

Libby Seed, 27
GBR

It will be a first Defender Burghley for British rider Libby Seed (27) and her ride Heartbreaker Star Quality.

Libby is one of the few amateurs who competes at the top level of eventing. After studying medical sciences at Exeter University, Libby, who is based in Chippenham, now works full-time as an account manager for Boston Scientific, which involves working in hospitals throughout the south-east, supporting surgeries, doing data presentations and consultative work about different therapy areas.

At the age of five Libby became a member of the Avon Vale branch of the Pony Club. Her father Jonathon is a former master and huntsman, while her mother Lesley is a master. In 2013 won a team gold at the Pony European Eventing Championships and in 2016 she was reserve for the British young rider team before riding as an individual at the following year's Young Rider European Eventing Championships. When she was just 20, Libby completed her first five-star at Pau riding What A Catch.

Libby and Heartbreaker Star Quality, who is known as "Angel" at home, have three five-star completions under their belts. They were 28th at Badminton in 2022, 14th at Pau in 2023 and 21st at Badminton this spring.

Heartbreaker Star Quality (Boswell Mr Heart Breaker-Killard Quality (OBOS Quality 004)), owned by Lesley and Jonathon Seed, is an Irish-bred Irish Sports Horse-registered 13-year-old mare, who was bred by Cora Horan. Known as Angel at home, this mare was given to Libby as a sales livery when she was a six-year-old. But Libby says she "didn't get on with her at all" in the early days, explaining the mare used to run out at showjumps and "didn't settle for two years – she was so squealy and had an inability to concentrate," explains Libby. However, the penny dropped for the jumping-bred Angel and since then, she has completed three five-stars with Libby, finishing 28th at Badminton in 2022, 14th at Pau in 2023 and 21st at Badminton this spring. They also won the CCI4*-L at Strzegom in Poland in 2021. Libby has a five-year-old via embryo transfer out of Angel by the SHB(GB) graded The After Party, who is a son of Badminton winner Chilli Morning.