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No pressure on 'The Dragon' as Millard plans AP QEII Cup assault

Ambitious Dragon is in good heart as he heads into Sunday's heavyweight clash with **Glorious Days** and **Lucky Nine** but trainer **Tony Millard** is pragmatic when it comes to his champion's chances of success in the HKG1 Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup.

The South African trainer feels that his two main rivals in the nine-runner contest hold the upper hand at the 1400m trip, particularly as **Ambitious Dragon** is being aimed at a return to 2000m and a tilt at a second victory in the Audemars Piguet Queen Elizabeth II Cup on 28 April.

"There's no pressure on us, the other two should be better than him at the 1400m and they're both at the top of their game," said Millard.

Ambitious Dragon, the two-time and current Hong Kong Horse of the Year, demolished his rivals on his most recent start at the trip but that was in the HKG3 National Day Cup back in October 2011. After winning the G1 LONGINES Hong Kong Mile from **Glorious Days** in December, the brilliant six-year-old ran a flat fourth to that rival in the HKG1 Stewards' Cup at 1600m last start.

"This is a stop mark between his last run and the AP QEII Cup," continued Millard. *"He had a cut behind after his last run, it was nothing serious and he's okay now but he missed some work and running him on Sunday at 1400m will keep him ticking over."*

"I'm pretty relaxed going into the race, I've not squeezed him but he's good enough that if he's going to do it he'll do it because he's a class horse. He's fresh and I hope he gets an even run, but being practical, those other two horses, it's their distance."

The **Caspar Fownes**-trained **Lucky Nine** is aiming at a repeat win in the race after holding **Glorious Days** in a titanic struggle last year. The latter has improved into a competitor of serious Group 1 prowess since then, in part thanks to trainer John Size's decision to fit the gelding with blinkers.

Cerise Cherry, **Captain Sweet**, **Time After Time**, **Penglai Xianzi**, **Admiration** and the returning **Thumbs Up** complete the top-class line-up for what is the third and final leg of the Hong Kong Speed Series.