

Ian Cassells, 30
IRL

It will be a first Defender Burghley for Irishman Ian Cassells (30) and his ride Master Point.

Ian and this gelding already have two five-star completions under their belts, having finished 30th on their five-star debut at Pau in 2023 and followed this up with a 16th place finish at this year's Luhmühlen.

Ian, who is based near Newcastle just west of Dublin, graduated from University College Dublin in 2017 with a degree in agricultural science. He is not from an equestrian background – his father is a dairy farmer, and Ian has set up his equestrian business at the family farm, where he produces event horses and also enjoys training riders.

In 2012 Ian was part of the Irish team who competed at the Junior European Eventing Championships in Strzegom, Poland aboard Woodend Garfield. He has since clocked a huge number of top-10 placings at two-, three- and four-star level including finishing second in the CC14*-S at Kilguilkey House in 2023 with Woodendfarm Jack O D, with whom he also represented Ireland at the 2023 European Eventing Championships.

Master Point (Pointilliste-Chikari (King's Master)), owned by his breeder Bridget McGing, is an Irish-bred Irish Sport Horse-registered 11-year-old gelding. He has been solely produced by Ian up the grades since making his eventing debut at 90cm level in April 2018. He has a very good cross-country record with 28 clear rounds from his 35 starts.