

Jesse Campbell, 35
NZL

It will be a first Defender Burghley for British-based New Zealander Jesse Campbell (35) and his ride Cooley Lafitte.

They finished 15th at this year's MARS Badminton Horse Trials and have a handful of top-20 placings at four-star level to their name.

Jesse attended St Peter's School Cambridge in New Zealand with a five-year general excellence scholarship. At the age of 21, he was the youngest of nine riders selected onto the NZ Eventing High Performance squad to be based in the UK. He based himself with Andrew Nicholson for the first 18 months after moving to Britain. He then set up his own yard near Marlborough in Wiltshire before moving to Lamberhurst in Kent to be based with his late wife Georgie.

Jesse has worked with several thoroughbreds off the track. He took Volitation to advanced, with whom he represented New Zealand at the Trans-Tasman eventing championships and brought his former five-star ride Kaapachino, an ex-racehorse, through the grades to the very top level.

His career highlight came when representing his country at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 with Diachello, where he finished 22nd individually. Jesse has notched several other notable results including finishing 11th at the Defender Kentucky CCI5* with Diachello in 2021 and third in Bramham's CCI4*-L with Gambesie in 2023.

Outside of eventing, Jesse enjoys playing golf.

Cooley Lafitte (Je T'aime Flamenco-Graf Shenanigans (Scirocco Delle)), owned by Jay Jaffar and bred by Nigel Jackson, is an Irish-bred Irish Sport Horse-registered 12-year-old gelding. He was acquired in 2017 from Cooley Farm "on his last chance" as he "did not show any appetite for cross-country (or work in general). However, his owner believed in him." With Jesse, Cooley Lafitte recently finished 10th in the competitive CCI4*-S at Hartpury last month, 15th in the CCI4*-S at Burgham in July and fourth in the CCI4*-S at Thoresby Park in April, in addition to their 15th place at Badminton.