

Spotlight

Only California Memory (2011 and 2012) has won the LONGINES Hong Kong Cup back-to-back and Time Warp faces a difficult task to emulate the little grey, with strong opposition entered from home and abroad.

Japan has won the race five times, most recently with A Shin Hikari (2015) and Maurice (2016), and that nation's army of racing fans will be cheering on Sungrazer, Deirdre and Staphanos this time. Sungrazer heads in off a very good second in the G1 Tenno Sho Autumn, while G1 heroine Deirdre warmed up with a G2 win over Vase contender Lys Gracieux.

The Hong Kong defence will include former Horse of the Year Werther who needs a LONGINES Hong Kong Cup win to complete a full set of Hong Kong majors at 2000m.



SUNGRAZER

JAPAN 4c 120

Seven-time winner from 16 starts, with three G2 scores; very good second latest behind Rey De Oro in G1 Tenno Sho Autumn.



TIME WARP

HONG KONG 5g 120

All-the-way winner of this race and the G1 Hong Kong Gold Cup (2000m) last term; out of form afterwards until winning G3 Ladies' Purse Handicap earlier this month.



WERTHER

HONG KONG 7g 119

2015/16 Hong Kong Horse of the Year and three-time G1 winner; wins at course and distance include Hong Kong Derby, G1 QEII Cup and G1 Hong Kong Gold Cup.



NORTHERN SUPERSTAR

HONG KONG 5h 118

Top-class in South Africa with wins in G1 Cape Derby and G1 Daily News 2000.



SEASONS BLOOM

HONG KONG 6g 118

Breakthrough G1 win in the Stewards' Cup (1600m) and went close behind Time Warp in G1 Hong Kong Gold Cup at the course and distance thereafter.



GOLD MOUNT

HONG KONG 5g 114

2016 King George V Handicap winner at Royal Ascot; placed in G1 QEII Cup and G1 Champions & Chater Cup last term.



STORMY ANTARCTIC

GREAT BRITAIN 5g 114

G1-placed four times and scored G2 win at Baden-Baden this spring; smart fourth to Roaring Lion in G1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot latest.



STAPHANOS

JAPAN 7h 112

Placed third and fourth in past two editions of this race and heads back to Sha Tin for fifth time; G1-placed five times.



GLORIOUS FOREVER

HONG KONG 4g 102

Developed into a leading middle-distance runner since Hong Kong breakthrough win late last season; held the 2000m Sha Tin track record for a time.



DEIRDRE

JAPAN 4f 114

Top-class seven-time winner, landed G1 Shuka Sho in 2017; third in G1 Dubai Turf in March and unbeaten in two races since, latterly a 1800m G2 in October.