

# RHYDS FIVE STAR

The phenomenon that is Rhyds Five Star passed the £50,000 mark on his lifetime earnings with his spectacular return to form at Musselburgh. Where better to prove that you still have 'IT' than at the most prestigious race meeting of the Harness Racing Calendar and in a race held in the memory of a very special lady, Mrs Hazel Kemp.

Rhyds Five Star (stable name Sam), a 2007 male by Hasty Hall out of Tonda Star has been on the racing scenes since 2009. Owned by John Howard and trained by Sheelagh Lord he started his racing career as a 2YO in June of that season at Tir Prince where he finished second. During the rest of the season, 'Five Star' was on fire. He was the victor in any and all 2YO races - The Will Cowan 2YO at Musselburgh, the York 2YO, The Breeders Crown 2YO Colts at York, The BHRC National Pacing Futurity at York, The Junior Welsh Dragon at Tregaron, and finally The Sire Stakes 2YO Colts Heat and Final at York in September. None of his victories were ever in doubt, he performed consistently on hard and grass, with Doyles Connection getting closest at Musselburgh being beaten by just a neck.

In 2010, Five Star started his 3YO campaign at Staindrop in the NESA 3YO Grass Championship where he showed he had held onto his form and stamina and soon went clear of the field and

stayed on to win by 3½ lengths. His next outing took him to Appleby where he competed for the first time outside of the juvenile scene. Being of the generation where there wasn't a Novice grade and Maiden money was taken into the handicap, Five Star was already halfway up the system in Grade 6. Unfortunately he didn't quite make it as he broke stride in the race. In June he returned to the 3YO scene at Ffos Las where he was the victor in the first of eleven consecutive wins. At Ffos Las he won the 3YO Derby Trial by an impressive 10 lengths from Brywins That's Life, from there he went on to win the York 3YO Championship Heat and Final, The BHRC National Pacing Derby, The Foster Care Associates 3YO, the Corbiewood 3YO Derby Heat and Final, the Musselburgh Scottish 3YO Derby, the Hereford & Borders 3YO Colts and the Christy Dunne 3YO Memorial Heat and Final at Portmarnock. At Tregaron in August in The Little Welsh Dragon, he lost out slightly in the heat being placed fourth, but still qualified for the final and went on to win. He finished his 3YO year at York in September in the Sire Stakes where he was beaten by Ayr-miles in the heat, but a week later he was back to take the prize in the final. Again he never gave connections much cause for concern in any of his performances, always having a good lead, 10 lengths at York in the Championship, 12 lengths at Musselburgh, very rarely challenged and also going under two minutes

(1.58.4) at York and then at Portmarnock setting his lifetime best of 1m57.7.

Five Star well and truly set the bar for juveniles in 2010. He was fast, strong, consistent and adorned like no other.

In 2011, he was at the top of the ranks as a Grade 12. He was lightly raced with only five outings, finding two victories - the Tregaron Senior Welsh Dragon and a heat of the York 4YO Championship. In his other three performances he ran third, second and fifth, so still not out of contention.

In 2012, in the Free For Ranks, his usual record of wins seemed to elude him often finding one too good and contending with the likes of 'Dollars' and 'Mystery'. Still the victor twice, once at Pikehall and secondly in the BHRC European Pacing Classic (adding another major race to his CV). From his other 12 performances in this season he only lost his way once at the end being placed 7th in a Handicap, otherwise he was always at the action end being placed and only narrowly missing out.

2013 started off in the same vein for Five Star with other leads like Mystery, Dollars, Fool Around and DJ just holding him back. Still never far off the case Five Star was second or third in his first few of the season. However at Musselburgh, for the first time under the training charge of Samboy Howard he was steered to victory by Mike



'The Maestro' Lord, holding off 'Dollars' by just half a length and Meadowbranch DJ in third.

A fabulous performance from an excellent and very deserving contender. This big fella is a family favourite who is a real crowd pleaser. Rhyds Five Star must now be the most successful, effective Pacer who has been the most decorated juvenile ever to grace Harness Racing in Britain, winning all the 3YO Derby's that were on offer to him in 2010. He can of course also boast that he is British Bred. The success of this stalwart has also helped his owner to top the Leading Owner list on two consecutive occasions in 2009 and 2010.

Such a popular and efficient performer and supporter should be celebrated and commended. Congratulations to all connections. Let's hope we see plenty more of this great achiever. He only now surely has one more objective - to become the top earning British Bred Standardbred Performer in the UK.



**SIRE STAKES 2010**



**NATIONAL PACING DERBY 2010**



**CORBIWOOD 3YO DERBY 2010**