DOUBLE TROUBLE LIVE / HONG KONG

Mark My Words

Happy Valley · Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Night races on turf · C+3 course, worked back

All nine races at a glance

Race	Pacific / HK	Distance	Mark's top four
1	2:40 AM / 18:40	1650m	#3 Whowrotethatsong · #9 / #4 / #10
2	3:10 AM / 19:10	1200m	#1 Forza Leader · #5 / #9 / #2
3	3:40 AM / 19:40	1800m	#3 Casa Rochester · #9 / #8 / #2
4	4:10 AM / 20:10	1200m	#9 Bits Superstar · #2 / #1 / #6
5	4:40 AM / 20:40	1200m	#8 Same To You · #2 / #12 / #11
6	5:10 AM / 21:10	1650m	#9 Luck Is Back · #2 / #1 / #12
7	5:45 AM / 21:45	1200m	#8 Winning Machine · #1 / #9 / #6
8	6:15 AM / 22:15	1650m	#2 Flow Water Flow · #3 / #8 / #11
9	6:50 AM / 22:50	1200m	#2 Ace Champion · #3 / #7 / #6

Reading the card

All times fall on Wednesday in both time zones. All selections are form opinions. Each runner's HK rating is the official handicap mark. Recheck final declarations, going and tote prices before the race.

Source and cutoff

Hong Kong Jockey Club early raceform, November 23 at 5 PM Hong Kong, with official declarations and Form Line Reports. Draw records are for the last 12 months at the race distance on the C+3 worked-back turf configuration.
Open the official meeting program

HAPPY VALLEY / 2:40 AM PACIFIC / 18:40 HONG KONG

Race 1 · 1650m turf

Red Squirrel Handicap · Class 5

Whowrotethatsong gets another crack at Winning Diamond over the same trip. He conceded too much ground first time around, yet finished the last 400 metres faster. Incanto Star has finished second twice running and gets first look if those two compromise each other.

Mark’s top four

#3 Whowrotethatsong / #9 Winning Diamond / #4 Incanto Star / #10 Only U

The pace

Winning Diamond crossed from stall 12 to press the leader on November 4. From nine, Kingscote can try that again. If nobody makes him work, he can build a lead before Whowrotethatsong starts his run. A contested opening gives the closer time to catch him.

Head-to-head form

At Happy Valley over 1,650 metres on November 4, Winning Diamond beat Whowrotethatsong by 1¼ lengths, with Prince Alex fourth and Can't Go Wong fifth. The winner's handicap goes up seven pounds. The runner-up carries the same 132 and moves from stall 11 to seven.

Mark’s key stat

#10 Only U starts from gate 1. That stall recorded 2 wins and 9 top-three finishes from 20 starts. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Word Of Kindness

Gate 11 · 135 lb · HK rating 40 · J Orman for Y S Tsui

Stretches out 450 metres off a tenth and has to carry 135 pounds from stall 11. I'll pass.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/12/13/9/11/12

#2 Excellent Boy

Gate 2 · 134 lb · HK rating 39 · C L Chau (-2) for C W Chang

Stall two and Chau's two-pound claim give him a way to conserve ground. Twelfth and ninth in his last two keep him off my win line.

Recent placings, latest first · 12/9/5/2/8/6

#3 Whowrotethatsong

Gate 7 · 132 lb · HK rating 37 · L Ferraris for C H Yip

He closed from ninth to second in the final 400 metres behind Winning Diamond here. A better draw gives Ferraris a chance to keep the winner closer. My pick.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/6/7/11/6/7

#4 Incanto Star

Gate 6 · 131 lb · HK rating 36 · B Avdulla for D J Hall

Second twice running. He beat Draco home at Sha Tin on November 14 and gets stall six while his rival goes to twelve. Main use.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/2/6/5/9/7

#5 Can't Go Wong

Gate 4 · 129 lb · HK rating 34 · M F Poon for F C Lor

Bumped early and was last before staying on for fifth behind Winning Diamond. Stall four and two fewer pounds make him useful underneath.

Recent placings, latest first · 5/8/8/8/3/3

#6 Grand Turbo

Gate 3 · 129 lb · HK rating 34 · L Hewitson for C S Shum

Comes back in seven days and shortens by 550 metres. The draw is kind but his last six starts have produced nothing better than sixth.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/6/9/7/9/8

#7 Super Sicario

Gate 5 · 129 lb · HK rating 34 · D B McMonagle for C Fownes

Fownes adds a tongue-tie for the first time. Six starts without a top-five finish leave me looking elsewhere for the winner.

Recent placings, latest first · 7/11/6/10/11/7

#8 Draco
Gate 12 · 126 lb · HK rating 31 · Z Purton for W K Mo

Two straight thirds and Purton takes over. The outside gate leaves him needing a trip even if he repeats his Sha Tin effort.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/3/5/1/9/4

#9 Winning Diamond
Gate 9 · 126 lb · HK rating 31 · R Kingscote for D Eustace

He pressed from an outside draw and won over this trip on November 4. Kingscote keeps the ride and a repeat makes him the one to run down.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/6/2/6/11/9

#10 Only U
Gate 1 · 123 lb · HK rating 28 · K C Leung for J Cummings

Third over this course and distance on November 11. Leung now starts from stall one with 123 pounds. My fourth pick and an interesting price horse.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/8/4/4/6/10

#11 To Infinity
Gate 10 · 123 lb · HK rating 28 · A Badel for J Richards

Three consecutive double-digit finishes and stall ten give him too much to overcome. Pass.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/10/11/9/9/7

#12 Prince Alex
Gate 8 · 119 lb · HK rating 24 · S Osborne for D J Whyte

Fourth to Winning Diamond last time. He carried 121 that day and gets 119 here, so a place is possible if the leaders overdo it.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/6/7/4/8/8

Standby only
Legendary Impact · Tactical Command. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines · Running positions · Sectional times · Stewards' notes · Trackwork and trials

HAPPY VALLEY / 3:10 AM PACIFIC / 19:10 HONG KONG

Race 2 · 1200m turf

Otter Handicap · Class 5

Forza Leader returns to the same distance after running third in Class 4 and drops into Class 5. Lakeshore Hero has the strongest recent line in this class. The first bend matters for both because Loving Vibes and Solar River could take each other on.

Mark's top four

#1 Forza Leader / #5 Lakeshore Hero / #9 Iconical / #2 Loving Vibes

The pace

Loving Vibes can go from stall seven, with Solar River looking across from twelve. If both push, Forza Leader can wait behind them and make one run. If Solar River takes back, Loving Vibes could get a cheap lead under the apprentice claim.

Head-to-head form

Lakeshore Hero took second on the B course at this distance on November 11, beaten 1¼ lengths. Majestic Delight was fifth, three lengths behind the winner. Lakeshore Hero moves in from twelve to nine while Majestic Delight goes out from four to ten.

Mark's key stat

#1 Forza Leader starts from gate 5. That stall recorded 6 wins and 10 top-three finishes from 33 starts. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Forza Leader

Gate 5 · 131 lb · HK rating 40 · Z Purton for Y S Tsui

He had to wait for room in the straight before running third in a Class 4 over this track and trip. He drops to Class 5 with Purton riding. Top pick.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/12/4/3/2/6

#2 Loving Vibes

Gate 7 · 131 lb · HK rating 40 · H Y Yuen (-7) for M Newnham

A seven-pound claim makes him interesting on the front end. He finished fourth just behind Iconical over 1,000 metres last time. A main use if he can ration his speed.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/5/9/4/2/2

#3 Casa Primo

Gate 6 · 129 lb · HK rating 38 · B Avdulla for C W Chang

Last-start third after a pair of unplaced runs. The draw in six gives Avdulla the chance to follow the speed without having to win the start.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/10/8/5/6/5

#4 Heroic Vanguard

Gate 8 · 129 lb · HK rating 38 · R Kingscote for C H Yip

His best placing in the last six was seventh. The two-point rating drop helps, but I would need a dramatic improvement to use him.

Recent placings, latest first · 9/7/12/8/7/11

#5 Lakeshore Hero

Gate 9 · 129 lb · HK rating 38 · C L Chau (-2) for D J Hall

Second over this track and distance two weeks ago after drawing twelve. A move to stall nine helps and he gets a visor for the first time. Biggest threat.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/8/8/2/2/7

#6 Smiling Champion

Gate 4 · 129 lb · HK rating 38 · L Hewitson for D J Whyte

First-time shadow roll replaces the blinkers. He has finished eighth or worse in all six printed runs, so he needs the switch to make quite a difference.

Recent placings, latest first · 11/8/8/13/9/10

#7 Majestic Delight

Gate 10 · 128 lb · HK rating 37 · A Atzeni for D Eustace

Fifth in Lakeshore Hero's November 11 race. The winner beat him three lengths, but stall ten is a tougher starting point than the four he had then.

Recent placings, latest first · 5/9/5/12/11/1

#8 Autumn Vibes

Gate 2 · 127 lb · HK rating 36 · C Y Ho for B Crawford

First-time blinkers and stall two offer a chance to sit just behind the leaders. His two thirds before the latest seventh keep him in the discussion.

Recent placings, latest first · 7/3/3/13/2/8

#9 Iconical

Gate 3 · 125 lb · HK rating 34 · J Orman for J Richards

Third over 1,000 metres here on November 4, ahead of Loving Vibes. Three thirds in six starts and stall three make him a sound place candidate.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/11/3/13/6/3

#10 Jolly Companion

Gate 11 · 125 lb · HK rating 34 · D B McMonagle for K L Man

Eleventh and ninth in his last two starts. McMonagle has stall eleven, and I see little margin for error. Pass.

Recent placings, latest first · 11/9/6/9/6/5

#11 Rising Elite

Gate 1 · 123 lb · HK rating 32 · K C Leung for W K Mo

Leung can tuck in from stall one. The attraction ends there for me after finishes of eighth, ninth and twelfth in his latest three.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/9/12/5/5/5

#12 Solar River

Gate 12 · 120 lb · HK rating 29 · L Ferraris for K H Ting

He has enough speed to try crossing from twelve. The cost of doing so is the issue, with Loving Vibes already inside him. Pass for the win.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/6/2/11/3/12

Standby only

Beauty Gemini · King Alloy. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines · Trackwork and trials

HAPPY VALLEY / 3:40 AM PACIFIC / 19:40 HONG KONG

Race 3 · 1800m turf

Highland Cow Handicap · Class 4

Casa Rochester gets the rail-side draw he could have used last time, when he missed by three-quarters of a length from stall twelve. King Of Selection finished just ahead of him that day. Kingly Demeanor is the one who could upset their rematch by making his own pace.

Mark’s top four

#3 Casa Rochester / #9 King Of Selection / #8 Kingly Demeanor / #2 Kyrus Treasure

The pace

Kingly Demeanor is the likely leader from nine. Jumbo Steps can tuck in from one and Automated has enough early speed to sit close. A steady middle section plays to Kingly Demeanor. Sustained pressure gives Casa Rochester and King Of Selection a chance to use their better finishes.

Head-to-head form

On November 1 over this same 1,800 metres on the C+3, King Of Selection was second, Casa Rochester third, Kyrus Treasure sixth and Family Fortune seventh. Just a quarter-length separated the first two of those. Their draws have swung from one and twelve to eight and two respectively.

Mark’s key stat

#1 Sugar Goodson starts from gate 6. That stall recorded 0 wins and 0 top-three finishes from 9 starts. Only eight or nine runners contributed to each gate at this distance. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Sugar Goodson

Gate 6 · 132 lb · HK rating 53 · Z Purton for C S Shum

Purton gets the ride, but this gelding has three thirteenths in his last five starts and carries 132 pounds. I need to see a revival.

Recent placings, latest first · 9/13/13/13/10/8

#2 Kyrus Treasure

Gate 10 · 131 lb · HK rating 52 · C L Chau (-2) for D Eustace

Two wins before his November 1 sixth and just 1½ lengths from the winner in that race. A live backup if Chau can find cover from ten.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/1/1/8/4/12

#3 Casa Rochester

Gate 2 · 128 lb · HK rating 49 · L Ferraris for M Newnham

Third from twelve when beaten only three-quarters of a length in the course-and-distance race on November 1. Gets two here. He is my pick to reverse the order.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/5/7/6/4/4

#4 Jumbo Steps

Gate 1 · 126 lb · HK rating 47 · C Y Ho for P C Ng

Blinkers come off and cheekpieces go back on. From one, Ho can secure the trail behind the leader. That trip gives him a chance underneath.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/7/8/6/11/11

#5 Take Action

Gate 7 · 126 lb · HK rating 47 · A Atzeni for J Size

Rated two points lower after a tenth. He has been well held in his last four and remains a pass for me.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/9/7/12/4/4

#6 Best World

Gate 3 · 125 lb · HK rating 46 · B Avdulla for D A Hayes

Three fifths in five starts suggest room to improve, but he has yet to reach the first three. From stall three, I would consider him only underneath.

Recent placings, latest first · 5/11/5/7/5

#7 Romantic Fantasy

Gate 12 · 125 lb · HK rating 46 · S Osborne for J Richards

The win five runs back is getting further away, and he draws twelve after finishing ninth, eleventh and twelfth. I'll leave him out.

Recent placings, latest first · 9/11/12/9/1/5

#8 Kingly Demeanor
Gate 9 · 123 lb · HK rating 44 · H Y Yuen (-7) for A S Cruz
Won a Sha Tin 1,800-metre Class 5 on November 8. He rises in class and climbs six rating points, but keeps Yuen and the seven-pound claim. Main speed threat.
Recent placings, latest first · 1/4/2/9/2/6

#9 King Of Selection
Gate 8 · 122 lb · HK rating 43 · M F Poon for D J Hall
Second, beaten half a length, over this exact trip and rail on November 1. Poon stays aboard. Stall eight makes it harder to reproduce the economical run he had from one.
Recent placings, latest first · 2/4/4/4/12/12

#10 Superb Kid
Gate 4 · 122 lb · HK rating 43 · M L Yeung for Y S Tsui
Stretches out 400 metres after finishing tenth. Four prior sevenths offer little encouragement for a win bet.
Recent placings, latest first · 10/7/13/7/7/7

#11 Automated
Gate 5 · 121 lb · HK rating 42 · R Kingscote for W Y So
Two straight fifths and a handy draw in five. Kingscote can sit close and pick up pieces if the closers leave it too late.
Recent placings, latest first · 5/5/10/2/5/8

#12 Family Fortune
Gate 11 · 120 lb · HK rating 41 · A Badel for C Fownes
Seventh on November 1 sounds worse than being beaten 1¾ lengths. The light 120 pounds keep him in contention for a place, despite stall eleven.
Recent placings, latest first · 7/13/5/8/1/4

Standby only
Sea Chariot · Kyoto Spring. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines · Sectional times · Stewards' notes

HAPPY VALLEY / 4:10 AM PACIFIC / 20:10 HONG KONG

Race 4 · 1200m turf

The Unicorn Handicap (Section 2) · Class 4

Bits Superstar gets gate one and Zac Purton, the rider who won on him here in September. World Hero has the strongest recent C+3 form. World Hero starts ten stalls farther out and may have to spend early to get across.

Mark’s top four

#9 Bits Superstar / #2 World Hero / #1 Thunder Action / #6 The Perfect Match

The pace

Bits Superstar can hold the rail while World Hero decides whether to press from eleven. If he crosses without spending too much, the pair can control it. A sustained duel would suit Thunder Action tracking from four. Somelovefromabove should be able to tuck in behind the leader.

Head-to-head form

On November 1 over this course and distance, World Hero was fourth, three-quarters of a length down, and Dragon Four Seas was eighth, beaten 4½. World Hero goes from gate eight to eleven. Dragon Four Seas gets seven pounds off with H Y Yuen and draws five, making him the more interesting price this time.

Mark’s key stat

#12 Lightness Of Being starts from gate 9. That stall recorded 2 wins and 6 top-three finishes from 33 starts. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Thunder Action

Gate 4 · 135 lb · HK rating 59 · M L Yeung for W Y So

First start in Class 4 brought a half-length second here on November 4. From four he can sit behind the pace. Main use.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/10/10/10/4

#2 World Hero

Gate 11 · 132 lb · HK rating 56 · H Bentley for D A Hayes

A short-head second and a close fourth in his last two starts, both on this C+3 layout at 1,200m. Win contender.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/2/6/12/6/3

#3 Crossborderdude

Gate 8 · 131 lb · HK rating 55 · A Atzeni for J Size

He has finished third five times in eleven Hong Kong starts, but his last three finishes were fifth, eighth and seventh. Underneath only.

Recent placings, latest first · 7/8/5/3/3/3

#4 Dragon Four Seas

Gate 5 · 131 lb · HK rating 55 · H Y Yuen for J Richards

Four Valley wins at this distance give him a better chance than the latest eighth suggests. A price-dependent backup from five.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/5/12/6/5/12

#5 Somelovefromabove

Gate 2 · 130 lb · HK rating 54 · E C W Wong for C Fownes

Three wins at this course and distance, all on good-to-firm turf. Gate two offers a clean route behind Bits Superstar. Wider coverage.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/9/11/5/9/3

#6 The Perfect Match

Gate 12 · 130 lb · HK rating 54 · C L Chau for C S Shum

Has two wins and three thirds in 17 attempts at this course and distance. Fourth on October 14. Include on the strength of that form.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/5/1/4/5/3

#7 Copartner Fleet

Gate 10 · 128 lb · HK rating 52 · C Y Ho for K W Lui

Two fourths and a sixth give Ho something to work with, though gate ten is awkward. A minor-place chance.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/4/4/10/5/10

#8 Flash Current

Gate 6 · 128 lb · HK rating 52 · D B McMonagle for J Cummings

Improved to fifth over 1,400m at Sha Tin last time. Gate six gives him room to slot in, but both career wins came across town. Underneath.

Recent placings, latest first · 5/7/12/11/9/5

#9 Bits Superstar

Gate 1 · 127 lb · HK rating 51 · Z Purton for D J Hall

Purton won on him over this trip on September 23. Gate one gives him first say over who takes the rail. My pick.

Recent placings, latest first · 5/1/11/5/10/5

#10 Vigor Happiness

Gate 7 · 127 lb · HK rating 51 · H T Mo for Y S Tsui

Two straight twelfths and six Hong Kong starts without a placing. He needs a much stronger finish. Pass.

Recent placings, latest first · 12/12/9/14/10/14

#11 Ultra Bolt

Gate 3 · 122 lb · HK rating 46 · R Kingscote for C H Yip

Three starts and three tenths at Sha Tin. Gate three cuts down the ground he has to cover on his first Valley start. Pass.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/10/10

#12 Lightness Of Being

Gate 9 · 116 lb · HK rating 40 · A Badel for A S Cruz

Third behind World Hero on the C+3 on October 7, then seventh and tenth. The low weight makes him a possible third at a price.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/7/3/7/9/7

Standby only

Genius Baby · King Oberon. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines

HAPPY VALLEY / 4:40 AM PACIFIC / 20:40 HONG KONG

Race 5 · 1200m turf

The St Andrew's Challenge Quaich (Handicap) (Section 3) · Class 4

Same To You won over this course and rail on November 1. He gets the narrow vote to repeat, though barrier twelve gives Ruby Thrive a chance to reach the turn several lengths in front of him. Noble Fans carries 118 lb for the move up from Class 5.

Mark’s top four

#8 Same To You / #2 Ruby Thrive / #12 Noble Fans / #11 Quick Contribution

The pace

Tourbillon Golfer can go forward from nine. Ruby Thrive has the 1,000m speed to follow him across, while Healthy Healthy can hold a stalking spot from four. A steady middle section would favour Ruby Thrive. If the leaders keep pressing, Same To You should have a race to run at.

Head-to-head form

Joker Orbit finished seventh and Tourbillon Golfer eighth over the Valley 1,200m on November 4. Both were beaten 2½ lengths and only a hundredth of a second separated them. Joker Orbit now gets Purton and the rail. Tourbillon Golfer has a seven-pound claim and room to press from nine.

Mark’s key stat

#6 Starry Show starts from gate 10. That stall recorded 1 win and 6 top-three finishes from 33 starts. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Cavamazing

Gate 2 · 134 lb · HK rating 57 · M L Yeung for W Y So

Gate two should give him a cheaper run than his latest Sha Tin eighth from thirteen. He has already won once in three starts.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/1/11

#2 Ruby Thrive

Gate 7 · 133 lb · HK rating 56 · C Y Ho for K L Man

Second over 1,000m on this C+3 course from the same gate last time. His early speed should put him ahead of the other principals at the bend.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/4/1/2/3/7

#3 Beauty Thunder

Gate 6 · 132 lb · HK rating 55 · D B McMonagle for J Cummings

Returns from 133 days away with a first-time visor. A Valley winner over 1,000m, he has to stretch that speed another furlong.

Recent placings, latest first · 9/2/5/4/13/4

#4 Healthy Healthy

Gate 4 · 131 lb · HK rating 54 · J Orman for P C Ng

A handy draw and three previous wins over the Valley 1,200m give him a chance to rediscover his form. His last two race finishes were twelfth and eleventh.

Recent placings, latest first · 12/11/6/14/7/1

#5 Cyclotron

Gate 3 · 129 lb · HK rating 52 · K C Leung for K H Ting

Debutant in first-time blinkers. Gate three offers a ground-saving introduction if he breaks with the field.

Recent placings, latest first · Debut

#6 Starry Show

Gate 10 · 128 lb · HK rating 51 · R Kingscote for D A Hayes

His last two eighths came on different surfaces. He now has an awkward gate for a horse who may need to get involved early.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/8/5/1/9/10

#7 Tourbillon Golfer

Gate 9 · 127 lb · HK rating 50 · H Y Yuen for P F Yiu

Expected to go forward from nine. His rider’s seven-pound claim reduces him to 120 lb, useful if he has to spend early to cross.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/6/10/4/7/3

#8 Same To You

Gate 12 · 125 lb · HK rating 48 · A Badel for M Newnham

Badel stays with the latest course-and-distance winner. A second and a win in his last two put him first on recent form.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/2/9/3/14/2

#9 Joker Orbit

Gate 1 · 123 lb · HK rating 46 · Z Purton for C S Shum

Purton gets the inside draw on a horse who was only 2½ lengths off the winner last time. Consider underneath if he settles close enough.

Recent placings, latest first · 7/8/6/5/11/4

#10 Cheval Victorious

Gate 11 · 122 lb · HK rating 45 · L Hewitson for D J Whyte

Resumes after 337 days from gate eleven. He has yet to finish in the first three in nine local starts.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/8/5/5/9/10

#11 Quick Contribution

Gate 8 · 120 lb · HK rating 43 · C L Chau for D J Hall

Forgive the latest 1,650m eleventh. He was runner-up over the Valley 1,200m the start before and is better suited back sprinting.

Recent placings, latest first · 11/2/2/3/2/2

#12 Noble Fans

Gate 5 · 118 lb · HK rating 41 · A Atzeni for J Size

Brings a second and a win in Class 5 over this track and trip. Gate five and 118 lb give him a fair chance at the higher level.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/2/8/5/7/1

Standby only

Podium · King Miles. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines

HAPPY VALLEY / 5:10 AM PACIFIC / 21:10 HONG KONG

Race 6 · 1650m turf

Red Deer Handicap · Class 4

Luck Is Back has run second at the Valley mile on consecutive starts. With H Y Yuen’s claim he carries 118 lb and can make Exceed The Limit catch him. The inside draw and Purton give Exceed The Limit the best alternative, and Ace brings a recent win over both the track and trip.

Mark’s top four

#9 Luck Is Back / #2 Exceed The Limit / #1 Ace / #12 Amazing Award

The pace

Night Purosangue can take the lead from three. Luck Is Back can sit at his shoulder from seven, with Exceed The Limit tucked in on the rail. If the front pair ease through the middle stages, the first run goes to Luck Is Back. A battle before the turn would give Vermilion Tempest time to close.

Head-to-head form

On November 1 over this same C+3 mile, Luck Is Back finished second, half a length down. Exceed The Limit was a hundredth of a second behind him in third and Vermilion Tempest finished fourth, beaten 1¼ lengths. Exceed The Limit goes from gate seven to one and gets Purton. Luck Is Back carries eight pounds less than he did that night after the claim.

Mark’s key stat

#7 California Moxie starts from gate 12. That stall recorded 1 win and 3 top-three finishes from 16 starts. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Ace

Gate 5 · 135 lb · HK rating 60 · K C Leung for M Newnham

Won over this course and distance two runs ago and followed up with a third. From gate five he can sit close enough to strike again.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/1/8/6/10/1

#2 Exceed The Limit

Gate 1 · 134 lb · HK rating 59 · Z Purton for C S Shum

Beaten a hundredth of a second for second by Luck Is Back on November 1. Purton takes over from Hewitson and draws one.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/3/6/4/5/2

#3 Stormi

Gate 8 · 134 lb · HK rating 59 · C L Chau for W K Mo

Three wins over this course and distance give his return to Class 4 some appeal. Gate eight leaves him looking for cover behind the leaders.

Recent placings, latest first · 9/9/6/2/7/8

#4 Uranus Star

Gate 10 · 133 lb · HK rating 58 · C Y Ho for K W Lui

Third over this course and distance on November 11 from gate ten. He gets the same gate and the same rider, C Y Ho.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/8/8/9/7/7

#5 Night Purosangue

Gate 3 · 130 lb · HK rating 55 · H T Mo for Y S Tsui

Can take up the running from three. His three local wins came at 1,650m on the Sha Tin all-weather, which makes the change of surface important.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/9/1/9/1/9

#6 Enthralled

Gate 4 · 129 lb · HK rating 54 · A Atzeni for J Size

Three straight placings before a 151-day break, all at 1,800m or farther at Sha Tin. Gate four helps, but the shorter trip may leave him with too much to do late.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/3/2/9/5/8

#7 California Moxie

Gate 12 · 126 lb · HK rating 51 · L Ferraris for A S Cruz

Four wins over this course and distance earn respect, but he starts widest and has missed the first three in his last six.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/9/9/7/7/7

#8 Sturdy Ruby

Gate 2 · 126 lb · HK rating 51 · E C W Wong for K L Man

Three previous Valley mile wins and gate two help, but he was tenth in the November 1 race behind three of today's rivals.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/6/8/5/2/8

#9 Luck Is Back

Gate 7 · 125 lb · HK rating 50 · H Y Yuen for P C Ng

Second in his last two over this course and distance. He should get first run on his main rivals and carries 118 lb after the claim.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/2/4/5/1/5

#10 Vermilion Tempest

Gate 9 · 125 lb · HK rating 50 · A Badel for C Fownes

Two recent fourths make him a candidate underneath. He finished 1¼ lengths off the winner on November 1 and starts from the same gate nine.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/4/7/11/2/8

#11 Prestige Emperor

Gate 6 · 121 lb · HK rating 46 · R Kingscote for C H Yip

Resumes after 178 days and tackles 1,650m for the first time. His three race finishes to date were ninth, eleventh and fourteenth.

Recent placings, latest first · 14/11/9

#12 Amazing Award

Gate 11 · 120 lb · HK rating 45 · B Avdulla for D Eustace

Runner-up over the Valley mile on November 4 after making ground along the rail. Gate eleven makes that economical trip harder to repeat.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/9/5/4/4/2

Standby only

Kwai Chung Talents · Glorious Journey. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines

HAPPY VALLEY / 5:45 AM PACIFIC / 21:45 HONG KONG

Race 7 · 1200m turf

The Unicorn Handicap · Class 4

Winning Machine can tuck in behind Island Buddy and save his run. Incredible Moment has already won on this rail configuration. Flying Ting Lok gets interesting if the two drawn wider make each other work.

Mark's top four

#8 Winning Machine / #1 Incredible Moment / #9 Flying Ting Lok / #6 Island Buddy

The pace

Island Buddy led at the first two calls on November 4 and has to cross from 10. Both Winning Machine and Incredible Moment have won from third; the rail gives Winning Machine first choice of cover. If Island Buddy gets a breather, he can hang around. If it costs him to cross, Flying Ting Lok and Charming Babe can run into the money late.

Head-to-head form

At the Valley on November 11, Winning Machine won by two lengths while Without Rhyme ran eleventh, six lengths behind the winner. The eight additional pounds on Winning Machine temper that edge, but he keeps gate 1. On November 4, Flying Ting Lok beat both Charming Babe and Friends of Shajing at the same distance.

Mark's key stat

#10 Hero Mastermind starts from gate 3. That stall recorded 0 wins and 5 top-three finishes from 31 starts. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Incredible Moment

Gate 6 · 135 lb · HK rating 59 · C Y Ho for P C Ng

Won at this distance on the C+3 on November 1. He sat third, took over late and beat the runner-up by a length. Main danger to Winning Machine.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/2/8/6/5/1

#2 Charming Babe

Gate 5 · 134 lb · HK rating 58 · H Y Yuen (-7) for P F Yiu

A win two starts ago gives him a chance, but he finished sixth behind Flying Ting Lok here November 4. Gate 5 should let him settle closer this time.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/1/8/4/12/6

#3 Golden Champ

Gate 9 · 134 lb · HK rating 58 · D B McMonagle for J Cummings

The visor goes back on after a seventh, and he still seeks his first local top-three finish. I'll pass on the win.

Recent placings, latest first · 7/5/6/9/11/11

#4 Friends of Shajing

Gate 7 · 132 lb · HK rating 56 · C L Chau (-2) for W K Mo

Two thirds before the latest eighth give him an outside chance at a placing. He has to turn around his November 4 form with both Flying Ting Lok and Charming Babe.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/3/3/10/5/4

#5 Grand Nova

Gate 8 · 132 lb · HK rating 56 · B Avdulla for J Size

He's a three-time winner, but seventh, sixth and seventh in his last three make him hard to back ahead of the recent sprint winners.

Recent placings, latest first · 7/6/7/4/1/7

#6 Island Buddy

Gate 10 · 131 lb · HK rating 55 · L Ferraris for B Crawford

Led through two calls in his last Valley sprint before finishing fourth, just a length away. He's the likely pace horse from gate 10.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/4/13/3/3/3

#7 Without Rhyme

Gate 11 · 129 lb · HK rating 53 · A Badel for A S Cruz

Finished eleventh behind Winning Machine here November 11. A three-point rating drop helps a little; the outside gate makes it hard to see him reversing that result.

Recent placings, latest first · 11/14/14/14/12

#8 Winning Machine

Gate 1 · 128 lb · HK rating 52 · E C W Wong (-3) for C Fownes

Two wins and four placings from his latest six. Gate 1 and his regular rider give him every chance to follow the speed again.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/3/1/2/2/3

#9 Flying Ting Lok

Gate 4 · 126 lb · HK rating 50 · A Atzeni for Y S Tsui

Got his head in front over this course and distance after a third the start before. Gate 4 and Atzeni again make him the other last-start winner I want.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/3/14/10/12/5

#10 Hero Mastermind

Gate 3 · 122 lb · HK rating 46 · L Hewitson for M Newnham

Gate 3 and a four-pound weight advantage over Flying Ting Lok are in his favour. Seventh is his best finish in four starts, so I prefer others.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/10/7/10

#11 Origin of Form

Gate 12 · 119 lb · HK rating 43 · M F Poon for F C Lor

The blinkers return, but nine, seven and eight are his three most recent finishes. Gate 12 leaves him with plenty to do.

Recent placings, latest first · 9/7/8/12/8/8

#12 Call Me Success

Gate 2 · 117 lb · HK rating 41 · S Osborne for D Eustace

Down to 117 pounds and drawn 2, he has a route to the rail. Sixth last time was a step up, but he needs another for even a minor share.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/13/10/10/3/5

Standby only

Gallant Design · Grouper. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines · Stewards' notes · Sectional times

HAPPY VALLEY / 6:15 AM PACIFIC / 22:15 HONG KONG

Race 8 · 1650m turf

Golden Eagle Handicap · Class 3

Money Games got to the line just ahead of Flow Water Flow here three weeks ago. Flow Water Flow closed faster and moves from gate 9 to gate 1. The Boom Box brings a win over this exact C+3 course, and Win Method's trip in that race makes him the interesting outsider.

Mark’s top four

#2 Flow Water Flow / #3 The Boom Box / #8 Money Games / #11 Sunday's Serenade

The pace

Money Games can sit closer than Flow Water Flow, who was tenth early in their last meeting. The Boom Box has shown he can move up before the turn; that is an advantage if the leaders slow it down. With a genuine early gallop Flow Water Flow can save ground and make one run, provided Purton gets room.

Head-to-head form

Money Games and Flow Water Flow finished half a length behind the winner at 1650m on November 4, separated by 0.01 seconds. Corleone was sixth, four and a half lengths back. In the November 1 C+3 race, The Boom Box beat third-placed Win Method by three-quarters, and Win Method now gets nine pounds from him instead of four.

Mark’s key stat

#8 Money Games starts from gate 7. That stall recorded 1 win and 5 top-three finishes from 20 starts. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Flying Wrote

Gate 5 · 131 lb · HK rating 72 · H Y Yuen (-7) for A S Cruz

The apprentice takes seven pounds off the top weight and gate 5 should allow a reasonable trip. He hasn't made the top three in his latest four, so I prefer others for the win.

Recent placings, latest first · 8/5/4/9/2/1

#2 Flow Water Flow

Gate 1 · 129 lb · HK rating 70 · Z Purton for J Size

Draw 1 for a horse who came from ninth at the last call to miss by half a length from gate 9 in his latest start. Purton stays, and he is my narrow first choice.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/6/4/5/1/1

#3 The Boom Box

Gate 3 · 129 lb · HK rating 70 · C Y Ho for W Y So

A winner in this class over this exact rail and distance on November 1. Same jockey, same gate, and a lot to like, though he carries nine pounds more.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/5/14/8/6/8

#4 Corleone

Gate 8 · 128 lb · HK rating 69 · D B McMonagle for C Fownes

Gate 8 is an improvement on gate 12 on November 4. He still finished well behind Money Games and Flow Water Flow that day and needs a rebound.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/10/10/9/8/1

#5 Make You Smile

Gate 10 · 127 lb · HK rating 68 · L Hewitson for K W Lui

His one fourth is the only top-four finish in five listed starts. Stall 10 and two recent double-digit defeats leave him off my tickets.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/12/4/10/7

#6 Happy Boss

Gate 12 · 125 lb · HK rating 66 · L Ferraris for D Eustace

Fourth last time and a winner four starts ago, he's better than the number on his latest finish might suggest. Gate 12 limits his appeal against the inside runners.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/6/9/1/2/5

#7 Embraces

Gate 2 · 124 lb · HK rating 65 · C L Chau (-2) for W K Mo

Useful underneath from draw 2. He beat Win Method when fourth at this trip on October 21 and should be able to take the short way round.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/6/6/3/3/6

#8 Money Games

Gate 7 · 124 lb · HK rating 65 · K C Leung for M Newnham

Only three local starts and already a second over this course and trip. He just held off Flow Water Flow last time and meets him again on the same relative weights.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/10/6

#9 Pass Line

Gate 4 · 123 lb · HK rating 64 · A Atzeni for D J Hall

Gets gate 4 after recent outside draws, but his best local finish from five runs is ninth. I'll wait for him to show he can take advantage.

Recent placings, latest first · 9/11/9/10/11

#10 Smart Oink

Gate 6 · 122 lb · HK rating 63 · E C W Wong (-3) for P F Yiu

Three local starts have yielded thirteenth, twelfth and tenth. He remains a watching brief even with Wong's three-pound allowance.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/12/13

#11 Sunday's Serenade

Gate 9 · 121 lb · HK rating 62 · A Badel for J Richards

A win and two seconds in his last three make him a genuine threat. He won here from gate 9 at 1650m on October 7 and has drawn that stall again.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/2/2/8/3/2

#12 Win Method

Gate 11 · 120 lb · HK rating 61 · M F Poon for C S Shum

Beaten only three-quarters of a length by The Boom Box here on November 1. A five-pound relative swing makes him a price alternative despite gate 11.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/8/8/3/1/1

Standby only

Precision Time · Ace Eagle. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines · Sectional times · Earlier race result

HAPPY VALLEY / 6:50 AM PACIFIC / 22:50 HONG KONG

Race 9 · 1200m turf

Wild Haggis Handicap · Class 3

Ace Champion is the form pick after two Valley wins and a near miss. California Blitz beat him with a clear lead last time and has the better draw again. The Plus preference narrowly reverses them on that likely early position.

Mark’s top four

#2 Ace Champion / #3 California Blitz / #7 Four Stars Align / #6 Flashing Fighter

The pace

California Blitz led at both calls here November 4 and can go forward again from gate 4. If he gets a breather I want him in front of Ace Champion. If a rival presses him early, Ace Champion's 23.40 closing 400 makes him the one I want chasing, with Quantum Cloud close enough to pick up a placing.

Head-to-head form

California Blitz led home Ace Champion and Quantum Cloud over this trip on November 4. Ace Champion was half a length back and Quantum Cloud a length and three-quarters away. In the other Class 3 sprint that night Four Stars Align finished a length and a half in front of Flashing Fighter, but today's weights and draws are kinder to Flashing Fighter.

Mark’s key stat

#7 Four Stars Align starts from gate 11. That stall recorded 2 wins and 4 top-three finishes from 31 starts. Last 12 months at this distance and rail.

Every runner

#1 Brave Star

Gate 9 · 135 lb · HK rating 79 · H Bentley for K W Lui

The top weight has the quickest listed best time at the trip, but he's been eighth or worse five straight times. I can't make the old clocking the case for a win today.

Recent placings, latest first · 10/12/9/11/8/2

#2 Ace Champion

Gate 10 · 134 lb · HK rating 78 · C Y Ho for P C Ng

Two wins and a half-length second in his last three, all at 1200m here. He ran the strongest closing 400 of the first three in the latest and gets the narrow nod.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/1/1/11/3/6

#3 California Blitz

Gate 4 · 126 lb · HK rating 70 · C L Chau (-2) for W K Mo

Led all the way and held Ace Champion by half a length over this trip on November 4. The draw again gives him a good shot at the front. Serious win chance.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/9/6/5/8/3

#4 Sky Cap

Gate 12 · 125 lb · HK rating 69 · D B McMonagle for C Fownes

Third and fourth on his last two starts put him in the conversation. Gate 12 leaves McMonagle with an awkward choice at the break; I want compensation in the odds.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/4/10/1/10/5

#5 Dhurandhar

Gate 5 · 123 lb · HK rating 67 · B Avdulla for D A Hayes

First Hong Kong start for an Australian 1200m winner. Gate 5 gives Avdulla options; he is the wildcard for a wider ticket.

#6 Flashing Fighter

Gate 7 · 123 lb · HK rating 67 · H Y Yuen (-7) for P F Yiu

A win and a third in his last two, and Yuen takes seven pounds off. His effective 116 makes him an interesting alternative if the principals are short.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/1/8/9/1

#7 Four Stars Align

Gate 11 · 122 lb · HK rating 66 · Z Purton for A S Cruz

Fourth, third and second in his three local races. Purton gets aboard this improving sprinter. Draw 11 is the major obstacle to getting another good trip.

Recent placings, latest first · 2/3/4

#8 Lightness of Music

Gate 6 · 122 lb · HK rating 66 · E C W Wong (-3) for C S Shum

A win two back with a fourth on either side merits some respect. Wong's allowance reduces his load to 119; he is a backup rather than a key.

Recent placings, latest first · 4/1/4/4/11/8

#9 La Forza

Gate 1 · 121 lb · HK rating 65 · A Badel for J Richards

Back to blinkers and drawn 1. Both changes give him the chance to save ground, but five successive finishes of eighth or worse make him a pass.

Recent placings, latest first · 9/8/12/9/12/3

#10 Quantum Cloud

Gate 8 · 120 lb · HK rating 64 · L Hewitson for B Crawford

Third twice on the bounce. He tracked the leaders when third to California Blitz and Ace Champion last time, and he can reach the top three again.

Recent placings, latest first · 3/3/4/8/4

#11 Young Arrow

Gate 3 · 118 lb · HK rating 62 · S Osborne for D J Whyte

Moves from gate 11 to 3 after finishing eleventh in the key November 4 sprint. The draw could produce a better trip; the last two runs still leave him a long way behind the principals.

Recent placings, latest first · 11/10/1/3/5/3

#12 Together We Value

Gate 2 · 117 lb · HK rating 61 · M F Poon for C H Yip

Gets 117 pounds and gate 2. That can buy him a soft trip, but his last six finishes range from fourth to eighth and he needs a bigger kick to win.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/5/8/6/4/5

Standby only

Wukong Jewellery · Lucky Planet. Reassess if admitted.

Declarations · Club Form Lines · Stewards' notes · Sectional times