Caroline Powell, 51 NZ

British-based New Zealander Caroline Powell, 51, brings the 2024 Badminton Champion Greenacres Special Cavalier to Defender Burghley. They arrive fresh off a CCI4*S win at Blair Castle. Prior to 2024 the combination placed sixth in the CCI5* at Maryland and in 2022 was fifth in the CCI5* at Pau – a first at the level for the horse.

Caroline, who is based near Newmarket in Suffolk, was a member of the New Zealand Olympic team that won team bronze in London 2012 with Lenamore, her Burghley 2010 winner.

Caroline arrived in Scotland from New Zealand in 1992 to work in Clive Storey's point-to-point yard, and raced five times before 'retiring'. While there she took over the ride on Clive's three-star horse Caliber, finishing 12th in her first three-day event at Bramham. She then worked for former CCI5* winner Ian Stark, grooming for him in Atlanta in 1996. In 1997, she took over the ride on Jenny Leggate's Cocky-Olly-Bird and competed at her first CCI4*, Burghley, two years later. The following year Caroline had her first ride at Badminton with Dalliance, finishing 11th.

With Lenamore she was selected for her New Zealand team debut at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, and the pair was selected for the 2008 Olympic Games. In 2010 she won team bronze at the World Equestrian Games in Lexington with Mac MacDonald.

Greenacres Special Cavalier (Cavalier Royale-Greenacres Touch (Touchdown)), owned by Chris Mann, is an 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare. Bred by Michael Callery of Greenacres Stud in Co Meath, she is by the leading sire Cavalier Royale out of a mare by the jumping stallion Touchdown. She was acquired from the breeder and has been produced by Caroline. The pair contested both six- and seven-year-old World Championships at Le Lion d"Angers, finishing 17th in both classes. In 2022 she was third in her first CCI4*L at Ballindenisk and fifth in her first CCI5* at Pau. In 2024 the pair won Badminton CCI5*.