

# Highland Reel signs off in style



Highland Reel holds off his rivals to capture his second Hong Kong Vase (Picture courtesy: scmp)

**Sha Tin**  
Highland Reel brought his illustrious career to a close in fitting style by winning the Longines Hong Kong Vase at the 2017 Longines Hong Kong International Races at Sha Tin.

In his last start before heading to stud, Highland Reel was challenged by Andre Fabre's Talismanic but held on for a seventh Group One

victory in his farewell race.

This last outing for the famed five year old horse could not have been scripted any better as old adversary Talismanic loomed up menacingly while Highland Reel was responding gallantly to jockey Ryan Moore having taken the lead at the top of the final straight.

Talismanic challenged but was unable to make an impact as Highland Reel strode clear and had a length and three-quarters in hand at the line and was pulling away again after being given an

aggressive ride from Moore.

Japan's Tosen Basil finished third, three-quarters of a length behind Talismanic, while Ralph Beckett's Chemical Charge fared best of the British raiders in fourth.

This was a second Hong Kong Vase for Highland Reel, who won in 2015 and was only narrowly denied last year, and he ends his career having won more prize-money than any horse trained in Europe, with this success taking his haul to £7.4 million.

This seventh top-level success

marked the end of an incredible journey, encompassing four seasons in training and 13 starts outside Britain and Ireland, with journeys to the likes of Australia, Dubai and the USA.

The victory extended trainer Aidan O'Brien's world record tally of Group One wins in a year to 28.

"This is a really fitting way for him to finish," said Moore. "He's been a brilliant racehorse and there's plenty to look forward to at stud now. (eurosport)

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## Giroud rescues a point for Arsenal

**Southampton**

Olivier Giroud climbed off the bench to rescue a point for Arsenal in a 1-1 draw at Southampton.

The French frontman struck two minutes from the end as Saints just failed to hang on to Charlie Austin's early opener.

Austin had punished Arsenal for a calamitous beginning to the match with his fourth goal in his last three starts.

With just two minutes on the clock the striker collected a loose clearance from Per Mertesacker and fed Dusan Tadic.

Austin timed his run into the area perfectly, taking Tadic's return ball in his stride and lashing it past Petr Cech.

Things could have got worse moments later when Tadic sent Austin through again, with Arsenal's defence nowhere to be seen, but this



Arsenal's Olivier Giroud scores the equaliser (Picture courtesy: theguardian) time Cech blocked the striker's low drive.

And there was more panic in the Gunners ranks with just seven minutes gone as Austin got in behind again, crashing his shot against a post although he was flagged offside.

Arsenal eventually recovered from their woeful start, but they struggled to find a way through a dogged Saints defence until Giroud's late intervention.

Arsene Wenger had once again started with Jack Wilshere on the

bench despite his sparkling Europa League display in midweek.

Granit Xhaka, the man keeping Wilshere out, set up a chance for Alexandre Lacazette, who turned in the area but fired straight at Fraser Forster.

Lacazette was then denied by a timely challenge from Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg after a lightning counter-attack before Forster held Aaron Ramsey's scuffed effort.

Forster has had his critics this season but the England World Cup hopeful made a fine save on the half-hour to tip a well-struck Ramsey drive around the post.

Southampton had another let-off before half-time when Maya Yoshida clattered Lacazette in the area after he had taken a shot but no penalty was given. Their determination not to allow Arsenal back in was summed up when James Ward-Prowse and Jack Stephens double-teamed Sead Kolasinac, both sliding in to rob the winger in the penalty area.

Saints were inches from a second when Oriol Romeu took aim from 25 yards and crashed his shot against the crossbar. (espn.in)

## DeGale suffers shock defeat

**London**

Caleb Truax pulled off a shock victory over James DeGale at the London Copper Box Arena.

British boxer DeGale was a heavy favourite before the bout started, with some bookmakers rating him as a 1-00 favourite.

DeGale was making his recovery from shoulder surgery in his fight since January, but was defeated 114-114 115-112 116-112 on a judges' decision.

Truax took the IBF world super-middleweight title from De Gale, as the 34-year-old enjoyed his surprise triumph.

The defeat was only DeGale's second of his career, and was disappointed as he spoke to BBC Radio 5 after the fight:

"I honestly did [think I'd won], I've got to go back to the drawing board.

"My nose is blocked again, I've got to sort it out.

The shoulder - I had serious reconstruction - there's no pain but I'll have to go back, have a look and see. I've probably rushed back to be honest, maybe I should have waited till next year."

Truax was bullish after pulling off his shock win, saying: "All week all I heard was who he's going to fight next. Well guess what? Those fights are mine now." (eurosport)



Caleb Truax (R) goes on the attack during his points victory over James DeGale at the Copper Box in London (Picture courtesy: theguardian)