

Sunday 29th December

# KELSO

**12.18** VISIT KELSO IN 2025 NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2¾m151y (4560 Metres)

RACE 1 **(1) ACE OF SPADES | (3) SMALL TOWN KID | (6) FAR FROM OVER**

**12.53** SLAINTE MHATH HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2¾m151y (4560 Metres)

RACE 2 **(2) NAB WOOD | (3) YOUNG JACK | (11) GUERNESEY**

**1.28** HALF PRICE RACINGTV AT [racingtv.com/sale](https://www.racingtv.com/sale) MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 2m51y (3270 Metres)

RACE 3 **(2) BALLYVANGO | (6) CHICHESTER | (10) JEHOL DE THAIX**

**2.03** CHILDREN'S HOSPICES ACROSS SCOTLAND HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m1f14y (3430 Metres)

RACE 4 **(2) CAITHNESS | (3) BEAT BOX | (1) ESCAPEANDEVADE**

**2.38** [racingtv.com/sale](https://www.racingtv.com/sale) MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2¼m25y (3640 Metres)

RACE 5 **(1) KOMEDY KICKS | (3) BELLBIRD | (6) INSPIRE HOPE**

**3.13** AJA AMATEUR JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 3¼m39y (5270 Metres)

RACE 6 **(4) SENOR LOMBARDY | (1) BACK ON THE LASH | (5) CAMP BELAN**

#### KEY TO SYMBOLS

**Top Rated:** The horse with the best chance based solely on past form, specially tailored to a 0-100 scale.

**Horses For Courses:** A suitable track for the horse, compared to its lifetime record on similar courses as defined by Timeform's course data.

**Jockey Uplift:** The engaged rider has a notably higher Timeform Jockey Ranking than those who've ridden the horse on its most recent starts

**Trainer Form:** A hot trainer to follow, based on Timeform ratings-related measurements looking at the recent performance of runners.

**12.18**

**VISIT KELSO IN 2025 NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £8,000**  
**2¾m151y (4560 Metres)**

RACE 1



Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

Left handed, generally flat, with the hurdles course separate to the chase one and around a furlong shorter in length. The position of the final obstacle on both tracks was placed closer to the winning post from October 2012, negating the previous 2f run to the line, ensuring there is less emphasis on stamina than previously. It's true to say that conditions can get gruelling in midwinter, but on anything other than soft/heavy ground it's a track which is essentially sharp in character. Casualty rates on the chase course have decreased in recent years, for no obvious reason other than the fences presumably aren't quite so stiff as used to be the case.

Pace Information: **Even**

**1 ACE OF SPADES (FR) (42) 100**

521-421 5 11-7 | 73.0kg **Harry Skelton**  
 Dan Skelton  
 Useful bumper winner last spring and going the right way over hurdles, opening account in 4-runner novice hurdle (evens) at Cheltenham (16.4f, good to soft) 42 days ago. Step up in trip seems sure to suit and will likely take plenty of beating under a penalty.

**2 LUNAR CHIEF (21) (CD) 95**

1/45-17 6 11-7 | 73.0kg **Sean Quinlan**  
 Ruth Jefferson  
 Won his sole outing in bumpers and left previous hurdling performances behind when opening his account in a C&D novice in November, despite flashing tail under pressure run-in. Not in the same form switched to a handicap back here last time, though.

**3 SMALL TOWN KID (IRE) (29) 95**

1 5 11-7 | 73.0kg **Ryan Mania**  
 James Ewart  
 Irish point winner who made a successful debut over hurdles in 9-runner maiden at Newcastle (16.2f, good) 29 days ago, getting first run. More needed under a penalty.

**4 ALWAYS A REASON (IRE) (18) 77**

7 5 11-0 | 69.9kg **Ross Chapman**  
 Rebecca Menzies  
 Off mark in Irish points at fifth attempt in April and shaped as if better for the run on recent hurdle debut at Hexham,

**5 BOGLEYBURN (IRE) (28) 92**

92-6 5 11-0 | 69.9kg **Bruce Lynn**  
 Gary Rutherford  
 Showed modest form in a brace of bumpers late last year but was well beaten on his reappearance at Carlisle 4 weeks ago. Makes hurdle bow.

**6 FAR FROM OVER (IRE) (37) 92**

6 7 11-0 | 69.9kg **Richard Patrick**  
 Clive Boulton-Brooks  
 Dual point winner who offered something to work on switched to hurdling when sixth of 13 in novice at Chepstow (19.4f, good) 37 days ago. Step up in trip will suit and entitled to do better.

**7 SEA GOD (IRE) (66) 88**

1-4P 5 11-0 | 69.9kg **Derek Fox**  
 Lucinda Russell  
 Successful on his sole outing in points and completed a simple task switched to a bumper at Carlisle last December. Shaped like a stayer switched to hurdling on first run since leaving John McConnell when fourth of 13 here (20.9f, good) in May but was pulled up at Carlisle 6 months on.

**8 WEE ALKI (IRE) (18) 81**

655 5 11-0 | 69.9kg **Nathan Moscrop**  
 Susan Corbett  
 Looks one for handicaps after this run.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**evens** Ace of Spades, **9-2** Small Town Kid, **13-2** Lunar Chief, **15-2** Far From Over, **14-1** Sea God, **33-1** Always A Reason, **66-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

ACE OF SPADES did well to come out on top at Cheltenham considering the drop in trip hardly looked ideal, so he's a straightforward choice to defy a penalty now upped to a more suitable distance. Small Town Kid and Far From Over can battle it out for minor honours.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. ACE OF SPADES 2. SMALL TOWN KID 3. FAR FROM OVER**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Great Pepper</b> 5-11-7	evsf	James Moffatt	Charlotte Jones (3)	6
2022	<b>De Legislator</b> 5-11-7	6-4	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	7
2021	<b>Ned Tanner</b> 5-10-12	7-1	N. W. Alexander	Sean Quinlan	12
2020	<b>Deluxe Range</b> 5-10-12	7-4	Sandy Thomson	Ryan Mania	9
2019	<b>Uptown Harry</b> 5-10-12	7-4f	Jane Walton	Ross Chapman	9

**SMART STATS:**

- 2** Lucinda Russell's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: **SEA GOD**)
- £11.65** Ruth Jefferson's profit to a £1 level stake when having only one runner on the card (hurdles) (saddles: **LUNAR CHIEF**)
- 22%** Ryan Mania's strike rate at KELSO (rides: **SMALL TOWN KID**)

**12.53**

**SLAINTE MHATH HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-125) £15,000 2¾m151y (4560 Metres)**

RACE 2



Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

Left handed, generally flat, with the hurdles course separate to the chase one and around a furlong shorter in length. The position of the final obstacle on both tracks was placed closer to the winning post from October 2012, negating the previous 2f run to the line, ensuring there is less emphasis on stamina than previously. It's true to say that conditions can get gruelling in midwinter, but on anything other than soft/heavy ground it's a track which is essentially sharp in character. Casualty rates on the chase course have decreased in recent years, for no obvious reason other than the fences presumably aren't quite so stiff as used to be the case.

Pace Information: **Weak**

- 1 IDEM (FR) (32) (CD)** **96**  
 14F5-128R **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg   
**Lucinda Russell** **Patrick Wadge**  
 C&D winner here in May and not disgraced when eighth of 12 in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (24f, good) in October. Well-backed but disappointed at Market Rasen last time out (refused 2 out when beaten) and needs to bounce back from that.
- 2 NAB WOOD (IRE) (317) (CD)** **99**  
 67211- **7** 11-12 | 75.3kg   
**Nicky Richards** **Sean Quinlan**  
 Lightly-raced gelding won 2m6f novice hurdle over C&D and followed up in equally impressive style on his handicap debut here in February (overcoming pace bias). Hiked up 8 lb and ideally wants it softer but looked a useful prospect and would be dangerous to dismiss if ready to roll on his return,
- 3 YOUNG JACK (IRE) (21) (CD)** **100**  
 2139-51 **6** 11-11 | 74.8kg   
**Chris Grant** **Danny McMenamin**  
 Maiden point winner who scored on his second start over hurdles at Newcastle (2½m, heavy) in February. Built on decent return at Carlisle (20f) with career-best effort over C&D three weeks ago, winning with a bit in hand. Best form on slower ground but is unexposed and has to be considered.
- 4 FINGAL'S HILL (IRE) (32)** **98**  
 117524-83 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg **s**  
**Peter Atkinson** **Brian Hughes**  
 Consistent and likeable hurdler who looked and shaped as though in need of the run in first-time cheekpieces at Carlisle on comeback. Latest effort was a step in the right direction when third of 6 in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (19.7f, soft) 32 days ago. Not ruled out with cheekpieces retained.
- 5 BERTIE B (27)** **96**  
 3/P7313-21 **6** 11-8 | 73.5kg **Richard Patrick**  
**Clive Boulton-Brooks**  
 Opened his hurdles account at Hereford in February and good second at Uttoxeter (19.9f, good to soft) on comeback this season. Career best when winning 11-runner handicap hurdle at Plumpton (20.5f, soft, 5/1) 27 days ago. Looks a straightforward sort and can go well again tackling longer trip.
- 6 BALLYTECHNO (IRE) (23)** **96**  
 8/47211P **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg **Charlie Maggs (71b/3kg)**  
**James Owen**  
 Left bumper form behind when sent hurdling for new yard, supplementing his maiden success switched to a handicap at Ascot in November (19.3f) winning with something to spare. Tough task in a Grade 2 last time (pulled up) and a better showing expected upped in trip and back in calmer waters.
- 7 GAILLIMH A STOR (IRE) (21)** **98**  
 22F3F3/3 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg   
**N. W. Alexander** **Bruce Lynn**  
 Novice hurdle winner (at 20.5f) who has placed on both hurdle starts here (better hurdler than chaser). Shaped as if retaining all of his ability when third over C&D behind Young Jack three weeks ago. That was his first run after 21-month absence and a wind operation, so entitled to build on that.
- 8 KINGSTON BRIDGE (IRE) (21) (C)** **99**  
 681-81960 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg   
**Ewan Whillans** **Craig Nichol**  
 Course winner back in April and displayed a willing attitude for latest victory at Hexham June before a couple of quieter runs. Shaped poorly on comeback three weeks ago and dropped another 2 lb in handicap. Would be a player if recapturing best form, but that looks a sizeable if based on last run.
- 9 I AM MAX (IRE) (74)** **94**  
 11-3F **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg **Ryan Mania**  
**Sandy Thomson**  
 Bumper winner on debut in February and followed up on hurdles bow at Ayr (2m) later that month. Much improved when third on handicap debut in that sphere at Hexham in May (20f) prior to falling on chase debut at Wetherby (21.3f) 74 days ago. Retains untapped potential back over timber.

- 10 DUNNET HEAD (IRE) (21)** **97**  
 142/184-25 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg **t**  
**Iain Jardine** **Conor O'Farrell**  
 Bumper/hurdles winner who went close to making a winning return at Carlisle in November. Not disgraced on chase debut here (in first-time tongue tie) still in contention when error 2 out ended his chance (23.4f, heavy). Switches to hurdles today and should be competitive with tongue-tie retained.
- 11 GUERNESEY (FR) (18)** **99**  
 44553-863 **8** 10-8 | 67.1kg **s**   
**Jackie Stephen** **Joshua Thompson (71b/3kg)**  
 Last of 6 here in October but ran best race for a while after 7 weeks off when third of 11 in handicap hurdle at Hexham (20.1f, soft) 18 days ago (didn't jump fluently). Interesting to see if he can build on that.
- 12 GYPSEY'S SECRET (IRE) (21)** **92**  
 6/P63214-6 **9** 10-2(9-9) | 64.4kg (61.2kg) **Emma Smith-Chaston (31b/1kg)**  
**Sandy Forster**  
 Got off the mark aged 9 at Carlisle (soft) in March and followed it up with a solid effort here. Shaped as if needing the run, and a step up in trip when 21¼ lengths sixth of 10 to Young Jack in handicap hurdle at this C&D (soft, 28/1) 21 days ago. This looks a tough ask from out of the weights.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-1 Nab Wood, 13-2 Young Jack, 8-1 Ballytechno, 9-1 Bertie B, 10-1 Gaillimh A Stor, 10-1 Idem, 12-1 Guernesey, 12-1 Fingal's Hill, 12-1 Dunnet Head, 22-1 I Am Max, 33-1 Kingston Bridge, 100-1 bar**

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

NAB WOOD created a favourable impression when scoring twice over C&D earlier in the year, and although he'd ideally benefit from more juice in the ground, he is still the one who appeals most for a yard whose horses are in flying form. There are plenty of others with chances, including fellow C&D winner Young Jack, who could be dangerous if getting his own way in front, and Guernesey who ran his best race in a while when third 18 days ago. Ballytechno gets an honourable mention now upped in trip.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. NAB WOOD 2. YOUNG JACK 3. GUERNESEY**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Imaginary Dragon</b> 5-11-2	9-2	Sandy Thomson	Ryan Mania	8
2022	<b>Schalke</b> 7-11-5	8-1	Rebecca Menzies	Conor O'Farrell	12
2021	<b>Grand Voyage</b> 5-11-2	9-4f	Stuart Coltherd	Sam Coltherd	10

**SMART STATS:**

- £36.53** Nicky Richards's profit to a £1 level stake with hurdlers running after a break (saddles: **NAB WOOD**)
- 22%** Ryan Mania's strike rate at KELSO (rides: **I AM MAX**)
- 25%** James Owen's strike rate in early season (saddles: **BALLYTECHNO**)

1.28

HALF PRICE RACINGTV AT [racingtv.com/sale](https://www.racingtv.com/sale) MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £8,000 2m51y (3270 Metres)

RACE 3




Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**


Left handed, generally flat, with the hurdles course separate to the chase one and around a furlong shorter in length. The position of the final obstacle on both tracks was placed closer to the winning post from October 2012, negating the previous 2f run to the line, ensuring there is less emphasis on stamina than previously. It's true to say that conditions can get gruelling in midwinter, but on anything other than soft/heavy ground it's a track which is essentially sharp in character. Casualty rates on the chase course have decreased in recent years, for no obvious reason other than the fences presumably aren't quite so stiff as used to be the case.

Pace Information: **Even**


**1 ATLANTIC ALFIE (IRE) 89** t

 N. W. Alexander *Patrick Wadge*  
Famous Name gelding. Half-brother to fair hurdler Atlantic Dancer, stays 23f. Dam (h72), lightly raced over hurdles, also 9f winner on Flat in Germany. Wears tongue strap or debut.


**2 BALLYVANGO (IRE) (61) 100** h 

 Martin Keighley *Daire McConville (71lb/3kg)*  
Fair form in bumpers, third of 5 at Market Rasen a year ago and he showed plenty to work on when sixth of 14 sent hurdling at Chepstow in October. That race well advertised since and he's open to plenty of progress. Hood on.


**3 BURNING IT UP (IRE) (50) 89**

 N. W. Alexander *Bruce Lynn*  
€25,000 3-y-o, £35,000 4-y-o, Milan gelding. Dam unraced half-sister to bumper winner Gaillimh A Chroi out of 2½m hurdle winner (stayed 3m) Burnt Out. Third on only outing in Irish points and looked in need of the experience in a bumper at the track last month.


**4 CAHIER'S DEN (IRE) (28) 91**

 Donald McCain *Brian Hughes*  
€5,500 3-y-o, £20,000 4-y-o, Idaho gelding. Dam, ran twice over hurdles, half-sister to fair hurdler/useful chaser Ballyadam Approach. Won second of 2 outings in Irish points in May and stuck to his task well when runner-up on hurdles bow last month. Unable to repeat that form 3 weeks later.


**5 CAPTAIN BUTLER (IRE) (593) 93**

 Pauline Robson *Craig Nichol*  
Mount Nelson gelding. Half-brother to bumper winner/fairly useful hurdler Little Nugget and bumper winner Laoch Liam. Off mark in Irish points at third attempt and looked a nice prospect when overcoming greenness to land 11-runner bumper at Newcastle in May 2023. Off since.


**6 CHICHESTER 96**

 Lucinda Russell *Jack Power (71lb/3kg)*  
Brother to poor hurdler Jamil (2m winner) dam, half-sister to useful hurdler/chaser (stayed 21f) Rougham. Smart performer at best on Flat (stays 1¼m), well below form in 2024. Interesting to see what he can do over hurdles.

**7 CLAN CHIEFTAIN (30) 79** h

 Jackie Stephen *Sean Quinlan*  
Fairly useful handicapper on Flat (stays 2m), creditable third last time. Sold for just 6,000 gns from Ralph Beckett in September and hooded, he didn't show much on hurdles debut.


**8 FOREVA ALFIE (IRE) (15) 60**

 Paul Robson *Ryan Mania*  
Hinted at ability in a bumper for Rose Dobbin in 2022 but missed all of 2023 and no impact both starts in recent weeks.


**9 GONNINO (IRE) (15) 89**

 Gary Rutherford *Sam Coltherd*  
Out of a bumper winner but just minor promise in a couple of races in recent weeks. Hurdles debut.


**10 JEHOL DE THAIX (FR) (173) 97**

 Nicky Richards *Danny McMenamin*  
€23,000 3-y-o, Masked Marvel gelding. Dam maiden chaser in France. Half-sister to dam of smart hurdler/chaser up to 3m Volnay de Thaix. Prominent in the betting and showed plenty to work on when second of 9 at Uttoxeter in July. In excellent hands ahead of hurdles debut.

**11 SPLIT STONE (46) 75**

 N. W. Alexander *Jamie Hamilton*  
Clovis Du Berlais gelding. Dam lightly raced on Flat/in points. Limited impact both starts.


**12 THAT ONE (21) 89**

 James Walton *Conor O'Farrell*  
Showed definite ability in 3 hurdles earlier in the year, posting his best effort when fourth at Hexham in March. Shade too free on C&D reappearance and could be one for handicaps.

**13 THE BACK BRAES (IRE) (599) 79**

 Stuart Coltherd *Ross Chapman*  
ell held in a course bumper for Sandy Thomson in May 2023. Placed on 2 of 4 point starts since. Best watched on hurdle debut unless the betting strongly hints otherwise.

**14 TUPPENCE (FR) (21) 92**

 Lucinda Russell *Derek Fox*  
Still in touch when unseated rider 3 out in fillies maiden juvenile at Senonnes-Pouance in March on hurdling debut. Left A. Chaille-Chaille and travelled with purpose when fourth on hurdles debut over C&D 3 weeks ago.

14 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**3-1 Ballyvango, 9-2 Jehol De Thaix, 5-1 Chichester, 8-1 Captain Butler, 10-1 Tuppence, 14-1 Cahier's Den, 28-1 That One, 33-1 Burning It Up, 33-1 Gonnino, 40-1 bar**

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

BALLYVANGO shaped well in a pretty warm maiden at Chepstow in the autumn and fancied to build on that, so he looks the way to go. Chichester is a potentially classy recruit to this sphere, with Jehol de Thaix also of interest given his previous encouraging run in a bumper.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. BALLYVANGO 2. CHICHESTER 3. JEHOL DE THAIX**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Dream Boy</b> 5-11-4	5-1	Stuart Coltherd	Sam Coltherd	9
2022	<b>Carcaci Castle</b> 6-11-7	7-4	Sandy Thomson	Ryan Mania	8
2021	<b>Soft Risk</b> 5-11-5	2-9f	Nicky Richards	Brian Hughes	9
2020	<b>Bollingerandkrug</b> 5-10-12	15-2	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	10
2019	<b>Mario de Pail</b> 4-10-12	15-8f	Sam Thomas	Charlie Deutsch	13

**SMART STATS:**

- 4** N. W. Alexander's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (amongst 3 runners saddles: **SPLIT STONE**)
- £15.25** N. W. Alexander's profit to a £1 level stake with hurdlers running in first time headgear (saddles: **ATLANTIC ALFIE**)
- 22%** Ryan Mania's strike rate at KELSO (rides: **FOREVA ALFIE**)

**2.03**

RACE 4

**CHILDREN'S HOSPICES ACROSS SCOTLAND HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £15,000 2m1f14y (3430 Metres)**Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

Left handed, generally flat, with the hurdles course separate to the chase one and around a furlong shorter in length. The position of the final obstacle on both tracks was placed closer to the winning post from October 2012, negating the previous 2f run to the line, ensuring there is less emphasis on stamina than previously. It's true to say that conditions can get gruelling in midwinter, but on anything other than soft/heavy ground it's a track which is essentially sharp in character. Casualty rates on the chase course have decreased in recent years, for no obvious reason other than the fences presumably aren't quite so stiff as used to be the case.

Pace Information: **Weak**

**1 ESCAPEANDEVADE (IRE) (43) (CD)** s  **97**  
 4/44111-U5 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



James Ewart

**Brian Hughes**

Took his form up a notch over fences with cheekpieces enlisted last term, bringing up the hat-trick at Kelso (17f) in March. Disputing the lead when unseating rider 3 out at Wetherby on return and trip possibly too far there since.

**2 CAITHNESS (IRE) (32) (C)**  **100**  
 13606-321 **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg



Lucinda Russell

**Derek Fox**

Built on promising debut over fences when taking 5-runner handicap chase (11/4) at Wetherby (15.2f, good to soft) 32 days ago by 1½ lengths. 6 lb looks fair and he remains open to further improvement.

**3 BEAT BOX (FR) (18) (D)** **98**  
 67-111141 **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg



Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Won first 4 starts (at up to 17.2f) this term and resumed his progress when landing 6-runner handicap chase (4/1) at Hereford (16f, good to soft) 18 days ago. 5 lb higher now but another bold bid is on the cards.

**4 CARCACI CASTLE (IRE) (62) (C, D)** s+t **96**  
 023P-5135 **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Sandy Thomson

**Ryan Mania**

Bounced back to his best reverted to fences when winning a 6-runner handicap at Hexham in June but hasn't kicked on 2 starts since.

**5 DUTY CALLS (IRE) (28) (CD)** **95**  
 422741-PP **11** 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)



Sandy Forster

**Lewis Stones (3lb/1kg)**

Cashed in on a reduced mark over fences at Kelso in March but poor efforts next 2 starts 7 months apart.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

11-10 Caithness, 11-4 Beat Box, 6-1 Escapeandevade, 7-1 Carcaci Castle, 40-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

CAITHNESS has taken to fences very well and remains one to keep on the right side of after beating a subsequent winner at Wetherby last month. Beat Box enhanced his impressive strike rate for this yard at Hereford and is the obvious threat.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. CAITHNESS 2. BEAT BOX 3. ESCAPEANDEVADE

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Traprain Law</b> 5-11-4	1-2f	Lucinda Russell	Patrick Wadge (3)	5
2022	<b>Wheelbahri</b> 8-10-9	11-2	Stuart Coltherd	Ross Chapman	8
2021	<b>Cedar Hill</b> 7-11-7	5-2f	Sandy Thomson	Ryan Mania	6
2020	<b>Monsieur Co</b> 7-11-2	12-1	Keith Dagleish	Conor O'Farrell	7
2019	<b>Clan Legend</b> 9-11-5	3-1	N. W. Alexander	Lucy Alexander	4

**SMART STATS:**

- 2** Lucinda Russell's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: **CAITHNESS**)
- 2** James Ewart's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: **ESCAPEANDEVADE**)
- 22%** Ryan Mania's strike rate at KELSO (rides: **CARCACI CASTLE**)

**2.38**

RACE 5

**ratingtv.com/sale MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier)  
(4) 3yo+ fillies and mares (Rated 0-120) £9,000  
2¼m25y (3640 Metres)**



Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

Left handed, generally flat, with the hurdles course separate to the chase one and around a furlong shorter in length. The position of the final obstacle on both tracks was placed closer to the winning post from October 2012, negating the previous 2f run to the line, ensuring there is less emphasis on stamina than previously. It's true to say that conditions can get gruelling in midwinter, but on anything other than soft/heavy ground it's a track which is essentially sharp in character. Casualty rates on the chase course have decreased in recent years, for no obvious reason other than the fences presumably aren't quite so stiff as used to be the case.

Pace Information: **Weak**

**SMART STATS:**

- 2** Lucinda Russell's number of winners in past 8 runnings. (saddles: **SHE'S NOTJOEKING**)
- 31%** Harry Skelton's strike rate when riding prominently (rides: **KOMEDY KICKS - could pay to be near the pace**)
- 29%** Conner McCann's strike rate when riding a hurdle as their only ride at the meeting (rides: **SHE'S NOTJOEKING**)

**1 KOMEDY KICKS (IRE) (25) 99**  
F9/1212-P4 5 12-0 | 76.2kg

Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*  
Fair maiden on Flat and showed similar form when landing a Worcester maiden and a Stratford novice in the summer of 2023. Made an encouraging start for Dan Skelton at Ludlow (2m) earlier this month and interesting with that behind her.

**2 SHE'S NOTJOEKING (48) 95**  
1521-39 4 11-12 | 75.3kg

Lucinda Russell *Conner McCann (7lb/3kg)*  
Bumper winner who got off the mark over hurdles in 5-runner juvenile hurdle at Hexham in April. Third in another novice there 6 months later but made an underwhelming start to her handicap career at Carlisle in November. Bounce back needed.

**3 BELLBIRD (14) (BF) 100**  
15472822 4 11-12 | 75.3kg

Donald McCain *Charlie Maggs (7lb/3kg)*  
Struck at second time of asking over hurdles for Donald McCain at Ludlow (2m) in May. Has bettered that form when runner-up in handicaps on 3 of her last 4 starts. A 4 lb rise for latest Windsor near miss doesn't look too severe given she pulled 13 lengths clear of the third.

**4 THEIRSHEGOES (IRE) (20) 97**  
54-1U3613 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

Sandy Thomson *Lewis Dobb (7lb/3kg)*  
Back to winning ways over at Musselburgh under Lewis Dobb in November. Respectable third of 5 over 2m at the same venue since.

**5 MY LADY ELEKTRA (FR) (30) 96**  
6/372F9-67 6 11-8 | 73.5kg

N. W. Alexander *Sean Quinlan*  
Fair maiden hurdler in France, placed twice in 2023/24. Comfortably held in novice and handicap around 2½m since joining Nick Alexander. Needs to leave those 2 efforts well behind.

**6 INSPIRE HOPE (IRE) (30) 95**  
2124U 3 11-7 | 73.0kg

Rebecca Menzies *Brian Hughes*  
Won a juvenile hurdle for Joseph O'Brien in July. Made a respectable start for new yard when fourth of 7 in listed Wensleydale at Wetherby (2m, good) in November and yet to be asked for effort when unseating 3 out in another listed race at Newbury since. Respected handicap newcomer.

**7 NOT IN KANSAS (30) 95**  
PF8/71-193 7 11-1 | 70.3kg

N. W. Alexander *Bruce Lynn*  
Dual winner around 2½m in the spring and all the sharper for her reappearance when a creditable third at Musselburgh (3m) last month.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**5-2** Bellbird, **11-4** Komedly Kicks, **11-2** Inspire Hope, **7-1** Theirshegoes, **12-1** Not In Kansas, **14-1** She's Notjoeking, **20-1** My Lady Elektra

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

KOMEDY KICKS is given a chance to build on a promising first run for the Dan Skelton yard at Ludlow. The in-form Bellbird and Rebecca Menzies handicap debutante Inspire Hope may provide the main opposition.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. KOMEDY KICKS 2. BELLBIRD 3. INSPIRE HOPE**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Atlantic Dancer</b> 10-11-1	9-1	N. W. Alexander	Bruce Lynn (3)	7
2022	<b>Maimie's Magic</b> 5-9-13	33-1	Stuart Crawford	Sean Quinlan	8
2021	<b>Millarville</b> 8-10-10	13-2	Harriet Graham	Ryan Mania	11
2020	<b>Schiaparannie</b> 8-11-12	9-2	Jane Makin	Aaron Anderson (7)	7
2019	<b>Animore</b> 6-10-10	17-2	Iain Jardine	Ross Chapman	12

**3.13**

**AJA AMATEUR JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4)  
4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £10,000 3¼m39y (5270 Metres)**

RACE 6



Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

Left handed, generally flat, with the hurdles course separate to the chase one and around a furlong shorter in length. The position of the final obstacle on both tracks was placed closer to the winning post from October 2012, negating the previous 2f run to the line, ensuring there is less emphasis on stamina than previously. It's true to say that conditions can get gruelling in midwinter, but on anything other than soft/heavy ground it's a track which is essentially sharp in character. Casualty rates on the chase course have decreased in recent years, for no obvious reason other than the fences presumably aren't quite so stiff as used to be the case.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Rath An luir</b>	10-11-8	5-1	Rose Dobbin	Mr Nick Orpwood (3)	6
2022	<b>Rath An luir</b>	9-11-8	4-1	Rose Dobbin	Gearoid Harney (7)	11
2021	<b>Buddha Scheme</b>	7-11-10	13-2	Lucinda Russell	Mr Lyall Hodgins (7)	6
2020	<b>Charlie Snow Angel</b>	11-10-2	9-2	Sandy Forster	Miss J. Walton (7)	8
2019	<b>Samstown</b>	12-11-5	18-1	Alistair Whillans	Mr Connor Wood (7)	6

**SMART STATS:**

**22%** Nicky Richards's strike rate in early season (saddles: **SEÑOR LOMBARDY**)

**1 BACK ON THE LASH (44) 98**

PP/P08-P03 10 12-2 | 77.1kg  
 Martin Keighley *Mr Freddie Keighley (71b/3kg)*  
 Dual Cross-Country winner at Cheltenham who got back on track when third of 9 there (29f) last month. Strong claims if he can back that up.



**2 FOXBORO (GER) (13) b 95**

P/781927-5 9 11-13 | 75.7kg  
 Archie Watson *Miss Brodie Hampson*  
 Proved at least as good as ever when scoring at Exeter (30.7f, heavy) 12 months ago but laboured efforts since, leaving Robert Walford/off 9 months prior to latest outing at Plumpton. Others are more appealing.



**3 HAUTE ESTIME (IRE) (21) (C) s+t 89**

F5563P-66 7 11-8 | 73.5kg  
 Lucinda Russell *Mr Nick Orpwood (31b/1kg)*  
 Mixed record over fences last season and yet to feature this term. Slight drop in trip is a plus and she's becoming well treated, but there's a bit to prove.



**4 SEÑOR LOMBARDY (IRE) (32) (C) ★ 100**

2 11 11-6 | 72.6kg  
 Nicky Richards *Mr Paddy Barlow (51b/2kg)*  
 Multiple point winner who performed with credit for new yard when second of 9 in a 24.2f Wetherby handicap chase on first run under Rules since March 2022. That form looks solid (winner has scored twice again since) and he makes plenty of appeal off the same mark here.



**5 CAMP BELAN (IRE) (32) (CD) b 97**

433125-35 8 11-3 | 71.2kg  
 Lucinda Russell *Mr Gregor Walkingshaw (71b/3kg)*  
 Thorough stayer who cashed in on his reduced mark at Ayr (24.1f) in February. Mostly held form since, so likely to put a rare poor effort at Wetherby behind him back up in trip.



**6 HOLD THE NOTE (IRE) (28) (C) b+t 96**

16/6PP3P-P 10 10-8 | 67.1kg  
 Ewan Whillans *Miss Megan Fox (71b/3kg)*  
 Course winner who has a very patchy record, pulled up on 4 of last 5 starts, the latest coming at Carlisle on reappearance. Plenty to prove.



**7 C'EST QUELQU'UN (FR) (14) 94**

1P6-PP9P6 7 10-5 | 65.8kg  
 Andrew Hamilton *Miss Becky Smith*  
 Recorded back-to-back handicap chase wins for Gordon Elliott last season but form has gone the wrong way since.



**8 SKYHILL (IRE) (248) (C, D) t 95**

1/3154584- 11 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)  
 Alison Hamilton *Miss Heidi Palin (51b/2kg)*  
 Veteran who added to his tally at Catterick on New Year's Day. Has found things tougher since but is becoming well handicapped. Might need this return from 8 months off.



8 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**85-40** Back On The Lash, **3-1** Señor Lombardy, **13-2** Camp Belan, **15-2** Haute Estime, **10-1** Skyhill, **20-1** Hold The Note, **20-1** Foxboro, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

SEÑOR LOMBARDY hasn't won under Rules for a long time but he made a positive debut for this stable at Wetherby last time and, if in the same form, he could take the beating. Back On The Lash returns to handicap company with a live chance and Camp Belan shouldn't be ruled out.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. SEÑOR LOMBARDY 2. BACK ON THE LASH 3. CAMP BELAN**