

Sarah Ennis, 49
IRL

Irish team and Olympic rider Sarah Ennis, 49, will be looking for her first completion this year at Defender Burghley. At Badminton 2024 she came 17th with Grantstown Jackson and she was 22nd at Pau – a first CCI5* for 'Jackson'. The pair was also a member of the Irish team at last year's European Championships in France, finishing 14th.

Sarah is based in Dunboyne, Co. Meath where she runs Steller Sport Horses and livery yard. In 2000 with Woodcourt Garrison she was a member of the Irish Olympic team and the pair was also a member of the team for the 2019 European Championships in Luhmühlen. The previous year Steller Rebound took Sarah to the World Equestrian Games in Tryon where the pair won the team silver medal, finishing fifth individually.

Influenced by their mother, a keen rider, Sarah and her four sisters all rode as children – three of the four still compete. Her first memory is of riding her sister's Shetland pony Christopher. She progressed through the Ward Union and Howth branches of the Pony Club and the Irish Pony Society. She competed in pure dressage and at the age of 15 was awarded her first Bronze Saddle. Three years later she began eventing and in 1996 was selected for the European Young Rider Squad. In 2012 she won the three-star at Ballindenisk with BLM Diamond Delux and at the end of a successful year was the highest ranked Irish rider in the world rankings. With Sugar Brown Babe she was a member of the Irish team for the 2013 European Championships in Malmo and the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Caen. In 2017, riding Steller Rebound, she was the highest placed member of the fourth placed Irish team at the European Championships in Strzegom.

Sarah trains with Ian Woodhead, Ethen Ahern and Chris Bartle. She is a keen sailor and diver and is qualified to Dive Master level. She is married to Nicolas Potterton and the couple have a 14-year-old son.

Grantstown Jackson (Clover Brigade- Winning Lass (Right Win)) is a 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse registered gelding. Bred by Caroline Widger he is by Clover Brigade out of a thoroughbred mare by Right Win. He was acquired as a six-year-old from Ciaran Glynn as he felt he was too big for the horse. Sarah says; 'He went out first at the Europeans and was amazing – I will be forever proud of him'.