

# LANESIDE LEXUS

As Laneside Lexus storms Canada we take a look back at the racing life of this outstanding mare.

Arguably the best Hopping High horse (out of Goldilocks) Laneside Lexus was first seen at Appleby as a three year old in June 2007 where she easily won her Maiden race. She progressed effortlessly from maiden to Open Class by September of 2007, with six race wins in the first year including the final of the aptly named Rising Stars Series.

In 2008 she was lightly raced and only seen out three times; Tregaron, York and Appleby all in May. Her best in this year was a fourth in 2.02.7.

In 2009 she was back to form starting in May at York and racing through to Tregaron at the end of August. In this year she did what every owner dreams of, she crossed the line first in the Famous Musselburgh Pace Final. Lexus had already taken the Tregaron Spring handicap and went on to also claim the BHRC European Pacing Classic

and a Future Broodmares Pace. She racked up an impressive eight wins from twelve runs.

In 2010 she claimed her British Lifetime Best of 1.56.9 at Tir Prince in a Crock Of Gold Heat finishing second. Lexus managed three race wins in this season, the first at the Ffos Las racecourse, a Top Grade Stayers at Tregaron in August and a Preferred Free For All at the end of the season at York, in another impressive time of 1.58.5.

2011 saw the pinnacle of her career so far when she was one of four contesters in a photo finish for the Crock of Gold Final at Tir Prince in August. Lexus was shown as the first across the line, a brilliant achievement for the mare in a notable 1.57.3, beating Matador Hall, Forafewdollarsmore and Crown Manhattan. This was the peak of an already remarkable season in which she had taken two STAGBI broodmares races and a Tregaron Stayers Championship. Lexus had also been prominent in the BHRC European Pacing Classic and the Musselburgh Invitational Free

For All.

In five years Lexus stacked up over £30,000 in prize money and achieved 23 race wins. Throughout her racing career, Lexus has been under the training team of the Laidler Stables. Alexis gives her account of being in charge of this amazing mare:

'It was 2006 and would be owner Neville Bainbridge had told us he was looking for a foal to replace Laneside Lady when she was finished racing. We also had another owner, Alan Courtney, looking for a horse. We immediately thought of Bill Powers. We had already done very well with the breed with horses Merrington Heights and Bad Boy. Rocker had previously driven Horace Cox's horse What A Commotion and was very impressed with her and advised Neville to purchase Laneside Lexus instead of a foal. Alan Courtney purchased a two year old colt out of Flying Lodge who never made it to the races due to a problem with her knee. Bill Powers being the gentleman he is, told Alan to bring her back and he would swap her for another who turned out to be 2YO Pacer of the Year Page Bank Maggie.

At two year old 'Lexy' was already a giant of a horse, the only downside being that she was not even halter broken. We herded them into the lorry and headed off to County Durham to begin her journey as a race-horse, a journey which was going to be by no means smooth but with some exceptional highs.

Breaking Lexy was a bit of a challenge as she was so big and strong she quickly realised that not one, two or even six of us on the end of a rope were a match for her. We just couldn't move her, so to learn her to lead we had to tie her onto the back of the truck. Lexy soon came round and within a few workouts Rucker said that she was going to be a special horse, and he wasn't wrong. Her first start was at Appleby and she did not disappoint, she won what would be her first of 23 wins here in England. Some of her wins include:

- Heat Final of Rising Stars at York
- Heat Final of Wolsingham Show
- Heat Final of Tregaron Spring Handicap
- Heat Final of The Famous Musselburgh Pace

- European Pacing Classic
- Future Broodmares at Allensmore
- Stayers Handicap Tregaron twice
- STAGBI Broodmares pace twice
- Heat Final of the Crock of Gold

After winning the Crock of Gold Lexy was turned away for a few weeks to freshen up. Before we would bring her back to train up again ready for her next big adventure across the pond. We had been telling future trainer, Colin Johnson, how good we thought she would be in Canada but I'm not sure he quite believed us.

We had arranged to go back over to Canada in February for Rucker to drive her in her first start in Canada where she won the Open Mares by seven lengths. Colin then started to believe us that Lexy was a special horse and shipped her to his son Corey Johnson at Ideal Training Centre to race her among the big girls at Woodbine, Canada's premier racing track. Lexy has won four times, three of which have been the Fillies and Mares Open Pace where she has been racing against millionaire

mares and bringing it home for everyone that supports her back in England and Ireland.

The girl is doing us all proud.

Congratulations to Neville and Go Lexy!!!'