Trivia

1 2019 marks the 33rd running of the HKIR. More than 1,340 runners from 17 countries/regions took part in the past 32 editions.

2 All four HKIR events were named in the World's Top 100 G1 Races in 2018. The Mile was the highest ranked in equal 29th, the Cup in equal 34th, the Sprint in equal 42nd and the Vase in equal 84th.

3 The first ever Hong Kong International Race, the 1988 Hong Kong Invitation Cup, carried prize money of HK$1.47 million, just 5.3% of the Hong Kong Cup's 2019 purse of HK$28 million.

4 Tony Cruz, the HKIR's winning-most trainer, scored his 10th win with EXULTANT in the 2018 Vase. He is the only trainer to have won a HKIR race as a jockey, too, as he rode COLONIAL CHIEF to victory in the second Invitation Cup in January, 1989.

5 Tony Cruz and John Moore are the only trainers to have won each of the four HKIR races at least once.

6 John Size became the first trainer to saddle a one-two finish in a HKIR race, with his runners MR STUNNING and D B PIN in the 2017 Sprint. The two horses again ran the quinella in the 2018 renewal, MR STUNNING bringing his new trainer Frankie Lor a first career G1 success.

7 Leading the overseas trainers on the HKIR all-time list is Godolphin's Saeed bin Suroor with four wins.

8 Japanese trainer Noriyuki Hori is the only overseas trainer to have saddled two winners at the same HKIR. He achieved the unique feat with MAURICE (Cup) and SATONO CROWN (Vase) in 2016.

9 Zac Purton scored a HKIR double atop BEAUTY GENERATION (Mile) and EXULTANT (Vase) in 2018, taking his HKIR tally to eight wins and ranking equal top as the winning-most jockey in HKIR history, tied with veteran French ace Gerald Mosse.

10 Zac Purton, Gerald Mosse and Joao Moreira are the only three jockeys to have won each of the four HKIR contests at least once.

11 Two howegrown jockeys have won LONGINES HKIR contests: Matthew Chadwick aboard CALIFORNIA MEMORY in the 2011 and 2012 editions of the Hong Kong Cup, and Derek Leung on BEAUTY GENERATION in the 2017 Mile.

12 Hong Kong runners made history when they took all four G1 events at a single HKIR for the first time in 2018, thanks for the victories of GLORIOUS FOREVER (Cup), BEAUTY GENERATION (Mile), MR STUNNING (Sprint) and EXULTANT (Vase). The home team had won three of the four G1s in the same year on five occasions before, the latest being in 2017.

13 CALIFORNIA MEMORY is the only horse to have won the Hong Kong Cup twice (2011 & 2012), while MR STUNNING became the sixth two-time winner of the Hong Kong Sprint last year.

14 No horse has as many HKIR wins on their record as GOOD BA BA, who won the Hong Kong Mile three times (2007, 2008 & 2009).

15 Hong Kong runners have won 44 HKIR races since FLYING DANCER took the inaugural Hong Kong Invitation Cup in January 1988. Some 38 of these wins were achieved after 2002.

16 LORD KANALOA holds the record for the widest winning margin at the HKIR - five lengths in the 2013 Sprint.

17 Six three-year-olds have triumphed, yet not one of that age has ever won the Sprint: (HIGHLAND REEL, 2015 Vase; SNOW FAIRY, 2010 Cup; DARYAKANA, 2009 Vase; ALEXANDER GOLDRUN, 2004 Cup; VALLEE ENCHANTEE, 2003 Vase; ADDITIONAL RISK, 1991 Bowl)

18 ABLE ONE is the oldest HKIR winner as he turned the clock back as a nine-year-old in the 2011 Mile. Only two eight-year-olds have succeeded – COLLIER HILL in the 2006 Vase and AEROVELOCITY in the 2016 Sprint.

19 A total of 10 fillies and mares have won at the HKIR down the years, the latest being SNOW FAIRY in the 2010 Cup.

20 The shortest-priced victor in the event's history is SILENT WITNESS, who started at odds of 30/100 for the Sprint in both 2003 and 2004.

21 New Zealand's GREY INVADER won the third running of the Cup at odds of 72/1 in December, 1989 and is the longest priced winner in HKIR history.

22 2001 is the only year in which overseas raiders won all four events at the HKIR: Japanese trio STAY GOLD (Vase), EISHIN PRESTON (Mile) and AGNES DIGITAL (Cup), as well as Australian speedster FALVELON (Sprint).

23 France has produced more HKIR winners than any other overseas jurisdiction with a total of 14 victories, 10 of which were achieved in the Hong Kong Vase. Next on the list are the UK and Japan with 12 wins apiece.

24 Japan is the only overseas country to have won each of the four races at least once.