

Tom Bird, 22
GBR

The youngest competitor in this year's field – for the second year running - is Tom Bird (22). Based in Warwickshire, Tom has been a full-time rider since leaving school. Having completed Burghley in 2023 on his five-star debut in 30th place aboard Rebel Rhyme, Tom is riding Cowling Hot Gossip this year.

Away from the horses, when time allows, Tom plays hockey and a bit of football. He trains with Chris Bartle and Pammy Hutton.

Cowling Hot Gossip (Away With The Fairies-Just Jazz (Welton Ambassador) is a 12-year-old British-bred dark bay gelding owned by Tom, Frances Bird and Helen Kerry. He has been produced by Tom throughout his career. The pair have completed four CCI4*-L competitions together, finishing 11th at Kronenberg in 2022, eighth at Blair Castle that year, 44th at Blenheim in 2023 and fifth in the under-25 CCI4*-L at Defender Bramham in 2024. This is Cowling Hot Gossip's first CCI5*, and Tom's second.