

Alice Casburn, 22
GBR

It will be a third Defender Burghley for British rider Alice Casburn (22) and her ride Topspin – the pair finished seventh here in 2023 and fifth on their debut in 2022.

They won team gold and individual bronze at the Young Rider European Championship at Hartpury in 2022, having completed their first CCI5* at Pau, France the year before. They have also twice finished in the top 20 at Badminton.

Alice is based in Corpusty, 16 miles north of Norwich in Norfolk, where she and her mother Caroline run a livery yard. Alice has completed an AASE (Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence) with Haddon Training.

Alice's mother Caroline Casburn (née Sizer) rode at Badminton 1994 and later that year was a member of the British squad at the World Equestrian Games in The Hague on Grey Ghost. Topspin, a second-generation homebred, was originally competed by Caroline in showjumping to Grade A as he was considered too sharp for Alice who eventually took the reins in 2018 when he was 10, after "years of being desperate for the ride."

Alice enjoys regular beach swims (whatever the season) and scuba diving.

Topspin (Zento-Capriati (El Conquistador)), owned by Caroline Casburn, is a British-bred AES-registered 15-year-old gelding bred by the Casburns. In 2019 he and Alice were members of the British squad at the Junior European Championships, where they finished 16th. He is described as "incredibly quirky and not the easiest" and is especially horse-shy in the warm-up arena. He is, however, considered a member of the family. He is 17.1hh and still lives in the same stable he was born in.