

STAR
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Former SNTC chairman CT Tan dies

Former chairman of the Singapore Turf Club (SNTC) Tan Sri Tan Chin Tuan died in Singapore on Sunday. He was 98.

A prominent owner in the golden years of the "Sport of Kings," Tan, a banking tycoon, was introduced to racing in 1951. In 1982 when Tan Sri Dr Runme Shaw had a fall and went into a coma, he became acting chairman and later chairman of the SNTC.

He stepped down in 1986 but had to return as inaugural chairman of the Bukit Turf Club in March 1988. However, he insisted on retiring at the end of that year.

The former chairman of the Oversea-Chinese Bank had his fair share of classic winners in the 50s and 60s but his team, campaigning under Chen's Stable hogged the limelight when the young Teh Choon Beng entered the training scene in the 70s.

"The late Tan Sri Tan Chin Tuan was one of my best owners. He had never asked me to stop a horse in any race and owners like him are most difficult to find nowadays," said Teh.

Under the superb tutelage of Teh, who was awarded the Datuk Seri title this year, Tan's horses won the 1981 Queen Elizabeth II Cup (Towkay) and the 1985 Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Gold Cup (Truth).

Tan had his biggest celebration on August 11, 1991 at Bukit Timah when his Malaysian-bred Tuneful Melody which was acquired and trained by Teh, won the inaugural running of the Raffles Cup.

Between 1968 and 1980, and again between 1982 and 1986, Tan's Chen's Stable was never out of the top 10 in the owners' table in terms of prizemoney won.

Tan was also a good friend of Malaysia's first Prime Minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman and they co-owned four horses named True Friendship, Setia Kawan, Setia Kawan II and True Hearted.