

**Andrew McConnon, 38  
USA**

It will be a first Defender Burghley for US rider Andrew McConnon (38) and his ride Wakita 54.

This pair made their five-star debut at Kentucky this spring, where they finished 17<sup>th</sup>, and have strong four-star form too.

Andrew grew up surrounded by horses on his family's farm in Acton, Massachusetts. His more formal riding education started when he was 14 and in 2011, when he was 25, he struck out on his own, moving to North Carolina, where he established his own business training, teaching, buying, selling and competing horses.

In 2016, Andrew moved to the UK to work as a rider for William Fox-Pitt for two years where he competed 10 different horses up to two-star level. During this time, he also spent some time working for William and Pippa Funnell at The Billy Stud.

Since returning to the US in 2018, Andrew has been part of the winning US team at the FEI Nations Cup in Canada in 2022 and he has established his yard in Vass, North Carolina.

**Wakita 54** (Plot Blue-Werusa (Padinus)), owned by Andrew McConnon, is a Dutch-bred KWPN-registered 11-year-old mare, who was bred by E Reyrink. "Kiki" and Andrew completed their first five-star together at Kentucky this spring where they finished 17<sup>th</sup>. They were sixth in the CCI4\*-L at Morven Park in Virginia and won the CCI4\*-S at Rebecca Farm, Montana, both in 2023.