

## COALFORD LAAG 1993 – 2021

Everyone loves a grey, and Coalford Laag was probably the most famous grey pacer to have ever been in Britain. A truly world-class racehorse and a highly successful stallion, he has been the horse of a lifetime for Coalford Stud.

Coalford Laag was foaled in Britain 1993 at Coalford Stud. Gary had purchased the mare Clairichatross in 1992 from the Harrisburg Sale, who was subsequently in foal to Laag. He raced in 1995 and he was the winner of all four of his starts, which included the National Pacing Futurity in a Stakes record time of 2.02. Coalford Laag won a qualifier at York in 2.00 at 2 years old, an unheard-of time for 2 year olds at this stage in Britain. Due to his talent and speed, he was then sent to race in Canada and USA as a 3 year old under the care of Hall of Fame trainer, Stew Firlotte. Coalford Laag went on to win his first 7 starts in Canada as a 3 year old in various stakes races. His racing highlight in USA would be racing against the world's best colts in the Oliver Wendell Holmes Pace on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands in 1996.

Coalford Laag returned home to Coalford Stud with a lifetime record of 1.52 and over £60,000 in money won. He subsequently started a very successful stallion career, siring winners including Coalford Bubbagump p.2.02, Coalford Amoretto p.1.59, Coalford Tracey p.2.00, Coalford Honour p.2.02, Meadowbranch Gigolo p.2.02, Coalford Admiral p.1.59, to name but a few. A number of his progeny were exported to race in Canada and the US including Coalford Admiral p.1.54, Coalford Delight p.1.53 and Meadowbranch Gigolo p.1.54.

Coalford Laag has left a great legacy at Coalford through his fillies who continue to breed top class racehorses. His greatest impact was showing the possibilities to Britain and the potential of importing quality yearlings, opening the doors to the massive importations of horses in the 1990s and 2000s to improve the British standardbred breed. This continues to this day, as we all chase the dream of owning a world-class racehorse.

It is a rarity for a British stallion to have had two top class careers as both a racehorse and a stallion, but Coalford Laag made it so. Possibly the most famous grey standardbred ever known to the UK, he was as kind and as beautiful as he was talented. Everyone who saw him never forgot him, a truly majestic animal who lives long in the hearts and memories of anyone who loves harness racing. As they say, 'Legends never die.' Thank you, Coalford Laag; you were indeed one of a kind. A worthy nominee into the BHRC Hall of Fame.



**Coalford Laag**



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