Gireg Le Coz, 35 FRA

It will be a first Defender Burghley for Frenchman Gireg Le Coz (35) and his ride Aisprit De La Loge.

Gireg and this horse were 18th at their first Badminton in 2022. They were 13th at the same event in 2023 and finished 15th individually as part of the French team at the 2023 European Championships.

Gireg was born into a large horse-loving family based in the north-western region of Morbihan in Brittany. He took his first steps on a pony at the riding centre of Etrier Vannetais and, at the age of 10, decided to concentrate on eventing, competing in several pony championships, winning a medal in 2000. In 2008, after finishing his education, he went to Saumur to take his instructors exams and was a member of the young rider squad. He enjoyed success with his mare Logann De Rohis, who took him to five-star level. The pair was eighth in the under-25 CCI4*-L at Bramham in 2013, during which time he was based in the UK with Christopher Burton, Sam Griffiths and William Fox-Pitt. On his return he set up on his own in his native Morbihan and then in 2020 moved to Le Lion D'Angers.

Gireg and his horses are based in the stables of Parc Departmental on the Isle de Briand at Le Lion D'Angers – home of the World Young Horse Eventing Championships.

Aisprit De La Loge (Quppydam Des Horts-Image De La Loge (Dollar Du Mûrier)), owned by Augustin and Frédérique Grand, is a French-bred Selle Français-registered 14-year-old gelding, who was bred by Didier Debonnet. He was acquired by his owners as a four-year-old for Gireg to ride as an aspiring top-level horse after they had been to watch the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Caen, France. He has been produced through the levels by Gireg, clocking results including finishing 18th at their first Badminton in 2022. They were 13th at the same event in 2023 and finished 15th individually as part of the French team at the 2023 European Eventing Championships. Aisprit De La Loge is described by Gireg as "a very sensitive and special horse". In 2024 they have finished second in the CCI4*-S at Pompadour, third in the CCI4*-S at Maybach and 10th in the Nations Cup CCI4*-S at Arville.