

## **Sam Watson**

### **IRL**

Irish Olympic rider Sam Watson (37) is based at the Ballybolger Stud in Co Carlow,

Sam has only competed at Burghley once before, back in 2012. With this year's entry Ballybolger Talisman (also known as SAP Talisman) he was a member of the Irish team at the 2021 European Championships. Burghley will be a first CCI5\* for the horse. Sam has represented Ireland at eight major Championships and last year was a member of the Irish team at last year's World Championship.

Sam comes from an equestrian family; his father John competed at Badminton and won individual silver at the 1978 World Championships in Kentucky as well as European Team bronze and gold in 1977 and 1979 (with Cambridge Blue); sister Rozzie flew the flag at Junior and Young Riders with the Watson's first homebred mare Floating.

Sam also represented Ireland in Juniors and Young Riders and in 2006 was fourth at the YR European Championships (missing an individual medal by just 0.4pen) with the homebred seven-year-old Horseware (formerly Ballybolger) Bushman.

Sam combined studying at Trinity College Dublin (in Management Science and Information Systems) with eventing. At the end of 2014, and with a nod to his degree, he founded the data analytics company, EquiRatings. Outside of the sport Sam is a 'massive National Hunt enthusiast and before children was a keen golfer'.

In 2012 Sam married Hannah (Sparkles) Bailey and the couple has two sons; Archie and Toby. Sam trains with Tracie Robinson, Sally Corscadden and Grant Wilson

**Ballybolger (SAP) Talisman**, owned by Hannah Watson and Julia Watson, is a 12-year-old Irish-bred Irish Sport Horse registered gelding. Bred by Rosemary Ponsonby, he is by Puissance (the same sire as Sam's last Badminton horse Bushman) out of Ali Row. He was acquired as a 'unsat on' four-year-old which Sam says was a 'slight error as I then discovered I couldn't really sit on him for the next two years'.

### **Results**

2023 – Mallow CCI4\*S 6<sup>th</sup> Ballyneety Rocketman 27<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman  
2023 – Ballindenisk CCI4\*W 4<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman  
2022 – Pratori del Vivaro CH-M-C 44<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman  
2022 – Millstreet CCI4\*S 23<sup>rd</sup> SAP Talisman  
2022 – Saumur CCI4\*L 12<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman  
2022 – Thoresby CCI4\*S 36<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman  
2021 – Avenches CH-EU-CCI4\*L 32<sup>nd</sup> SAP Talisman  
2021 – Aachen CCIO4\*S 35<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman`  
2021 – Millstreet CCI4\*S 10<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman  
2021 – Tokyo Olympic Games 30<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco  
2021 – Millstreet CCI4\*S 6<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco 9<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman  
2021 – Ballindenisk CCI4\*L 6<sup>th</sup> SAP Talisman CCI4\*S 2<sup>nd</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco  
2020 – Ballindenisk CCI4\*L 1<sup>st</sup> Imperial Sky CCI4\*S 2<sup>nd</sup> Imperial Sky 4<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco  
2019 – Luhmuhlen CH-EU-CCI4\*L 36<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco  
2019 – Millstreet CCI4\*S 2<sup>nd</sup> Imperial Sky  
2019 - Cappoquin CCIO4\*S 1<sup>st</sup> Imperial Sky  
2019 – Luhmuhlen CCI5\* 12<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco CCI4\*S 27<sup>th</sup> Imperial Sky  
2019 – Tattersalls CCI4\*S 4<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco 12<sup>th</sup> Imperial Sky  
2019 – Chatsworth CCI4\*S 18<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco  
2019 – Ballindenisk CCI4\*L 1<sup>st</sup> Imperial Sky  
2018 – Boekelo CCIO3\* 10<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco  
2018 – Tryon WEG-C 14<sup>th</sup> Horseware Ardagh Highlight

2018 – Luhmuhlen CCI4\* 6<sup>th</sup> Horseware Ardagh Highlight 24<sup>th</sup> Imperial Sky  
2018 – Tattersalls CCI3\* 7<sup>th</sup> Tullabeg Flamenco  
2017 – Boekelo CCIO3\* 13<sup>th</sup> Horseware Ardagh Highlight 31<sup>st</sup> Imperial Sky  
2017 – Cappelouin CCI3\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Horseware Ardagh Highlight  
2017 – Ballindenisk CCI3\* 11<sup>th</sup> Imperial Sky  
2015 – Ballindenisk CCI3\* 4<sup>th</sup> Imperial Sky 5<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2015 – Blair Castle CH-EU-CCI3\* 12<sup>th</sup> Lukeswell  
2015 – Saumur CCI3\* 15<sup>th</sup> Lukeswell  
2015 – Badminton CCI4\* 34<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2014 – Ballindenisk CCI3\* 4<sup>th</sup> Lukeswell  
2014 – Caen WEG-C 29<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2013 – Malmo CH-EU-C3\* 21<sup>st</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2013 – Badminton CCI4\* 22<sup>nd</sup> Horseware Bushman  
**2012 – Burghley CCI4\* 30<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman**  
2012 – Saumur CCI3\* 8<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2011 – Luhmuhlen CH-EU-C3 30<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2010 – Lexington WEG-C 26<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2010 – Badminton CCI4\* 13<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2009 – Fontainebleau CH-EU-C3\* 24<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2009 – Badminton CCI4\* 35<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman  
2008 – Pau CCI4\* EL Horseware Bushman  
2008 – CCIu253\* 4<sup>th</sup> Horseware Bushman