

# Champion is ready to star at Houghton

The stage is set for a fabulous FEI EQ Life Houghton International Horse Trials which starts today and runs through to Sunday.

As host to the British leg of the FEI CICO3\* Eventing Nations Cup competition a strong international entry is guaranteed. This year that entry is headed up by the reigning world champion Sandra Auffarth from Germany, who brings three horses to Norfolk.

The British team for the Houghton leg consists of Sarah Bullimore riding Conpierre; crowd favourite and the only ever winner of the Rolex Grand Slam of Eventing, Pippa Funnell riding Billy The Biz; Georgie Strang riding Ascot H; and Francis Whittington riding West Side.

The best British under 21 riders will also be vying to win the Askham Bryan College sponsored National U21 Championships. Will Furlong is back to defend his title, riding both his 2014 winner Livingstone II and also Pioneer Silvie on whom he won an individual Junior European bronze medal back in 2013.

For riders stepping up to either CCI1\* or CCI2\* level, Scotts of Thrapston are sponsoring course walks with both BE Accredited coaches as well as the British Nations Cup team manager Philip Surl.

There is the usual raft of show jumping classes, both affiliated, unaffiliated and pony club, and team dressage. The popular Dubarry Burghley Young Event Horse classes return and the new Arena Eventing competition provides even more opportunities for riders and spectators alike.

The action kicks off today with International dressage, the Burghley Young Event Horse classes, unaffiliated showjumping and Arena Eventing. International dressage continues on tomorrow, alongside International cross-country, showjumping and combined training classes.

The cross-country dominates Saturday's action, with more showjumping and the conclusion of the Nations Cup competition, while Sunday is a day of showjumping, and the conclusion of the CCI2\* and Under 21 Championships. Tickets can be bought on the gate and a full time table of events and all other information can be found on [www.musketeer.co.uk](http://www.musketeer.co.uk). Daily reports will appear in the EDP tomorrow, Saturday and Monday, so make sure you reserve a copy to keep up with the action.