

Andrew James, 43
GBR

Andrew James, 43, competed in his first Defender Burghley in 2011 with a horse called Cadoc. His 2024 Defender Burghley ride is Celtic Morning Star on whom he completed Burghley in 2022, finishing 23rd.

Andrew is based in Northill, Bedfordshire where he and his wife Rachael run their own schooling and training yard. The couple has an eight-year-old son Charlie. Andrew's sister Amy Tough also competes in eventing.

Andrew was born into a farming family on the west coast of Wales. He was given his first pony, a shetland, when he was just two years old and was hunting by the age of seven. A keen member of the Pony Club, after competing in Prince Philip Games and then tetrathlon he began eventing. A spell with junior and young rider mentor Gill Watson gave him the opportunity to start to acquire a team of horses, and at the age of 22 he completed his first three-star, three-day event at Blair Castle. He then moved to Nick Turner's yard in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, where he began his own business producing horses. In 2017 he moved into the present yard at Northill. Andrew trains with Ann Bostock.

Celtic Morning Star (Chilli Morning-Rebels Riches (Rich Rebel)), owned by Michele Harries, is a British-Bred SHB(GB) registered 13-year-old gelding. He was bred by his owner and is by the 2015 Badminton winner Chilli Morning out of Rebels Riches by the Irish Sport Horse Rich Rebel. She was Michele's first horse and formerly competed by her. Celtic Morning Star is the mare's first and only foal. He has been with Andrew since a two-year-old. In 2022 he completed his first CCI5* at Burghley. Michele is a longstanding supporter of Andrew and his sister, having had horses with them for the past 18 years.