

# Jockeys

## Introduction

Love them or hate them, we need our champion jockeys just as much as we need our champion racehorses (well almost as much). The glamour boys of racing (in some cases), they certainly are the bravest of sportsmen in a life threatening sport, and should be rewarded as such.

But what makes a good jockey?

1. Good horseman?
2. Good race rider?
3. Good judge of pace?
4. Hard worker?
5. Good at interviews?
6. Good at dinner parties?

Probably all of the above, but I have listed the above talents in my order of preference.

The cream rises to the top as they say, and that is especially true with jockeys. But (and its a big BUT) when a jockey has risen to the top, the odds of their rides generally overestimate the chance of the horse (i.e. the odds will be shorter than they should), and will have incorporated a factor that reflects the popularity of the jockey. Also, the opposite happens, such that the odds of a horse ridden by a not so popular jockey, will underestimate the chance of that horse (i.e. the odds will be longer than they should).

## Jockey Strike Rates

Win/Ride percentages (or Strike Rate) are the easiest statistic figures to understand. Below are tables that show current jockey strike rates in Hong Kong on turf for the past twelve months (at time of writing 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020)

| _Jockey      | _WinsAll | _RidesAll | _PcAll | _WinsST | _RidesST | _PcST | _WinsHV | _RidesHV | PcHV  |
|--------------|----------|-----------|--------|---------|----------|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| Borges, V    | 19       | 286       | 6.6%   | 10      | 173      | 5.8%  | 9       | 113      | 8.0%  |
| Badel, A     | 33       | 333       | 9.9%   | 22      | 194      | 11.3% | 11      | 139      | 7.9%  |
| Callan, N    | 23       | 450       | 5.1%   | 16      | 258      | 6.2%  | 7       | 192      | 3.6%  |
| Chadwick, M  | 24       | 463       | 5.2%   | 12      | 260      | 4.6%  | 12      | 203      | 5.9%  |
| Chan, K      | 16       | 266       | 6.0%   | 13      | 159      | 8.2%  | 3       | 107      | 2.8%  |
| Chau, C      | 13       | 137       | 9.5%   | 8       | 110      | 7.3%  | 5       | 27       | 18.5% |
| Hamelin, A   | 20       | 303       | 6.6%   | 12      | 183      | 6.6%  | 8       | 120      | 6.7%  |
| Ho, C        | 66       | 585       | 11.3%  | 31      | 332      | 9.3%  | 35      | 253      | 13.8% |
| Lai, H       | 3        | 269       | 1.1%   | 2       | 163      | 1.2%  | 1       | 106      | 0.9%  |
| Leung, K     | 26       | 513       | 5.1%   | 13      | 303      | 4.3%  | 13      | 210      | 6.2%  |
| Mo, H        | 7        | 297       | 2.4%   | 3       | 175      | 1.7%  | 4       | 122      | 3.3%  |
| Moreira, J   | 121      | 641       | 18.9%  | 86      | 389      | 22.1% | 35      | 252      | 13.9% |
| Piccone, T   | 7        | 90        | 7.8%   | 5       | 53       | 9.4%  | 2       | 37       | 5.4%  |
| Poon, M      | 27       | 499       | 5.4%   | 18      | 300      | 6.0%  | 9       | 199      | 4.5%  |
| Purton, Z    | 137      | 640       | 21.4%  | 75      | 373      | 20.1% | 62      | 267      | 23.2% |
| Schofield, C | 37       | 442       | 8.4%   | 19      | 267      | 7.1%  | 18      | 175      | 10.3% |
| Shinn, B     | 13       | 401       | 3.2%   | 7       | 229      | 3.1%  | 6       | 172      | 3.5%  |
| Teetan, K    | 79       | 643       | 12.3%  | 43      | 385      | 11.2% | 36      | 258      | 14.0% |
| Wong, C      | 8        | 217       | 3.7%   | 3       | 121      | 2.5%  | 5       | 96       | 5.2%  |
| Wong, H      | 4        | 294       | 1.4%   | 3       | 184      | 1.6%  | 1       | 110      | 0.9%  |
| Yeung, M     | 8        | 384       | 2.1%   | 5       | 252      | 2.0%  | 3       | 132      | 2.3%  |
| All          | 747      | 9186      | 8.1%   | 429     | 5456     | 7.9%  | 318     | 3730     | 8.5%  |

The above table shows a few interesting things, it is calculated from results over the past calendar year.

- The Win percentage strike rate for each jockey in all races, Sha Tin races, and Happy Valley races. These values can differ significantly.
- The average strike rate for all races, which is basically total races / total runners
- The effectiveness of each jockey at Sha Tin compared with Happy Valley.

A slight variation on the above table is shown below. This time I have only included horses where the odds are less than or equal to 20.00. As such extreme outsiders that have little chance of winning are excluded, so giving more realistic values.

| _Jockey      | _WinsAll | _RidesAll | _PcAll | _WinsST | _RidesST | _PcST | _WinsHV | _RidesHV | PcHV  |
|--------------|----------|-----------|--------|---------|----------|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| Borges, V    | 16       | 136       | 11.8%  | 9       | 75       | 12.0% | 7       | 61       | 11.5% |
| Badel, A     | 31       | 242       | 12.8%  | 20      | 130      | 15.4% | 11      | 112      | 9.8%  |
| Callan, N    | 21       | 264       | 8.0%   | 15      | 128      | 11.7% | 6       | 136      | 4.4%  |
| Chadwick, M  | 19       | 239       | 7.9%   | 10      | 130      | 7.7%  | 9       | 109      | 8.3%  |
| Chan, K      | 15       | 143       | 10.5%  | 12      | 77       | 15.6% | 3       | 66       | 4.5%  |
| Chau, C      | 12       | 108       | 11.1%  | 7       | 86       | 8.1%  | 5       | 22       | 22.7% |
| Hamelin, A   | 19       | 216       | 8.8%   | 12      | 127      | 9.4%  | 7       | 89       | 7.9%  |
| Ho, C        | 60       | 436       | 13.8%  | 28      | 230      | 12.2% | 32      | 206      | 15.5% |
| Lai, H       | 2        | 42        | 4.8%   | 2       | 24       | 8.3%  | 0       | 18       | 0.0%  |
| Leung, K     | 20       | 216       | 9.3%   | 10      | 118      | 8.5%  | 10      | 98       | 10.2% |
| Mo, H        | 3        | 66        | 4.5%   | 0       | 25       | 0.0%  | 3       | 41       | 7.3%  |
| Moreira, J   | 120      | 620       | 19.4%  | 85      | 376      | 22.6% | 35      | 244      | 14.3% |
| Piccone, T   | 5        | 56        | 8.9%   | 3       | 30       | 10.0% | 2       | 26       | 7.7%  |
| Poon, M      | 22       | 213       | 10.3%  | 14      | 107      | 13.1% | 8       | 106      | 7.5%  |
| Purton, Z    | 137      | 623       | 22.0%  | 75      | 362      | 20.7% | 62      | 261      | 23.8% |
| Schofield, C | 33       | 292       | 11.3%  | 17      | 167      | 10.2% | 16      | 125      | 12.8% |
| Shinn, B     | 12       | 216       | 5.6%   | 7       | 114      | 6.1%  | 5       | 102      | 4.9%  |
| Teetan, K    | 77       | 549       | 14.0%  | 41      | 320      | 12.8% | 36      | 229      | 15.7% |
| Wong, C      | 6        | 76        | 7.9%   | 2       | 34       | 5.9%  | 4       | 42       | 9.5%  |
| Wong, H      | 2        | 40        | 5.0%   | 1       | 13       | 7.7%  | 1       | 27       | 3.7%  |
| Yeung, M     | 5        | 87        | 5.7%   | 3       | 51       | 5.9%  | 2       | 36       | 5.6%  |
| All          | 687      | 5394      | 12.7%  | 393     | 3002     | 13.1% | 294     | 2392     | 12.3% |

As probably expected, now that we excluded the outsiders, the average winning percentage increases. More so for the not so popular jockeys and less so for the top jockeys.

## Jockey Actual/Expected Values

A/E values are a bit more tricky to understand than strike rates. They represent a ratio between actual number of wins and expected number of wins. The expected number of wins is a total of their chance percentage represented by the win odds.

The following table shows A/E values for current Hong Kong jockeys for the past twelve months (at time of writing 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020). The columns relate to all rides, and rides at Sha Tin and Happy Valley.

There are a couple of things that need to be considered when viewing these values.

- I have only included results with odds less than or equal to 20.00, for reasons previously given.
- Only rides on turf are included
- The win odds have been adjusted to exclude the HKJC take out. That is, odds are based on a 100% book which I believe better reflects the chance of the horse.

| _Jockey      | _Act | _Exp | _Ae  | _ActST | _ExpST | _AeST | _ActHV | _ExpHV | _AeHV |
|--------------|------|------|------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Borges, V    | 16   | 12   | 1.29 | 9      | 7      | 1.38  | 7      | 6      | 1.20  |
| Badel, A     | 31   | 30   | 1.05 | 20     | 17     | 1.19  | 11     | 13     | 0.87  |
| Callan, N    | 21   | 23   | 0.90 | 15     | 12     | 1.28  | 6      | 12     | 0.51  |
| Chadwick, M  | 19   | 22   | 0.87 | 10     | 10     | 0.95  | 9      | 11     | 0.80  |
| Chan, K      | 15   | 14   | 1.08 | 12     | 7      | 1.66  | 3      | 7      | 0.45  |
| Chau, C      | 12   | 13   | 0.94 | 7      | 10     | 0.68  | 5      | 2      | 2.06  |
| Hamelin, A   | 19   | 21   | 0.91 | 12     | 13     | 0.93  | 7      | 8      | 0.87  |
| Ho, C        | 60   | 56   | 1.07 | 28     | 30     | 0.93  | 32     | 26     | 1.24  |
| Lai, H       | 2    | 3    | 0.64 | 2      | 2      | 1.04  | 0      | 1      | 0.00  |
| Leung, K     | 20   | 18   | 1.12 | 10     | 9      | 1.11  | 10     | 9      | 1.13  |
| Mo, H        | 3    | 5    | 0.55 | 0      | 2      | 0.00  | 3      | 3      | 0.90  |
| Moreira, J   | 120  | 128  | 0.94 | 85     | 80     | 1.07  | 35     | 48     | 0.73  |
| Piccone, T   | 5    | 5    | 0.93 | 3      | 3      | 1.03  | 2      | 2      | 0.82  |
| Poon, M      | 22   | 20   | 1.09 | 14     | 11     | 1.28  | 8      | 9      | 0.86  |
| Purton, Z    | 137  | 129  | 1.06 | 75     | 76     | 0.98  | 62     | 53     | 1.17  |
| Schofield, C | 33   | 32   | 1.02 | 17     | 18     | 0.93  | 16     | 14     | 1.14  |
| Shinn, B     | 12   | 22   | 0.56 | 7      | 12     | 0.58  | 5      | 10     | 0.52  |
| Teetan, K    | 77   | 69   | 1.12 | 41     | 40     | 1.03  | 36     | 29     | 1.24  |
| Wong, C      | 6    | 6    | 0.97 | 2      | 2      | 0.82  | 4      | 4      | 1.08  |
| Wong, H      | 2    | 3    | 0.70 | 1      | 1      | 1.28  | 1      | 2      | 0.48  |
| Yeung, M     | 5    | 7    | 0.70 | 3      | 4      | 0.77  | 2      | 3      | 0.63  |

The A/E values above that are greater than 1.00 indicate that the jockey has performed well and ridden more winners than expected based on the chance of each horse.

Now the obvious problem here is, as stated before, that the Hong Kong punters tend to over-bet the most popular jockeys. This is especially true for Joao Moreira and to a lesser extent Zac Purton. Hence their A/E values are lower than expected.

## Ratings

I need to develop Jockey ratings that can be used during race evaluation. Strike Rates and Act/Exp values have their relative merits but also have downfalls. As such I have decided that if I multiply the two values together, I get pretty decent ratings that aren't far away from normally perceived jockey abilities. So the following table represents current jockey ratings overall and for each course. I think that the course ratings are the most useful, as there is a world of difference riding at Sha Tin compared with Happy Valley.

| _Jockey      | _Code | _Rtg | _RtgST | _RtgHV |
|--------------|-------|------|--------|--------|
| Borges, V    | BV    | 15   | 17     | 14     |
| Badel, A     | BA    | 13   | 18     | 9      |
| Callan, N    | CAN   | 7    | 15     | 2      |
| Chadwick, M  | CML   | 7    | 7      | 7      |
| Chan, K      | CHA   | 11   | 26     | 2      |
| Chau, C      | CJE   | 10   | 6      | 47     |
| Hamelin, A   | HAA   | 8    | 9      | 7      |
| Ho, C        | HCY   | 15   | 11     | 19     |
| Lai, H       | LHW   | 3    | 9      | 0      |
| Leung, K     | LDE   | 10   | 9      | 12     |
| Mo, H        | MHT   | 3    | 0      | 7      |
| Moreira, J   | MOJ   | 18   | 24     | 10     |
| Piccone, T   | PT    | 8    | 10     | 6      |
| Poon, M      | PMF   | 11   | 17     | 6      |
| Purton, Z    | PZ    | 23   | 20     | 28     |
| Schofield, C | SCC   | 12   | 9      | 15     |
| Shinn, B     | SHB   | 3    | 4      | 3      |
| Teetan, K    | TEK   | 16   | 13     | 20     |
| Wong, C      | WCV   | 8    | 5      | 10     |
| Wong, H      | WJH   | 3    | 10     | 2      |
| Yeung, M     | WML   | 4    | 5      | 3      |

