

A Who's Who of UK Farriery

IN THE UK THERE ARE THREE FARRIERY ORGANISATIONS



The Worshipful Company of Farriers

The Farriers Registration Council

The British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association

ALL PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE AND WORK TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF FARRIERS AND FARRIERY



Image courtesy of the Defence Animal Training Regiment



THE FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL

- The FRC is the regulatory body for farriery in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). The FRC has no authority in Northern Ireland, The Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
- The FRC is established in primary legislation, The Farriers Registration Act 1975, 1977 and 2017.
- As with other regulatory bodies the FRC operates independently of Government but works with Government to deliver and develop the regulation of farriery.
- The FRC has 16 members of whom 12 are directly appointed, 4 are appointed by way of an election scheme; the Chair of the FRC is elected by the 16 members and the members are a mix of registered farriers and lay persons.
- The Act requires the FRC to carry out four primary functions. These functions are mandatory and not matters of choice:
 - 1.Registration – the maintenance of a register of farriers who may practice in GB.
 - 2.Approvals – the approval of courses of training (e.g. the farriery apprenticeship), qualifications (e.g. the DipWCF), and training institutions (e.g. the colleges that deliver the farriery apprenticeship).
 - 3.Investigating – the preliminary investigation of cases where a registrant is liable to have their name erased from the register for misconduct.
 - 4.Disciplinary – the consideration and determination of disciplinary cases.
- The planning and delivery of farriery training is the responsibility of training providers. These are currently three further education colleges based in England.
- In addition, the FRC operates a number of policies of choice, which have no basis in statute, including:
 - The Approved Training Farrier (ATF) System.
 - The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) System
- Unlawful practice of farriery is a criminal offence and subject to investigation and reporting by the Police, and prosecution by the Crown Prosecution in England and Wales, and the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland. Where information is made available, resources permit and there is a realistic chance of conviction the FRC may choose to prosecute cases of unlawful practice.



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARRIERS

The Worshipful Company of Farriers is the Head of Profession for farriery in the UK. It is one of 110 trade guilds of the City of London which are known as Livery Companies. It was formed in 1356 to secure the welfare of the horse through good farriery, to which it remains firmly committed in the 21st-century. It operates nationally and internationally.

The Company took a lead in the process that led to the 1975 Farriers Registration Act which created the Farriers Registration Council. It was then involved in subsequent amendments to that Act.

Since its formation, the Company has been involved in the training of farriers. More recently it has been part of the working group from which the new apprenticeship standard has evolved. The Company continues to set the standard and conduct the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) as the End Point Assessment registered with the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education (IfATE).

The IfATE oversees the development, approval and publication of apprenticeship standards and assessment plans, as well as the occupational maps for apprenticeships. The Company is the registered End Point Assessment Organisation for the farriery apprenticeship. The Diploma, along with the Company's higher qualifications, the Associateship and Fellowship are very highly regarded and much sought after by farriers around the world.

The Company is unique for its approach to safeguarding the standards of farriery.

As well as the assessments and qualifications above, the Company:

- Promotes Continual Professional Development (CPD)
- Promotes relations with the veterinary profession by running the Equine Veterinary Studies Award each year, where student vets spend a week embedded with experienced farriers.
- Maintains the WCF Charitable Trust 1994, which makes funds available to registered farriers and their dependents who need financial and emotional support.
- Promotes the excellence of farriery by judging and awarding prizes at farriery competitions.
- Awards Best Shod Horse (BSH) medals at horse shows
- Promotes excellence in farriery to horse owners and the general public.



BRITISH FARRIERS & BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (BFBA) exists to represent and support the professional farrier and blacksmith. For farriers, the Association is the only 'trade union' and is the 'voice of the professional farrier.'

The aims of the Association are –

- To provide essential farriery representation and balance to the regulatory bodies by listening to their views and providing practical experience and an essential voice at board level.
- To encourage education and facilitate the development of its members skills through national and regional educational events encompassing practical and theoretical skills and knowledge.
- To support its members throughout their career with a host of membership benefits to include discounts with leading industry suppliers, legal and HR support, insurance and educational events.

BFBA Head Office is based at The Forge in Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The office is manned during working hours and works to support the President, Executive Committee (EC) and Craft Committee (CC). The EC carries out the 'business of the Association' and organises Europe's largest farriery event 'BFBA Focus', whilst the CC 'prepare, organise and oversee the UK's leading farrier competitions including the inaugural BFBA International Team Horseshoeing Championship.'

The Association has many branches spread around the UK. These branches host meetings, educational events, competitions and social gatherings throughout the year. It is a great opportunity to meet up with colleagues, share experiences and exchange knowledge – in addition to having a good time.

The BFBA was established in 1904 and was formerly known as the National Association for Farriers, Blacksmiths and Agricultural Engineers (NAFBAE). The Association's trading name was changed in 2010 to reflect its evolving membership and role.

Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some questions often asked about farriery. If you require more information, please contact the organisations mentioned in this leaflet who will be happy to help.

Q. Who can advise me where to find a Registered Farrier, and how to get the best from my Registered Farrier?

A. **The Farriers Registration Council**

Q. Who organises farrier examinations?

A. **The Worshipful Company of Farriers**

Q. Who awards farriery qualifications?

A. **The Worshipful Company of Farriers**

Q. Where can I get professional and legal advice as a working farrier?

A. **The British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association**

Q. Who can advise me about the work of the FRC, its Council and if I have concerns about the workmanship or conduct of a Registered Farrier?

A. **The Farriers Registration Council**

Q. Where can I get information about awards for a best shod horse competition?

A. **The Worshipful Company of Farriers**

Q. Who do I contact for information about becoming a farrier?

A. **The farriery training colleges, which are**

Hereford - www.hicollege.ac.uk

Myerscough - www.myerscough.ac.uk

Warwick - www.wcg.ac.uk

Contact details

The Worshipful Company of Farriers

The Clerk
19 Queen Street,
Chipperfield, Kings Langley,
Hertfordshire. WD4 9BT
Tel: 01923 260747
Email: theclerk@wcf.org.uk

The Registrar
Kemp House,
152 - 160 City Road,
London. EC1V 2NX
Tel: 07395 886769
Email: registrar@wcf.org.uk
Website: www.wcf.org.uk

The Farriers Registration Council

14 Swan Court,
Forder Way, Cygnet Park,
Hampton, Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire. PE7 8GX
Tel: 01733 319911
Email: frc@farrier-reg.gov.uk
Website: www.farrier-reg.gov.uk

The British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association

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