

# The moment

September 2007: Burghley Horse Trials, Lincs



**Harry Meade**

I smile every time I see this photo of Midnight Dazzler during the showjumping at Burghley — it shows him in his element.

He was a four-star horse through

and through and loved his job.

It had been a tough event with a demanding cross-country course followed by a nail-biting final day. The showjumping was a difficult course and the infamous Land Rover planks — the last fence — had been catching everyone out. No one had jumped a clear round.

We were clear to that point so when he sailed over the planks the crowd went mad — it was an amazing feeling!

We were eighth and he was the only horse to finish on his dressage mark.

Midnight Dazzler was very strong willed and lived on his nerves, so he was always a handful. This generally worked against him, but occasionally it helped — he still had fire in his belly when other horses were worn out by the previous day's cross-country.

When I took on the ride, Midnight Dazzler had had a fairly chequered past. He used to blow up in the dressage and could be an erratic jumper.

In 2003, William Fox-Pitt — who rode him at the time and who I was working for — suggested to his owner, Carolyn Lissack, that the horse should step down a level and go to a younger rider.

I jumped at the offer, despite various people advising against it, as he was known to be difficult. I had nothing to lose and it was the best decision I've ever made.

We went back to basics and it took time to find the key to him. But over the next couple of seasons we formed a partnership that became rock solid.

We went on to complete seven four-stars and he became one of the most consistent four-star horses on the circuit.

I'm always on a quest to find another Midnight Dazzler, but I suspect I may be looking for some time! **H&H**



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