

Pippa Funnell MBE

GBR

British Olympic rider Pippa Funnell (54), who is based near Dorking in Surrey, is a former three-time winner of Badminton and winner of Burghley in 2003 (Primmere's Pride) and 2019 (MGH Grafton Street). Also in 2019, with Majas Hope, she was a member of the British team that won silver at the European Championships in Luhmühlen – 20 years after her first senior team appearance. She etched her name into the eventing history books when in 2003 she became the first winner of the Rolex Grand Slam (for consecutive wins at Kentucky, Badminton and Burghley).

Aged 16, after leaving school she based herself with trainer Ruth McMullen. In 1987 she became European Young Rider Champion with Sir Barnaby who the following year gave Pippa her first ride at Badminton. She has won team Olympic silver medals in Athens (2004) and Sydney (2000) and was crowned European Champion in 1999 and 2001. As a result she was voted the 2003 Sunday Times Sportswoman of the Year and was in the top five of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards. In 2005 Pippa received an MBE.

During a few years out of the limelight, Pippa helped establish the Billy Stud with husband international show jumper William Funnell (married in 1993) – who won team gold at the 2013 European showjumping Championships – and breeder Donal Barnwell. In 2009 she returned to the top winning Bramham three-star and selection for the WEG in Kentucky with Redesigned where they gained fifth place running as individuals. In 2013 she was back in the British team and competed at the European Championships with Mirage D'Elle. She also won the Tattersalls three-day with Billy Beware. In 2015 she was a member of the British team that won silver at the European Championships and was 8th individually (Sandman 7) and the following year was a member of the team for the Rio Olympic Games (Billy The Biz).

Pippa is also a renowned producer of young horses, having won a record number of Burghley Young Event Horses classes and now helps to produce and compete young show jumpers for the Billy Stud. She also competes in international showjumping classes and in 2022 gained top 10 places at the international 4* at Hickstead.

Pippa has also written and had published a series of 22 children's story books. She is a patron of the charity World Horse Welfare and a mentor and trainer for The Wesko (formerly Windrush) Equestrian Foundation.

Pippa trains with husband William Funnell, Carl Hester and GB squad trainers.

Majas Hope, owned by Marek Sebestak and rider, is a 16-year-old Irish-bred Irish Sport Horse gelding. He is by the thoroughbred Porter Rhodes (also the sire of Ballylynch Skysport) out of a mare by Flagmount King. He has been ridden by Pippa since 2015 having been produced by former European Junior champion Anna Wilks who previously produced young horses at the Billy Stud. He was 12th in his first four-star at Burghley in 2018. He has also completed Lexington and Badminton, where he placed 10th this spring.

Results

2023 – Luhmühlen CCI5* 16th MGH Grafton Street

2023 – Bramham CCI4*L 1st MCS Maverick

2023 – Bicton CCI4*S 5th MGH Grafton Street, 24th MCS Maverick, 42nd Billy Wonder

2023 – Badminton CCI5* 10th Majas Hope, RET Billy Walk On

2023 – Burnham Market CCI4*S 32nd MCS Maverick

2023 – Thoresby Park CCI4*S 9th Billy Walk On

2022 – Blenheim CCI4*L 17th MGH Grafton Street

2022 – Burghley CCI5* 8th Billy Walk ON, 16th Majas Hope

2022 – Blair Castle CCI4*S 6th Maybach, 25th Billy Wonder

2022 – Barbury Castle CCI4*S 2nd Billy Walk On ret Billy Wonder

2022 – Badminton CCI5*L EL MGH Grafton Street ret Billy Walk On
 2022 – Lexington CCI5*L 6th Maybach 14th Majas Hope
 2022 – Thoresby Park CCI4*S 10th Maybach 14th Billy Walk On
 2021 – Blenheim CCI4*L 8th Maybach
 2021 – Bicton CCI5*L 2nd Billy Walk On 5th Majas Hope
 2021 – Hartpury CCI4*S 5th MGH Grafton Street 6th Majas Hope 7th Billy Walk On
 2021 – Bicton CCI4*L 13th Billy Walk On 14th Maybach
 2021 – Aston-le-Walls CCI4*S 6th Maybach 10th Billy Walk On 17th Majas Hope
 2021 – Burnham Market CCI4*S 7th Billy Walk On 13th Majas Hope 33rd MGH Grafton Street
 2019 – Blenheim CCI4*L 6th Billy Walk On 20th Billy The Biz
2019 – Burghley CCI5*L 1st MGH Grafton Street
 2019 – Luhmuhlen CH-EU-CCI4*L 22nd Majas Hope
 2019 – Bramham CCI4*L 17th Billy Walk On
 2019 – Tattersalls CCI4*L 11th MGH Grafton Street
 2019 – Badminton CCI5*L 16th Majas Hope ret Billy Walk On
 2019 – Burnham Market CCI4*S 10th Billy Walk On 15th MGH Grafton Street
 2019 – Belton CCI4*S 5th Billy Walk On 87th MGH Grafton Street
 2018 – Boekelo CCIO3*-NC 14th Maybach
 2018 – Blenheim CCI3* 6th MGH Grafton Street 50th Billy Walk On
2018 – Burghley CCI4* 13th Majas Hope
 2018 – Bramham CCI3* 14th Billy Walk On
 2018 – Tattersalls CCI3* 12th Majas Hope
 2018 – Badminton CCI4* ret Billy Beware
 2017 – Blenheim CCI3* 44th Majas Hope
2016 – Burghley CCI4* EI Second Supreme
 2016 – Rio OG 27th Billy the Biz
 2016 – Ballindenisk CCI3* 1st Billy the Biz
 2016 – Ballindenisk CICO3* 1st Mirage D’Elle
2015 – Burghley CCI4* w/d after dressage Second Supreme
 2015 – Badminton CCI4* 12th Redesigned, 23rd Second Supreme
 2014 – Badminton CCI4* 6th Billy Beware, EI Redesigned
2013 – Burghley CCI4* 17th Redesigned
 2013 – Malmo CH-EU-3* 40th Mirage D’Elle
 2013 – Tattersalls CCI3* 1st Billy Beware, 3rd Billy Landretti
 2013 – Badminton CCI4* 56th Redesigned
2011 – Burghley CCI4* 28th Mirage D’Elle, 30th Pure Addiction
 2010 – Lexington WEG 5th Redesigned
2010 – Burghley CCI4* 15th Mirage D’Elle
 2010 – Bramham CCI3* 1st Redesigned
 2005 – Badminton 1st Primmores Pride
 2004 – Blenheim CCI3* 1st (Viceroy III)
 2004 – Athens OG 3rd (Primmores Pride)
 2003 – Punchestown Eu-Ch-CCI3* 3rd (Walk On Star)
 2003 – Blenheim CCI3* 3rd (Viceroy III)
2003 – Burghley CCI4* 1st (Primmores Pride)
 2003 – Lexington KY CCI4* 1st (Primmores Pride)
 2003 – Badminton 1st Supreme Rock
 2002 – Jerez WEG 13th (Supreme Rock)
 2002 – Bramham CCI3* 1st (Walk On Star)
 2002 – Badminton 1st Supreme Rock
 2002 – Punchestown CCI3* 3rd (Supreme Rock)
 2002 – Saumur CCI3* 1st (Jurassic Rising)
 2001 – Pau CH-EU-CCI3* 1st (Supreme Rock), team gold
 1999 – Badminton 6th Supreme Rock
 1999 – Fontainebleau EU-CH-CCI3* 1st (Supreme Rock), team gold
 1997 – Burghley CH-EU-3* 33rd Bits and Pieces
 1997 – Badminton 9th Bits and Pieces
 1992 – Badminton 14th Sir Barnaby
 1990 – Badminton 5th Sir Barnaby

1988 – Badminton 27th Sir Barnaby