland freely.

Initially, the Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (GAGOC) hoped that the same solution of staging the equestrian events in Hong Kong as for the Beijing Olympics could be applied for the 2010 Games. However, the Club







Top: Action from the Asian Games equestrian events at Conghua, Guangzhou.

Middle and bottom left: Guangzhou City and Club officials sign agreements setting out their co-operation.

Bottom centre: Hong Kong's cheerleading team in full cry.

Bottom right: The four bronze medallists savour their success.

Middle right: The ten-strong Hong Kong team receive a well-earned welcome home.

頂: 於廣州從化舉行的亞運馬術比賽戰況激烈。

中排及下排左: 廣州市官員與馬會代表簽訂合作協議。

下排中: 香港啦啦隊全力打氣。

下排右: 四位港隊健兒喜獲銅牌。

中排右: 十人香港代表隊凱旋歸來，獲市民熱烈歡迎。



Conghua Racehorse Training Centre
Facilities at the new Conghua Racehorse Training Centre will include, in the first phase to be completed in 2014, a 2,000-metre turf track, a 1,200-metre uphill training track, two all weather tracks, eight stable blocks housing 400 horses, spelling paddocks and two equine swimming pools.

廣州香港馬會賽馬訓練場
預計於二〇一四年完成首期工程的廣州香港馬會賽馬訓練場，將包括一條二千米的草地跑道、一條一千二百米的上斜訓練跑道、兩條全天候跑道、八個可容納共四百匹馬匹的馬廄、多個放草場，以及兩個馬泳池。



had already fulfilled its promise to return the Olympic equestrian venue to the Hong Kong Sports Institute for redevelopment as a world-class training centre for elite athletes.

Instead, the Club signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GAGOC and the Guangzhou Municipal Government in December 2009 to redevelop a site in Conghua, a county-level city under the administration of Guangzhou, as a top-class equestrian venue for the 2010 Asian Games. The site, about 70 kilometres north-east of Guangzhou, was originally built for the 8th National Traditional Games of the Ethnic Minorities of the PRC.

In the space of the following eight months

It was only thanks to the Club's strong support that Guangzhou was able to include equestrian events in the Asian Games programme at all.

the Club, making full use of its experience in creating the Olympic equestrian venues, converted the Conghua site to a top-class equestrian competition venue at its own costs. The venue included a 13,000 square-metre competition arena, a 3-kilometre cross-country track, a training arena, a covered arena, an equine clinic and 152 stables in eight blocks.

More significantly still, the Club supported the Ministry of Agriculture of the PRC, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the Agriculture,

Fisheries and Conservation Department of the Hong Kong SAR to establish an internationally-recognised Specific Equine Disease-Free Zone between Hong Kong and Conghua, making it possible for Hong Kong and overseas horses to be transported to and from Conghua for the event. This pioneering arrangement is the first of its kind on the Chinese Mainland.

During the Asian Games, the Club also made available its fleet of purpose-built transportation floats for moving the competing horses to and from Conghua. In total, almost 100 horses were transported during the Games safely, securely and without incident, in six separate batches from Europe, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and other parts of China.

Other experienced supporting staff lent

by the Club to assist the Games organisers included quarantine experts, veterinary surgeons, competition facilities management and stable managers and staff.

In addition, the Club provided specialised equipment and made a donation of RMB30 million to GAGOC to drive and perfect the equestrian competitions of the Games.

Perhaps most importantly of all, the 2010 Asian Games equestrian venue is assured of having long-term legacy value, as under the agreement signed with the Guangzhou authorities and GAGOC, the Club is now converting the site into a top-class racehorse training centre. When opened in 2014, this will complement the Club's existing training and stabling facilities at Sha Tin.

Besides benefiting all who love and support horse racing in Hong Kong, the new Training Centre is expected to bring many positives to the city of Conghua in terms of boosting employment and tourism. The city is already renowned for its hot springs.

It has truly been a win-win situation for all parties and exemplifies the growing spirit of co-operation between Hong Kong and other cities in the Pan-Pearl River Delta region under the "one country, two systems" principle.

In recognition of the Club's support, GAGOC has honoured the Club with the title of "Outstanding Contributor, Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games Equestrian Events".

Guangzhou officials praise Club's Asian Games role

Officials of the City of Guangzhou and the GAGOC were treated to a taste of Hong Kong hospitality and culture during the Asian Games at a celebratory "Hong Kong Night" hosted by the Club.

Guests included Executive Deputy Secretary-General of GAGOC and Vice Mayor of the Guangzhou Municipal Government Xu

Ruisheng; Vice-President of the Olympic Council of Asia and President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China Timothy Fok Tsun-ting; and Hong Kong's Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Joshua Law.

Also attending were guests from the Olympic Council of Asia, the International Equestrian Federation and the Asian Equestrian Federation, as well as a number of the Hong Kong riders participating in the Asian Games.

Club Deputy Chairman Dr Simon S O Ip expressed his congratulations to the City of Guangzhou and GAGOC for putting on such well-organised competitions. "We at the Club feel honoured



to have played a part in bringing these Games to reality, by building the equestrian venue and providing professional supporting services," he said. "This epitomises the ever-growing sporting and cultural links between Hong Kong and cities on the Mainland".

Mr Xu praised the Club for its substantial investment in building the equestrian venues and providing technical support in terms of equestrian facilities, horse management and transportation. "All in all, the Club has played a vital role in making the Games' equestrian events possible," he said. "I hope the Club will continue to contribute to the economy of Guangzhou, as well as propel the

development of equestrian sport in the country."

粵官高度讚揚馬會亞運角色
馬會於亞運舉行期間主辦「香港之夜」慶祝酒會，宴請廣州市政府及廣州亞組委官員，介紹香港道地文化和好客之道。

出席慶祝酒會的嘉賓包括廣州亞組委常務副秘書長及廣州市副市長許瑞生、亞奧理事會副會長兼港協暨奧委會會長霍震霆議員，以及香港特別行政區政制及內地事務局常任秘書長羅智光。

其他與會嘉賓包括亞洲奧運會理事會、國際馬術運動聯合會和亞洲馬術聯合會的代表，以及多名參與亞運比賽的香港馬術運動員。

馬會副主席葉錫安博士在酒會上恭賀廣州市政府和廣州亞組委，成功舉辦了一次出色的亞運。他說：「馬會十分榮幸可以參與這次亞運盛事，為興建從化亞運馬術場地，以及為馬術比賽提供專業支援服務出一分力。馬會的參與標誌著香港與內地城市，在體育文化項目上的連繫愈趨緊密。」

許先生讚揚馬會在興建馬術場地，以及提供馬術設施、馬匹管理及運輸等技術支援方面不遺餘力。他說：「馬術項目得以順利舉辦，香港賽馬會居功至偉。我期望未來馬會繼續為廣州的經濟及中國的馬術運動作出貢獻。」

香 港在二〇一〇年十一月十二至二十七日假廣州舉行的第十六屆亞運會中，取得亞運創立六十年以來的最佳成績。是次亞運破天荒吸引來自四十五個國家及地區超過一萬多位健兒，在四十二個類別的運動項目中一較高下。而港隊佳績的背後，實有賴馬會的大力支持。

港隊在是次亞運中，奪得歷來最多的獎牌，包括八金、十五銀及十七銅，合共四十面獎牌。其中一面銅牌由香港馬術代表隊於場地障礙團體

賽中奪得，是香港歷史上首面亞運馬術項目獎牌，反映本港自二〇〇八年協辦北京奧運馬術項目以來，本地馬術健兒的技術水平日益提升。

這支香港代表隊的四名成員，包括鄭文傑、賴植敏、林立信和林子心，全部來自馬會馬術隊，並由馬會出資遠赴歐洲受訓和汲取出賽經驗。鄭文傑、林立信和林子心，是馬會馬術隊於二〇〇八年十二月成立時的創隊成員；而賴植敏則於亞運後由馬會青少年馬術隊成員提升為馬會馬術隊成員。

空前成功

香港分享亞運豐碩成果

馬會支持馬運喜獲佳績



Above: Model of Conghua Racehorse Training Centre.

Left: Club Deputy Chairman and President of the Hong Kong Equestrian Federation Dr Simon S O Ip is one of the Club's torchbearers at the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games torch relay. **Right:** 100 cheerleaders dressed in jockey silks spur on the four Club representatives in the torch relay.

上: 廣州香港馬會賽馬訓練場模型。

左: 馬會副主席暨香港馬術總會會長葉錫安博士是廣州2010年亞運會火炬傳遞活動的其中一位馬會火炬手。

右: 身穿馬會騎師採衣的百啦啦隊為四名馬會火炬手吶喊打氣。



Above: Sha Tin racegoers share the pride of Hong Kong's medal-winning equestrian team at the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games. The four team members, from left, are Kenneth Cheng, Jacqueline Lai, Patrick Lam and Samantha Lam.

上: 沙田馬場的馬迷在一個歡迎儀式上分享於廣州2010年亞運會凱旋而歸的四位馬術隊成員的喜悅。由左開始的四位隊員是鄭文傑、賴植敏、林立信及林子心。

馬會在亞運馬術項目中扮演的角色，並不止於成就香港馬術代表隊的成立。憑藉馬會的鼎力支持，成功讓是次亞運的馬術項目得以舉行。在這之前，內地的檢疫措施和程序在國際間還沒有得到廣泛認可，因而海外馬匹無法自由出入內地。當初，廣州亞運會組織委員會（亞組委）建議沿用京奧的安排，在香港舉辦馬術項目，但鑑於馬會已按協議將奧運馬術場地歸還香港體育學院，作發展世界級體育精英訓練場地用途，所以未能成就此安排。

馬會與廣州亞組委及廣州市政府，於二〇〇九年十二月簽訂《合作備忘錄》，落實市政府授權馬會斥資，將轄下從化市發展為二〇一〇年亞運頂級馬術比賽場地的構思。位於廣州東北面約七十公里外的馬術比賽場地，曾經是第八屆全國少數民族傳統體育運動會馬術項目比賽場地。

在緊接的八個月內，馬會充分利用興建

奧運馬術項目比賽場地的寶貴經驗，將位於從化的舊址改建為頂級的馬術項目比賽場地，包括佔地一萬三千平方米的比賽區、一條長三公里的越野賽道、一個露天訓練場、一個有蓋訓練場、一間馬醫院，以及共一百五十二個馬廄的八幢馬房。

馬會更協助國家農業部、國家質量監督檢驗檢疫總局，以及香港特區政府漁農自然護理署，建立獲國際認可的「無規定馬屬動物疫病區」，覆蓋香港至從化沿途各區，使參賽的各國馬匹可以往返賽區和原地，是內地首見的嶄新安排。

亞運會舉行期間，馬會亦調動旗下專用運馬車隊，運載六批共約百匹來自歐洲、日本、韓國、馬來西亞，以及中國各地的賽駒，安全往返從化賽區。

其他由馬會抽調的資深員工，包括檢疫專家、獸醫，以及負責管理比賽設施及馬房的團

隊，亦於亞運期間到場協辦馬術賽事。

此外，馬會更向廣州亞組委提供專門器材，以及三千萬元人民幣捐款，以進一步推動和完善舉辦亞運馬術項目。

馬會亦根據與廣州市政府及廣州亞組委簽訂的協議，於二〇一〇年亞運結束後，著手將馬術比賽場地改建為頂級的賽馬訓練場。中心於二〇一四年竣工後，將分擔沙田馬房的部分工作。

新的訓練中心除服務香港的賽馬運動外，更可刺激從化的就業市場和旅遊業發展，令這個內地著名的溫泉之鄉更具競爭力。

是次合作為各方帶來雙贏局面，成為香港與泛珠三角地區在「一國兩制」框架下深化合作的典範。

為表揚馬會對廣州亞運的支持，廣州亞組委向馬會頒授「廣州2010年亞運會馬術比賽項目重要貢獻機構」名銜。

Young Hong Kong talents star in Conghua's debut event

The Club's building of the Asian Games equestrian venue was completed at the end of August 2010 and it hosted its first competitive event in mid-September, with the staging of the Energetic Guangzhou Equestrian Invitation Competition, an eventing contest designed to test the venue's operational readiness.

A total of 16 riders from Hong Kong and the Mainland participated in the three-day event, competing for individual and team awards. Among them were five instructors from the Club's riding schools in Hong Kong and two talented young riders from the HKJC Junior Equestrian Team.

And it was one of those rising young Hong Kong talents, 16-year-old Kendall Kruger, who beat off her seniors to win the debut event, while second place went to another Hong Kong rider, Jennifer Lee, and third to the Mainland's Liang Ruiji, a gold medallist in team jumping at the 11th National Games in Jinan in 2009.



Kendall said afterwards she felt proud and excited to be the first-ever winner at the Conghua venue. "The facilities and support services here are superb and professionally run," she said.

Liang also had high praise for the venues, saying "they provide all-round support and that allows me to stay more focused on my training and competition."

香港馬術新星率先揚威從化 由馬會斥資興建的從化亞運馬術場地於二〇一〇年八月底正式落成，並在九月中上演首場賽事。該項名為「活力廣州」馬術邀請賽的三項賽，旨在測試場地設施是否已為舉行亞運馬術項目準備就緒。

十六位來自香港及內地的馬術健兒獲邀參加一連三日的賽事，角逐多項個人及團體獎項。香港賽馬會青少年馬術隊派出兩位成員；而馬會騎術學校亦有五位導師參賽。

其中十六歲的青年新星顧樂嘉擊敗一眾經驗老到的好手，率先贏得從化場地首項錦標，力壓同樣來自香港的亞軍騎手李明華，以及曾奪二〇〇九年全運會障礙團體賽金牌的內地騎手，亦即是次比賽季軍梁銳基。

顧樂嘉賽後表示，成為從化馬術場地誕生的首位冠軍健兒，讓她感到十分自豪和興奮。她說：「馬會從化亞運馬術場地設施，以及各項支援服務，都非常專業及高水準。」

梁銳基亦對場地讚口不絕：「我獲得全面而充足的支援，讓我可以全情投入，應付訓練和比賽。」