

Race History

The LONGINES Hong Kong Cup, now the jurisdiction's richest race, is the cornerstone of the LONGINES Hong Kong International Races. The 2000-metre event is the original - the race that launched what is nowadays Hong Kong's biggest international sporting event and one of the world's most prestigious horseracing occasions.

The Cup has a storied history. Champions from across the globe have their names etched on the honour roll: Fantastic Light, Falbrav, Alexander Goldrun, Vengeance Of Rain, Pride, Ramonti, Vision D'Etat and Snow Fairy stand out.

Last year Japanese raider Win Bright completed a QEII Cup - Hong Kong Cup double, giving his home nation a third Cup success in the past five renewals. His victory followed the imperious win of Maurice in 2016, the Japanese stallion's third G1 victory at Sha Tin in 12 months, as well as the stunning front-running victory success of A Shin Hikari under Yutaka Take in 2015.

Back in January, 1988, the race's initial incarnation took place at Sha Tin Racecourse: an 1800m race open to raiders from Singapore and Malaysia and billed as the Hong Kong Invitation Cup. Flying Dancer prevailed for leading local trainer Brian Kan and jockey Bartie Leisher. A year later, Australian and New Zealand horses were added to the list of invitees, and 1989 saw two editions as the event shifted from a January date to its now firmly-established December slot in the international calendar. The only exception since then came when the 1992 races were postponed until April 1993 because of an equine virus, which forced the temporary suspension of racing in Hong Kong.

In December 1993, the race attained international Group 3 status, was opened to all-comers and was renamed the Hong Kong International Cup. The following year, the Cup was upgraded to international Group 2 status. The big breakthrough came in 1999 when the Hong Kong International Cup was renamed the Hong Kong Cup and became the first Hong Kong race to be designated an international Group 1. The race distance was extended to 2000 metres and France's Jim And Tonic triumphed.

The only two-time winner of the race is Hong Kong's favourite grey, the diminutive and tough California Memory, who defeated world-class rivals to triumph in 2011 and 2012. His trainer Tony Cruz is the only man to have both ridden (Colonial Chief, January 1989) and trained winners of the race.

LONGINES entered a partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club ahead of the 2012 LONGINES Hong Kong International Races. The total prize money of the Cup was increased to HK\$28 million in 2018. It ranked equal 55th in the World's Top 100 G1 Races in 2019.

Record Dividends

Bet Type	Dividend (HK\$)	Year	Horse (s)	Win Odds
Win	\$730.50	Dec 1989	Grey Invader	73
Place	\$204.50	2004	Touch Of Land (3rd)	56
Quinella	\$4,306.50	2002	Precision (1st)	65
			Paolini (2nd)	21
Quinella Place	\$1,748.50	2004	Bullish Luck (2nd)	21
			Touch Of Land (3rd)	56
Tierce	\$295,217.00	1995	Fujiyama Kenzan (1st)	38
			Ventiquattrofogli (2nd)	29
			Jade Age (3rd)	68
Trio	\$41,642.00	2004	Alexander Goldrun (1st)	22
			Bullish Luck (2nd)	21
			Touch Of Land (3rd)	56
First 4	\$5,671.00	2012	California Memory (1st)	2.7F
			Giofra (2nd)	23
			Alcopop (3rd)	21
			Dan Excel (4th)	34
Quartet	\$58,233.00	2015	A Shin Hikari (1st)	38
			Nuovo Record (2nd)	9.4
			Blazing Speed (3rd)	6.4
			Designs On Rome (4th)	3.4F