



Balding, Andrew

Cup – Blond Me

Age: 44. Andrew Balding is the son of legendary English trainer Ian, who prepared Mill Reef, one of the greatest European horses of the last century. He was an amateur rider and assisted his father for four years. He took over at Kingsclere Stables in January, 2003 and won his first Classic that June, the Oaks with Casual Look. Phoenix Reach notched an international G1 treble in the 2004 Canadian International, 2004 Hong Kong Vase and the 2005 Dubai Sheema Classic. His next came eight and a half years later with Side Glance in the 2013 Mackinnon Stakes at Flemington, Australia. He has won two G1s this season – the Sussex Stakes (Here Comes When) and the E P Taylor Stakes (Blond Me). He set a new personal best for a season's earnings in 2017, with over £2.5 million in the bank in Britain alone. **HKIR wins (1):** Hong Kong Cup (2004 Phoenix Reach). **Hong Kong wins: 1.**



Barande-Barbe, Corine

Cup – Garlingari

Age: 59. Chantilly-based Corine Barande-Barbe began training in 1991. She saddled Carling to win the G1 French Oaks and G1 Prix Vermeille in 1995. She is most famous for handling Cirrus Des Aigles, rated the world's best horse still in training at the end of 2012 after pushing the then recently-retired Frankel in the latter's final race, the G1 Champion Stakes at Ascot. Cirrus Des Aigles had won that contest in 2011. The star gelding also won the 2012 G1 Dubai Sheema Classic and the G1 Prix Ganay in 2012, 2013 and 2015, the G2 Prix Dollar in 2012 and 2013, and in 2014 the G1 Prix d'Ispahan and G1 Coronation Cup. Her stable star finished fifth in the 2009 Hong Kong Vase, and seventh (2010), fifth (2011), third (2013) and fourth (2014) in the Hong Kong Cup before a career-concluding 10th in the Vase (2015). The gelding was a withdrawal on the eve of the 2012 Cup due to injury. She continued her HKIR run by sending Garlingari to last year's Vase, the homebred finishing seventh. This year, Barande-Barbe prepared that same gelding to win the G2 Prix Dollar. **Hong Kong wins: 0**



Beckett, Ralph

Vase – Chemical Charge

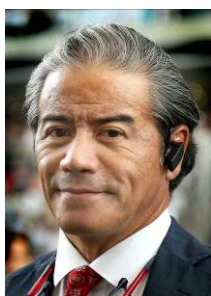
Age: 46. Ralph Beckett's family has a long history in racing. Beckett travelled to Australia when he finished school and worked for two of that country's training legends, Bart Cummings and Colin Hayes, before returning to England to work for trainers like Jimmy FitzGerald, Arthur Moore and Martin Pipe. In 1996, he became an assistant to Peter Walwyn, eventually taking over Walwyn's licence in 2000. He scored Classic glory in 2008 when Look Here took the Oaks, a race he also won in 2013 with Talent. Simple Verse added another Classic when she took the 2015 St Leger, before adding the G1 Champions Fillies & Mares Stakes a month later. Beckett cracked 100 wins in a season in Great Britain for the first time in 2016. He previously saddled Muhannak to finish seventh in the 2008 G1 Hong Kong Vase. **Hong Kong wins: 0**



Couetil, Alain

Vase – Tiberian

Age: 61. Alain Couetil joined the team of the legendary Andre Fabre in 1985. Initially a trackwork rider, he rose through the ranks to become Fabre's assistant in 1998, a position he held for seven years. In 2005, he set up his own operation in Senonnes in north-west France. Within 18 months, he had already prepared his first stakes winner, Young Poli. In 2015, he tasted Group success with Silverwave in the G3 Prix La Force and Meleagros in the G3 Prix d'Hedouville. Couetil won the latter race again in 2017 with Tiberian. The five-year-old is a flag-bearer for the trainer this year, winning the G3 Prix de Reux and the G2 Grand Prix de Deauville before running seventh in the Melbourne Cup. Hong Kong debut.



Cruz, Tony

*Cup – Time Warp; Mile – Beauty Only;
Sprint – Peniaphobia; Vase – Gold Mount*

Age: 60. Tony Cruz is a son of Johnny Cruz, a renowned rider from Hong Kong's amateur era. His brother, Derek, is also a trainer. He was among the first intake of apprentices to the HKJC Apprentice Jockeys' School in 1972. Cruz started his riding career in the 1973/74 season, went on to be Hong Kong's champion jockey six times and rode 946 winners. Cruz also made his name at G1 level in Europe and partnered the great race mare Triptych. He started training in 1996 and won the trainers' title in 1999/2000 and 2004/2005, latterly setting a then record for a season's winners (91) and earnings (HK\$113m). He trained the great Hong Kong champion Silent Witness to win 17 consecutive races. **Honours:** Hong Kong Champion Jockey (1978/79, 1980/81, 1982/83, 1983/84, 1985/86, 1994/95); Hong Kong Champion Trainer (1999/00, 2004/05). **HKIR wins (8):** Hong Kong Mile (2003 Lucky Owners, 2010 Beauty Flash, 2016 Beauty Only), Hong Kong Cup (2011 & 2012 California Memory), Hong Kong Sprint (2003 & 2004 Silent Witness, 2015 Peniaphobia). **Hong Kong wins (as of 27 November): 1,129**



Dunlop, Harry

Cup – Robin Of Navan

Age: 40. Harry Dunlop was always destined for the training ranks, as the son of British champion trainer John Dunlop and the godson of legendary horseman Sir Henry Cecil. His brother Ed is a classic-winning trainer with three HKIR successes. Dunlop rode as an amateur jockey and won a Cheltenham bumper, but training always beckoned. After stints with his father, Cecil and champion jumps trainer Nicky Henderson, Dunlop took out his own licence in 2006 and won with his first ever runner. His first Group-race win came with Robin Of Navan in the G3 Prix de Conde in 2015, and the galloper became his first G1 winner when taking the Criterium de Saint-Cloud that same year. Hong Kong debut.



Fabre, André

Vase – Talismanic

Age: 72. Andre Fabre is one of the greatest trainers in racing history. The law graduate son of a diplomat, this unusual racing character, one of whose greatest pleasures in life are the works of Marcel Proust, became one of France's leading jump jockeys, riding more than 250 winners including France's premier steeplechase, the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris. As a trainer he won the national trainers' title 21 years in succession. Having relinquished his crown in 2008 and 2009, he won the title six years straight from 2010 to 2015 for a total of 27 championships. He leads Jean-Claude Rouget (as of 27 November) in his quest for title number 28. He has trained the winners of all of his country's greatest races, including the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe seven times. His champions include Trempolino, Zafonic, Peintre Celebre, Hurricane Run and Manduro. In 2011, Fabre completed a lifelong ambition when Pour Moi won the G1 Derby at Epsom. The trainer scored his fifth Breeders' Cup win in November when Talismanic won the Turf. **HKIR wins (2):** Hong Kong Vase (1999 Borgia; 2014 Flintshire). **Hong Kong wins: 2**



Fanshawe, James

Sprint – The Tin Man

Age: 56. James Fanshawe has been a leading British trainer for more than 25 years. He has won no less than 20 G1s, from sprinters Frizzante and Society Rock to jumpers like Royal Gait and Hors La Loi III, who won the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in 1992 and 2002 respectively. His first G1 win was Environment Friend's 1991 Eclipse Stakes, while his most notable galloper was the brilliant five-time G1 winning filly Soviet Song. In 2016 he won two G1s in France – the Prix Jean Romanet and the Prix de l'Opera – with top filly Speedy Boarding, while The Tin Man took the big Ascot 1200m double of the 2016 G1 British Champions Sprint and the 2017 G1 Diamond Jubilee Stakes. Fanshawe makes his third HKIR visit this year. **Hong Kong wins: 0**



Fujiwara, Hideaki

Cup – Staphanos; Vase – Tosen Basil

Age: 52. Hideaki Fujiwara was an active member of the equestrian club at his university and joined the JRA as a work rider in 1989. He obtained his trainer licence in 2000. He is a three-time JRA Award winner due to achieving the highest winning percentage to runners in 2007, 2008 and 2013. He has saddled no fewer than 617 JRA winners (at 23 November) so far in his career, including 49 this season, which places him second in the JRA trainer standings. He has had no less than 12 G1/JPN G1 successes to date. Notable performers he has trained include Eishin Flash (2010 Japanese Derby & 2012 Tenno Sho Autumn), Tosen Ra (2013 Mile Championship), Asian Winds (2008 Victoria Mile) and the crack mare Straight Girl (2015 Sprinters Stakes & 2015 and 2016 Victoria Mile). He has had two HKIR placings. **Hong Kong wins: 0.**



Graffard, Francis-Henri

Mile – Karar

Age: 40. Lamorlaye trainer Francis-Henri Graffard is a native of Charollais in France. He gained his grounding in the industry within National Hunt breeding in France and is a graduate of the inaugural Darley Flying Start programme. Before setting up as a trainer, he gained experience working for John Oxx and Jehan Bertran de Balanda and as assistant trainer to Alain de Royer Dupré. Erupt gave Graffard a first G1 win in the 2015 Grand Prix de Paris before adding the 2016 Canadian International. This season, Graffard won the G1 Prix Vermeille with Bateel. Hong Kong debut.



Guillemin, Didier

Sprint – The Right Man

Age: 52. Didier Guillemin is the son of jockey Jean was a rider himself, notching over 400 wins in France, including a Listed victory on Melmoss, trained by his father. In 1994, he took out his own training licence and scored his first black-type victory with Percent Premium in 2000. He rose to prominence when he won his first classic, the G1 French 2,000 Guineas, with Tin Horse in 2011. It was only this year, however, that he scored a second G1 when The Right Man won the Al Quoz Sprint on Dubai World Cup night. Hong Kong debut.



Hannon, Richard

Vase – Danehill Kodiak

Age: 42. Richard Hannon assisted his legendary father, Richard Hannon snr., for 12 years before taking over at Herridge and Everleigh Stables at the close of the 2013 season. His grandfather, Harry Hannon, was also a trainer, while trainers Sylvester Kirk and former jockey Richard Hughes are brothers-in-law. Hannon enjoyed a phenomenal first season, ending 2014 as UK champion trainer with almost £4.7 million in earnings, a first Classic success with Night Of Thunder in the 2,000 Guineas, and a further two G1 wins thanks to Olympic Glory (Lockinge Stakes) and Toronado (Queen Anne Stakes). This season, he prepared Barney Roy to win the G1 St James's Palace Stakes. He makes his second HKIR trip this year, after Toormore finished 11th in the 2015 LONGINES Hong Kong Mile. **Hong Kong wins: 0**



Hori, Noriyuki

Cup – Neorealism

Age: 50. Noriyuki Hori obtained his JRA licence in 2002. He won his first trainers' championship in 2015. Hori has no less than 17 G1 wins. He enjoyed his most successful year in training in 2015, with Duramente delivered a first classic win in the G1 Japanese 2,000 Guineas and followed up in the G1 Japanese Derby, while his mile champion Maurice excelled in the G1 Yasuda Kinen, G1 Mile Championship and the G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Mile. Maurice added the G1 Champions Mile at Sha Tin in May, 2016 and was the second leg of an unprecedented double for his trainer when he won the G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Cup last year. Hori, who earlier in the card saddled Satono Crown to win the G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Vase, became the first overseas trainer to win two HKIR features on the same day. It also made Hori the most successful JRA trainer abroad, with Neorealism's G1 QEII Cup win in April, 2017 taking the handler to six foreign G1 wins. **HKIR wins (3):** Hong Kong Cup (2016 Maurice), Hong Kong Mile (2015 Maurice), Hong Kong Vase (2016 Satono Crown). **Hong Kong wins: 5**



Ikee, Yasutoshi

Mile – Satono Aladdin

Age: 48. Yasutoshi Ikee is the son of Yasuo Ikee, the former JRA trainer who prepped two-time Japanese Horse of the Year Deep Impact and 2001 Hong Kong Vase winner Stay Gold. Ikee worked in his father's stable for a brief time before going to the UK to work for Michael Stoute in 1995. He went to California in 1996 to work for Neil Drysdale. He returned to Japan in 2003 to take out his trainer's licence and has notched no less than 588 career wins, including 54 this season, which gives him a healthy lead in the JRA trainers' premiership (as of 23 November). He has no less than 19 G1/JPN G1 wins. Ikee was JRA Champion Trainer in 2008. Among the best horses he has trained are 2011 Japanese Horse of the Year and two-time Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe runner-up Orfevre, three-time G1 winner Dream Journey, and Japanese classic winners Mikki Queen and Satono Diamond. This year's G1 Japanese 2,000 Guineas one-two Al Ain and Persian Knight have been his flagbearers this season with the latter taking the G1 Mile Championship, while Satono Aladdin won the Yasuda Kinen in June. He has had five HKIR starters. **Hong Kong wins: 0**



Lui, Francis

Sprint – Lucky Bubbles

Age: 58. Francis Lui emerged from the HKJC Apprentice Jockeys' School to ride 36 winners as a licensed jockey between 1975 and 1982, and later became an assistant trainer. He received his own licence to train in 1996/97. Hello Pretty provided the handler with one leg of the Four-Year-Old Classic Series when he won the Hong Kong Derby Trial in 2006. His standout stable star is Lucky Bubbles, who gave the trainer his first Group 1 winner in 2017 when he took the Chairman's Sprint Prize. Lucky Bubbles came within a short-head of giving Lui a first HKIR victory last year when he second to Aerovelocitv in the G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Sprint. **Hong Kong wins (as of 27 November): 553**



Millard, Tony

Cup – Nassa; Mile – Horse Of Fortune, Sichuan Dar

Age: 56. Tony Millard's father was the legendary multiple South African champion trainer Terrance Millard. He made an impressive start to his own training career in 1991. He was champion trainer in South Africa twice and won all of that country's majors. He trained three Horses of the Year there in Empress Club, Jet Master and Surfing Home as well as numerous other champions. He sent out 39 G1 winners in his first nine years of training before relocating to Hong Kong. He made an immediate impact locally, winning the 2000 Hong Kong Derby in his first season with Keen Winner. His most spectacular successes in Hong Kong have come with two-time Horse of the Year Ambitious Dragon whose 13 career wins included two G1s and five local G1s. **Honours:** South African Champion Trainer (1992, 1994 [shared with Pat Shaw]). **HKIR wins (1):** Hong Kong Mile (2012 Ambitious Dragon). **Hong Kong wins (as of 27 November):** 560



Miller, Peter

Sprint – Stormy Liberal

Age: 51. Three decades after taking out his licence, Peter Miller is now one of Southern California's leading handlers. Originally hoping to be a jockey, Miller sought another path into racing when doctors told him that he would grow to be too big. He joined American Hall of Fame trainer Charlie Whittingham as a groom the day after he finished high school, and that experience set him on a path to becoming a trainer. He was licensed in 1987 and his first winner came at Santa Anita the following year. His first G1 came with Set Play in the Del Mar Debutante in 2007 and he has since tasted top-level success with horses like Comma To The Top, Heir Kitty and Finnegans Wake. Miller's finest hour came at this year's Breeders' Cup at Del Mar, when he won both speed features – the Sprint (on dirt) with Roy H and the Turf Sprint with Stormy Liberal. Hong Kong debut.



Moore, John

Cup – Werther; Mile – Beauty Generation, Helene Paragon, Joyful Trinity; Sprint – Not Listenin'Tome; Vase – Eagle Way, Helene Charisma

Age: 67. John Moore has been involved in Hong Kong racing since the professional era commenced in 1971 and is Hong Kong's longest-serving and winning-most trainer. A former amateur jockey, he began training in 1985, before which he was assistant trainer to his late famous father, George. In 2007 he prepared an international G1 double thanks to Viva Pataca in the QEII Cup and Able One in the Champions Mile and, in a feat perhaps unprecedented in the sport, won the same two races with the same two horses three years later. He was the first to saddle 1000 wins in Hong Kong and has been the leading prize money earner for the past 12 seasons. The stable has also produced the last five gallopers to be named Hong Kong Horse of the Year – Military Attack, Designs On Rome, Able Friend, Werther and Rapper Dragon. **Honours:** 7x Hong Kong Champion Trainer (1985/86, 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93 [tied with David Hill], 1994/95, 2010/11, 2014/15); Hong Kong record holder for all-time career prize money (HK\$1.76 billion); record for most prize money in a season (HK\$155,263,295 in 2016/17). **HKIR wins (6):** Hong Kong Mile (2011 Able One, 2014 Able Friend), Hong Kong Cup (1993 Motivation, 2014 Designs On Rome), Hong Kong Sprint (2008 Inspiration), Hong Kong Vase (2013 Dominant). **Hong Kong wins (as of 27 November):** 1,578



Mullins, Willie

Vase – Max Dynamite

Age: 61. Willie Mullins hails from a successful racing dynasty and is a titan of the jump racing scene. Being an 11-time champion trainer in that sphere in Ireland, he has an extensive list of big-race wins to his credit including the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham four times with Hurricane Fly (2011 & 2013), Faugheen (2015) and Annie Power (2016), and the 2005 Grand National with Hedgehunter. He has also prepared the likes of Vautour, Quevega and Florida Pearl, while he won the 2013 G1 Nakayama Grand Jump with Blackstairmountain. He was a six-time champion amateur jockey in Ireland and won the 1983 Foxhunters Chase over the Grand National course before taking out his training licence in 1988. Mullins has enjoyed success in Flat racing too and saddled Simenon to win two races at Royal Ascot within five days in 2012, the Ascot Stakes and the Queen Alexandra Stakes. The same horse was runner-up in the G1 Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in 2013, as well as 4th in the G1 Melbourne Cup, before finishing 5th in the G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Vase that year – his only previous HKIR runner. More recently, Max Dynamite has placed in two Melbourne Cups. **Hong Kong wins: (0)**



O'Brien, Aidan

Cup – Deauville, War Decree; Mile – Lancaster Bomber, Roly Poly; Vase – Highland Reel

Age: 48. Aidan O'Brien has a phenomenal list of big race victories to his name and has notched 298 G1 wins (plus a further 22 G1 National Hunt wins). Already in 2017, he has eclipsed American training legend Bobby Frankel's record for the most G1 wins in a season and currently sits on 27 for the year, two more than Frankel's mark. A champion amateur jump jockey in Ireland, he was assistant trainer to Jim Bolger before taking out a trainers' licence in 1993 – he was Ireland's champion trainer for a 20th time in 2017 with 119 wins. He enjoyed remarkable success with jumpers before teaming up with John Magnier's Coolmore operation at the legendary Ballydoyle training base in 1996; a year later, he became Ireland's youngest ever champion trainer on the Flat. He has won 68 British and Irish Classic races. O'Brien has trained a host of champions including super sire Galileo, High Chaparral, Giant's Causeway, Rock Of Gibraltar, Yeats, Cape Blanco and Minding. He broke new ground in 2014 with his first winner in Australia, Adelaide in the G1 Cox Plate, and in December, 2015, Highland Reel gave him his first Hong Kong win. The latter provided a 10th Breeders' Cup win in the 2016 Turf. **HKIR win (1):** Hong Kong Vase (2015 Highland Reel). **Hong Kong wins: 1**



Okubo, Ryuji

Cup – Smart Layer

Age: 51. Ryuji Okubo comes from a family with a rich background in racing; his grandfather was a Derby-winning trainer and his father, Masaaki Okubo, trained Japanese champion Narita Brian. He joined his father's stable as a groom in 1989 and was a work rider, too, before obtaining his JRA trainer licence in 2001. He set up on his own two years later. His first Japanese classic success was the G1 Kikuka Sho in 2007 with Asakusa Kings. He has two other top-class successes: Danon Shark in the 2014 G1 Mile Championship and Man Of Purser in the 2006 NAR G1 Derby Grand Prix. So far he has saddled 402 JRA wins in his career, including 25 this term (as of 23 November). He had his first HKIR runner last year with Smart Layer, who finished fifth in the G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Vase. **Hong Kong wins: 0**



Rohaut, Francois

Sprint – Signs Of Blessing

Age: 59. Based at Sauvagnon, close to Pau in south-west France, Francois Rohaut has enjoyed notable successes as a trainer both on the flat and over jumps, and with Thoroughbreds and Purebred Arabians. The first of his eight G1 wins came in 2002 with Pearly Shells in the Prix Vermeille, a race he would win again in September, 2007 with Mrs Lindsay; the latter landed the G1 E. P. Taylor Stakes a month later. Rohaut has three classic wins to his name: the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (2004 Torrestrella, 2006 Tie Black) and the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (2010 Lucayan). He won the G1 Prix Jean Prat in 2005 with Turtle Bowl and Signs Of Blessing gave him his latest top-flight win in the 2016 Prix Maurice de Gheest. The latter was a deep-closing fifth from a wide draw in last year's LONGINES Hong Kong Sprint, the handler's first Hong Kong runner. **Hong Kong wins: 0**



Saito, Makoto

Sprint – Once In A Moon

Age: 46. Makoto Saito worked as a groom and work rider for 13 years before obtaining his JRA trainer licence in 2006. This season, he has a total of 37 wins (as of 23 November), a new benchmark for him. He has sent out two G1 winners, Goshawk Ken in the 2007 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes and Nuovo Record in the 2014 Japanese Oaks. Saito has also had two overseas victories – Esmeraldina in the KOR G3 Ttukseom Cup at Seoul and Nuovo Record in the G3 Red Carpet Handicap at Del Mar. He makes his third consecutive HKIR visit, having saddled up Nuovo Record to run second in the 2015 G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Cup and fourth in the 2016 G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Vase. **Hong Kong wins: 0**



Shum, Danny

Mile – Seasons Bloom

Age: 57. Danny Shum rode 24 winners in Hong Kong between 1977 and 1983. He learnt the training ropes as assistant to former multiple Hong Kong champion trainer Ivan Allan. He was granted a Hong Kong trainer's licence ahead of the 2003/04 season and began brightly with 34 winners. He improved on that good debut season to rank third in the trainers' premiership in his second term when Scintillation emerged as his standout runner. The 2011/12 season brought a first overseas success as Little Bridge went to Royal Ascot to clinch victory in the G1 King's Stand Stakes. He recorded a best ever season's tally of 54 wins to finish second in the 2015/16 trainers' premiership. Shum has had nine HKIR runners without placing. **Hong Kong wins (as of 27 November): 494**



Simcock, David

Mile – Lightning Spear

Age: 45. Newmarket trainer David Simcock learned his trade with top rank trainers Ian Balding, Major Dick Hern and Luca Cumani before heading out on his own in 2004. Dream Ahead remains his best horse to date; the strapping sprinter was rated higher than the great Frankel as a two-year-old in 2010, winning the G1 Prix Morny and G1 Middle Park Stakes. The colt won the G1 July Cup, G1 Haydock Sprint Cup and G1 Prix de la Foret as he was crowned Europe's Champion Sprinter in 2011. Further G1 successes came with I'm A Dreamer (2012 Beverly D Stakes), Sheikhzayedroad (2014 Northern Dancer Turf Stakes), Trade Storm (2014 Woodbine Mile) and Madame Chiang (2014 British Champions Fillies and Mares). Simcock's previous HKIR visit saw Trade Storm run seventh in the 2014 G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Mile. **Hong Kong wins: 0**

**Size, John**

Age: 63. John Size was a top trainer in Sydney before his arrival in Hong Kong in 2001. He broke the mould by winning the trainers' premiership in his very first season. Size notched that ninth championship in 2016/17 as he set a new record for most wins in a season with 94, 27 more than nearest rival John Moore. He has trained the winners of two Horse of the Year titles, the multiple HKG1 scorers Electronic Unicorn and Grand Delight. In 2009/10 he trained Brave Kid to equal the then record of six wins in a season and Entrapment who finally broke that record with seven victories in just five months. Honours: 9x Hong Kong Champion Trainer (2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2005/06, 2007/08, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2015/16, 2016/17). **HKIR wins (1):** Hong Kong Mile (2013 Glorious Days). **Hong Kong wins (as of 27 November):** 1,063

Mile – Contentment, Western Express;

Sprint – Amazing Kids, D B Pin, Mr Stunning, Thewizardofoz

**Stoute, Sir Michael**

Age: 72. Sir Michael Stoute moved to England from Barbados aged 19 and was licensed to train in 1972. He has been crowned Britain's champion trainer 10 times (1981, 1986, 1989, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009). His G1 wins include four in the Breeders' Cup Turf, 15 English Classics including five in the Derby, two Japan Cups, a Dubai World Cup and even a Champion Hurdle. The most famous of his stars remains the ill-fated Shergar, but he has trained numerous international champions, including Dubai World Cup and Japan Cup winner Singpiel and Breeders' Cup Turf winner Pilsudski. In 2008 he finally completed his set of all five English Classics when subsequent dual Breeders' Cup Turf winner, Conduit, landed the St Leger. In 2013 he saddled the Queen's Estimate to give the British monarch her first G1 Ascot Gold Cup win. Ulysses won two G1s in 2017 to earn the title of Europe's Champion Older Horse. **HKIR wins (2):** Hong Kong International Bowl (1994 Soviet Line); Hong Kong Vase (2000 Daliapour). **Hong Kong wins: 2**

Cup – Poet's Word; Vase – Smart Call

**Sumii, Katsuhiko**

Age: 53. Katsuhiko Sumii is one of the most successful international campaigners among the Japanese training ranks. He has no less than 34 G1 successes and five of them were achieved outside Japan: Hong Kong Mile (2005 Hat Trick), and the American Oaks (2005 Cesario), a one-two finish in the 2006 Melbourne Cup with Delta Blues and Pop Rock, the Dubai World Cup (2011 Victoire Pisa), and the QEII Cup (2012 Rulership). Among the best horses he has trained are 2008 and 2009 Japanese Horse of the Year Vodka, as well as seven-time G1/JPN G1 winner Kane Hekili. He was crowned the JRA's champion trainer three times in a row (2011-2013). He sits third on the JRA trainers' standings with 48 wins for the season (as of 23 November). He broke a drought of nearly two years when top three-year-old Kiseki took the G1 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger) in October. This is his first HKIR visit since 2006. **HKIR wins (1):** Hong Kong Mile (2005 Hat Trick). **Hong Kong wins: 2**

Vase – Kiseki

**Umeda, Tomoyuki**

Age: 48. Tomoyuki Umeda obtained his JRA licence in 2006 and set up his own stables at Ritto Training Centre the following year. His first pattern success came in 2012 when Shonan Mighty took the G2 Osaka Hai. In 2014, he travelled Admire Rakti to Australia, where the galloper gave him a first top-flight success in the G1 Caulfield Cup under Hong Kong-based rider Zac Purton. The following year, Let's Go Donki gave him a first G1 and a maiden classic success at home with her win in the 2015 Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas). Hong Kong debut.

Sprint – Let's Go Donki

**Yip, Dennis**

Age: 50. HKJC Apprentice Jockeys' School graduate Dennis Yip rode in Hong Kong between 1984 and 1993. He had a total of 59 wins before moving on to learn the training game overseas and then acting as assistant to multiple champion trainer, Brian Kan. In 2002/03 he became a licensed trainer in his own right. Yip has trained more than 30 winners in each season of his 11-year training career. The 2011/12 season saw him reach the 50 wins mark as he finished fourth in the trainers' premiership. He maintained his upward curve in 2012/13 as he sent out 69 winners to clinch his first trainers' title, sealing victory over Tony Cruz in the very last race of the season. Yip prepared Secret Weapon to finish second in the G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Cup last year. Honours: Hong Kong Champion Trainer (2012/13). **Hong Kong wins (as of 27 November):** 644

Cup – Secret Weapon



Yiu, Ricky

Sprint – Blizzard

Age: 60. Ricky Yiu rode 11 winners between 1974 and 1980 and was first licensed as a trainer in 1995/96. He took the inaugural Hong Kong Sprint in 1999 with Fairy King Prawn. Sacred Kingdom was his outstanding stable star: the two-time G1 Hong Kong Sprint winner and 2009/10 Horse of the Year was Hong Kong's Champion Sprinter four years in a row (2007/08- 2010/11). He saddled Ultra Fantasy to win the 2010 G1 Sprinters Stakes at Nakayama as, with Alex Lai on board, the pair became the first Hong Kong Chinese trainer-jockey partnership to triumph in an overseas G1. Yiu took Amber Sky to Dubai in 2014 and won the G1 Al Quoz Sprint. **HKIR wins (3):** Hong Kong Sprint (1999 Fairy King Prawn, 2007 & 2009 Sacred Kingdom). **Hong Kong wins (as of 27 November):** 697