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Akeed Mofeed team pleased after BMW Hong Kong Derby draw

The barrier draw for Sunday's **HKG1 BMW Hong Kong Derby** (2000m) elicited a mixed response from connections at the Sha Tin Racecourse Parade Ring this morning, Thursday, 14 March.

One man visibly relieved after all 14 runners had been allotted their respective berths ahead of the HK\$16 million event was **Richard Gibson**. The trainer has three leading contenders, notably race favourite **Akeed Mofeed** who drew an ideal spot in Gate 3. In recent times **Keen Winner** (2000) and **Helene Mascot** (2008) have claimed Derby glory from Gate 3.

Gibson's Mizani enjoyed the luck of the draw too as he will jump from Gate 5 although HKG1 Hong Kong Classic Mile hero **Gold-Fun** was less fortunate, finding himself in Gate 12.

"It's a relief," said Gibson. *"No trainer wants to be drawn 13 or 14 in the Derby so we're happy with what we've got."*

At the other end of the scale trainer **John Moore's** well-regarded **Ashkiyr**, who has progressed well with good efforts when fourth and third respectively in the Classic Mile and HKG1 Hong Kong Classic Cup (1800m), has drawn the widest berth, Gate 14. The past two Derby winners, **Fay Fay** (2012) and **Ambitious Dragon** (2011), both broke from that oft disparaged gate.

"Unfortunately we've drawn widest in Gate 14," said jockey **Weichong Marwing**. *"The horse is going well, we haven't been given a chance with the gate but you never know it might work in his favour anyway. He's improved with every start and he has Group form at 2000m in France."*

It Has To Be You, winner of the Classic Cup last start for trainer **John Size**, will jump from Gate 8 while **President Lincoln**, runner-up in that race, has drawn Gate 4.

"Gate 4 looks good," commented President Lincoln's trainer, **Danny Shum**. *"It's only about 200m to the first turn so an inside draw is better than an outside draw. His preparation has been very good and I think there'll be a slow pace so anything can happen."*

Trainer **Caspar Fownes** once more found the luck of the draw going against him somewhat as **Rainbow Chic** drew Gate 9 and Best Show Gate 11, while Size's other runner **Endowing** will find himself on the inside rail in Gate 1 on Sunday.

The Moore stable's **Albiceleste** snared Gate 2 and **Poetic Justice** has drawn Gate 10. Meanwhile, the **Sean Woods**-trained **Autumn Gold** has drawn Gate 13, **Wah May Star** will break from Gate 7 and the **Dennis Yip**-trained **Jun Gong** is alongside in Gate 6.

The BMW Hong Kong Derby on Sunday, 17 March is the third and final leg of **Hong Kong's Four-Year-Old Series**. The initial two legs in the series are the **HKG1 Hong Kong Classic Mile** and the **HKG1 Hong Kong Classic Cup**.