



AMANDA SHIRTCLIFFE

British para dressage rider and FEI Grade I para carriage driver. Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.



Biography

Short (50 words)

Amanda Shirtcliffe is a British para-equestrian athlete from Milton Keynes. Diagnosed in 2012 with dystonia, a neurological movement disorder, she was riding for Great Britain in para dressage by 2013. In 2025, in her first season as a Grade I para carriage driver, she finished 9th at the FEI Para Driving World Championships.

Medium (100 words)

Amanda Shirtcliffe is a British para-equestrian athlete from Milton Keynes. A keen rider from the age of six, she was diagnosed in 2012 with dystonia, an incurable neurological movement disorder. Inspired by the London 2012 Paralympics, she took up para dressage, made her international debut for Great Britain in 2013 and joined the British World Class programme, later winning 13 times at international level. In 2025 she switched focus to para carriage driving and finished 9th at the FEI Para Driving World Championships. Amanda is patron of Milton Keynes charity Ride High and a qualified RDA dressage judge.

Long (250 words)

Amanda Shirtcliffe had her first riding lesson at six and went on to compete in the showing, at cross-country and in show jumping. In February 2012 she was diagnosed with dystonia, an incurable neurological movement disorder that causes painful muscle spasms and affects her legs, arms, neck, balance and co-ordination.

Watching the London 2012 Paralympics, she decided to start again. In 2013 she won the para talent spotting competition and made her international debut for Great Britain. She was selected for British Equestrian's Excel squad in 2014 and the Podium Potential squad in 2016, won Grade III titles at the Para Gold Finals, Para Home International and Para Winter Championships, and won 13 times at international level, including clean sweeps at Bishop Burton in 2017 and 2019.

In 2024 the Para Equestrian Foundation introduced her to carriage driving; her first competition was in April 2025. Six months later, with Ranger, she drove for Great Britain at the FEI Para Driving World Championships in Löhden, Germany, finishing 9th of 17 in Grade I. The squad later won the RDA's Birt Spooner Cup.

Away from competition Amanda is patron of Ride High, a Milton Keynes charity that uses horses to transform the lives of vulnerable children, a rider mentor with the Para Equestrian Foundation and a qualified RDA dressage judge.

Quick facts

Name

Amanda Shirtcliffe

Home

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Disciplines

Para carriage driving and para dressage

Classification

Grade I in both disciplines (dressage Grade I since 2025)

Condition

Dystonia, diagnosed February 2012

GB debut

2013, para dressage

Best championship

9th of 17, FEI Para Driving World Championships 2025

Horses

Kirkstall Spirit, "Timmy" (2026); Ranger (driving). Earlier: Run of the Mill, Ruby Rose II, New Princess, Michelangelo, Remi II, Hermione P

Charity

Patron, Ride High (Milton Keynes)

Also

RDA dressage judge, Para Equestrian Foundation rider mentor

Social

@dystonicdiva on Facebook and Instagram; Amanda Shirtcliffe on LinkedIn



Key results

Year	Result
2026	GB at Wellington CPEDI2* on Kirkstall Spirit; Grade I comeback win in June
2025	9th of 17, Grade I, FEI Para Driving World Championships, Löhden, Germany (6th in the marathon) with Ranger
2025	Member of the British para driving squad awarded the RDA Birt Spooner Cup
2021	Winner, team test (Remi II) and individual test (Hermione), Bishop Burton CPEDI3*
2019	All three Grade III tests won at Bishop Burton CPEDI3*; 2nd at CHI Al Shaqab, Doha, with Remi II
2018	2nd, Maimarkt-Turnier Mannheim; Grade III champion at the Para Home International and Para Gold Summer Championships
2017	Clean sweep and Team Champion, Bishop Burton FEI CPEDI; Grade III Gold national champion
2013	International debut for Great Britain on Run of the Mill; Excel squad 2014, Podium Potential squad 2016

Approved quotes

"Most people in my position would be content with just being able to ride, but for me it's not enough – I missed the electrifying buzz and nervous energy of a competition arena."

British Equestrian

"Was it easy? Nope. Was it worth it? Every single second."

Amanda Shirtcliffe, 2026

"No one said it would be easy but I love a challenge!"

Amanda Shirtcliffe

"Ride High is a wonderful charity and I've witnessed first-hand the impact they have on young lives."

MKFM, 2024

Notes for editors

- **Dystonia** is a neurological movement disorder that causes involuntary muscle spasms. Amanda's affects her legs, arms, neck, balance and co-ordination.
- **Para driving** has two grades. Grade I is for drivers with the greatest impairment. Drivers complete dressage, marathon and cones phases from the seat of a carriage.
- **Compensating aids:** Amanda drives with a lap belt, and her groom can use the whip and operate the brakes.
- **Photography:** high-resolution images are available on request. Please credit the photographer where shown.
- **Interviews** can be arranged in person, by phone or video. Amanda uses a wheelchair and mobility aids; step-free access helps for in-person interviews.

Media enquiries

Interviews, features, photography and appearances.

Email

amanda@pararider.co.uk

Facebook and Instagram

[@dystonicdiva](https://www.facebook.com/dystonicdiva)

LinkedIn

[linkedin.com/in/amanda-shirtcliffe-b10b7076](https://www.linkedin.com/in/amanda-shirtcliffe-b10b7076)

Press page

amandashirtcliffe.co.uk/press