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	Written top four
1	2:40 AM / 18:40	1650m	#3 Whowrotethatsong · #4 / #9 / #10
2	3:10 AM / 19:10	1200m	#1 Forza Leader · #5 / #2 / #9
3	3:40 AM / 19:40	1800m	#3 Casa Rochester · #8 / #9 / #2
4	4:10 AM / 20:10	1200m	#9 Bits Superstar · #1 / #2 / #4
5	4:40 AM / 20:40	1200m	#2 Ruby Thrive · #8 / #11 / #12
6	5:10 AM / 21:10	1650m	#2 Exceed The Limit · #9 / #1 / #12
7	5:45 AM / 21:45	1200m	#8 Winning Machine · #1 / #9 / #2
8	6:15 AM / 22:15	1650m	#2 Flow Water Flow · #8 / #3 / #12
9	6:50 AM / 22:50	1200m	#3 California Blitz · #2 / #6 / #7

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

Written preference

#3 Whowrotethatsong / #4 Incanto Star / #9 Winning Diamond / #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.

What tips the balance

Whowrotethatsong went from ninth to second over the final 400 metres in 23.89. Winning Diamond covered that stretch in 24.50 after doing his work early. I like the runner-up's chance of turning that result around, especially if he can settle a pair closer.

Price watch

Only U is the one I would check at double figures. He was a length away in third over this trip on November 11, gets the rail and runs in blinkers again. He will need room when the leaders start to tire.

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. He returns in seven days. His best finish in the last six was ninth, so making the first turn cheaply would solve only one problem.

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. His earlier second shows he can compete. This is a better draw to put him underneath than a reason to overlook those last two efforts.

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. Ferraris stays aboard at the same weight. He found room along the inside last time, so a clear run still matters even with a more favorable draw.

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

Season to declaration · L Ferraris (jockey) 8 wins from 113 rides

#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. The last comparison was at 1,400 metres. He has to reproduce that finish around Happy Valley's turns at 1,650, but Avdulla knows him and stays aboard.
Recent placings, latest first · 2/2/6/5/9/7
Season to declaration · B Avdulla (jockey) 6 wins from 114 rides · D J Hall (trainer) 10 wins from 102 starts

#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. He made up positions without seriously threatening the principals. I want a sharper early pace if I'm going to move him higher.
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. Stall three should save some ground. The cutback asks him to hold a much quicker early position.
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. Stall five gives McMonagle options into the bend. I need to see a stronger finish before giving the equipment change much weight.
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. He drew two when third behind Incanto Star at 1,400 metres. Here he has ten more stalls to work across and another 250 metres to cover. Wider backup.
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. The handicapper has raised him seven points. He could still steal it, but another horse making him work around the first turn would bring the closers into play.
Recent placings, latest first · 1/6/2/6/11/9
Season to declaration · R Kingscote (jockey) 2 wins from 113 rides · D Eustace (trainer) 14 wins from 120 starts
R Kingscote with D Eustace · 1 win from 13 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#10 Only U
Gate 1 · 123 lb · HK rating 28 · K C Leung for J Cummings
Bumped leaving the gate and again near the finish on November 11, he still came from seventh at the 400 to run third. From stall one I want him underneath in exactas. His last 400 took 23.54 seconds against the winner’s 23.58. The inside draw saves ground if Leung can find daylight in the straight.
Recent placings, latest first · 3/8/4/4/6/10
Season to declaration · K C Leung (jockey) 12 wins from 155 rides

#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. The handicapper eases him three points. That helps the terms, but he has finished no better than seventh in his last six.
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. He tracked the leaders on the rail in that fourth and had his chance in the straight. Osborne has to find a comparable trip from eight.
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 · Earlier race result

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

Written preference

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

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.

What tips the balance

Purton rode Forza Leader in a Sha Tin 1,050-metre all-weather trial on November 13. They finished third of six. He now rides him on race day from stall five, a draw that supplied six winners from 33 runners at this distance on the worked-back C+3 in the raceform's 12-month sample.

Price watch

Iconical is worth checking at 10/1 or longer. He finished close to the winner over 1,000 metres on November 4 and drew three again. The extra 200 metres is the price question. I would use him underneath first.

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. He has 35 days between races. Purton's November 13 trial on him helps with the layoff question, and stall five offers cover behind the speed.

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

Season to declaration · Z Purton (jockey) 41 wins from 167 rides · Y S Tsui (trainer) 8 wins from 132 starts

#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. Yuen can go on from seven. I move him up a spot in the expanded order because a clean break could let him cross before Solar River gets there.

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

Season to declaration · H Y Yuen (jockey) 18 wins from 126 rides · M Newnham (trainer) 10 wins from 133 starts

#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. He is back after 35 days off a mark of 38. The previous five runs yielded no places, so I prefer him for smaller exotics.

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. His 129 pounds leave him level with Lakeshore Hero before claims. I cannot find comparable recent performance at those terms.

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

He was tenth, 6½ lengths off the lead, before closing to second over this trip on November 11. He draws nine after starting from twelve that night. His final 400 took 23.24. The winner, Noble Fans, closed in 23.12 and turns up in Race 5 today. Lakeshore Hero can make the exacta again if the pace gives him a target.

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

Season to declaration · C L Chau (jockey) 21 wins from 160 rides · D J Hall (trainer) 10 wins from 102 starts

#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. Stall four lets him take cover. The projected speed helps a horse coming from behind, but he has not shown the finish of the main closers.

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

L Hewitson with D J Whyte · 0 wins from 16 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. He gives up a six-stall advantage he had over Lakeshore Hero last time. He is a deeper underneath use if the pace breaks up.

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. The cheekpieces come off. If he holds his position going into the bend, the draw could give him first run on horses farther out.

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. He was beaten only a short head last time. He needs that finish to last an extra 200 metres, so I give Loving Vibes the edge for third in the expanded order.

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

Season to declaration · J Orman (jockey) 11 wins from 133 rides

#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. He returns after 45 days. His earlier fifth is the best of the six printed runs and came several starts ago.

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. He has 52 days between races. That is a bigger question than the lower weight can answer, even with the chance of a ground-saving trip.

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. Sixth in his last two. He gets a low assigned weight of 120, but the card also records two pounds of rider overweight.

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

Written preference

#3 Casa Rochester / #8 Kingly Demeanor / #9 King Of Selection / #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.

What tips the balance

Casa Rochester's last 400 metres on November 1 took 23.39, compared with King Of Selection's 23.57. He went from ninth to third in that section. From stall two Ferraris can conserve ground, provided he can get clear in the straight.

Price watch

Kyrus Treasure merits a look at double figures. He won twice before finishing sixth, beaten only 1½ lengths, in the common November 1 race. Stall ten again means he needs cover on the opening turn.

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. The mark comes down another two points after a ninth. Stall six is workable, but the riding change alone doesn't put him ahead of the November 1 principals.

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

Z Purton with C S Shum · 7 wins from 21 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. Same stall as last time. A shorter trip around the bends could change a close result, but getting parked wide again is the clear risk.

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

Season to declaration · C L Chau (jockey) 21 wins from 160 rides · D Eustace (trainer) 14 wins from 120 starts

#3 Casa Rochester

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

He had to switch outside Kyrus Treasure at the 200 on November 1, yet came from ninth to third. Gate two gives him a chance to reverse that result. King Of Selection beat him by a quarter-length and goes from gate one to eight. Casa Rochester moves from twelve to two. Getting cover early is easier now, but he still needs a gap late.

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

Season to declaration · L Ferraris (jockey) 8 wins from 113 rides · M Newnham (trainer) 10 wins from 133 starts

#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. His last six show no placing. The likely saving in ground has to be worth several lengths before he becomes a win proposition.

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

C Y Ho with P C Ng · 8 wins from 32 rides together in the meeting program's partnership record.

#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. Atzeni has stall seven and a choice of where to settle. The two older fourths are the best on his page, and neither has been repeated lately.

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. The map puts him near the rail behind the pace. That trip gives him a way to improve on fifth without needing to circle the field.

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. He is likely to go back from that stall. He would need the speed to collapse as well as a clear route around the horses in front.

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. He has already finished second at this course and distance on the C+3. I move him up to second in the expanded order because he has the best chance to dictate the middle of the race.

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

Season to declaration · H Y Yuen (jockey) 18 wins from 126 rides · A S Cruz (trainer) 9 wins from 154 starts

#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. He went from seventh to second over the last 400 metres. His form is solid, but Kingly Demeanor could be tougher to catch if Poon must settle farther back.

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

Season to declaration · M F Poon (jockey) 5 wins from 138 rides · D J Hall (trainer) 10 wins from 102 starts

#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. Yeung starts from four, which should help him save ground at the new distance. He still has to show he can quicken off those easier early fractions.

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. He was second four starts ago. The question is whether he can relax near Kingly Demeanor without spending the finish he needs.

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. Three of today's rivals beat him in that close race. Badel will have to tuck in or cover extra ground from a gate three places wider this time.

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

Written preference

#9 Bits Superstar / #1 Thunder Action / #2 World Hero / #4 Dragon Four Seas

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.

What tips the balance

Gate one produced six winners from 33 starters over this 1,200m C+3 setup in the racebook’s last-12-month sample. Gate eleven produced two from 31. For Bits Superstar, the chance to save ground matters more than the percentage alone.

Price watch

At 10/1 or bigger, Dragon Four Seas is worth a second look. He has four wins over this trip here and his rider’s allowance reduces the burden to 124 lb. The latest eighth still keeps him behind the principals.

Every runner

#1 Thunder Action

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

He came from seventh to miss by half a length on November 4, even after hanging out and brushing a rival near the 100. Gate four should let him sit just off the pace. The cross noseband goes on for the first time and the tongue tie comes off. If he holds a straight line under pressure he gets a cleaner shot at the leaders.

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

Season to declaration · M L Yeung (jockey) 5 wins from 128 rides · W Y So (trainer) 7 wins from 115 starts

#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. His second came from gate three. Bentley now has eleven, and asking for enough speed to get across may cost him his finishing kick.

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

Season to declaration · H Bentley (jockey) 6 wins from 118 rides · D A Hayes (trainer) 14 wins from 148 starts

#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. Atzeni stays aboard as the rating drops two points. Gate eight makes an economical run less certain than his old sprint form suggests.

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

A Atzeni with J Size · 5 wins from 56 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. He gets 124 lb after the claim, ten less than he carried behind World Hero on November 1. I'd promote him if he can save ground just behind the leaders.

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

Season to declaration · H Y Yuen (jockey) 18 wins from 126 rides

#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 finishes of eleventh, ninth and eighth temper enthusiasm. Wong's three-pound allowance helps if he can stay close enough turning for home.

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. Gate twelve puts the burden on Chau to find cover. He made the frame from wide draws before, but giving ground away around this bend could undo him.

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. The wins came at different configurations, 1,000m here and 1,200m at Sha Tin. His nine tries at this course and distance have yet to produce a top-three finish.

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. He went from the rear to second in a five-runner 1,050m dirt trial on November 13. Some encouragement for the shorter trip, with turf finishing speed still to prove here.

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. He carries seven pounds more than for that win. If another runner insists on the lead, Purton has already shown he can win on this horse without leading all the way.

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

Season to declaration · Z Purton (jockey) 41 wins from 167 rides · D J Hall (trainer) 10 wins from 102 starts

Z Purton with D J Hall · 2 wins from 6 rides together in the meeting program's partnership record.

#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. He showed enough speed to lead in a November 19 trial before finishing fourth of eight. That early speed could affect the race even if he struggles late.

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. The map puts him back in the field. A patient ride may help him settle, but it leaves him needing a turn of foot he hasn't shown in a race.

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. Thunder Action finished second and this gelding tenth when they met November 4. Badel needs cover from nine to give him a chance of recapturing that October run.

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

Written preference

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

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.

What tips the balance

Healthy Healthy beat Incredible Moment by half a length in a 1,050m Conghua all-weather trial on November 19. It is the first sign of a revival after four finishes outside the first five. His three Valley 1,200m wins give the trial more relevance here.

Price watch

At 8/1 or bigger Quick Contribution appeals for a place. He was second over this trip here on October 21 and his latest eleventh came over 1,650m. Five seconds in 17 starts make the place the better fit.

Every runner

#1 Cavamazing

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

His Sha Tin eighth came from gate thirteen after racing wide without cover. From gate two here he can tuck in and spend less energy reaching the turn. Yeung keeps the ride after a fourth of nine in a local 1,200-metre trial. The gate helps him get cover. He still has to show he can quicken when the opening comes.

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. C Y Ho stays aboard. He has a win and two seconds among his last four starts, but his winning form was over the straight 1,000m at Sha Tin. Finishing this 1,200m is the question.

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

Season to declaration · C Y Ho (jockey) 17 wins from 146 rides · K L Man (trainer) 10 wins from 111 starts

#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. His last six alternate a second and a fourth with finishes as far back as thirteenth. Gate six gives his rider options if the visor sharpens him early.

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. Won a 1,050m Conghua all-weather trial on November 19. From four he can follow the pace without having to win the early contest.

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. This son of Super Seth improved to fourth of ten in a Conghua 1,200m turf trial on October 23, beaten 6½ lengths. He still has to close that gap under race pressure.
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. Fifth of nine in a 1,200m dirt trial on November 13. His win four starts back gives him some upside, but the trial leaves his turf form unresolved.
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. A hundredth of a second separated him from Joker Orbit on November 4. Controlling the tempo is his best way to turn that result around.
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. He rises five rating points and draws twelve. The Club map has him settling back, so his chance depends on getting a tow into the straight.
Recent placings, latest first · 1/2/9/3/14/2
Season to declaration · A Badel (jockey) 13 wins from 136 rides · M Newnham (trainer) 10 wins from 133 starts

#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. Ten starts have yet to produce a top-three finish. The rider change from K C Leung and the short way around offer a reason to improve, but little margin for a slow start.
Recent placings, latest first · 7/8/6/5/11/4
Z Purton with C S Shum · 7 wins from 21 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. Three recent Conghua trials include a fifth of ten at 1,200m on November 6. He has had preparation, though the outside draw asks plenty first up.
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. Five seconds from 17 starts and no wins steer the judgment toward a place. His rider’s two-pound claim is offset by declared overweight.
Recent placings, latest first · 11/2/2/3/2/2
Season to declaration · C L Chau (jockey) 21 wins from 160 rides · D J Hall (trainer) 10 wins from 102 starts

#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. His November 11 win brings a seven-point rise. He still receives seven pounds from Same To You and fifteen from Ruby Thrive, which helps offset the class rise.
Recent placings, latest first · 1/2/8/5/7/1
Season to declaration · A Atzeni (jockey) 16 wins from 175 rides · J Size (trainer) 10 wins from 116 starts
A Atzeni with J Size · 5 wins from 56 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

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

Written preference

#2 Exceed The Limit / #9 Luck Is Back / #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.

What tips the balance

The inside draw gives Exceed The Limit a plausible shorter trip, with nine top-three finishes from 20 starters in gate one across the racebook's last 12 months at this 1,650m C+3 setup. Only two of those 20 won. Luck Is Back's weight advantage gives him a chance to resist the late challenge this time.

Price watch

At 10/1 or bigger Vermilion Tempest makes sense underneath the two he followed home on November 1. He draws nine again and carries two pounds less. A softly run race would make that price less attractive.

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. He gives weight all around at 135 lb. K C Leung has a workable draw and the stronger finishers will have to pass him.

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

Season to declaration · K C Leung (jockey) 12 wins from 155 rides · M Newnham (trainer) 10 wins from 133 starts

#2 Exceed The Limit

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

He closed in 23.50 over this same C+3 mile on November 1, just a hundredth behind Luck Is Back, who led early and finished in 23.73. Purton takes over from gate one. Vermilion Tempest finished fourth that day with a sharper 23.26. Exceed The Limit has first use of the inside, but a prolonged duel brings that deeper closer into play.

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

Season to declaration · Z Purton (jockey) 41 wins from 167 rides · C S Shum (trainer) 13 wins from 150 starts

Z Purton with C S Shum · 7 wins from 21 rides together in the meeting program's partnership record.

#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. His November 4 ninth came in Class 3. C L Chau's claim takes two pounds off a 134 lb assignment, and settling behind the speed should help him see out the mile.

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. He has won at this trip here, but the latest third followed five finishes outside the top five. Repeating that effort depends on finding a position from out wide.

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. Two wins and four unplaced runs in his last six point to an uneven profile. If Luck Is Back makes him work early, the final bend could expose that surface question.

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. Won a 1,200m Conghua turf trial on November 6 before finishing last in a November 19 dirt trial. He needs a genuinely run mile to bring his stamina into play.

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

A Atzeni with J Size · 5 wins from 56 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. His last three finishes were eighth, ninth and ninth. He either has to concede position from twelve or risk using up energy on the first turn.

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. He finished 4½ lengths back that night under 130 lb. E C W Wong’s allowance takes him down to 123 lb here, giving him a reason to narrow the gap.

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. He fought out the pace on November 1 and was caught late. The choice to lead or follow Night Purosangue this time could decide whether he can hold on.

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

Season to declaration · H Y Yuen (jockey) 18 wins from 126 rides · P C Ng (trainer) 18 wins from 122 starts

#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. Badel has 125 lb to carry compared with 127 that night. He needs the two possible leaders to keep each other honest through the middle.

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. Won an eight-runner 1,600m Conghua turf trial by a short head on November 6. That gives this longer trip some appeal, but race-day evidence is still thin.

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. A dual winner over this course and distance, he gets in on 120 lb. If Avdulla can find cover before the turn he can run into the placings again.

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

Season to declaration · B Avdulla (jockey) 6 wins from 114 rides · D Eustace (trainer) 14 wins from 120 starts

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

Written preference

#8 Winning Machine / #1 Incredible Moment / #9 Flying Ting Lok / #2 Charming Babe

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.

What tips the balance

Through November 22, Winning Machine's trainer Caspar Fownes had 11 wins from 67 on Happy Valley turf this season. The official racebook's last 12 months at this 1200m C+3 setting returned six winners and 14 top-three finishes from 33 starters in gate 1. Gate 10 won once from 33. That strengthens the case for Winning Machine getting the easier trip over Island Buddy.

Price watch

Charming Babe is my price watch at 10/1 or bigger. He stayed on from tenth at the second call last time; a repeat win looks possible only if the speed gives him a target.

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. C Y Ho stays, but that win came from gate 1 under 128 pounds. Today he starts in 6 and carries 135. He earns his place on the ticket without getting the same trip for free.

Recent placings, latest first · 1/2/8/6/5/1
Season to declaration · C Y Ho (jockey) 17 wins from 146 rides · P C Ng (trainer) 18 wins from 122 starts
C Y Ho with P C Ng · 8 wins from 32 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. He was tenth at the second call and came home in 23.57 that night. H Y Yuen keeps the ride and takes seven off. One to add if the early leaders go too hard.

Recent placings, latest first · 6/1/8/4/12/6
Season to declaration · H Y Yuen (jockey) 18 wins from 126 rides · P F Yiu (trainer) 13 wins from 137 starts
H Y Yuen with P F Yiu · 7 wins from 47 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. His best finish in his last six was fifth. Draw 9 and 134 pounds leave little room to repair a poor early position.

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. Cheekpieces come off and the tongue tie stays. He's two rating points lower after his last run, but moves out two stalls to gate 7.

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. The handicapper has eased him two points. He recorded a local best of 1:09.48 at this distance, so the ability is there if he can rediscover his finish.

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. The blinkers come off and cheekpieces return. If Ferraris can cross cheaply, Island Buddy can hang on for a placing; pressing him early changes that calculation.

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. He has finished eleventh or worse in all five listed local runs. He would need to improve several lengths just to reach the top three.

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

He sat third on November 11 and ran the final 400 in 23.36 to win by two. Draw one and the same rider give him a chance to sit behind the speed again. He carried 117 pounds for that win and carries 125 here. Runner-up Country Pride closed in 23.84. I still want Winning Machine on the first line if he gets that covered trip again.

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

Season to declaration · E C W Wong (jockey) 10 wins from 79 rides · C Fownes (trainer) 16 wins from 140 starts

#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. He came from sixth at the second call on November 4. He beat Packing Smart by a short head; a five-point rise makes a repeat tougher, but another honest pace gives him his chance.

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

Season to declaration · A Atzeni (jockey) 16 wins from 175 rides · Y S Tsui (trainer) 8 wins from 132 starts

#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. His rating drops two to 46 and Hewitson stays. Saving ground is useful, but he'll need a much stronger final 400 to get involved.

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. He carries just 119 and his best local time at the trip is competitive. I'd want to see him sustain an effort again before taking the equipment change on trust.

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. His third five starts ago shows there is some ability. If the gap opens at the right time he's an outsider for the bottom of wider tickets.

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

Written preference

#2 Flow Water Flow / #8 Money Games / #3 The Boom Box / #12 Win Method

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.

What tips the balance

Sunday's Serenade's rider Alexis Badel comes in with 13 winners from 136 season mounts. The October 7 winner Sunday's Serenade is back in the exact gate and rail position after 49 days, but moves up a class. Zac Purton, aboard for that win, is declared on Flow Water Flow here. The draw matters for the latter because he had to close from tenth on November 4.

Price watch

Win Method is my 10/1-or-bigger watch. He made a long, wide move against The Boom Box and carries 120. Gate 11 brings a real risk of paying for the same trip twice.

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. His four career wins show he can finish the job. With the claim he carries 124, the same as Money Games; I need more than weight relief to put him ahead of that improving rival.

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

He hung out at the first turn on November 4, was ninth at the 400 and still closed in 23.57. Purton now draws one after starting from nine. Money Games got crowded around the 550, was fifth at the 400, closed in 23.84 and beat him by 0.01 seconds. Flow Water Flow can save ground this time. If he is bottled up, Money Games can get first run again.

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

Season to declaration · Z Purton (jockey) 41 wins from 167 rides · J Size (trainer) 10 wins from 116 starts

#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. He was ninth early that day and had moved to fourth before the final 400. Taking his chance before the others sprint could again prove decisive if this develops into a tactical race.

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

Season to declaration · C Y Ho (jockey) 17 wins from 146 rides · W Y So (trainer) 7 wins from 115 starts

C Y Ho with W Y So · 1 win from 8 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. Sixth last time at least ended three straight finishes of ninth or worse. The handicapper has dropped him two more points; that's grounds for watching him, not taking a short price.
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. The two-point rating drop helps. With blinkers and tongue tie retained he'll still have to get cover from outside and produce a stronger finish than he's shown lately.
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. He carries 125, which asks little more than the weight on Money Games. Ferraris has to decide whether to use him early or give away position for cover.
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. Gate 2 was also his draw in that October race. He's now one rating point lower and Chau claims two again, so there is a sound case for a place if he finds room.
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. Drew 6 and raced seventh early before moving into fifth and then second. Gate 7 should suit a similar trip, but his rival now gets the rail. Main use, particularly if the prices diverge.
Recent placings, latest first · 2/10/6
Season to declaration · K C Leung (jockey) 12 wins from 155 rides · M Newnham (trainer) 10 wins from 133 starts

#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. Embraces was fourth and Win Method eighth in the October 21 race in which he finished eleventh, ten lengths behind the winner. That gives him plenty to find.
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. Draw 6 is workable and the handicapper has taken two points off. He's still waiting for his first competitive finish.
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. He's stepping up from Class 4 after seven weeks and a seven-point rise. The lower 121-pound assignment gives him a chance against stronger opposition. First one I'd add beyond the main three.
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. He was ridden quietly, then had to travel wide without cover after moving from the 900m. He still finished third. A patient ride with cover could bring him much closer than the market expects.
Recent placings, latest first · 3/8/8/3/1/1
Season to declaration · M F Poon (jockey) 5 wins from 138 rides · C S Shum (trainer) 13 wins from 150 starts

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

Written preference

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

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.

What tips the balance

Ace Champion's trainer P C Ng went into this card with 18 wins from 122 runners this season, including five from 49 on Happy Valley turf. The racebook's last 12 months on the C+3 over 1200m show four wins from 32 in gate 4 and one from 33 in gate 10. That's a small sample. California Blitz's proven early speed and the two horses' different trips on November 4 matter more than the percentages by themselves.

Price watch

Flashing Fighter is the one I'd want at double figures. Yuen's claim puts him on 116; he's already shown he can finish close to Four Stars Align. If the public spots the same weight swing and the price disappears, pass on the value play.

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. He gets two rating points back after his latest tenth. From gate 9 he will need a much cleaner, stronger effort than he has shown this season.

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. On November 4 he was seventh through two calls and finished in 23.40. He has already won from gate 12 here, so today's 10 is manageable; it is still harder than California Blitz's gate 4.

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

Season to declaration · C Y Ho (jockey) 17 wins from 146 rides · P C Ng (trainer) 18 wins from 122 starts

C Y Ho with P C Ng · 8 wins from 32 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. His rating goes up eight and Purton gives way to Chau, whose claim reduces the assigned 126 to 124. He's two pounds worse off relative to Ace Champion, but he can dictate the shape from gate 4.

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

Season to declaration · C L Chau (jockey) 21 wins from 160 rides · W K Mo (trainer) 13 wins from 127 starts

#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. He is a former winner and comes down one rating point. If he gets cover crossing over, he has enough recent form to pick up a share.
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
He raced as Istriano in Australia. He sat second to win at Swan Hill, then was sixth at the 400 and won at Ballarat. Both were at 1,200 metres. Avdulla can take a sit from gate five. His Australian winning margins were 0.02 and 0.15 lengths. He came from seventh to third in his November 17 Sha Tin all-weather trial. If the leaders duel, I want him on wider tickets on his Hong Kong debut.

#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. He finished third behind Four Stars Align here on November 4. Those two were separated by a length and a half, but he is three pounds better off against him now and draws four stalls inside him.
Recent placings, latest first · 3/1/8/9/1
Season to declaration · H Y Yuen (jockey) 18 wins from 126 rides · P F Yiu (trainer) 13 wins from 137 starts
H Y Yuen with P F Yiu · 7 wins from 47 rides together in the meeting program’s partnership record.

#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. He broke from gate 2 when he beat Flashing Fighter on November 4. He has lost that inside advantage and meets that rival on less favourable weights, so I would keep both on the ticket.
Recent placings, latest first · 2/3/4
Season to declaration · Z Purton (jockey) 41 wins from 167 rides · A S Cruz (trainer) 9 wins from 154 starts

#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. The win is surrounded by fourth-place finishes. Gate 6 should let the rider judge the speed on either side before committing.
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. He drops two rating points and carries 121. A clean rail trip can help, though he hasn't made the top three since the oldest of his six listed runs.
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. Had gate 1 that day and sat fourth through two calls, so draw 8 is a less economical setup. I prefer him underneath to win unless he drifts substantially.
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. He won three back and carries just 118. I'd consider him only for a deep placing ticket if the better gate shows up in the price.
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. He's dropping two rating points; if the leaders overcook it, being able to save every inch makes him plausible for a minor share.
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