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Hong Kong Thunderbolt

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莫雷拉-雷一般震動香港馬壇

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Hong Kong Thunderbolt



莫雷拉首日上陣即憑「魅力星」取得頭馬。
Moreira won with Noble Deluxe on the first day he took part in races.



「魅力之城」在莫雷拉胯下勝出二級賽精英碗。
Ridden by Moreira, Sterling City won the G2 Premier Bowl.

巴西籍名將莫雷拉 (Joao Moreira) 在千呼萬喚之下，終於在去年10月時將其策騎基地由新加坡轉至香港，這位三屆星洲冠軍騎師來港上陣立即施下馬威，在首天賽事中即以「魅力星」贏馬，並在當日勝出騎師王，證明自己不是猛龍不過江，之後他更勢如破竹，截稿前連續9個賽日都能贏馬增添進帳，當中更不乏贏出大賽，令這位好手被坊間冠以「雷神」稱號，人如其名，他以雷霆萬鈞之勢帶給香港馬圈一股新衝擊，並直接動搖了13屆冠軍騎師韋達 (Douglas Whyte) 雄霸馬壇的局面。

撰文：關尚智

After much anticipation, the Brazilian saddle ace, Joao Moreira, finally transferred from his Singapore base to Hong Kong last October. And almost immediately, the 3-time Champion Singapore Jockey demonstrated his vast ability by winning on Noble Deluxe and later the Jockeys Challenge on his first day, proving that expertise is independent of venue. Moreira then added more wins in 9 consecutive race days, many feature events among them. Little wonder race fans refer to him as the 'Magic Man'. Seemingly effortless in saddle, he strongly resembles the riding style of Douglas Whyte who has dominated Hong Kong racing, taking out the Champion Jockey title for the past 13 years.

Text: Andy Kwan

莫雷拉在新加坡策騎時已有「新加坡韋達」之稱，因為他的贏馬能力在當地首屈一指，如同韋達在港贏馬易如反掌一樣，而今年這位好手主動申請來港發展，很多人都認為他可挑戰雄霸香港馬圈13季的冠軍騎師韋達之地位，雖然他來港後一再表明暫時未有這個意圖，但事實上其行動正一步一步為此鋪路，嘗試首季來港發展即向冠軍騎師殊榮邁進。

今季冠軍騎師之爭的焦點本來落在韋達和潘頓身上，現時走出一個「程咬金」莫雷拉，本應外界都認為這位新加坡冠軍騎師來港發展，最主要會影響練馬師支持潘頓的幅度，誰不知原來最大損失者竟然是韋達，因為一直與後者有深厚合作基礎的冠軍級練馬師蔡約翰，今季竟然減少支持他，分散騎師為不同馬匹策騎的同時，更提供大量實力座騎給莫雷拉，令人意料不到，而對於這個變化，一直以蔡廐馬作為爭取冠軍騎師主要兵源的韋達，頓失重大依靠，因此今季韋達要衝擊在港連續14季成為冠軍的紀錄，確實非常困難。

莫雷拉來港策騎之初，一早開腔表明會與不同馬房合作，並深明集腋成裘的道理，這才是達到冠軍騎師之路的良方。這位好手來港首兩個月上陣，已曾經為本港21位練馬師效力，更分別為蔡約翰、約翰摩亞、苗禮德、徐雨石、葉楚航、沈集成、姚本輝、告達理等贏馬，其受歡迎程度可想而知。莫雷拉於10月20日正式開始在港客串，於10場快活谷賽事中，他一早上滿座騎出賽，首天上陣更即被馬會列為騎師王的大熱門。當日賽事莫雷拉可算是先苦後甜，因為在首9場賽事中，他接二連三都未能贏馬，只取得2亞1季成績，當大家感到其名大於實的時候，就在最後一場賽事中，他憑「魅力星」贏馬，更戲劇性地反勝騎師王，總算沒有令支持者失望。

莫雷拉由首天上陣開始，頭馬已源源不絕，加上有盃王之稱的約翰摩亞給了重大支持，令這位好手不乏在大賽中出戰的機會，而在10月27日的沙田賽事中，他就以「練力之城」攻下香港二級賽精英碗，來港策騎短短一星期即贏分級賽，足以印證其超凡實力。不過莫雷拉在陣中經常過於勇猛，因此曾策騎「喜利高」和「首飾多寶」干擾到其他賽駒而合共被罰停賽6日，令他錯失了參加國際騎師錦標賽和國際賽的機會。可幸他復出之後氣勢依然勇銳，繼續頻頻以贏馬作出補償。莫雷拉的雷電式贏馬，令其頭馬數字爆升，



蔡約翰支持莫雷拉，間接影響韋達爭冠機會。
With John Size's support to Moreira, the possibility of Whyte succeeding the championship is affected.

證明「雷神」這個別號絕非浪得虛名。這位三屆新加坡冠軍騎師來港後已平地一聲雷，更令香港馬圈勢力出現重大的動盪，13屆冠軍騎師韋達的王者姿態已不復在，簡接造就了潘頓乘勢而起，現時在騎師排行榜遙遙領先，由於差距太大，莫雷拉要爭奪冠軍騎師寶座絕對不易，不過能令香港馬圈斷斷情況減少，變得更有興味，這位巴西籍好手的來臨，絕對為香港馬壇帶來一番新景象。

Effortless in gaining victories, which resembles how Whyte wins easily in Hong Kong, Moreira had long been referred to as "Singapore's Whyte" back in the days when he rode in Singapore. Now that this ace transferred to Hong Kong out of his own will, many recognize the possibility of him challenging Douglas Whyte's 13-year reign as champion jockey. Even though he denied having such intent, his actions are actually leading him onto this path – to proceed to the honour of champion jockey in his first racing season in Hong Kong.

Previously, the competition for top jockey centred on Whyte and Zac Purton and some thought with the Moreira move to Hong Kong that Purton might the one to suffer as a consequence. However, it appears that Whyte will

be the one most affected with leading trainer John Size, who had previously preferred the champion jockey, now putting Moreira on many of his horses. This may well prove to be Whyte's biggest hurdle to claiming a 14th straight championship.

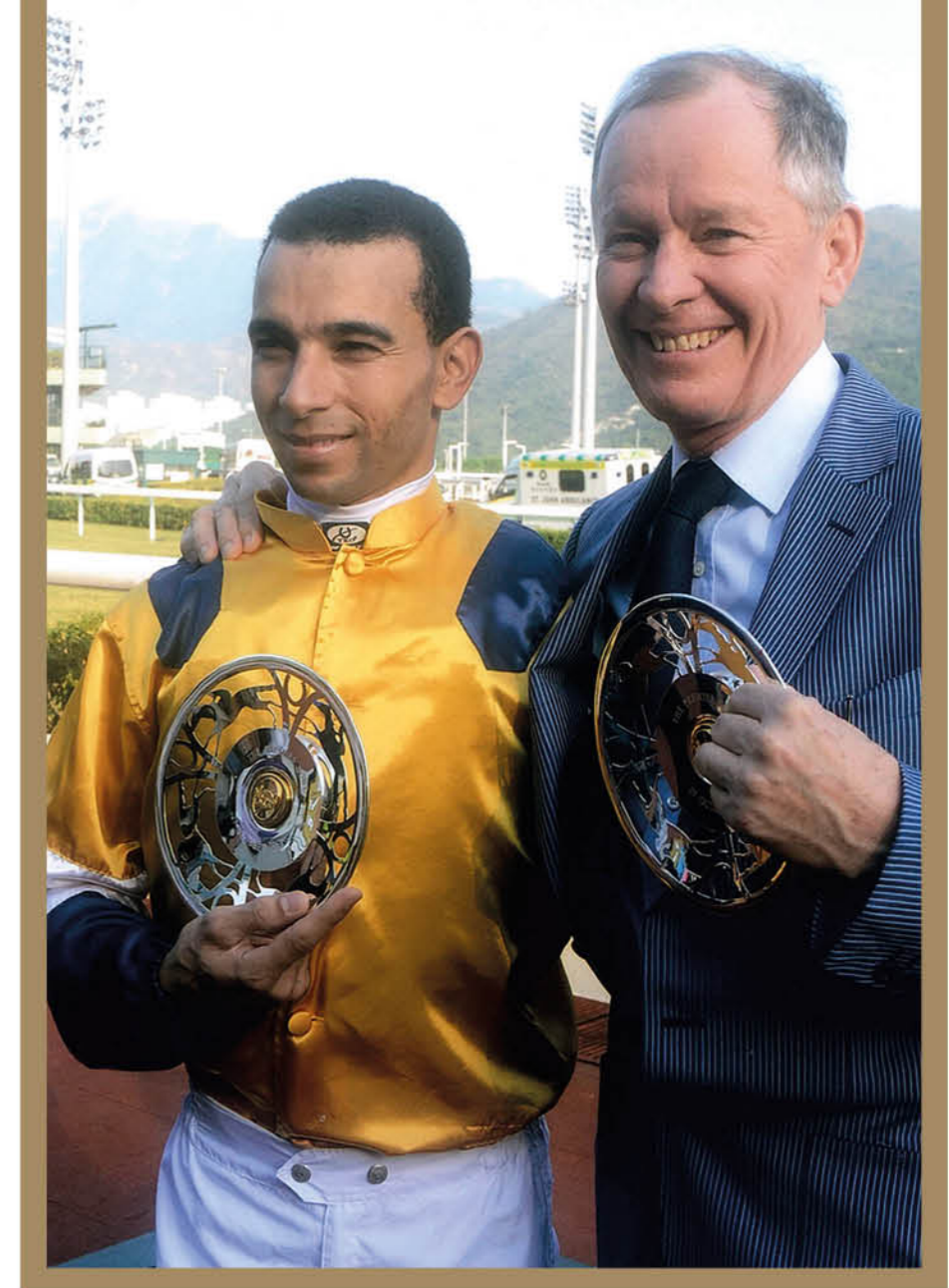
Moreira had made it clear from the outset that he would ride for different stables when he moved to Hong Kong and is prepared to do whatever it takes to succeed. And succeed-

莫雷拉有兩位冠軍級練馬師葉楚航及大摩支持，不愁寂寞。
Having elicited supported from two top trainers Dennis Yip and John Moore, Moreira is one busy jockey.



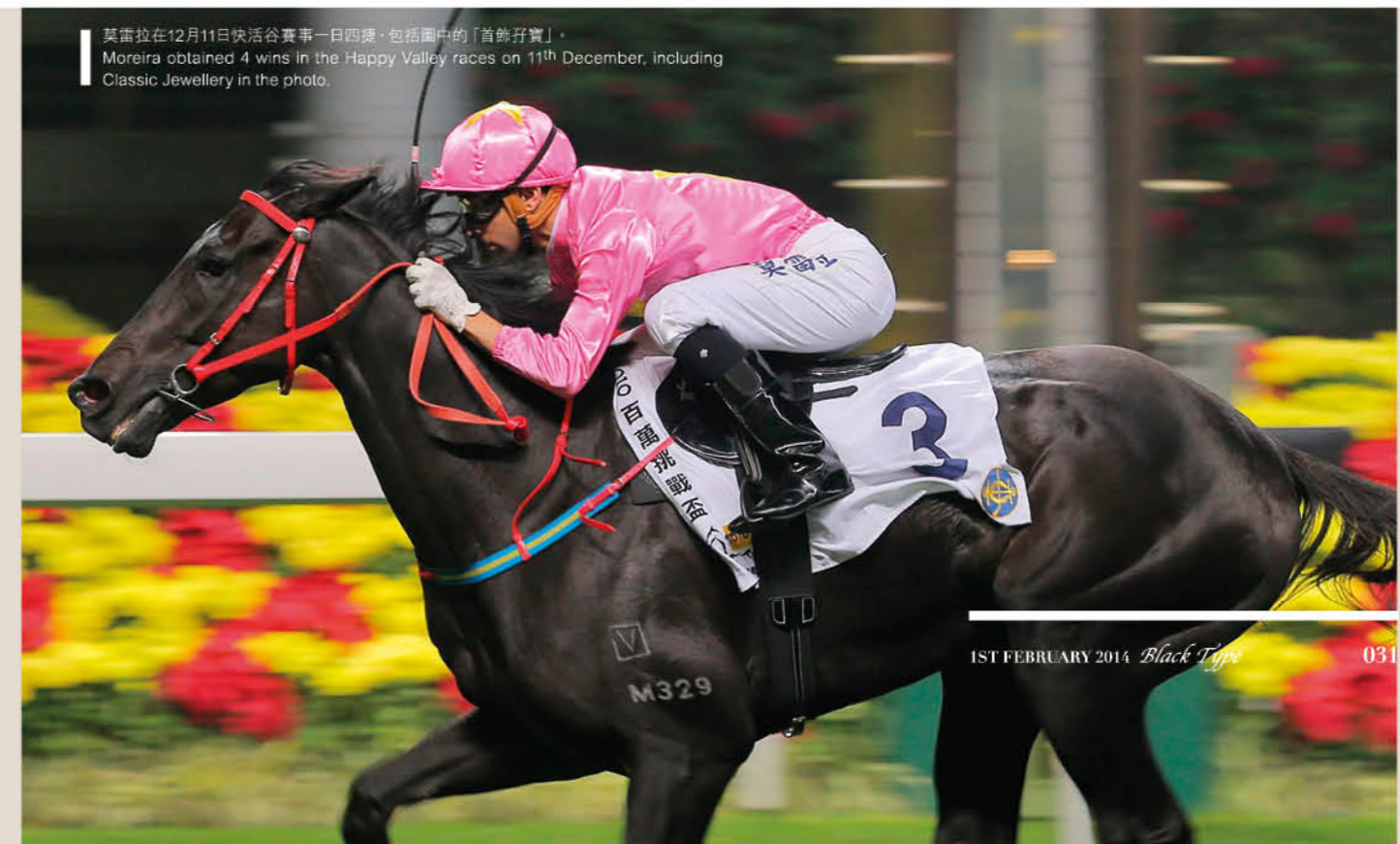
ing he is - just two months into his re-location, Moreira had already ridden for 21 trainers, winning for Size, John Moore, Anthony Millard, Me Tsui, Dennis Yip, Danny Shum, Ricky Yiu and Derek Cruz, a good indication of how popular he is among Hong Kong's training fraternity. Kicking off on 20th October, Moreira had rides for all 10 races on the program but it took him until the last to win with Noble Deluxe.

Since the first day, Moreira had not stopped winning. Also, the heavy support from "King of Cups" John Moore means that this ace is never lack of tokens to race in important competitions. In the 27th October race in Shatin, he won the G2 Premier Bowl on Sterling City. Winning a graded race only one week after he settled in Hong Kong is the best proof of his tremendous talent. But many times, Moreira was too aggressive in the races; when riding Dashing Super and Turbo Jewellery, a 6-day suspension was incurred due to having interfered other racehorses. This had cost him losing the participation in the International Jockey's Championship and International Races. Luckily, he is still as powerful after his comeback – continuously winning races to make up for the lost. The way Moreira captures wins is just like thunderbolt, which makes the number of wins under his belt surge, showing to us why he deserves the title "The Magic Man". After this three-time Singapore Cham-



pion Jockey migrated to Hong Kong, his astounding entrance has already stirred up Hong Kong racing. The 13-year champion jockey Whyte is losing his glamour, while Purton takes this advantage and rises, holding a long lead in the jockeys' ranking. Due to the big difference

to catch up, it is not an easy task for Moreira to claim the throne of champion jockey, but the appearance of this Brazilian ace has nonetheless changed the monopolistic scene of Hong Kong racing and spiced things up.



Gai Waterhouse's Dream Comes True: Fiorente Won the 2013 Melbourne Cup

「繁花似錦」為活侯夫人一圓墨盃夢



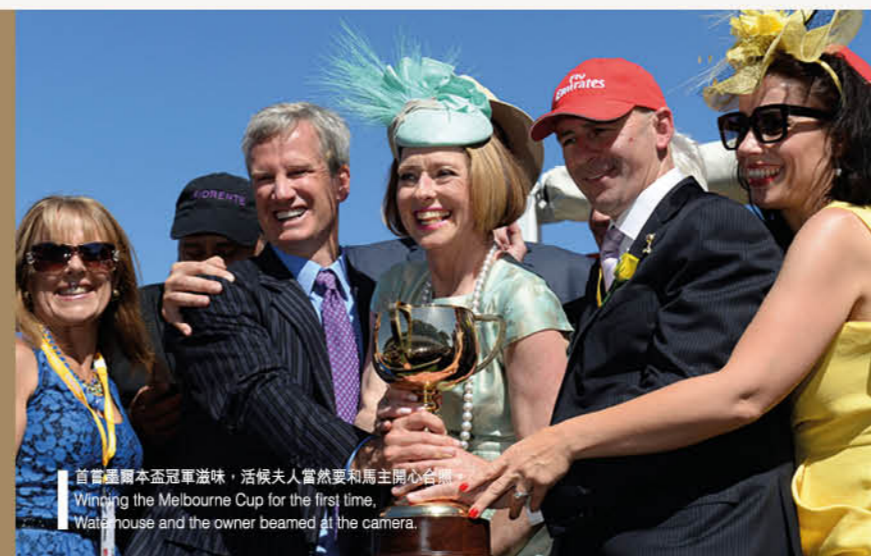
「繁花似錦」在岳禮華胯下勝出第153屆墨爾本盃。
Fiorente won the 153rd Melbourne Cup with Damien Oliver.

上期《桂冠》走訪澳洲殿堂級女練馬師活侯夫人 (Gai Waterhouse)，她誇下海口預期於去年下旬維省春季嘉年華勝出部份級際賽，最終以旗下「繁花似錦」(Fiorente) 一嘗心願勇奪墨爾本盃，恐怕其本人亦始料不及；她從練廿多年，期間贏過無數一級賽，但一直與此賽無緣，較早期有95年十月底麥堅倫錦標 (Mackinnon Stakes)，該場2500米一級賽，她以「力頂」(Nothin' Leica Dane) 奪標，三日後出戰全澳洲最高獎金賽事3200米墨爾本盃，結果在戴勝 (Shane Dye) 胯下，負於岳禮華 (Damien Oliver) 座騎「多利名士」(Doriemus) 得第二名，戲劇性地「繁花似錦」上屆剛由歐洲移師澳洲服役，僅負於柏寶座騎「翠月」(Green Moon)。事隔一載，「繁花似錦」卻在岳禮華胯下，以無敵姿態7倍大熱取勝，成敗也繫於此君，活侯夫人可哭笑不得？

撰文：曹秋華

In the last issue of Black Type, we interviewed the champion Australian trainer Gai Waterhouse, who was confident in winning some graded races at the 2013 Melbourne Spring Carnival (October-November). While Waterhouse has won just about every major race on the Australian turf calendar in the past 20 years, up until November last, the country's biggest prize had eluded her that her Fiorente eventually won the Melbourne Cup. She has certainly come close - in 1995 her 3YO, Nothin' Leica Dane won the 2500m G1 Mackinnon Stakes and, 3 days later, the same horse, ridden by Shane Dye ran second to Doriemus ridden by Damien Oliver in the 3200m Melbourne Cup. Dramatically, Fiorente was imported to run in the race last year, in which ran second to Brett Prebble's Green Moon. After a year, Fiorente started a \$7 favourite in the Cup and won the race with Damien Oliver. With both her win and loss tied to the same person, Waterhouse's feelings must have been rather complicated.

Text: Cho Chau Wah



首嘗墨爾本盃冠軍滋味，活侯夫人當然要和馬主開心合照。
Winning the Melbourne Cup for the first time, Waterhouse and the owner beamed at the camera.



岳禮華勝後與活侯夫人興奮擁抱。
Damien Oliver got off the horse and joyously embraced Waterhouse.

事實上於「繁花似錦」過終點一刻，強勢而不失溫婉的活侯夫人，現場所見確眼有淚光，其實這可以理解：在筆者眼中，她長期在男人堆中舉足輕重，早已奠定馬圈強人地位，本身卻大情大性，嬉笑怒罵，曾幾何時為騎師配搭，連一代宗師兼父親湯美史敏夫 (Tommy Smith) 等群起反對，她都勇於力排眾議，歡愉起來，陌生人又會即興擁抱，率性而為每可親，展現真正一面，即席飲泣都沒相干，況且贏墨爾本盃，是所有澳洲人終極願望，算是失儀又何妨？

In fact, the point at which Fiorente dashed through the finish line, Waterhouse, who is both tough and feminine, appeared misty-eyed, and this is totally understandable. From the writer's interpretation, she has long held an esteemed position among circles of men and with status very much recognized in horse racing. She is daring, bold and somehow emotional - once when she was matching riders, even though she received opposition from a few including

her illustrious father TJ Smith, she stood firm. When she felt blissful, she would hug strangers - all these demonstrate how true a person she is; therefore it is really no big deal for her to shed a few happy tears, especially when we are talking about the Melbourne Cup, which its championship is every Australian's dream. Whether it is a gracious act or not no longer matters much.

活侯夫人急不及待等候「繁花似錦」凱旋歸來。
Gai Waterhouse anticipated Fiorente's triumphant return.



回看此賽共有廿四匹長途勁駒置身其中，除「埃塞國度」(Ethiopia)、「墨城之郊」(Fawkner)、「超爽」(Super Cool)、「飛鷹山脊」(Hawkspur)及「迪美小姐」(Dear Demi)，竟多達十九駒是英國、愛爾蘭、法國等歐洲來客甚至「移民」，包括冠軍「繁花似錦」，當地主要報章《Herald Sun》也因此以特大篇幅，對各駒作出解構，重點尤其在愛爾蘭部隊。93年，練馬師衛爾德以「好收成」(Vintage Crop)，配新能首度以客軍身份奪魁，詳列往後十九屆外隊成績同時，並以國際賽形容墨爾本盃，性質上卻無貶義；近年墨爾本盃由阿聯酋航空(Emirates Airline)贊助，總獎金高達600萬澳元，第一至十名由360萬至12.5萬澳元不等。

Looking back at this race, a total of 24 long distance runners of high caliber participated. Except from Ethiopia, Fawkner, Super Cool, Hawkspur and Dear Demi, an astonishing 19 horses were foreign horses from European countries such as England, Ireland and France; some are even "immigrants", including the winner Fiorente. In spite of this, local newspaper Herald Sun did a detailed coverage to analyze the racehorses, focusing on the Irish troop. In 1993, Dermot Weld-trained Vintage Crop became the first overseas-trained horse to win the Melbourne Cup. Performance of overseas horses in the 19 races afterwards are also listed in details, and it even described the Melbourne Cup as an international race, which is not derogatory in its nature. In recent years, Emirates Airline started to sponsor the Melbourne Cup, the 1st to 10th position will be rewarded with prize money ranging from A\$3,600,000 to \$125,000, and the total purse stands at A\$6,000,000.

開廂一開，首200米「溪流淙淙」(Ruscello)應聲搶出，「啡豹」(Brown Panther)及「藍調濃情」(Tres Blue)三駒而立，「神山」(Mount Athos)、「迪美小姐」，「萬里揚」(Mourayan)緊攝其後，跑過半程大致沒變，準備轉直路彎，

再由巫斯義執韁的上季香港瓶盟主「紅色禮物」(Red Cadeaux)穩步而前，且一度以勁勢透出，信心十足的「繁花似錦」後勁更凌厲，三扒兩撥鏖鬥，並於終點一剎旋即超前。

In the beginning 200m, Ruscello led the field, Brown Panther and Tres Blue immediately caught up and the three of them led. Mount Athos, Dear Demi and Mourayan followed tight. Similar position held in the first half of the race, and then Red Cadeaux, winner of last season's Hong Kong Vase ridden by Gerald Mosse, grabbed the lead at one stage before Fiorente came with a late surge and took the first position at the finish line.

「紅色禮物」繼2011年不敵「多利得」再次飲恨，值得一提的是，另一與香港馬主有關的「偷心美人」，去年九月中於愛爾蘭聖烈治一級賽，以六乘之遙大勝對手，「紅色禮物」同場只獲殿軍，未幾轉售予太陽國際資源有限公司主席鄭丁港及友人，運往墨爾本短短三星期即問鼎此賽，適應需時下無功而回，不過國際馬壇展望「偷心美人」隨時間漸入佳境，絕不排除像「繁花似錦」，經過一年部署後，成為2014年墨爾本盃冠軍。

In 2011, Red Cadeaux also lost the first position, at that time to Dunaden. What's worth mentioning is the horse Voleuse de Coeurs, which is now owned by Mr. Cheng Ting Kong, chairman of Sun International Resources Limited, and his friends. Winning the 2013 G1 Irish St Leger winner by 6 lengths (with Red Cadeaux finishing fourth), Voleuse de Coeurs ran impressively in the Cup three weeks after it was transferred to Melbourne. With the need to adapt, it did not manage to win; however, the international horse racing circle still has high hope in it to get into better form this year, and hopefully become the champion in the 2014 Melbourne Cup, just like Fiorente did.



活侯夫人驕傲地高舉獎盃。
Waterhouse proudly raised the trophy.

HOT TOPIC

馬界熱話

Eliza Park International — Always on Top in Both Hemispheres

Eliza Park International 產品南北半球齊齊威

美麗回憶·失去是否再難尋獲?理論上是·但人總要向前望·就如Eliza Park International·總不會老是眷戀無敵馬后「魚子精華」(Black Caviar)廿五戰全勝風光·事實上鎮場皇牌種馬「才子」(Bel Esprit)個別子嗣·最近正悄悄綻放光芒·要媲美「魚子精華」縱談何容易·況且一匹「魚子精華」同父同母妹妹·目前才剛一歲半·或有機會於今年四月悉尼復活節拍賣會(Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale)供買家競投·他朝成就亦言之尚早·只是世事無絕對·萬丈高樓從地起·尤其已登場一批三歲新力軍·既已展現出非凡潛力·於未來大賽當不容忽視。

撰文: 韋豪

Striving to recapture a beautiful past can be an obstacle to future success. Take Eliza Park International as an example. It does not rest on its laurels - retired championess Black Caviar, with her undefeated 25-win streak - but instead we should look to the future. The offspring of EPI ace stallion Bel Esprit are slowly starting to shine, drawing comparisons with Black Caviar. Moreover, there is a yearling colt which is Black Caviar's full brother, who has a chance to go to auction at the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale. It is still too early to speak about his achievements, after all, nothing is certain, but Rome was not built in a day. There is also a crop of 3-year-old new bloods demonstrating uncommon potential. Their prospects in future runs are not to be lightly dismissed.

Text: Wai Ho



Bel Esprit X Murray Mary

於2013年澳洲各大拍賣會·父系「才子」周歲馬仍備受注目·共中一匹出自母系Star Jasmine (by Encosta de Lago) 的小馬·以廿五萬澳元成交·另一匹母系Murray Mary (by Black Min)·由練馬師大摩兒子的George Moore

Bloodstock以廿八萬澳元買入·預計不久之後·此駒大有可能會運港服役·屆時表現大可拭目以待·至於已上陣一夥·暫以Se Sauver最矚目·這匹素色三歲馬女出自母馬Secret Cause (by Giant's Causeway)·由練馬師羅滿德主理·自去年三月以兩歲身份出道·至十一月截稿時·八戰獲兩冠一亞一季一殿·包括十月初角逐費明頓馬場TAB Edward Manifold Stakes二級賽1610米·以強橫後勁力挫另一同齡小雌馬Star Fashion及柏寶座騎Solicit勝出·Solicit隨後三仗悉數上名·尤其於維多利亞橡樹一級賽(Victoria Oak) 2500米·映相僅負於頭馬Kiramosa得第三·反映Se Sauver質素當非泛泛之輩·綜合母線氣量遺傳·他日更趨成熟下·於長途大賽將可大放異彩。

至於上期已介紹的「才子」另一新晉代表 Iconic，母系Danavia (by Danehill)，與Se Sauver同樣三歲，這匹棕色閩馬首八戰獲三冠三亞，路程1000至1200米，儘管暫未於級際賽掄元，但於十一月初墨爾本盃賽日 Schweppes #Flemingtonfling 1000米16駒場合由岳禮華執韉，起步如讓賽般落後甚遠，末段走勢如箭離弦，雖對頭馬Bernabeu未予威脅，但進入亞席仍相當可喜，看來往後日子，Iconic大有資格擔正主角！

那邊廂Eliza Park International另一實而不華種馬Monashee Mountain，現年16歲仍有心有力，牠與母馬Rightful Lady (by Viscount) 產下兩歲馬女Setfire To Therain，剛於去年底於鷹園馬場 (Eagle Farm) 兩戰兩捷，此駒於該兩場1000米俱被捧成大熱，以飛快前速直領到底，且有越贏越易之勢，潛力有多深暫仍成謎。

Across all the major Australian sales, keen attention has been paid to yearlings sired by Bel Esprit. One, out of the Encosta de Lago mare Star Jasmine was sold for A\$250,000; another, out of Black Min mare Murray Mary was sold for A\$280,000 to John Moore of George Moore Bloodstock. It is likely that the latter of the two will be shipped to Hong Kong for racing, his performance remains to be seen. As for those already racing, Se Sauver stands out as the most promising. This three-year-old bay filly out of the Giant's Causeway mare Secret Cause is in work with Victorian trainer Matt Laurie. Debuting as a two-year-old in March last year and up to the time of this writing in November, she has two wins and two places from eight starts, including a convincing win in the 1610-metre G2 TAB Edward Manifold Stakes with jockey Damian Lane at the helm in early October, outpacing fillies Star Fashion

and Solicit, the latter subsequently went on to good starts in three races, most notably in the 2500-metre G1 Victoria Oaks where she placed third behind Kirramosa. Se Sauver is a reflection of her uncommon pedigree. She is still maturing, and may yet shine in future stayers races.

Another three-year-old introduced in our last edition, Iconic sired by Bel Esprit out of Danehill mare Danavia has three wins and three placings from eight starts between 1000 and 1200 metres, though the brown gelding has yet to make it to Group level. Look out for Iconic in the 1000-metre Schweppes #Flemingtonfling. With Damien Oliver on board, she may yet have the makings of a winner.

Another Eliza Park International's stallions, Monashee Mountain, is 16 years old and still

此外，Statue Of Liberty亦不讓「才子」及 Monashee Mountain專美，其三歲子嗣Lion Of Belfort (母系Literature，by Notebook) 首五戰獲三冠一亞一季，未嘗落空且方興未艾：去年十一月初，香港馬會越洋直播古摩亞育馬場錦標一級賽 (Coolmore Stud Stakes)，Lion Of Belfort 譯名為「貝城獅像」，於此場費明頓馬場 (Flemington) 國際一級賽1200米，縱不敵一面倒全熱門「摘星勇驥」(Zoustar)，仍能力逼大摩名下「耳邊風」(Not Listenin' tome) 跑入季军，這一頁重要賽績告訴我們，「貝城獅像」實力絕不可欺，並將成為大賽常客。

going strong, having sired the exciting two-year-old filly Setfire To TheRain. Out of Viscount Mare Rightful Lady, Setfire To TheRain has had two starts at Eagle Farm at the end of last year and was pronounced a hit, leading from start to finish and gaining momentum with each win. Undoubtedly, she still has plenty of untapped potential.

Not to be outshone by Bel Esprit and Monashee Mountain is Statue Of Liberty. His foal, 3-year-old Lion Of Belfort out of the Notebook mare Literature has never come away empty-handed, having had three wins and 2 placings from five starts. In early November of last year, the Hong Kong Jockey Club broadcasted the 1200-metre G1 Coolmore Stud Stakes live from Flemington Racecourse. Lion Of Belfort was unable to defeat the Northern Meteor colt Zoustar, but gave George Moore Bloodstock-owned Not Listenin' tome a hard chase before finishing third. Lion Of Belfort looks to be a frequenter of top level races.

Meanwhile, in the Northern Hemisphere, the foals of EPI stallion Astronomer Royal are also on the ascent. Stellar Path, a filly out of Verglas mare America Nova, has made four wins and two placings from 7 starts. Her recent

在地球另一端，穿梭南北半球的Eliza Park International種馬Astronomer Royal，子嗣也一時瑜亮，當中兩歲馬女Stellar Path (母系America Nova，by Verglas) 去年七戰獲四冠一亞一季，最近一戰是十月中於多維爾馬場 (Deauville) 兩歲馬三級賽1600米取勝，過程予取予攜，另外Table Ronde六戰三贏兩位，包括於多維爾馬場的三級賽1600米Prix de Lieurey，在蘇銘倫胯下僅敗在當時未敗之師，高多芬馬房 (Godolphin) 旗下Zibelina，看來歐洲新馬季稍後揭幕，好消息還會陸續有來！

start at the 1600-metre G3 Deauville race resulted in an easy win. Table Ronde, a three-year-old out of Irish-bred mare Tanzania, has had three wins and two placings from six starts, including the 1600-metre G3 Prix de Lieurey. With jockey Christoph Soumillon in the saddle, she beat the previously undefeated Zibelina of Godolphin Stables. It looks like there will be plenty of good news for Eliza Park International in the upcoming European season!



■ Lion Of Belfort



■ Iconic

MASTER MIND

大師班



David Philip Boehm

“A Stud Farm by Reason of 包大偉：a Mishap.”

「不快經歷促成購買牧場。」

早於1971年，香港賽馬由業餘進入職業時代，澳洲人與馬關係一直如影隨形，至今時今日，該國仍是本港馬匹主要來源地，進駐騎師及練馬師更多不勝數，到去年更進一步，既有著名牧場Eliza Park International，由太陽國際資源有限公司全資收購，再有揚威港澳兩地的練馬師，大衛希斯家族的靈犀牧場，不久前轉讓予「大運財」及「事事為王」馬主潘蘇通，於墨爾本及南澳洲這兩路新力軍掘興之前，還有本港良駒「花月春風」及「風花雪月」馬主包大偉，兩年前買入澳洲新南威爾斯省甚具規模的牧場Muskoka Farm，為何愛馬士總對此道趨之若鶩，又如何將嗜好與投資完美整合？聽包大偉一席話，大概已不難找到答案。

撰文：曹秋華

Ever since Hong Kong horse racing became fully professional in 1971, horses and expertise from Australia have supported the development of the industry. Nowadays, Australia is still one of the major sources of imported thoroughbreds, and in Hong Kong, there are many Australian jockeys and trainers. The 'connection' became even closer last year, as the famous Eliza Park International was acquired by Sun International Resources Ltd., and Lindsay Park, developed by Champion trainers Colin and David Hayes, was sold to Pan Sutong (owner of Gold-Fun and Akeed Mofeed). However, one year prior to those two big trades encompassing properties in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, DAVID PHILIP BOEHM, owner of Dan Excel and Secret Sham, purchased the well-equipped Muskoka Farm in New South Wales. So, why do Hong Kong racing fans like buying farms in Australia? How do they meld their hobbies with investment? On behalf of Black Type, Cho Chau Wah put the questions to Mr Boehm.

Text: Cho Chau Wah



「風花雪月」
Secret Sham

曹：曹秋華 包：包大偉

曹：早於我這未投身傳媒行業，已知悉你是賽馬發燒友，但買入Muskoka Farm晉級成為牧場主人，倒有點始料不及。

包：我本身從事投資業，工作上也要尋找合適項目，我與馬主張顯信和Muskoka Farm場主稔熟；好幾年前，我們已有馬在那裡棲身，彼此既相識多時，得知對方有意放售，經稍深入探討，Muskoka Farm配套各方面都極之理想，大家又各具誠意，快人快語，多談兩句便達成交易。

曹：一般馬主不能，也不會在海外搜購有名望牧場，起碼在港角度，行為上似乎有點瘋狂。

包：錯了！正如我剛才所說，這涉及投資，也看得出有實際的需要，這不關乎個人，也包含香港馬圈長遠利益，其中一個觸發點，源自04年來港的「光芒萬丈」；該駒來港前已屬我名下，由周歲開始，整個成長過程與變化我都一清二楚，於來港前陣子，從圖片資料所見身光顯靚，詎料到步一

刻，竟渾身雜毛且頗骯髒，前後相比兩個模樣，我和練馬師大摩都怒不可遏，試想想幼稚園教師，把小孩弄得不堪入目，任何父母都不能接受，道理如此簡單，驅使我朝這方向進發，將不良現象扭轉，務求準馬主們愛駒得到妥善照顧，為未來做好每一步，至於「光芒萬丈」，在港只於新馬班跑過幾場，難以成才便退役作罷。

C: Cho Chau Wah B: Boehm

C: Before writing about horse racing, I had known that you are a racing fan; but I was really stunned by your recent purchase of Muskoka Farm.

B: In my career as an investor, I am used to looking for suitable projects. The horse owner, Anthony Cheung, and I had acquaintance with the owners of Muskoka Farm for quite a few years because it is home to several of our horses. Several years ago, we knew that they

were going to sell the well-equipped property, and after a pleasant conversation, we organised the purchase.

C: Horse owners seldom buy stud farms overseas - is this a bit crazy to us Hong-kongers?

B: Absolutely not! This is not only beneficial to me personally, but also to the Hong Kong racing industry. The motivation is due, in part, to Broad Spectrum arriving at Hong Kong in 2004. I had owned him since he was a yearling, and so I could see his growth and development clearly. Indeed, John Moore and I were annoyed when first seeing him in Hong Kong as he was dirty and unkempt - completely different from the attractive one in the photo sent to us! Can you imagine parents accepting kindergarten teachers mistreating their kids? It was because of that incident I became determined to ensure

that my horses receive proper care before they embark upon their racing careers. Broad Spectrum was eventually retired after running in several novice races in which I could see no future in him.

曹：貴為Muskoka Farm主人，可否介紹一下？

包：Muskoka Farm位處Hawkesbury River一帶偌大原野，自1969年由好友Bob Lapointe家族持有，四周環境，就如我最愛的「鳥語花香」名字一樣，且早有藝術之鎮 (States of the Art) 雅號，美景風光，應該已不難想像。該處面積280英畝，是無數冠軍馬發源地，園內共有58座馬房、16部行馬機、63個獨立放草場，還有圓周2400米，直路長達800米的木糠跑道，及全程2000米草地跑道，其餘馬匹游泳池等無一或缺，其他訓練裝備，也不斷在提升中。

曹：那麼Muskoka Farm可會像Eliza Park International般，擁有雄馬與牝馬作配種用途？

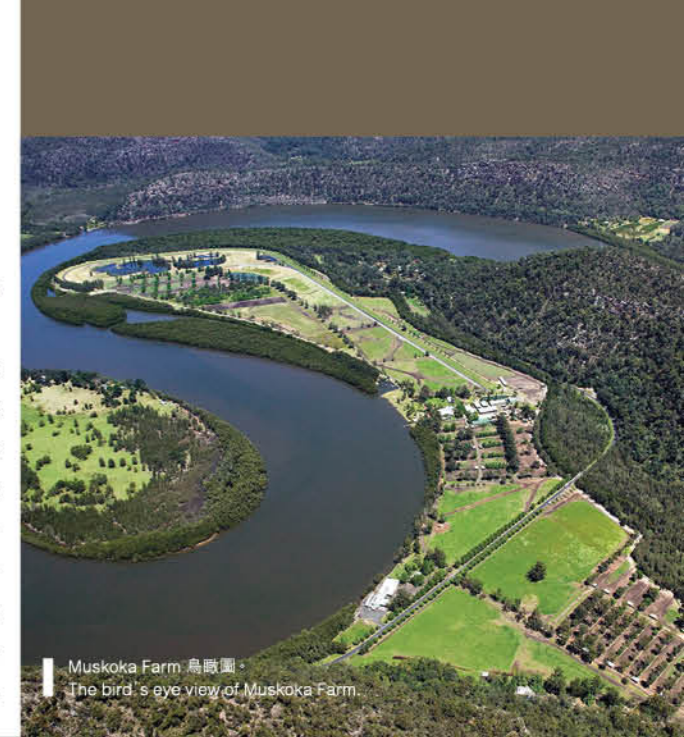
包：目前有些母馬在Muskoka Farm，但只屬寄居性質，可以這麼說，Muskoka Farm與Eliza Park International方針上各有不同；Eliza Park International主力配種育馬業務，Muskoka Farm則以出口馬匹檢疫為核心，賣點是隔離期間，仍可以如常操練，同時兩者都有專業人員主理幼馬培訓，以及成長馬放牧等服務，所以算是各有各做，毫無衝突，不過得說一句，我與Eliza Park International掌舵人鄭丁港先生俱幹勁十足，全情投入。

C: As an owner, can you introduce Muskoka Farm?

B: Muskoka Farm is located on the banks of Hawkesbury River and was owned by Bob Lapointe, who began developing the property in 1969. The property is state of the art and the views are magnificent. Spread over 280 acres, the farm has produced many stars and the facilities include 58 stables, 16 horse walkers, 63 individual fenced spelling yards, a 2400m crusher dust track with an 800m straight, a 2000m grass track for pace work and swimming pools, with numerous services in the process of upgrade.

C: Will you have breeding stock - similar to that of Eliza Park International?

B: There are a few broodmares at Muskoka Farm, but they are there simply agisting. Horse breeding is the major business of Eliza Park International, but Muskoka Farm focuses on providing training and care services to exported horses during their quarantine; so, although both of us provide professional rearing for foals and race training, we are completely different in terms of business. Yet, what Mr.



Muskoka Farm 鳥瞰圖。
The bird's eye view of Muskoka Farm.

「鳥語花香」勝出女皇銀禧紀念盃。
Happy Zero won the Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup.



Cheng Ting Kong (the owner of Eliza Park International) and I have in common is our deep devotion for the thoroughbred!

曹：現在Muskoka Farm沒涉足配種業，他日有否這方面計劃？

包：可見未來都不會了，我買入Muskoka Farm，服務目標在香港馬圈；老實說，在「光芒萬丈」一事中，我已親身領教過那個檢疫馬房的質素，真不想其他馬主跟我有着一樣的不快經歷，故此只一心致力做好馬匹出口前工作。過去曾有國家因檢疫馬房受病毒感染，令數以十計準備出口馬滯留，Muskoka Farm容不下一子錯，所有人等包括我在內，進出檢疫站都必須經消毒程序，確保馬兒在最安全環境，以最健康姿態步出牧場，送交給主人及練馬師。

曹：目前Muskoka Farm營運情況如何？

包：十分好！現在每個廄房都住滿馬匹，受歡迎原因除「鳥語花香」、「讚感」、「紅旗勇將」及「崇山寶」等珠玉在前，所處位置亦佔到優勢；Muskoka Farm距離悉尼機場僅兩小時車程，出口相當便利，即使從維省前來，乘運馬車亦只十二小時左右。另我更想強調一點，以往有些馬像「光芒萬丈」般，檢疫前後全不對辦，馬主投訴又不獲受理，我作為Muskoka Farm主理人，亦經常在港，有不滿大可隨時前來反映，我會親自處理，如是者金漆招牌，客戶當充滿信心。

C: So, what will Muskoka Farm's main function be?

B: From the experience I had with Broad Spectrum, I want to achieve the goal of running an excellent - worry-free - quarantine stable for Hong Kong horse owners. Previously, there

were horses which got infected in quarantine stables in other countries, resulting in detention of dozens of runners to be exported, and so, I understand that Muskoka Farm can make no mistakes: all members of staff, including me, must ensure an totally safe environment for the horses in our quarantine stable. Their owners and trainers could thus see their horses in an excellent condition in Hong Kong.

C: What is the current status at Muskoka Farm?

B: Excellent! The stables are all full now. Apart from our successful runners like Happy Zero, Admiration, Time After Time and Amber Sky, we are well liked also because of the farm's magnificent location which is excellent for exports: it is just two hours from Sydney Airport, and 12 hours from Victoria on horse transport

lorries. There is a thing I want to emphasise: the horses will not look so different before and after the quarantine, like Broad Spectrum, regardless how owners complain about that; I, the owner of Muskoka Farm, am always in Hong Kong that my consumers could certainly complain about any mistreatment of their horses, and should there be any, I will deal with it myself to give my consumers total confidence.

曹：除敢言且有承擔，也感覺你長情，起碼在港養馬，除了大摩，從未與別位練馬師合作。

包：作為摩廠長期支持者，我與「新力」系馬主黃良柏可算並駕齊驅（按：黃良柏第一駒「收銀機」屬林紅飛馬房），自88年的「特駒」開始，我與大摩一起已廿五年，時間過得真快！

曹：當初你為何移居香港？

包：我在澳洲任職會計師，受僱於一家投資機構，業務遍及美國及亞太區，81年被委派來港，後來公司出現問題，我既喜歡這彈丸之地充滿活力，人們又很友善，遂決定留下來自立門戶，定居至今逾卅載，我從沒想過離開。

C: You are clearly very close to John Moore - have you ever had horses with other trainers?

B: Matthew Wong Leung Pak, who owned Sunny line (note: Cash Register, Wong's first horse, was in H.F. Lam's stable), and I became patrons of Moore's stable since our cooperation with Aristocrat in 1988, it has now been 25 years!

C: Why did you migrate to Hong Kong?

B: I was sent to Hong Kong in 1981 while



working as an accountant in an Australian investment company that ran businesses in America and Asia-Pacific, yet later on, the company was in trouble. I decided to start my business in Hong Kong - a dynamic cosmopolitan region full of friendly people ... I have been here for 30 years and have never thought of leaving.

曹：因為你和大摩都來自澳洲，同聲同氣，所以這度投緣？

包：於80年代中期，我已是馬會會員，是本港馬迷一份子，也有志成為馬主，但傳說中首次入紙申請必定落空，所以並沒太上心，及至某天，我在跑馬地會所午膳，人們圍着告示板竊竊私語，好奇一看，原來公佈中籤名單，且榜上有名，高興之際，並未有即時考慮練馬師，我一位好友John Stewart名下「赤龍」及後來「鑽石先鋒」都由摩廠訓練，經介紹認識大摩，但相交與同一國籍並無關連。

曹：眾所周知大摩自86年開倉後，一直是前列份子，但主觀性格甚強，也非所有馬主都能接受。

包：我雖是摩廠合作最長久馬主之一，說沒爭辯只是騙人而已，偶有意見相左，大致圍繞於部署



「花月春風」由馬偉昌策騎，揚威上季冠軍一哩賽 (Champions Mile)。
Dan Excel, ridden by W C Marwing, finished first in the last Champion Mile.



如路程及騎師配搭之類，可笑是每次拗撬，最終對的仍是他，也不得不拜服其專業判斷。記得約十年前，大摩替「雀躍」報名參賽，他誇下海口 Sure Win，但我身在溫哥華公幹，要求擇日再謀出擊，他堅持黃金機會不可錯過，通話中雙方企硬，但這沒意思，只好萬般不願地趕返港。

曹：結果呢？

包：「雀躍」真的Easy Win！

C: Both you and John Moore are Australians; is that one of the reasons you two have cooperated so closely?

B: I was a racing fan and became a member of Hong Kong Jockey Club in the mid-80s, and always wanted to be a horse owner, but I knew how difficult it is to acquire an ownership in a ballot. One day, I was having lunch in the Jockey Club where people were standing in front of a board reading the ballot results, then I looked at the board and saw my name. I was

thrilled, but did not think about trainers until my friend, John Stewart (who raced Pastime and Diamond Head with the Moore stable) introduced me to John. So, strictly speaking, our nationality is not a reason of our partnership.

C: John Moore's stable has been hugely successful since opening in 1986, but not all owners can cope with his strong will.

B: We have had disagreements on races in which to run but his decisions have always



「詩情畫意」
Art Trader



「花月佳期」
Straight Gold

impressed me. Ten years ago, John wanted Xlerate to have a gallop, saying that he would definitely win; I was in Vancouver and so asked for a few days to consider, but he insisted that we should not miss such a good opportunity. We had a fight on the phone, but eventually, I yielded and came back to Hong Kong reluctantly.

C: And the result?

B: Xlerate won!

曹：歷年來你在港共有14駒，哪一匹是心中至愛？

包：基本上贏過與否的都是至愛，包括無功而退的「如詩如畫」，該駒在美國曾出闖大脫腳仍能後來居上，惜來港後受足患困擾。當然，不得不

提勝出次數最多的「鳥語花香」，這馬在澳洲曾絞腸痧垂危，大摩認為救回也難成大器，我堅持運港視乎進度再算，這一回我贏了，但2010年赴新加坡作賽後，我倆卻一起出錯，「鳥語花香」由當地直飛英國，為皇家雅士谷賽期金禧標備戰，但那裡上斜操練跑道，對這匹腹部曾開刀的馬倍感吃力，效果欠佳下大敗而回，並引發出背部問題，自此久休一年仍無復舊觀，目前「鳥語花香」在澳洲展開馬術生涯，可幸又有另一番成就。現役之中「花月春風」也很得我心，於2011/12年度馬季煞科日最後一場，牠險勝「家樂飛」，剛好取得該季自購馬贏一班賽60萬特別獎金。

曹：今季有沒有新力軍到港？

包：我有一匹三歲馬Happy Meteor目前仍在澳洲，去年八月初出於1100米僅敗，未幾足部有小問題，並無大礙，預算多跑一兩場，符合入口獎金資格便會運港。

C: You have had 14 runners in Hong Kong, which is your favourite?

B: All winners are my favourites. On top of them, Chinggis, which did not win, is also my favourite; he caught up in an Australian race although missing the jump, but he was plagued by his foot injury after arriving in Hong Kong. Surely, Happy Zero, which got most trophies among my horses, is my pick. Seeing the affliction with intestinal illnesses that Happy Zero suffered from in Australia, John Moore thought he could not run nicely after recovery, but I insisted and so won the dispute. However, we made a wrong decision in 2010 after his race in Singapore: Happy Zero was sent to the United Kingdom to run in a race in Diamond Jubilee Stake at Royal Ascot; the upslope training for a horse that had abdominal surgery was

so difficult, and eventually it ended in a humiliating defeat. Worse still, the race triggered his back pain and there was no improvement after a year of rest. Now, Happy Zero is in Australia living a life of equestrian, wherein he achieved a lot. The active runner Dan Excel is my pick too; in the last race in 2011/12 finale, he narrowly won Familists, taking the special prize money of HK\$600,000 for privately purchase griffins.

C: Is there any new runners coming to Hong Kong this season?

B: I have a 3-year-old, Happy Meteor, in Australia now. He was narrowly beaten in a 1100m race last August, and subsequently suffered from a minor leg problem, I will let him run in Hong Kong after having one or two more races and reaching the requirement.

曹：說個題外話，於「詩情畫意」、「花好月圓」等之前，我覺得你在港第二駒，90年到港的「駿馬」英文名Democrat最特別。

包：我很愛香港，就連身份證都有中文名字包大偉，於馬會網頁亦然，既早已以此為家，大小事都會關心，我們一班志同道合，更組成慈善機構The Hub Hong Kong，去年於深水埗覓得數千呎單位作為社區中心，以零收費形式給兒童提供暫託、課餘補習教育及照顧等服務，就連膳食也是免費，希望做到取諸社會，用諸社會。

曹：為何對此區情有獨鍾？動機也好得不能再好。

包：這可算機緣巧合！記得前年我身在悉尼，駕車途中收聽電台，主持人Bill Crews本身於泰國辦了個關愛兒童非牟利組織，節目中他指出不少街童，因缺乏照顧，處境極差，我備受感動下與他聯絡，共同理念是縱一兩人之力無法改變全世界，仍希望幫得一個得一個，返港經研究後，確定以深水埗最多基層以下市民，也有不少新移民，努力謀

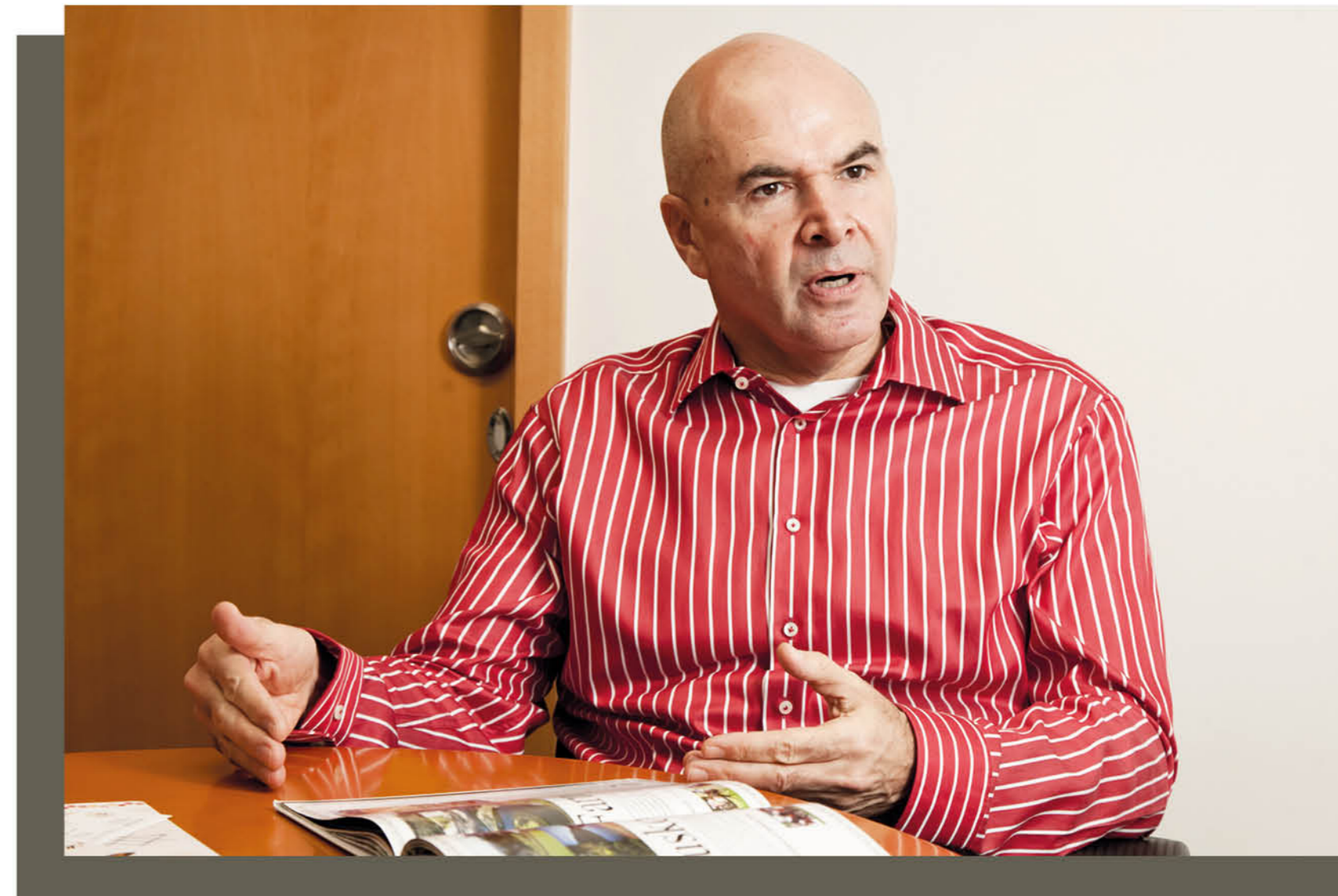
生卻無暇照顧孩子，為這些未來社會主人翁獲較佳成長環境，遂全力實踐，成功設立這個兒童社區中心；去年十月，The Hub Hong Kong舉行的慈善晚宴，得不少馬主朋友們慷慨解囊，成功籌得七位數字，希望他日發揚光大，將服務伸延至其他低下階層。

曹：作為香港人，David，很多謝你的好意！

包：但願會有更多朋友支持The Hub Hong Kong，為有需要人士出一分力，同舟共濟。

C: If you will allow a digression: the name of Democrat - the second horse you had in Hong Kong - is very special, besides Art Trader and Eysal.

B: I love Hong Kong - I have my Chinese name on my identity card and the website of Hong Kong Jockey Club, and so, I am concerned with all affairs in Hong Kong. Last year, my





2007年金拖鞋大賽冠軍Sebring在Muskoka Farm漫步。
Sebring, the winner of Golden Slipper Stakes 2007, enjoyed his walking in Muskoka Farm.



「桂冠」認同包大偉服務社會理念，積極贊助The Hub Hong Kong設立兒童社區中心，圖為包大偉在The Hub慈善晚宴上留影。
In appreciation of the endeavour of Bohem, Black Type fully supported The Hub Hong Kong in establishing a community centre for schoolchildren. In the photo: Bohem in the charity dinner of The Hub.



friends and I organised The Hub Hong Kong, which has been providing free after-school childcare, catering and educational services in a community centre of a few thousands sq. ft. to children in Sham Shui Po. We are all willing to contribute to this society.

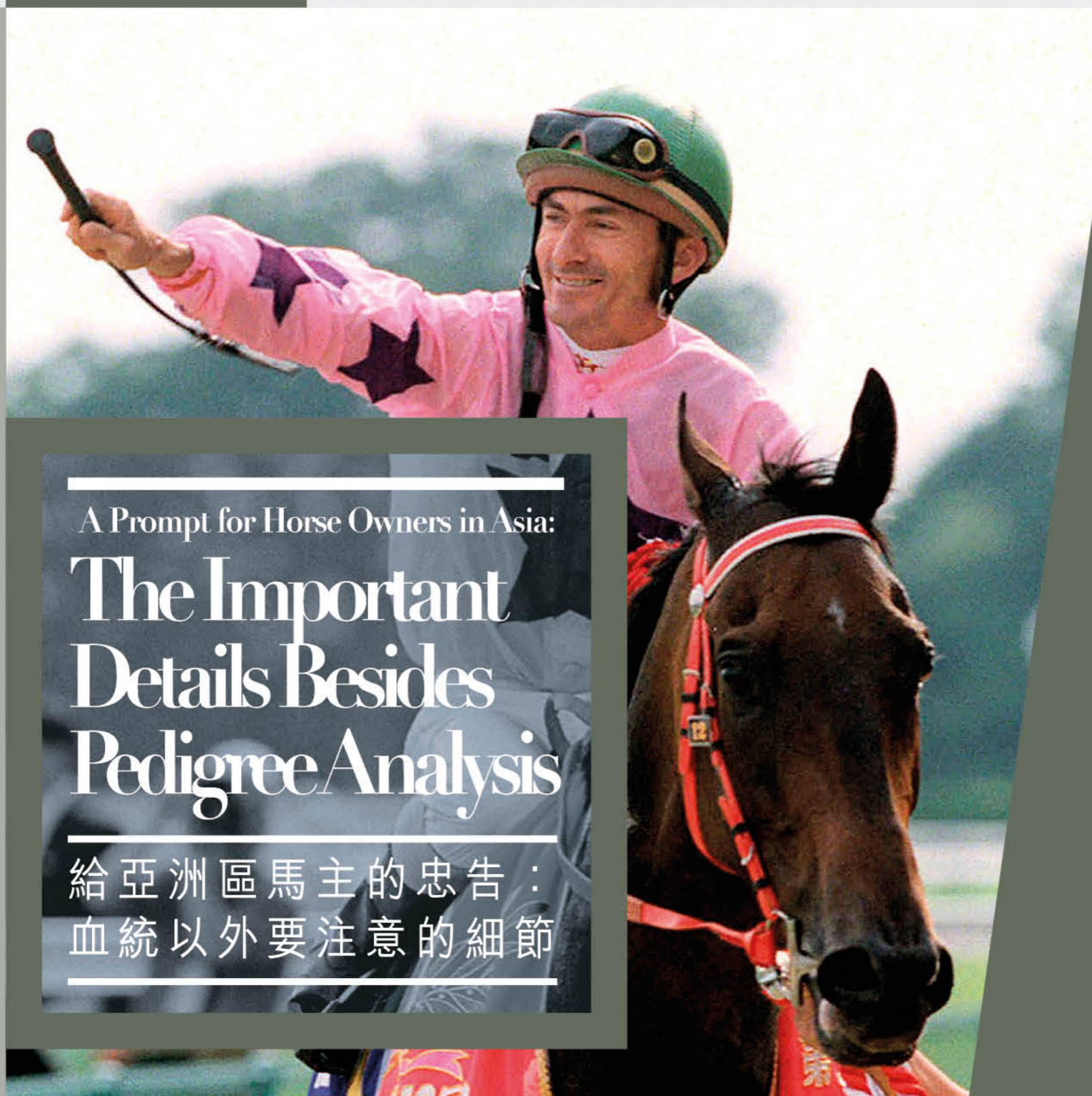
C: It is a great project. Why did you choose Sham Shui Po?

B: By coincidence. While I was driving in Sydney in 2011, I heard about a program by Bill Crews, who started an organisation in Thailand for children there; he said in his program that there were numerous homeless children in poor condition in Thailand. I was moved by his story, and so, I called him; we both believed that we must help as many children as we can although it was impossible to change the world with only the contribution of two men. After studying the situation in Hong Kong, I knew that there were many people living in poverty in Sham Shui Po, and many of them were new immigrants that could hardly take care of their children because of their demanding jobs. Therefore, I decided to provide a good environment for these children - the future pillars of our society - by running a community centre. Last October, we held the The Hub Hong Kong charity dinner, in which many friends of mine, who are also horse owners, donated millions to support the centre. I hope that The Hub Hong Kong can extend its services to more people living in penury.

C: As a Hongkonger, I thank you for such a tremendous contribution.

B: I hope there will be more Hub Hong Kong supporters that help people in need.

前馬王「靚蝦王」速度快但又極之溫馴，因而能取得豐功偉績，圖為「靚蝦王」勝出日本安田紀念賽後所攝。
Fairy King Prawn is a top sprinter with a compliant and calm temperament, hence his great success. The photo was taken after his victory in Yasuda Kinen in Japan.



A Prompt for Horse Owners in Asia:
**The Important
Details Besides
Pedigree Analysis**

給亞洲區馬主的忠告：
血統以外要注意的細節



「喜跑得」來自德國，環境氣候與香港迥異，評分下調甚多仍未交回港前水準。
Hollywood Kiss came from Germany, which has distinct environment and climate from Hong Kong; his performance in Hong Kong is far worse.

馬主有很多種：有些從不吝高腰間錢，一擲千金但求買到高質馬，矢志於大賽揚威；有些志在參與，只求愛駒贏夠獎金自給自足，其他一概少理；有一種根本志不在綠茵場上，養馬只為彰顯身分，或與朋友聯誼及方便傾生意。姑勿論你屬於哪一種，養到一匹好馬，總比養到一匹毫無表現之馬來得滿足。問題是，賽馬從來不會肯定付出收益成正比，馬匹從世界各地來到亞洲地區服役，中間變數之多難以想像，怎樣才可以「趨吉避凶」，看完這篇文章之後，或許會令大家對買馬帶來新概念。

撰文：郭騰駿

Some horse owners are lavish in chasing performance; some have to balance between cost and aspirations; and some are just satisfied with the thrill of ownership, regardless of performance. Regardless of which camp you may be in, there is no dispute that owning a fast racehorse is better than owning a slow one! However, as we all know, investing more does not necessarily guarantee a higher return. Horses racing in Asia are from different parts of the world, and the impact of the complicated procedure on the runners involved in the travelling is hardly predictable, how can one choose a good horse amid all these challenges? This article may provide you some insights.

Text: Leslie Kwok

買馬首要考慮的事，並非馬匹質素如何，而是本身健康情況。此點通常有獸醫代勞，而馬會亦會要求馬匹有健康證明，才會批准入口。馬匹四肢健康固然重要，至於馬匹的心理健康，同樣會影響日後發展。先別說在外地未跑過的自購新馬 (PPG)，就算在外地有過豐功偉績的自購馬 (PP)，千里迢迢運到來亞洲地區後，表現完全走樣的例子多的是。大家可會諗過是和馬匹的居住條件有關？育馬先進國家例如英國、美國及澳洲等，牠們都有一個共通點，就是幅員廣闊，為育馬者提供足夠土地興建所需設施，甚至讓馬匹有充足空間活動。相反在亞洲主要賽馬地區例如香港、新加坡以及澳門，普遍都是地少人多，寸金尺土，要興建馬場及馬房已是浩大工程，又怎可以讓馬匹「適山跑」？

Your first consideration should be the health of your horse, which is usually examined by veterinarians and verified by the Jockey Club prior to issuing import permits. In addition to physical health, psychological health of a horse is also pivotal to its performance. There are numerous failures among the inexperienced privately purchased griffins (PPG), and even experienced privately purchased horses (PP) after their long journey to Asia, which can often be ascribed to their new environment in Asia. Leading horse breeding countries like Britain, the United States and Australia have vast areas for breeders to build extensive facilities, and

horses have ample living space to do what horses to best. Conversely, major horse racing regions in Asia, for instance, Hong Kong, Singapore and Macau, are tiny and densely populated; it is, therefore, difficult to build racecourses and stables, not to mention giving horses an open area to live and thrive.



「蓮華生輝」
Sacred Kingdom

詢問有關馬匹的作息習慣

有一些負責馬匹早期訓練的馬房員工十分聰明，當了解新馬將要運往亞洲地區服役，就會在訓練上作出調整。當馬匹每日完成試跑等訓練，需要休息及進食，都會讓馬匹留在馬格之內，使牠們盡量適應亞洲地區較細小的居住環境。不要輕視這個細節，曾經有一匹在澳洲一出即勝的自購馬，運到香港後評分不高，健康亦正常，可是在晨操以至參賽時總有一些不規矩的小毛病，訓練該駒的練馬師摸不着頭腦，於是向在澳洲打理該駒的馬伏查問，原來該駒在早上及下午訓練完畢，練馬師都喜歡讓馬兒在偌大草原奔跑，試問一匹習慣無拘無束的年輕馬匹，又怎會適應在香港密度比較高的馬房呢？結果該駒跑至第十仗才能險勝一仗，雖然有些微回報，但在漫長等待期間，馬主失望的心情相信亦很容易理解。如果不想這樣，買馬前不妨親力親為，向打理該駒的工作人員了解馬匹的生活習慣，提出所需要求，對自己的投資多一份保障。

多留意馬匹的小動靜

常言道養馬無須太介懷質素，最緊要愛駒夠忠心，唔好「古靈精怪」。大家或許會問，單憑馬匹跑姿，甚至研究父母兩線遺傳，都無可能知道該駒是否忠心，莫非只能靠運氣？其實養馬不同養小孩，自己兒女若然天資聰敏固然可喜，不過假如馬匹太過聰明，陣上太多思考，影響騎師發揮，就絕對不是值得恭喜的事。根據研究，適合競賽年齡的馬匹，擁有一個幾歲小孩的智商，小孩會依偎父母，而乖巧的馬匹，則會依賴照顧牠的工作人員。大家揀馬時，不妨留意馬匹被馬伏牽引時的姿態。比較依賴的馬匹，行走時肩膀通常喜歡貼近馬伏，與人類有較多交流，較容易受人駕馭，這類馬就是人們所稱的忠心馬。

此外，忠心馬的神色亦比較集中。出色的香港短途馬王「靚蝦王」、「精英大師」及「蓮華生輝」，競跑時快如子彈，不要以為牠們平日都是「動若脫兔」，事實上是「靜如處子」。訓練「蓮華生輝」的練馬師姚本輝曾經講過，該駒平日在馬房內極為內斂，要牠呆站兩小時是很容易的事。這類馬情緒集中，在亞洲區較細小的設施居住及訓練尤其重要，因此大家買馬前，除了研究馬匹血統及型格前，亦不妨留意這些馬匹的小動靜。

Asking about Horses' Living Habits

Experienced stable staff members responsible for pre-training arrange suitable training sessions for horse to be moved to Asia, for instance, the staffs leave horses in stalls in order to let them adapt the living environment in Asia. These minor changes can be powerful. A privately purchased horse from Australia had lacklustre performance in Hong Kong; its trainer was perplexed because the horse was a champion in Australia, and worse still, in trackworks and even races, it has minor faults. The baffled trainer approached the stable assistant that looked after the horse who told the trainer that the horse used to run on a vast plain after morning and afternoon training sessions. This explained the problem: a young horse that once in the habit of living in an open space could hardly be accustomed to cramming itself into the small stables in Hong Kong.

but, as you may ask, a horse's temperament could not be seen from its stride and pedigree, how do we know whether a horse is tractable? We always hope that our children are intelligent and clever, yet, the same rule does not apply to our horses: certain horses may not 'listen' to jockeys, who could, therefore, face difficulties in improving the performance of the horse. It is proven that an active horse has the intelligence of a toddler; a toddler relies on his or her parents, and similarly, an amenable horse counts on stable workers' providing care. Therefore, when choosing a horse, you may observe its movements while being led by stable workers - a compliant and docile horse usually walks closely with workers, and has interaction with them.

Moreover, these manageable horses are more focused. The great sprinters Fairy King Prawn, Silent Witness and Sacred Kingdom



「利李之星」來港時名氣響亮，可惜未能適應環境，至少未有任何起色。
Despite his fame upon arrival, Leeli's Star could not adapt to the local environment and had no good result.

This horse eventually ended its owner's disappointment by gaining its first success in the tenth start. If you don't want to experience the same, try to ask about horses' living habits and express your concerns; this helps protect your investment.

Observe Horses' Slight Movements

It is a common belief that obedience is a prime consideration when choosing a horse;

are perfectly tranquil when they are not running on the track. Ricky Yiu, the trainer of Sacred Kingdom, recalled that the horse was calm in the stable and that asking him to stand still for two hours was not a problem. These docile horses are particularly suitable for living and receiving training in small facilities in Asia, so, apart from analysing a horse's pedigree and physical appearance, you may also observe these subtle movements before bidding.