

Dan Jocelyn, 54
NZ

British-based New Zealander Dan Jocelyn, 54, and his 2024 Defender Burghley ride Blackthorn Cruise completed Burghley in 2019 and finished 12th in the Blair CCI4*-S last month.

Dan, who was born in New South Wales, Australia, runs a training yard near Oaksey in Wiltshire with his wife Emma, finding and producing young horses.

He came to prominence with Silence with whom he represented New Zealand in the 2002 World Equestrian Games and the 2004 Olympic Games, placing 12th and 30th respectively. The combination was previously selected for the 2000 Sydney Olympics but had to withdraw due to injury. With Silence, who was bred at the Mamaku stud, Dan contested CCI5* events for 11 seasons and after his retirement from top level competition in 2008 after Burghley, Silence was competed at lower level events by British team dressage rider Laura Tomlinson. Dan then competed the full brothers Special Attorney and Special Advocate up to and at five-star.

Blackthorn Cruise (Vancouver-Ms Cruize (Cruising)), owned by Panda Christie and rider, is a 15-year-old registered Irish Sport Horse gelding. He is by the KWPN show jumper Vancouver out of Ms Cruise by Cruising. Ms Cruise is also the dam of Clonkee Stud's approved grand prix jumping stallion Numero Cruise as well as the showjumpers Kan Cruise and Ukato Cruise both competing in Ireland. Blackthorn Cruise was acquired by Panda as a five-year-old from Vere Phillips and has been produced by Dan. He is described as not very friendly but with a great competitive instinct.