

Emily King, 28
GBR

British rider Emily King (28) and her 2024 Defender Burghley ride Valmy Biats made their Burghley debut in 2023, finishing in 25th place. They finished fourth at Badminton in 2024.

Emily is based near Holywell in Flintshire, where she runs a yard with partner Sam Ecroyd. Emily, who grew up in Devon, is the daughter of former Badminton and Burghley winner and six-times Olympian Mary King. She learnt to ride at a young age, completed her first affiliated event at the age of 12 and represented Britain when she was 15 years old at the 2011 Junior European Championships. The following year she was the Junior European silver medallist (Mr Hiho) and in 2015 was fifth in the under-25 national championship at Bramham and then she won Young Rider team gold (Loxley) at Strzegom. In 2015 she completed her first CCI5* at Pau, France with Brookleigh, finishing in fourth place.

In 2018 she won her first international three-day the CCI2*-L at Ballindenisk with Kings Rose, a second-generation homebred mare out of her mother's former CCI5* mare Kings Temptress. That year she also won the British under-25 title at Bramham with Dargun. Emily has climbed her way up to near the top of the British rider rankings in recent years, achieving many top results with her team of horses, especially Valmy Biats.

Valmy Biats (Orlando-Aurelie Du Prieure (Hadja) is a 15-year-old French-bred registered Selle Français gelding bred by Philippe Brivois. He was originally produced in France by Mathieu Lemoine – Emily took the ride in 2020. He is nicknamed Grandad as 'he's such a nice and gentle horse to be around'. The pair won the CCI4*-S at Thoresby Park in 2023 and 2024, and have completed the CCI5*s at Pau and Luhmühlen. They scored their best CCI5* result to date at MARS Badminton this year, finishing in fourth place and earning themselves a place on the long-list for the Paris Olympics. They are the current British national champions.