

Ryuzo Kitajima, 38

JPN

This is Japan's Ryuzo Kitajima (38) and his ride Feroza Nieuwmoed's first Defender Burghley.

Ryuzo has been based with Angela Tucker in Gloucestershire since the 2014 Asian Games. He participated at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, where he withdrew his ride Just Chocolate during the individual competition. He was also part of the bronze medal-winning Japanese team at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games with Cekatinka. Ryuzo also picked up a team silver medal at the 2014 Asian Games, where he finished sixth individually.

He has enjoyed a phenomenal amount of success at four-star level with countless top-10 finishes including 10 from 14 runs at this level in 2024 alone.

Aboard Feroza Nieuwmoed, Ryuzo most recently finished third in the Nations Cup CCI4*-S at Millstreet in Ireland in May and followed this up with ninth in the CCI4*-S at Hartpury last month.

Feroza Nieuwmoed (VDL Groep Zagreb-Uthodina (Frisbee Kerellec)), owned by Riding Club Crane, is a Dutch-bred KWPN-registered 14-year-old gelding, who was bred by J W and A P Jurrius. Ryuzo has produced this horse through the levels. Together they were sixth in the eight- and nine-year-old CCI4*-S at Blenheim in 2019, eighth in the CCI4*-L at Blair Castle in 2023, third in the Nations Cup CCI4*-S at Millstreet in Ireland in May and ninth in the CCI4*-S at Hartpury last month.