

Fast Facts

- 1 2021 marks the 35th running of the LONGINES Hong Kong International Races, with this year's edition taking place once again at Sha Tin Racecourse on Sunday, 12 December. Last year, the Hong Kong Jockey Club overcame challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic to stage a very unique LONGINES HKIR inside the Club's 'Racing Bubble' - a series of protective measures that were implemented to ensure racing's continuation in a safe and viable manner throughout the season and the event.
- 2 Three of the HKIR events were named in the World's Top 100 G1 Races in 2020. Hong Kong's highest-rated race in 2020 was the LONGINES Hong Kong Cup (2000m), won by Japan's Normcore, earning a rating of 121.25 to sit equal 16th in the World's Top 100 G1 Races. The LONGINES Hong Kong Mile (1600m), won by Golden Sixty, was rated equal 29th on a mark of 119.5. The LONGINES Hong Kong Vase (2400m), won by Mogul, drew a race rating of 117 and a ranking of equal 58th.
- 3 The four G1 features at the 2021 LONGINES Hong Kong International Races will offer a combined new high of HK\$100 million as prize money in 2021. By elevating the LONGINES Hong Kong Cup's prize money to HK\$30 million, as well as the LONGINES Hong Kong Mile and the LONGINES Hong Kong Sprint will rise to HK\$26 million and HK\$24 million, respectively, the Hong Kong Jockey Club will stage the world's richest Group 1 races over 1200m, 1600m and 2000m on turf in the same day.
- 4 The first ever Hong Kong International Race, the 1988 Hong Kong Invitation Cup, carried prize money of HK\$1.47 million, just 4.9% of the Hong Kong Cup's 2021 purse of HK\$30 million.
- 5 Japanese duo Danon Smash (Sprint) and Normcore (Cup) won two of the four events at last year's HKIR. With a total of 17 wins, Japan has the most triumphs for overseas visitors in HKIR history, while the next best is France with 14 wins and Britain with 12 wins.
- 6 Japan is the only overseas country to have won each of the four International Races at least once.
- 7 Having won atop Mogul (Vase) and Danon Smash (Sprint) last year, Ryan Moore (2015 & 2020) is one of six jockeys to have ridden a HKIR double in the same year, the others being Joao Moreira (2014 & 2019), Zac Purton (2016 & 2018), Douglas Whyte (2013), Felix Coetzee (2003) and Olivier Peslier (1999).
- 8 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 also won a HKIR race as a jockey after partnering Colonial Chief to victory in the second Invitation Cup in January, 1989.
- 9 Tony Cruz and John Moore are the only two trainers to have won each of the four HKIR races at least once.
- 10 Leading the overseas trainers on the HKIR all-time list is Godolphin's Saeed bin Suroor with four wins.
- 11 Japanese trainer Noriyuki Hori is the only overseas trainer to have saddled a double at the same HKIR. He achieved this unique feat with Maurice (Cup) and Satono Crown (Vase) in 2016.
- 12 Zac Purton's victory atop Normcore (Cup) in 2020 saw the Australian rider surpass Gerald Mosse (8 wins) in becoming the winning-most jockey in HKIR history with nine wins.
- 13 Zac Purton, Gerald Mosse, Joao Moreira and Ryan Moore are the only four jockeys to have won each of the four HKIR contests at least once.
- 14 Hong Kong runners 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).
- 15 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).
- 16 Hong Kong runners have won 46 HKIR races since Flying Dancer took the inaugural Hong Kong Invitation Cup in January 1988. Some 40 of these wins were achieved after 2002.
- 17 Eight northern hemisphere three-year-olds have triumphed, yet not one of that age has ever won the Sprint: (Mogul, 2020 Vase; Admire Mars, 2019 Mile; 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 11 fillies and mares have won at the HKIR, the latest being Normcore in the 2020 Hong Kong Cup. There have been 46 fillies and mares run since, with eight finishing second.
- 20 Lord Kanaloa holds the record for the widest winning margin at the HKIR - five lengths in the 2013 Sprint.
- 21 The shortest-priced victor in the event's history is Silent Witness and Golden Sixty, who started at odds of 1.3 for the Sprint (2003 & 2004) and Mile (2020); New Zealand's Grey Invader is the longest priced winner in HKIR history after winning the Cup at odds of 72/1 in December, 1989.