Chairman’s Sprint Prize (38th running)

History

Sha Tin Racecourse opened its doors in October, 1978 and in line with that new era for Hong Kong racing an elite 1200m contest was inaugurated. That first edition on 29 April, 1979 was titled the Hong Kong Sprint Championship but a more familiar moniker, the Chairman’s Prize, was introduced a year later. The Arthur Ward-trained Ever Win took the first running under Tony Cruz.

By 1989, when Quicken Away won the first of three consecutive renewals, the race was a million dollar affair - that year’s contest being worth HK$1.032 million, with only the Hong Kong Invitation Cup and Hong Kong Derby holding higher purses. Three years later it attained HKG1 status and in the 1993/94 season, when the Hong Kong Speed Series was established, the Chairman’s Prize took its natural place as one of the three legs.

It was in 2001 that the race title became the Chairman’s Sprint Prize and the purse that year was HK$4.5 million. In 2007 the race shifted to February from a March/April slot in the calendar, thus becoming the second leg of the Speed Series. The 2016 edition was the first as an international G1 contest and carried record prize money for the race of HK$10 million. It also took place in May - as the final leg of the Hong Kong Speed Series and the fourth leg of the Global Sprint Challenge - to fill the void left by Singapore’s discontinued KrisFlyer International Sprint. Chautauqua from Australia became the first overseas trained winner of this race in 2016.

Notable winners of the Chairman’s Sprint Prize include the world champion sprinters Silent Witness (2004 & 2005) and Sacred Kingdom (2008 & 2010), as well as Fairy King Prawn (1999 & 2001), Joy And Fun (2012) and Lucky Nine (2013 & 2014).

Statistics (Since 1980)

Leading Jockey B Marcus 5 Wins – Concert King (1992), Red Ruffian (1993), Mr Vitality (1995 & 1996)

& Tajasur (2000)

Leading Trainer I W Allan 6 Wins – Mr Vitality (1995 & 1996), Quick Action (1997), Oriental Express(1998),

Tajasur (2000) & Fairy King Prawn (2001)

Record of Males

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age | Winners | 2nd | 3rd | Unplaced | Total Starters |
| 6yo+ | 7 | 17 | 12 | 127 | 163 |
| 5yo | 17 | 11 | 10 | 75 | 113 |
| 4yo | 10 | 9 | 13 | 80 | 112 |
| 3yo | 3 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 19 |

Fastest Time (1200M) 1.08.20

Shortest-priced winner 2005 Silent Witness (1) Longest-priced winner 2009 Dim Sum (51)

Hong Kong Sprint winner’s record in Chairman’s Sprint Prize

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Season | Hong Kong Sprint First Three | | Chairman’s Sprint Prize Placing (Odds) |
| 2011/2012 | 1st | Lucky Nine | 2nd (2F) |
| 2nd (DH) | Entrapment | Did not run |
| 2nd (DH) | Joy And Fun | 1st (11) |
| 2012/2013 | 1st | Lord Kanaloa | Did not run |
| 2nd | Cerise Cherry | 5th (8.4) |
| 3rd | Captain Sweet | 3rd (10) |
| 2013/2014 | 1st | Lord Kanaloa | Did not run |
| 2nd | Sole Power | Did not run |
| 3rd | Frederick Engels | 4th (8.6) |
| 2014/2015 | 1st | Aerovelocity | 2nd (2.2F) |
| 2nd | Peniaphobia | 4th (2.8) |
| 3rd | Straight Girl | Did not run |
| 2015/2016 | 1st | Peniaphobia | 13th (20) |
| 2nd | Gold-Fun | 4th (9.4) |
| 3rd | Not Listenin’Tome | 6th (72) |
| 2016/2017 | 1st | Aerovelocity | ? |
| 2nd | Lucky Bubbles | ? |
| 3rd | Peniaphobia | ? |