

**Matthew Heath, 41**  
**GBR**

This will be an eighth visit to Defender Burghley for British rider Matthew Heath (41), who brings two horses this year – Golden Recipe and Askari.

Matthew is a professional rider based close to Burghley between Oakham and Stamford –he was previously based for 15 years at Aston-le-Walls Equestrian Centre in Northamptonshire.

Matthew comes from an equestrian background; his grandfather was the Head Stud Groom for the Croome Hunt and his father Trevor Heath was a professional National Hunt jockey and then Head Lad for trainer Paul Webber. Matthew was brought up on a racing yard and started riding lessons at Shotteswell EC and with loaned ponies. At the age of 11 he rode racehorses on the gallops, and progressed through the Pony Club and was one of the youngest to pass the prestigious Pony Club 'A' test. He was loaned Jane Starkey's former horse Well Related, which gave him his first taste of "proper dressage".

Matthew left school at 16 and spent the summer working for Nigel and Ann Taylor at Washbrook Farm, getting his first experience of eventing. He then did a two-year Equine Diploma at Moulton College and did work experience with Jane Starkey, who has been a valued supporter since. He returned to Washbrook Farm to continue his training and started competing aged 19.

In 2007, with Alligator Alley he was a member of the British Riding Clubs CCI3\* team (now the Rural Riders European Championships) which competed in Sweden and in 2009 the team that went to Nagykanizsa, where he was sixth individually (Gran Chaco). Matthew made his CCI5\* debut with The Lion at Burghley in 2013.

**Golden Recipe** (Nigrasine Rain-Flashy Trump (Golden Trump), is a 12-year-old Irish Sports Horse owned by Patricia Pytches and bred by Christopher Bailey. He was initially produced by his owner Patricia, and Matt took over the ride in 2019. The pair completed the CCI4\*-L at Blenheim in 2021, and the CCI4\*-Ls at Blair Castle and Blenheim in 2023. They were 19<sup>th</sup> in the CCI4\*-L at Bramham this summer.

**Askari** (Askannier 4-Evita (Earl), owned by Plum Rowland, is a 16-year-old German-bred Hanoverian, bred by Gerda Esche. He was previously competed by Richard Waygood, with Matthew gaining the ride in 2019. The pair finished 29<sup>th</sup> here at Burghley in 2023.