

## **Harry Meade, 41** **GBR**

British rider Harry Meade, 41, finished third at Defender Burghley last year – his best CCI5\* placing to date. This year he brings three horses: Superstition, Cavalier Crystal and Annaghmore Valoner.

Harry was born and grew up in the Beaufort hunt country close to Badminton, where he runs his own yard. His father, the late Richard Meade, won three Olympic gold medals in eventing, won Burghley in 1964 and Badminton twice (1970 and 1982).

In 2001 Harry gained his first British cap as a member of the team for the junior European Championships. After leaving Eton College he combined horses with university and gained a degree in history of art from Bristol University. Harry was apprenticed to several riders in the early stages of his career including William Fox-Pitt, from whom he took on the ride on Midnight Dazzler, with who he made his CCI5\* debut at Burghley in 2005, winning awards for the best first-timer and best under-25. Midnight Dazzler and Harry completed Burghley three times and Badminton on four occasions. In 2009 Harry became the youngest person ever to receive an Armada dish, awarded for five Badminton completions.

In 2013 while competing at Wellington Horse Trials Harry suffered a rotational fall which resulted in two fractured and dislocated elbows, requiring much surgery and rehabilitation. He started riding again mid-February the following year and gained a fairy-tale third place at Badminton with Wild Lone, with who he subsequently gained his first senior flag as a member of the British team for the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Caen. He was voted rider of the year by the Event Horse Owners Association (EHOA), Event Riders Association (ERA), The British Equestrian Media Association (BEMA) and *Horse & Hound*. Harry now has a strong team of advanced-level horses, and in 2024 he won the CCI4\*-L at Bramham on Annaghmore Valoner.

Harry is also involved in other aspects of the sport; he is Chairman of the FEI International Riders committee, a member of the Burghley Horse Trials Steering Group and in recent times been part of the BBC commentary team. He often writes a column in *Horse & Hound* Magazine.

In 2010 Harry married Rosie Bradford – having proposed during a Badminton course-walk – and they have a daughter, Lily, and a son, Charlie. He trains with Ian Woodhead and Grant Wilson.

**Cavalier Crystal** (Jack of Diamonds-Cavalier Iris), owned Charlotte Opperman, is a 14-year-old Irish-bred Irish Sport Horse mare, bred by Thomas Horgan. She and Harry finished third at last year's Burghley.

**Superstition** (Satisfaction I-unknown) is a 15-year-old gelding, owned by Mandy Gray and the rider. He Produced by Lucy Jackson, Harry got the ride in 2019, starting their partnership off with a CCI4\*-L win in Strzegom. In 2021 he stepped up to CCI5\* with a fifth place at Kentucky and seventh at Maryland.

**Annaghmore Valoner** (Coroner-Annaghmore Lady Valier) is a 12-year-old mare owned by Jules Carter, Stephen Posford and Dinah Posford. Harry took over the ride from Sam Griffiths in 2022. Third in the CCI4\*L at Blenheim last year, this will be her first run at the level; she will be the penultimate horse out on Saturday's cross-country.