

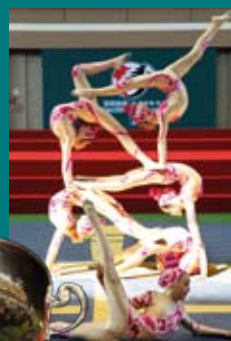
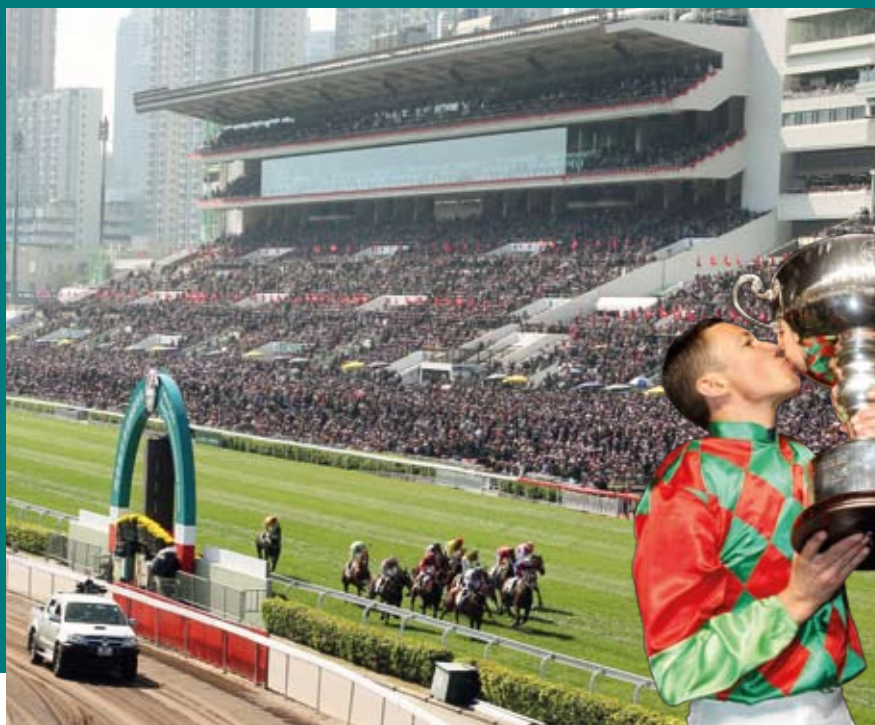
DEC 2011

Hong Kong hat-trick crowns “outstanding” day



港隊三冠
為國際盛事
增輝

Cool, clear weather, a huge crowd at Sha Tin Racecourse and the highest turnover for 13 years all combined to make the 2011 Cathay Pacific International Races one of the most memorable in the event's 23-year history – but the icing on the cake was the victory of home-trained horses in three of the four International Group One events.





Club Chief Executive Officer Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges described it “an absolutely outstanding meeting” from both a business and sporting point of view, with some 67,000 eager fans packing the racecourse, a 24.2% increase on the 2010 International Raceday. They contributed to total turnover of HK\$1.24 billion, a 17.0% increase and the highest figure since 1998.

Especially notable was betting interest on the four International Races themselves, which soared from HK\$385 million to a best-ever HK\$443 million. “That shows that our strategy of having simulcast races, familiarising people with overseas horses, is key,” the Club CEO observed.

On the track, it was a day when age knew no barriers. In the shock result of the afternoon, nine-year-old local veteran *Able One* stormed home at 65-1 odds to take the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Mile under Jeff Lloyd, the oldest jockey of the meeting at 50. Then just one race later, it was 21-year-old Matthew Chadwick who created the sensation, by piloting rising star *California Memory* to the prestigious HK\$20 million Hong Kong Cup.

Chadwick is the first home-grown jockey from the Club's Apprentice Jockeys' School to

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全日總投注額較去年同日上午百分之十七，達十二億四千萬港元，創一九九八年以來的最高紀錄。

清朗的十二月天，熙熙攘攘的人群湧進沙田馬場，構成了二〇一一年度國泰航空香港國際賽事令人難忘的一幕，將投注額推至十三年來的新高；而讓這項舉辦了二十三年的盛事更加錦上添花的，當數港隊於當日四項國際一級賽事中勇摘三冠的輝煌戰績。

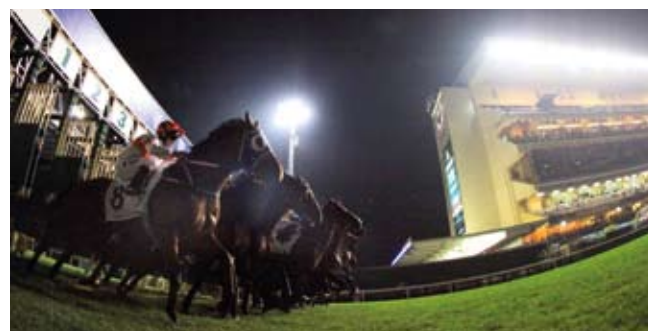
馬會行政總裁應家柏以「無論從商業角度或體育競賽角度來看，今日的賽事都是非常成功」來形容本年度國泰航空香港國際賽事。約六萬七千多位馬迷入場親睹當日盛況，較去年同一賽馬日增加百分之二十四點二；全日總投注額較去年同日上午上升百分之十七，達十二億四千萬港元，創一九九八年以來的最高紀錄。

單以四項國際賽事而言，投注額同樣錄得可觀增長，由去年三億八千五百萬港元總額，飆升至破紀錄四億四千三百萬港元。對此，應家柏表示：「這證明我們增加轉播海外大賽，讓本地馬迷得以更加認識海外馬匹，是正確的策略。」

是日的沙田馬場成為頂級佳駒擺脫年齡桎梏的英雄地。以九歲之齡稱霸國泰航空香港一哩錦標的「步步穩」，挾六十六倍大冷門身份，夥拍年屆五十的騎師勞愛德，成為全場年紀最大的冠軍人馬組合。在緊接著舉行總獎金高達二千萬港元的香港盃

win an International Group One race in Hong Kong, and he earned special words of praise from Mr Engelbrecht-Bresges. “It's a fantastic result for Hong Kong and a fantastic result for our school,” he commented. “We are very keen to invest in the future of Hong Kong and therefore it is very important – this is definitely the reward of a very good programme.”

Four days earlier, a similar party atmosphere at Happy Valley Racecourse at the Cathay Pacific International Jockeys' Championship got the International Races Week off to a thrilling start. In a gripping battle that went all the way to the wire, popular rider Frankie Dettori scored his third success in the contest – albeit with a ten-year gap in between – after scoring wins in the first and last legs of the four-race series.



賽事中，年僅二十一歲的後起之秀蔡明紹，力策「加州萬里」奏凱，技驚四座。

蔡明紹是首位出身自香港賽馬會見習騎師學校而在香港揚威國際一級賽事的港產騎師。應家柏讚揚他「是香港了不起的成就，也是我們騎校了不起的成就」。應家柏續道：「我們一直大力為香港賽馬的未來作出投資，這是十分重要的一天。今天這個成績就是我們優秀的賽馬訓練課程的豐碩成果。」

將時鐘撥到四天前，同樣熱鬧的氣氛籠罩著跑馬地馬場，當晚上演的國泰航空國際騎師錦標賽，為精彩刺激的國際賽事週揭開序幕。連番激烈的拼鬥後，深受本地馬迷歡迎的鞍上大師戴圖理，憑藉四戰獲兩冠一亞的佳績，於相隔十年後第三度登上王者寶座。



Vase

Dunaden storms to history-making start

It took less than 2½ minutes for history to be made in the 2011 International Races when *Dunaden* stormed to a three-quarter length win under Australia's Craig Williams in the Hong Kong Vase. In doing so, the French-trained five-year-old became the first horse to achieve the Group One double of the Melbourne Cup and HK Vase. The race provided a mouth-watering rematch between *Dunaden* and Britain's *Red Cadeaux*, who ran him so agonisingly close at Flemington a month earlier, but their party was spoilt by local veteran *Thumbs Up*, who ran a valiant race under Brett Prebble to grab second. In the end, *Red Cadeaux* had to settle for sharing third place with France's *Silver Pond*.



Dunaden

Craig Williams

「多利得」——
韋紀力

香港瓶

「多利得」先拔頭籌締歷史

在短短約兩分半鐘的賽程中，代表法國的五歲雄馬「多利得」，在澳洲騎師韋紀力胯下，以四分三馬位力壓對手先拔頭籌，勇奪香港瓶，成為歷來第一匹先勝墨爾本盃、再贏香港瓶而連奪這兩場國際一級賽的佳駒。「多利得」於墨爾本盃賽險勝英國代表「紅色禮物」，約一個月後再度與對方交鋒。然而許多人期待的這條翻版連贏位並未出現，柏寶策騎的香港代表「自由好」憑勇猛表現奪得亞軍。復仇夢碎的「紅色禮物」最終只能跟另一法國賽駒「銀塘勝景」取得平頭季軍。



Lucky Nine

Brett Prebble
「天久」—
柏寶



Sprint

Prebble strikes it
Lucky as HK
dominates

There was nothing lucky about the performance of Caspar Fownes-trained *Lucky Nine* in the Hong Kong Sprint, though he was taken to the wire by *Entrapment* and popular veteran *Joy And Fun* in a thrilling finish, and finally prevailed under jockey Brett Prebble by just a head. The judges were unable to separate his two pursuers for second, making it a remarkable two dead heats for the placings in as many races. Meanwhile *Little Bridge* made sure Hong Kong had the first four horses home, restoring the local team's long-standing dominance of this race.



香港短途錦標

「天久」為港隊重奪桂冠

方嘉柏麾下悍將「天久」，在柏寶胯下摘取香港短途錦標，拼勁無與倫比。來勢洶洶的「盈彩繽紛」和老當益壯的「時尚風采」，俱僅負於「天久」一個頭位而鬥得難分難解，連「電眼」亦難分先後，結果並列亞軍。連同獲得殿軍的「小橋流水」，港隊包辦這場國際一級賽的前四名，重奪主隊在這項世界馬壇頂級短途賽事保持多年的傳統優勢。



Mile

Age counts for little
if you're *Able*



Shock result of the afternoon it might have been, but those who follow past form have seen Hong Kong's *Able One* outwit top younger horses before – for example in the 2010 Champions Mile, which he won for the second time in three years by simply playing “catch me if you can”. This time his jockey Jeff Lloyd, a veteran of the sport himself, kept the John Moore-trained nine-year-old steady in second place before letting him go at the top of the home straight and seeing off a rousing late challenge from Britain's *Cityscape*. Another Moore-trained runner, *Xtension*, took third place.



Able One

Jeff Lloyd
「步步穩」——
勞愛德



香港一哩錦標

「步步穩」老而彌堅

「步步穩」登上香港一哩錦標的盟主寶座，乍看令人驚訝。但對牠的往績素有認識，並且曾目睹過牠在二〇一〇年以輕鬆姿態擊敗一眾年輕對手、於事隔三年後再奪冠軍一哩賽錦標的馬迷來說，「步步穩」於國際賽日的成功絕對有跡可尋。這匹來自摩廐的九歲老馬，今仗夥拍同樣資深的騎師勞愛德，採取沿途穩守第二位的策略，於直路成功透出之後，力拒後上如箭的英國賽駒「都市風光」，勇奪冠軍。而「步步穩」的廐侶「軍事攻略」則跑獲季軍。



Cup

A finish to stay in Memory

Notwithstanding a stellar field of overseas contenders and Hong Kong's lack of a Cup winner since 2005, Hong Kong's Horse of the Year *Ambitious Dragon* and reigning Champion Jockey Douglas Whyte were the ultra-hot favourites to land this year's Hong Kong Cup. But instead it was the little grey *California Memory* and his 21-year-old rider Matthew Chadwick who prevailed with a trademark late dash to give both horse and rider their first International Group One success. In the final frantic push for home, Hong Kong's *Irian* eventually finished second and Germany's *Zazou* third to relegate the favourite to fourth.

California Memory

Matthew Chadwick
「加州萬里」——
蔡明紹

香港盃

加州小將萬里屠龍

儘管海外強敵環伺，而港隊亦自二〇〇五年之後未嘗染指香港盃，由韋達執韁的「雄心威龍」仍然被捧成頂頭大熱。但這對現任冠軍人馬組合結果卻不敵由二十一歲小將蔡明紹主轡的小灰馬「加州萬里」，此場國際一級賽見證了新一代本地冠軍人馬組合的誕生。另一香港代表「魔法幻影」，在終點前力壓德國代表「前衛先鋒」奪得亞軍，大熱門「雄心威龍」則獲得第四名。



CATHAY PACIFIC HONG KONG CUP

