

**Padraig McCarthy, 47**  
**IRL**

Irish Olympian Padraig McCarthy, 47, is based near Beaworthy in Devon. In 2022 he was a member of the Irish team contesting the world championships in Pratoni, riding Fallulah. The year before he had been a member of the European championships team with Mark Todd's former ride Leonidas.

Padraig hails from Tipperary in Ireland. Now based in Devon with his wife, former British international rider Lucy (née Wieggersma), together they run MGH Sport Horses – an equine breeding, training and trading business. Lucy completed Burghley 2015 on Mr Chunky and was second at Badminton in 2008 riding Shaabrak.

Padraig has been involved in horses from a young age. He learnt his trade under the guidance of Rolf Goran Bengtsson, Max Hauri, and Hans Horn and then spent almost 10 years showjumping and training horses around Europe and in the USA. In 2003 Padraig made the decision to go to university to study business, gaining a first-class honours degree in Economics and Finance with German in 2008. He was offered a scholarship to undertake a research project which turned into a PhD study of business insolvency laws in Ireland. Padraig turned down the opportunity of an academic career to focus on his main passion – horses.

Since basing himself at Warren Farm in 2013, Padraig has turned his attention to eventing. He rode in his first British Eventing competition that year and by the end of 2015 had ridden for Ireland on Nations Cup teams, including the only Irish team to win an FEI Eventing Nations Cup Final at Boekelo. He was a member of the 2015 Irish European Championship team at Blair Castle and in 2016 had his first wins at three-star level at both Chatsworth and Tattersalls. As a result Padraig was selected for the Rio Olympic Games on both Simon Porloe and Bernadette Utopia.

Padraig and Lucy set up MGH Sport Horses in 2014. They have two sons Moss, 8, Gus, 4, and a 3-year-old daughter Mimi. Padraig enjoys cooking, mending and fixing stuff around the farm, DIY and breeding horses. He trains with Tracie Robinson and Grant Wilson.

**Lady Ophelia** (Unknown-Legal Lady (Over The River)) is a 12-year-old mare bred by Denis Hickey and owned by him, Emma de Haan, Pamela Idelson and Padraig. Defender Burghley 2024 will be her five-star debut, and the pair finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the CCI4\*-L at Bramham in June.