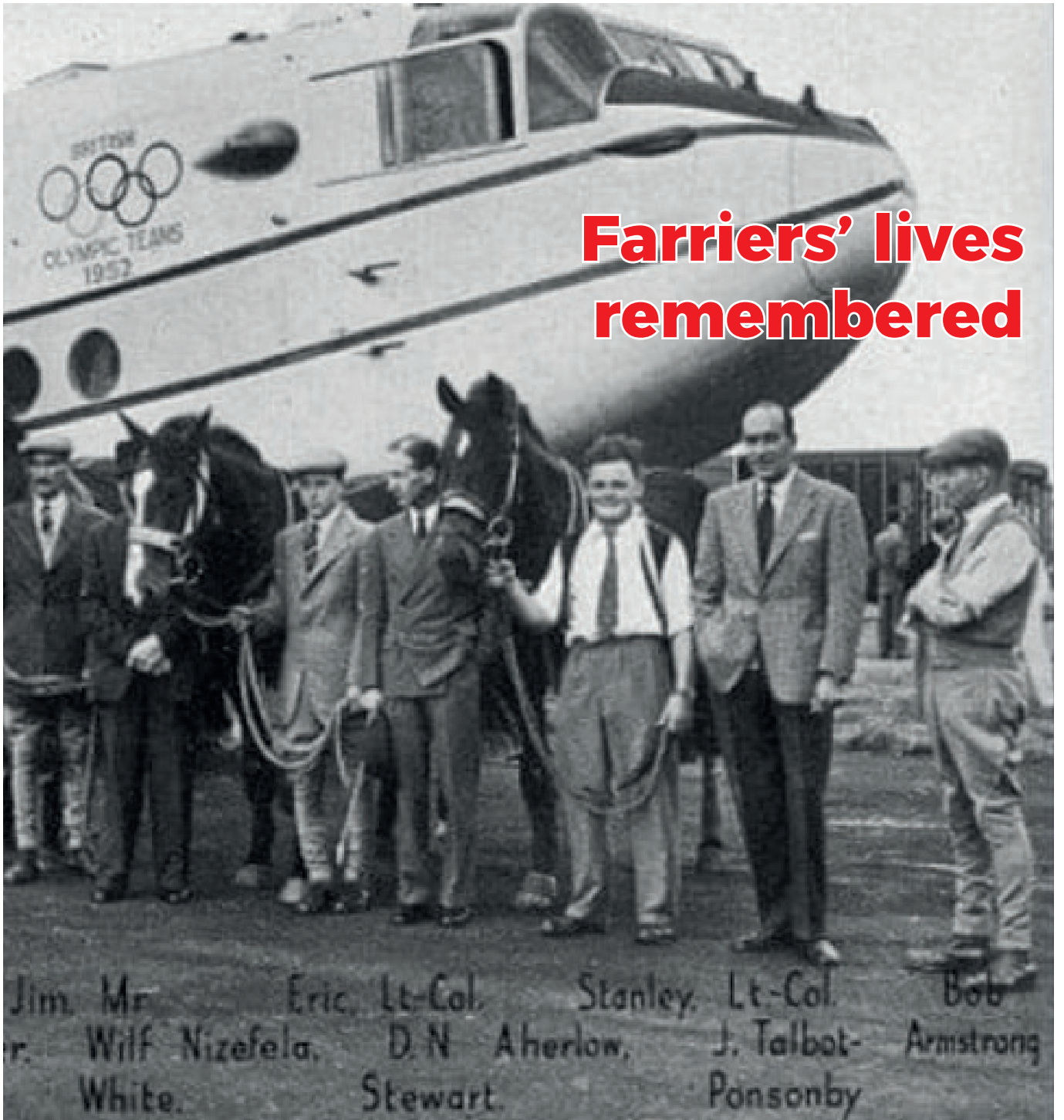




FORGE

FORGE IS THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION



**Farriers' lives
remembered**

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The cover photograph is from the feature on Bob Armstrong (p 24). According to Wikipedia, in 1952, women were allowed to compete for the first time in equestrian events at the Olympic Games in Helsinki, although they were prohibited from eventing as this was considered too dangerous. Of the 134 equestrian competitors, four were women.

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The January 2022 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains two articles:

- Changes in solear pressure following deep digital flexor tenotomy in a horse with chronic laminitis
- Indirect assessment of gait through rider feedback

by Patrick Reilly GradDipELR



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Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

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European Federation of Farriers Associations

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Vice-President, Peter Kristiansen (DMFA Denmark)
Secretary, Chris Linsner AWCF
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Farriers appointed to FRC Council

Farriers elected to FRC Council (three-year appointment)
Tom Smith, FWCF, GradDipELR,
Chair of the Council
Toby B. Daniels, DipHE, DipWCF
Derek T. Gardner AWCF

BFBA farrier on FRC council

Simon Moore FWCF

WCF farrier on FRC Council

Robin P. May AWCF

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Contributions in the form of articles, reports, letters and photographs are welcomed.

President's address

Happy New Year to you all. In light of the spread of the Omicron variant of coronavirus, many of us will have spent a quieter Christmas than had been planned. Despite that, I hope you managed to enjoy yourselves and make the most of the Christmas break.

December is a time when we invite the people who have helped us during the year to get together for lunch – it's our way of saying thank you. In 2021, we were unable to do so, for obvious reasons. This was disappointing, but inevitable under the circumstances.

Despite the challenges we all face, much is planned for this year. Our first event is a one-hour webinar that aims to help you to thrive at work and help you to ensure that every day is as good as it can be.

Shortly after that, we will launch our new website – a newly developed digital platform that will be a flexible and useful place where members will find resources especially for them. We are excited about this and will share the news of our launch date very soon.



Our new-format AWCF course is almost ready for launch too. It will be a mix of in-person and online learning with mentors to inspire and support you.

Our AGM – which will also be held in-person and online – will take place on 21 May at the Forge at Stoneleigh. All members are welcome to attend. As the BFBA Presidency is a two-year role, it will be an opportunity for members to vote for – and welcome – our next President.

This issue of Forge contains lots of features, which we hope you will find interesting. If you feel inspired to write, we would be delighted to hear from you. We also review the achievements of 2021 and look forward to some of the activities planned for the year.

For now, I hope you and your families remain well. We all need to follow the government's rules whether we are in England or the devolved nations. As the Prime Minister has said, 'It is folly to think the pandemic is over'. We need to look after ourselves and each other. I urge you to get vaccinated.

Craig D'Arcy, BFBA President



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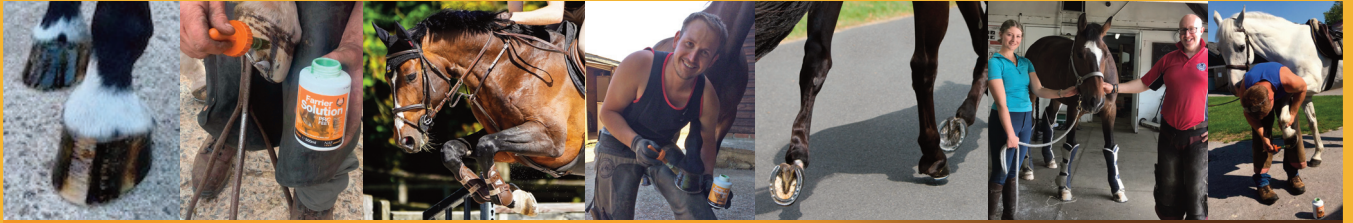
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Propositions for the 2022 annual general meeting

PROPOSED BY BEN BENSON AWCF DIPWCF ATF

I wish to put forward a proposition for discussion at the annual general meeting and ask that a concluding vote takes place on the following matters:

1a. Should a member of the BFBA Executive Committee (EC) serve on the Farriers Registration Council's Investigation Committee or Disciplinary Committee?

1b. Should an EC member sit on the council of the Farriers Registration Council?

1c. Should the outcome of 1a and 1b apply to an member EC holding office within the BFBA or should it apply to the whole EC.

Received at BFBA head office on 9 December 2021

What we achieved in 2021

We all hoped that 2021 would see life return to normal and, although it was better than 2020, we still faced a number of challenges. Covid-19 continues to challenge the country and it currently looks as though it will continue to do so in 2022. The Executive Committee has worked tirelessly in every area of our business this year. The EC and Holly Flack, our administrator, have been dedicated in doing their best to support our Members.



What have we done this year?

- We have provided opportunities to gain accrue CPD points throughout the year in a variety of formats.
- We have continued to have a strong social media presence – reaching out to members, horse owners and organisations linked to farriery – through Facebook and Instagram.
- We have established beneficial working relationships with equine organisations such as the BHS, The Horse Trust, the National Equine Welfare Council, the Pony Club, Redwings and more.
- We celebrated National Apprentice Week in February.
- Our Safety First Facebook post reached more than 20,000 people worldwide.
- We wrote to our members about the FRC retention fee and reviewed the professional fees of other bodies.
- We sought clarification of the reason for the rise in cost.
- We asked our insurers for advice on behalf of members.
- We looked into the issue of the request for payment by the Information Commissioner's Office of a data protection fee.
- We organised an online pre-diploma event.
- We invited all farriers to complete our injury survey and shared the results with you.
- We initiated further work to keep farriers safe at work and reduce injuries.
- We asked our legal partners, Morrish Solicitors to provide advice on when a claim could be pursued and published this in Forge.
- We supported The Farriers Foundation.
- We brought you the Lockdown League which was fantastically well supported by sponsors and competitors.
- We held our annual general meeting on Zoom, which enabled more members to attend from the comfort of their own homes.
- We negotiated a 20% discount on 'Business Essentials's membership of the Federation of Small Businesses.
- We worked with VDS Training on developing a 'helping farriers to thrive at work' modular course.
- We asked our legal partners for advice on client confidentiality.
- We organised Focus – a live event [the first of the year for many people] – with CPD, a market place, demonstrations and a Home International Competition.
- We introduced a mediation service with DI Harvey and Venn Mediation.
- We provided our apprentice and graduate members with a Longhorn vest.
- We supported our Branches and were delighted to welcome the new Central Southern Branch.
- We worked with other equine organisations to promote farriery to horse owners.
- We published Forge and Forge Knowledge (for members) bringing news, articles, CPD, advice, featured products equine health issues, and much more.
- We continued to help our members.



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BFBA Open Forum, held on both days at Focus 2021

BFBA holds an open forum at its Focus event. This year's event was chaired by Dan Harman AWCF, Grad Dip ELR, Master Farrier. The topic for Saturday's forum was 'Where are we now?', while Sunday's event was on the topic 'The future of farriery'.

Q. If a registrant has a complaint to make against the Farriers Registration Council (employees or Council members), who should the complaint be made to? How are complaints made to the FRC handled?

FRC registrar: Yes. If you want to complain about the Council you may do so. Go to the FRC website home page, click the 'about the FRC' button. On the next page, press 'how to make a complaint' and then follow the instructions on the type of complaint being made.

Comment from the floor: Where adequate hoof care isn't available, is it possible to have a route whereby an observation can be made about poor farriery? Currently, this has to be done through a complaint channel.

Further comment: In cases of poor farriery, someone needs to tell the farrier their work is not up to standard.

DG: Not every complaint ends up in front of the Disciplinary Committee. Sometimes the Investigating Committee will give specific advice to a farrier so, in effect this is already happening.

SM: Remember that when you see some work, it is likely to have been done a while beforehand and you were not aware of the circumstances the farrier was working in at the time.

Q. How do the industry bodies account for catastrophic failures of the WCF Diploma exam at certain colleges. What should new ATFs look for when choosing a college for their new apprentice?

DB: Exam rates go up and down for each college over the years. Why do some people go into teaching? Are they the best for the job? There have been a lot of changes since the Ofsted inspection in 2013. Remember, back blocking is no longer allowed.

SH: In some cases, clients bring the level of farriery down because we shoe to what they want. Some horse owners get the farrier they deserve.

CD: Teaching groups are small and one extra fail can make results look bad. We can't expect apprentices to only make shoes at college, they need to make shoes regularly in the workplace.

SM: It's easy to blame the colleges, but there are good years and bad years.

Cliff Barnes: Sometimes there are staffing issues. The stopping of back blocking has not helped. It is hoped that the new end-point assessment will change that. Let's see how the new system operates.

BB: 'Catastrophic' is rather over dramatic. The problem now is that no-one is allowed to fail. We don't have to have a pre-



The Saturday panel: Stephen Hill (SH), WCF Examiner. Simon Moore (SM), WCF Examiner, BFBA appointee on FRC council. David Greenwood (DG), Registrar FRC. Danny Bennett (DB), representing Hereford College. Coreen Beckford (CB), Registrar WCF; Craig D'Arcy (CD), President BFBA. Ben Benson (BB), Vice-President BFBA

farrier course, which had the benefit of giving the students a year to 'grow up', learn some life lessons, practise lighting fires and get through the burning stee phase of learning.

DG: There are 168 training farriers and currently 40% of these are not training. 80% of the apprenticeship is supposed to be education, training and development delivered in the workplace. ATFs have the buying power to go the colleges to find out, which one puts the best offer in front of them in terms of quality of teaching.

Strategically, it might be worth looking at the future training needs of the profession. The number of farriers of the register now is higher than the number needed to sustain the horse population of the country.

BB: This is multifactorial issue. Looking ahead, the Chancellor is looking to make the minimum wage £10 an hour, which will lead to around £1680 a year extra payment to third and fourth year apprentices. For the average ATF, they need to earn £3 for every £1 profit they make. Costs have also gone up 30%. Apprentices have to understand that they have to be profitable. Good ATFs are choosing not to train because they can't afford to make teaching apprentices pay.

SH: ATF and apprentice is a trade off. Apprentice gets taught a trade in return for making the ATF's job easier and making them a bit of money. I wanted my apprentices to do really well, ie, to aspire to do the AWCF and be on the England apprentice team. It costs a lot of money to train apprentices well. It's not as easy as you think and also bear in mind that as an ATF you are training your competitor.

CD: New ATFs will step up, they will develop good training methods and be motivated. I'd rather have a new ATF who is highly motivated. Let's look forward. Every new ATF joining the list is AWCF qualified, or holds higher qualifications, such as DipHE and also hold the Train the Trainer qualification.

SM: To my mind, the issue is finding the right apprentice. This is another reason why ATFs are stopping training and why failures are happening.

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Q. Can the WCF and FRC clarify the use of their emblems on vans/clothing etc?

CB: As far as the Worshipful Company of Farriers is concerned, the coat of arms cannot be used by farriers. The Company's heraldic badge can be used by farriers holding the AWCF and FWCF (see page 12).

SM: As with the Company, the FRC coat of arms cannot be used by farriers. Passing an exam does not allow you to use the coat of arms. The window sticker that bears the coat of arms is provided by the FRC to identify you as being registered.

Q. Is the current pre-farrier course sustainable and fit for purpose?

Cliff Barnes: In developing the new standard the government said it would not include the pre-farrier course as a requirement, but that is not to say that ATFs can't require an apprentice to have completed it.

DB: Hereford is looking at developing an Introduction to Farriery course. Lots of those coming into the industry have had little to do with horses before, so the course introduces them to horse handling, forging and so on. It might also help some people identify that farriery isn't for them.

Q. Is it possible for the BFBA appointed member of the FRC to pose questions to Council on behalf of the membership?

SM: BFBA appointees sit on council and give a balanced view on policy and the farriery industry in general. I am trusted for my expertise and knowledge to make the right decision for farriery. If anyone has anything they want to discuss or talk about with me, my door is open, but I wouldn't take anything to council that I didn't believe in. If that's the case you can email the council in a personal capacity. Such items can be covered in the 'any other business' section of meetings.

DG: Council appointees work in the public interest, which is their overriding responsibility, as well as attending to the needs of the profession. The lines of communication are open.

Q. How are appointees chosen to be members of FRC and how often do positions become available?

BB: Appointees are made by the BFBA Executive Committee. Over the past few years, Council appointees are looking to move things forward. The EC is aware that an appointee has to be the right person. There is a lot of reading involved before meetings and a need for understanding wider issues.

SM: The quality of the Council is very high. The lay people come from all industries, they see things from a different point of view and provide balance to discussions.

BB: Contrary to popular belief, the BFBA does not have a veto on Council decisions.

Q. Why do colleges not keep the curriculum the same during college blocks?

DB: The colleges all teach to the same syllabus. Since the Trailblazer was introduced, it was up to each college to decide how to deliver the training, which does make it more difficult to identify skills gap when apprentices change college.

Cliff Barnes: The ATF has the power to choose the college and ask what the college is offering.

SUNDAY

The panel: Coreen Beckford, Registrar WCF (CB). David Greenwood (DG), Registrar FRC. WCF Examiner. Simon Moore (SM). WCF Examiner, and BFBA appointee on FRC council. Dean Bland (DB), Hereford College. Ben Benson (BB), Vice-President BFBA. Tim James (TJ), Warwickshire College.

Q. The demands and expectations from customers are ever increasing, as does our professional role within the equine industry. Should farriers be looking to work out of practices in a similar way to vets?

SM: Explore any avenue that is best for your business. I did this in 2000 - it can be a good way forward for some. It's not easy, ie, when an owner asks for a particular farrier. For insurances, forge premises etc, it can be cost effective.

BB: When farriers retire, they retire their business - often slowing down and eventually stopping work, but there is an opportunity to sell the business. Young farriers can learn from older farriers, ie, what their owners like about the service they provide. Retiring farriers have an opportunity to teach a younger farrier about the business and may choose to keep shoeing or trimming horses they enjoy doing.

DG: Is there a gap in the market for developing a strategy for the profession. What will it look like in 2030 or 2040?

Q. Would the panel/farriers want to see barefoot trimming regulated in the future?

DG: When the Council tried to bring trimming into the Statute Book, it was made clear there was no political capital to be expended in doing so unless the trimmers wanted it.

DB: There would be benefit to regulate trimmers. It's been positive for farriery and therefore would presumably be good for trimmers.

DG: Regulation could be handled by the FRC, ie, setting up Part 6 of the register with its own set of rules, practises and procedures and accommodated within a code of conduct, which broadly encompasses what they do already.

SM: Farriers are already trimming, it is already covered within registration as an important part of what farriers do. Farriers are regulated for barefoot trimming. Under the new standard, trimming is an element of the syllabus that will be examined.

Q. How do the colleges see the future of training changing?

DB: We are currently going through a period of significant change within the colleges with the introduction of the new farriery apprenticeship. 43S is the final frameworks group, about 18 months off their diploma. 43L is the new apprenticeship. The colleges are impacted by the changes and delivering the new course. In the short to medium term there will be consolidation of what we are doing.

We need to do more to spread the message of what professional behaviours are. This is happening, such as the HBCA content at Focus. Looking ahead, there will be new people involved in the training of farriers, and with the amount of research being done, and the WCF encouraging further reading and training, farriery will become more evidence-based.

TJ: Warwick has taken a slightly different route to teaching. Following lockdown, Warwick will continue to teach some theory online, spreading theory learning between college blocks to keep apprentices engaged. That way, ATFs don't lose their apprentices for such long blocks and apprentices regularly practise their theory knowledge.

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Ben Benson, BFBA Vice President

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Q. Apprentices are funded by the government and we are forced into accepting its rules, should we move away from government funding, ie, increase entry qualifications to A levels so that we can increase the academic level of the WCF Diploma qualification?

SM: In 2013, the NFTA was disbanded and the government put training back into the hands of the industry. At the time, BFBA asked all farriers what qualifications they wanted apprentices to be educated to. The industry chose GCSE. The BFBA asked the industry if it still wanted an apprenticeship. The answer was yes. With these industry requirements, are rules that say that an apprenticeship can only benefit from level 3 funding. To be at level 5, A level entry would be required. The industry got what it asked for. However, A level entry requirements could be achieved in future.

DC: Thinking again about strategy, once farriery has an idea of the industry it wants, it can shape its training to achieve this.

DB: The colleges get a lot of young people who perhaps don't have the necessary exam skills and techniques to progress through the apprenticeship. Within further education there is

greater emphasis on apprentices having to take responsibility for their own development.

SM: Doing A levels teaches you how to be a student.

Q. Is there scope for the WCF to open its standard setting days to ATFs? This may give ATFs a better understanding of the level required by examiners at the diploma exam?

CB: The WCF has training for examiners and could put on training for ATFs. Special training for ATFs is on my wish list and definitely comes into the WCF's longer term strategy.

DG: One element of risk could be that if ATFs attended training and standardisation they may be tempted to teach what they think examiners want rather than the standard to be achieved.

SM: Examiners examine to the syllabus and that is what should be taught to apprentices.

DB: The colleges run ATF days and exam technique training.

SM: ATFs must read the syllabus and work to it. How can they teach to something they haven't read?

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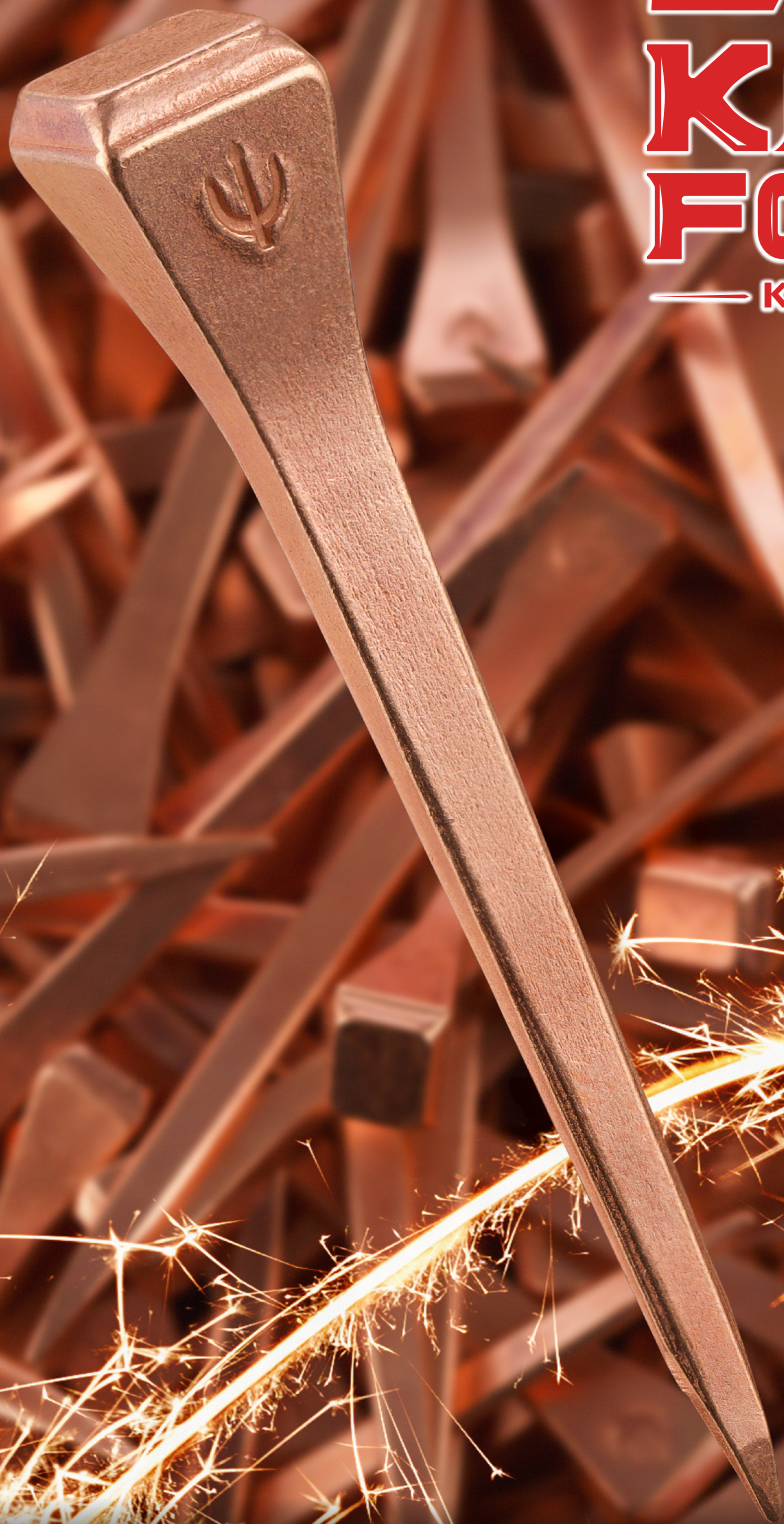
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Our plans for 2022

- We will continue to promote farriers' and blacksmiths' work and interests
- We will listen to you and stand up for you.
- We are planning a bigger and better Focus event for 2022.
- The BFBA International Team Shoeing Competition will take place.
- We will launch our new BFBA website with a members-only section, which will include educational resources.
- We want to help you thrive at work.
- We will hold CPD events and courses, including launching a new AWCF course.
- We will negotiate discounts and benefits for our members.
- We will publish Forge magazine for all farriers and Forge Knowledge additionally for our members.
- We will work with our partners to bring you advice and support.
- Members will vote in the next President at the annual general meeting.
- We will work with other equestrian organisations to promote farriers and farriery.
- Meeting attendance will include industry representation at the British Horse Council and the European Federation of Farrier Associations, among others.
- We will take on a new member of staff to help with office administration.
- We will hold regional events and support our branches
- We will update the Association's rulebook.
- We will support the new Trailblazer.
- We will run blacksmithing/ bladesmithing CPD events.
- We will organise and engage in social activities for our members.
- We will continue to help our members.



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Congratulations!

Worshipful Company of Farriers, new diplomates

Worshipful Company of Farriers Diploma examination were held at the three uk colleges in November 2021. The following candidates were successful in passing this prestigious examination. Congratulations to them all.



Myerscough College

Mr Liam Burkinshaw DipWCF, ATF Mr Huw Dyer AWCF
Mr William Midwinter DipWCF, ATF Mr Michael Kiernan DipWCF
Mr Samuel Weltzien DipWCF, ATF Mr David Smith DipWCF
Mr Liam Brinkley DipWCF, ATF Mr James Coburn AWCF
Mr Oliver Arnold DipWCF, ATF Mr John Arnold DipWCF
Mr Jack McCarren DipWCF, ATF Mr Neil Murray DipWCF
Mr Stephen Hey DipWCF, ATF Mr Paul Gordon DipWCF
Mr Jake Sweet DipWCF, ATF Mr Gareth Thomas DipWCF

Warwickshire College

Miss Amy Bolt DipWCF, ATF Mr Andrew Bowyer AWCF
Mr Oliver Brookes DipWCF, ATF Mr Nigel Murray DipWCF
Mr Oliver Woodland DipWCF, ATF Mr Graham Smith DipWCF
Mr Harry Jarman DipWCF, ATF Mr Jesse Gregory AWCF
Mr Jack Murray DipWCF, ATF Mr Connie Sullivan DipWCF
Mr Oscar Garnett DipWCF, ATF Mr Graham Smith DipWCF
Mr Callum Humphrey DipWCF, ATF Mr Mark Humphrey DipWCF
Mr Tadhg Vaughan DipWCF, ATF Mr Richard Spence AWCF
Mr Daniel Wheeler DipWCF, ATF Mr Sion Davies DipWCF
Mr Christopher Willetts DipWCF, ATF Mr Luke Silcock AWCF

Distinction in theory

Warwickshire College

Mr Philip Rowland DipWCF, ATF Mr Ian Allison DipWCF

Pass

Herefordshire and Ludlow College

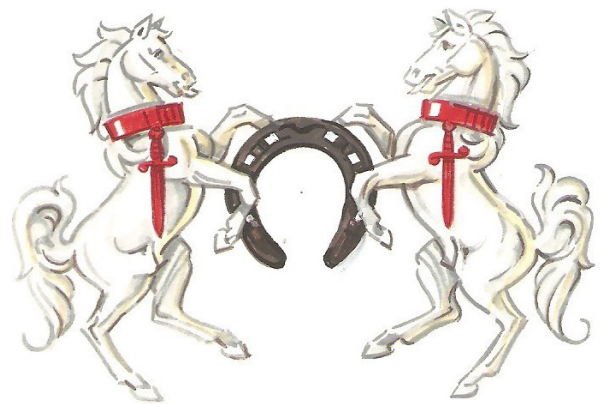
Mr Ivan Fellowes DipWCF, ATF Mr Robert Rush AWCF
Mr John Cook DipWCF, ATF Mr Mark Talling AWCF
Mr Charlie Lawson DipWCF, ATF Mr Christopher Connel DipWCF

Use of the Company's coat of arms

The Worshipful Company of Farriers Heraldic Badge (see right) may be used farriers holding Master Farrier status.

'Master Farrier' is a registered, trade marked designation that is owned by the Worshipful Company of Farriers for use in Great Britain. Those Farriers currently holding higher qualifications - AWCF (or AFCL) and FWCF - may apply to use the mark. The final decision with regard to granting an individual the title of Master Farrier is made by the Company. Further details are available from the Registrar.

The Coat of Arms may only be used by the Company and its use by individual farriers is illegal.



IN BRIEF

Mark Watson FWCF has been appointed chair of the WCF Examinations Board. He took over the role from Dr James Sutton in October 2021.

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SHOE TRIBUTE TO A SPECIAL HORSE

Carol Johnson has been a client of mine for about eight years, writes Mark Aikens. 'After one of her beloved horses died, she asked me to make a door knocker for her new front door from two of the horse's shoes.'

'I've made several sculptures and hearts from old shoes for clients as tributes for horses that had passed away, but never a door knocker! The only technical issue I had was how to make a hinge between the two shoes. After looking up the many ideas on YouTube, I settled for welding a piece of 8 mm round steel across the heels, which slotted into two pieces of 8.5 mm round tubes. This worked a treat and I drilled and tapped a hole to accommodate a jumping stud to act as the knocker.



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Kerckhaert Kings Plate competition

As we write we are looking forward to festive period and some superb racing! The National Hunt season is gathering pace and it has been a delight to watch so many competitive races, and Kings Plates in the winners enclosure. We wish all our yards continue success throughout the season.

Kings Plate winners

★ Creative Force won the Qipco British Champions Sprint Stakes at Ascot under William Buick. Congratulations to farriers **Phil Brook, Gerhard Schoombie and Alex Ridgeway**.

Creative Force was shod with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure Nails. Creative Force is trained by Godolphin's Charlie Appleby.

★ Yibir secured the Breeders' Cup Turf at Del Mar. Congratulations to farriers **Phil Brook, Gerhard Schoombie and Alex Ridgeway**.

Yibir was shod with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure Nails. Trained by Godolphin's Charlie Appleby, Yibir, was ridden by William Buick.

★ Charlie Appleby continued his training successes with Modern Games claiming victory in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf in Del Mar, California. Congratulations to farriers **Phil Brook, Gerhard Schoombie and Alex Ridgeway**.

They shod Modern Games, with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure Nails. Modern Games was ridden by William Buick.

★ We wish Space Blues a happy retirement following his Grade One success in the Breeders' Cup Mile for Charlie Appleby and William Buick. Congratulations to farriers **Phil Brook, Gerhard Schoombie and Alex Ridgeway**.

Space Blues was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure Nails.

★ Not So Sleepy and Epatante could not be separated in the photo-finish. Congratulations to farriers **Andrew Charles and Chapel Forge Farriers**.

Andrew shod Not So Sleepy, with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure Nails. Chapel Forge Farriers shod Epatante, with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails.

Not So Sleepy was trained by Hughie Morrison and ridden by Jonathan Burke. Epatante was trained by Nicky Henderson and ridden by Aidan Coleman.

★ Bryony Frost won the Tingle Creek aboard Greaneteen for trainer Paul Nicholls. Congratulations to farrier Tom Bougourd. He shod Greaneteen, with Kerckhaert King Super Sound.



Kings plate Competition

THE KERCKHAERT KINGS PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP

FLAT

Trainer	Prize money	Farrier(s)
1 Charlie Appleby	£4,898,030.24	Phil Brook, Gerhard Schoombie and Alex Ridgeway
2 Andrew Balding	£4,329,760.60	Eugene Cullen
3 John and Thady Gosden	£4,299,372.83	O'Shaughnessy Farriery
4 Mark Johnston	£3,279,074.31	Tom Hardy and Justin Landy
5 Tim Easterby	£1,960,386.00	Jim Lawson, Matt Argo and Brian Greenley

NATIONAL HUNT

Trainer	Prize money	Farrier(s)
1 Paul Nicholls	£1,041,984.82	Tom Bougourd
2 Dan Skelton	£917,725.16	Ian 'Spud' Allison, Pip Smith and David Webley
3 Fergal O'Brien	£731,570.37	John Benfield
4 Nicky Henderson	£619,837.97	Chapel Forge Farriers
5 Donald McCain	£578,046.93	Alex Lake, Border County Farriers

Correct at 9 December, 2021

GET IN TOUCH!

Contact Dan Collins on 01908 233909 if you are interested in learning more about the range of Kerckhaert plates.

Fishing for farriers raises funds for The Farriers Foundation

FISHING FOR  FARRIERS

Farrier Mathew Cooney AWCF organised a fundraising event for The Farriers Foundation. 'Fishing for farriers' took place in September and raising more than £1300 for the charity which included £100 from the Household Cavalry's NCO mess fund.

Twenty farriers recently enjoyed a 48-hour fishing session on the famous East Delph Lakes in Cambridgeshire. The event began at 10 am on 24 September.

Many on those who came along had never fished at the complex before and one farrier – Jon Nunn – had never carp fished, but as the Foundation's founder, he came along to join in and support us.

The idea behind the event was to help raise money for a charity that hadn't had much support during the Covid-19 pandemic, and also to give farriers from all over the country the chance to get together in a non-farriery related situation – an opportunity to talk about things that didn't involve shoeing horses.

There was a trophy up for grabs, kindly made by Leon Bentham, the trophy was given to the person that accumulated the highest gross weight of fish caught over the 48 hours. Although Lee Pettit caught the biggest fish, Liam Bean managed to accumulate more weight and took the trophy home.

A few comments from the weekend... 'it was clear from the noise on the bank going into the early hours that people were enjoying themselves'... 'It was nice to get to know some of you army farriers and talk about the differences in jobs'.



The fishing trophy made by Leon Bentham



A number of auction items were donated. They were:

- A 48-hour fishing session on Wingham donated by Matt and India Radbourne.
- A 48-hour fishing session with bait at the Old Mill Fishery
- Two Farrier Foundation bundles from Jonathan Nunn.

Full house for CPD at Towcester Vets

Dr Simon Curtis FWCF recently presented an evening's CPD to a group of vets and farriers at an event hosted by Towcester Equine Vets in Northamptonshire. The topics covered were 'Farriery in conjunction with MRI diagnosis' and 'Farriery involved in hoof and soft tissue lesion recovery'.



Teamwork makes the dream work

Attending the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games fulfilled a lifelong ambition, writes farrier Greig Elliott AWCF GradDipELR. Here, he describes his experience being part of the support staff that contributed to the first team gold medal in eventing for 49 years, which he says was an incredible experience.

My farriery journey began in 2001, when I started my apprenticeship with Billy Crothers in Bedfordshire, but the dream began a long time before that. Being the son of a plumber and a hairdresser didn't lend itself to a typical equestrian childhood - that came later through a horse-obsessed sister who went on to create a career in eventing, compete at five-star and represent Great Britain at Nations Cup level. Being the little brother and not having much choice in being taken to the yard all day built up my understanding and love for all things equestrian, then an opportunity to spend time with a local farrier gave me the bug for working closely with horses.

After beginning my A-levels, I made the decision to leave school and seek an apprenticeship. I had a trial with a multi-farrier practice run by Billy. The first few months were spent in the forge making toe bend after toe bend and nursing blisters. Over time, I was fortunate enough to work alongside some great farriers and made some lifelong friends. My apprenticeship laid the foundation on which to build skills while being held accountable for keeping standards high. Pierre Monribot shared a wealth of experience from working in the best yards in France and Germany, and is still the most skilled person I have ever seen use a toeing knife.

I wasn't the most natural shoe-maker and had to work hard on it. I learnt through many hours of practice and repetition. David Dawson was a great shoe-maker and helped me take my work to another level. The effort paid off and I passed my exams with Honours. I was only 21 years old when I qualified and was in no rush to set up my own business, so I remained with the company for another two years, continuing to gain more experience and competing in national shoeing competitions.

When the right time came, I began my own shoeing practice in Wiltshire. My client base grew and performance horses quickly became my focus - since 2007, I've been looking after horses and clients competing at top level. To date, I've shod horses for the last three Olympic Games, World Equestrian Games and European Championships.

Laura Collett and London 52



Helping with the cooling at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021

In 2015, I completed the Associate exam of the Worshipful Company of Farriers. My desire to keep learning led me to enrol on the Royal Veterinary College's Diploma in Equine Locomotor Research. This scientific and evidence-based approach to farriery was a fresh challenge, but very rewarding because it allowed me to question some common beliefs, and the peer-to-peer learning was also a great experience. Being able to bounce ideas and offer advice to one another made learning and researching very enjoyable. Having Tom Smith FWCF to work alongside to check and challenge ideas kept our projects advancing, too.

The project has also given me a great foundation to continue studying for the

Fellowship exam, which I intend to take on within the next few years.

The role of Eventing Podium Farrier for the World Class Programme became available in 2016, when Brendan Murray stepped down. After submitting my CV and going through an intense interview process, I was offered the position. I believe my interest and experience in eventing was a key factor in getting the job, as well as my pursuit for continued professional development.



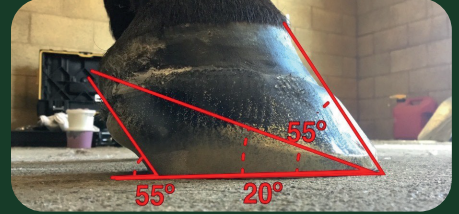
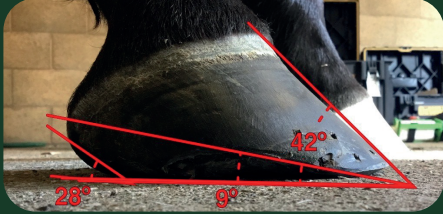
Tom McEwen and Toledo de Kerker

British Equestrian's World Class Programme, which is funded by The National Lottery via UK Sport, was created to offer targeted support to talented riders to help them fulfil their potential of winning medals for their country. My role primarily requires travelling to championships with the senior team to offer farriery support. However, I also attend squad training sessions and work closely with the home team farriers throughout the year to have an understanding of the individual horses and their needs. This means that, if they are selected, I can continue their home farrier's good work during competition.

Selection came and went for Tokyo and I was very proud

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Stephen Hewitt, farrier, UK

Many of our thoroughbred horses are now managed in FormaHoof, both those currently racing and some retired. I'm thrilled to be able to make changes in their heel structure, bony column re-alignment, sole depth, and overall posture with FormaHoof. A huge benefit of FormaHoof is being able to make these adjustments whilst keeping the horse in work.

Sven Targett, farrier, Australia

"Amazing job with FormaHoof on my 4 year old OTTB by farrier Paul Huber. My horse had really bad feet and couldn't even walk by the end of the summer, yet now he's starting his new career as an event horse and is happier and healthier than ever."

Julia Ahlenn, OTTB owner, Sweden



Celebrations with Tom McEwen and Oliver Townend after winning Team Gold and Individual Silver

to have two of my clients chosen to be on the team of three – Tom McEwen with Toledo de Kerker, whom I've worked with for 15 years, and Laura Collett with London 52. Oliver Townend was also selected with Ballaghmor Class, who is shod by Jim Blurton, who is an idol of mine, and Ros Canter with Allstar B were chosen as travelling reserve, shod by Ralph Dale.

It was obvious that Tokyo 2020 wouldn't be like any other Olympic Games – running a year behind schedule, unwanted by the majority of the local people and with strict COVID-19 protocols in place that could affect any team. The horses had to complete a pre-export quarantine (PEQ) in the UK before travelling and would arrive on venue 10 days before the start of competition. This meant if they were shod before quarantine, they would be going cross-country on three-and-a-half-week-old shoes, which would not be ideal. So, the decision was made to shoe them in PEQ. Following strict quarantine protocols, Jim came down to Leicestershire to shoe Ballaghmor Class and, later that day, I shod the other two, which was made challenging by the COVID regulations that were also in place.

I travelled to Tokyo with the grooms and we arrived the day before the horses. The dressage team were already on site with their team farrier Andrew Bowyer, who showed us the ropes. Ben Benson, Paul Horner and Harry Spinks made up the UK contingent of the onsite farrier team running the forge, which became a retreat to get away from the heat and humidity.

Nigel Perrott, the Irish team farrier and a friend of mine, also arrived at around the time same. Nigel has taught me so much through the years – he's been part of the Irish team for three Olympic cycles, as well as several championships, and has never held back sharing his knowledge, for which I owe him a lot. Jack Young, the New Zealand team farrier, arrived a few days later, who had an extra special reason to smile having just become a new dad. So, I was surrounded by old friends and there was an opportunity to meet new ones. Not every nation took their own farrier, but many did, including France, Spain, Holland and Germany, and the USA brought Kenny Bark. Kenny is one of those guys who lights up a room whenever he starts talking. I try to learn from every farrier I meet, but Kenny took it to another level.

My daily routine involved checking the shoes first thing in the morning in case

any had moved over night, or any clenches had risen. Due to the heat and humidity, the horses were worked either in the morning or late afternoon. Each time they were ridden, I put on my backpack full of floor tools and follow them everywhere, ready to act quickly if a shoe were to get twisted or pulled. The stable blocks at Equestrian Park were surrounded by a rubber walkway, which allowed the grooms to walk the horses in-hand. As the sun rose and the day got hotter, so did the rubber! This meant the horses were coming back into the stables with hot shoes, which dehydrated their feet, shrinking them and causing the clenches to rise.

When the competition got underway, our eventing team came out of the dressage phase in gold medal position, with all three combinations producing great tests. Unlike the dressage and jumping phases, which were held at Equestrian Park, the cross-country was at Sea Forest Park – a reclaimed island out in Tokyo Bay, which was also the site of the rowing and canoe action. The horses were moved the night before competition and stayed in air-conditioned temporary stables, but we had a 3am alarm call so we could get to the venue for them to have an early leg stretch before the cross-country got underway at 7am. All three horses finished clear inside the time and gold medal position held on to. It was an exceptionally warm morning and the biggest challenge was to cool the horses as fast as possible post-cross-country. Horse welfare is always a top priority, and cool-down is one of those times when everyone mucks in, regardless of their role. The venue had superb facilities, with huge mist tents and cold-water tanks, which allowed us to be really efficient reducing their temperatures.

Once recovered and rested, the horses were transported back to the venue so they could be ready for the trot-up and showjumping the following day. All three recovered really well and show-jumped to win team gold – the first British team to do so since 1972! To top it off, Tom McEwen and Toledo jumped two clear rounds to take individual silver! The showjumping final was late at night, so we didn't make it back to the hotel until around 1am, and the riders at 2am after media commitments, but we still made time for a small team celebration before leaving the hotel at 7am to catch our flight home.

Five weeks later, I was off to the Eventing European Championship in Avenches, Switzerland. The British might have taken a completely different group of horses and riders, but the result was the same – team gold. This time, the individual podium was dominated by Brits too. Regaining the European title also means that Great Britain now holds the European, World and Olympic team titles. Going on this journey with such fantastic horses and people was and will always be a major career highlight.

Being part of the eventing team is similar to where I began

my journey in a team farrier practice – a group of like-minded people working together to achieve a common goal. In the future, I'd like to create my own team and share some of the experiences that I have been lucky enough to encounter. Growth is faster, more fun and better for the industry when we share and support each other. But now the cycle starts again – less than three years until Paris 2024!



With team Vet Liz Brown watching the horses work at the European Championships

The Flying Anvil Foundation meets another farriery world, teaching in India

India is the most important place where FAF is working. It is a huge country, the mountainous North being so radically different from the tropical South.

In this article, I wish to introduce you to the working conditions of the Kashmiri horses and also of the farriers working on these horses. I had taken advantage of a school break between two course modules in mid-October to get away to Kashmir.



Its capital is Srinagar (1600m [5300 feet]) and the valleys nearby are very high.



The village of Sonamarg (2730m [8960 feet]) - where I went the first week - is situated on the mythical road to Kargil, which then leads to Leh in Ladakh.

Sonamarg literally means 'the meadow of gold' and with snow-capped mountains set against a spectacular blue sky, it is as close to heaven as you can get. The Sindh River flows through the valley. Ponies can be hired for the trip up to



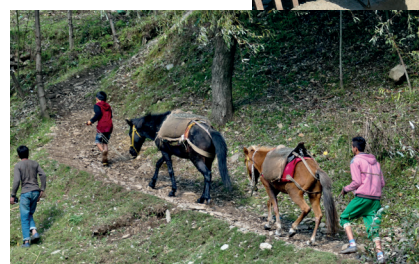
I met a farrier/blacksmith working on a riverbank. He had very few tools but he was working smoothly and precisely with the knowledge he had



Transportation is mostly made using ponies either alone or in caravan formations, climbing to the top of very high mountains with heavy loads on their backs



Since 2013 when FAF created its Farriery Institute Dundlod, a great number of foreign farrier and vets have already come to teach. FAF is very thankful to the British farriers, quite as number volunteered to come to Rajasthan





the Thaji was glacier which is a major local attraction during summer.

In Kashmir, transportation is mostly made using ponies. We see them either alone or in caravan formations, climbing to the top of very high mountains with heavy loads on their backs.

When I was there, there had been huge first snow falls of the season, it snowed one metre (more than three feet) in one day! When this happens, farmers have to pack up everything and move their livestock, sheep and goats down to the plains as it is impossible to stay in the mountains during the harsh winter. As soon as they reach their winter homes, they remove the ponies' shoes for many months until they can once again return to the higher altitudes.

My second week was spent in another valley, in the village of Pahalgam (2740 m [8990 feet]). Pahalgam is known as the 'Valley of Shepherds'. There wasn't much snow in that valley and the ponies were still working.

Farriery in Kashmir

Luckily, by chance I met a fantastic blacksmith and a farrier with whom I was able to share a few days.

First, I saw him working on a river bank, he had very few tools but he was working smoothly and precisely with the knowledge he had.

He used a blade with a handle for trimming, he trimmed the sole very precisely, cutting the frog and the bearing surface of the foot by a minimal amount. Then he rasped the bearing surface very flat, thus contact with the shoe was made good without any gaps. He had only one shoe shape (the hind one) for all his shoes and a few different sizes.

That is something I couldn't understand and he couldn't explain to me why traditionally, from generations going back to his Grandfather, his father taught him this way of working.

What surprised me was the precision with which his shoe fitted on the bearing surface of the foot. Shaping the shoes was very approximate, the shape was not precise and the front feet were shod with hind-shaped shoes without any modification.

Nailing was fast and very precise, a little low, the clinches were strong, bent, the foot was placed on a flat stone. Then he was using his trimming blade to cut what was sticking out of the shoe (a kind of dumping). His anvil was a large river pebble, used just to close and sometimes open the shoe.

The ponies were shod in 30 minutes. Shoeing cost 200 inr (£2) for all four feet, with shoeings being done every 15 to 40 days according to the work of the ponies and the season.

The purpose of my visit was to observe and see the condition of farriery in this part of the country. I didn't express my observations at the time. That will be another goal of a second stay, to try and show them in practice a different way of shoeing, our style. Then we have to sit down and explain in detail why we are forging, and then shoeing, front and hind shoes differently. All these changes have to be introduced with diplomacy, without criticising their work, always with a very positive attitude on what they are doing well.

In my experience, it is always a big challenge to make these remote village farriers accept our shoeing techniques.

How do we gain the respect of colleagues? Respect can be gained only by introducing change that the farrier colleague considers to be an improvement, something that he can copy easily. It is essential that he recognises essential changes for his work through what he is shown.

Our way of shoeing is slower, and we tend to attach great importance to the finish. This is a handicap to rural farriers, as they are working for very little money and their clients are not prepared to pay more just because it looks nicer. In a future article, I will describe his forging place: a magic place.



Your Horse Live! And the donkeys went too

Remember November? There was a keen wind around for much of the month and a lot of rain too. However, think November and Stoneleigh and you might chance upon an event to bring cheer from the gloom, a distinct and early decking of the halls, with an awful lot of equestrian merchandise! Your Horse Live was up and running once more, writes Sarah Booth.

If you peered into the 'polytunnels' of the Rescue Village at Your Horse Live, you would have seen - amongst the horse and pony re-homing charities - four stables, four donkeys and some Donkey Breed Society (DBS) members enthused and on a mission... 'Donkeys are different!'...we declared and the good visitors to the event, which was held at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire, on the weekend of 12-14 November, were interested to come and find out why.

We were there for the whole weekend. Two donkeys in one stable, two in another and in the two in-between we had an Information Hub relating to all things donkey: welfare, education, long-reining, driving, showing, enrichment, care and proficiency awards and so on, and a small shop selling DBS merchandise. Among the displays and videos from our YouTube channel - playing on laptops - was a super display relating to our Fab Farriers, with big A3 pictures of our wonderful farriers receiving awards and/or in action! Details of the Awards Scheme, and the much-valued support of Forge were also flagged up, and the display drew lots of great interest.

Telling people that donkeys are different is one thing, showing them that they are different is another and one that is more likely to stay in people's minds. On the Saturday, we were absolutely delighted that our first ever 'fab farrier', Graham Smith who is so skilled in terms of donkey farriery even though he probably spends more time with high-profile horses (Graham is married to international showjumper Holly), was able to join us. Graham, and DBS member Sarah Standing who had nominated him in 2019 in the Northern Region of the Donkey Breed Society, ploughed their way through literally thousands of visitors to reach us. Clare Humphries' with her Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) donkeys, Jake and Dandy, were probably not expecting to model for Graham, but ever the charming, methodical, we take-it-in-our-strides type of donkeys that they are, they duly obliged and supported the notion, 'donkeys' hooves are different', as Graham began his demonstration.



*Join us next year at
Your Horse Live,
11-13 November, 2022*

'That was fascinating', 'really interesting', our visitors said, and the comments kept on coming. Most who stopped to watch asked questions, so too those who viewed the display, and it was great to be able to impart knowledge and understanding of:

- The importance of correct and regular trimming,
- Preparing your donkey for your farrier (regular handling of feet - picking up and picking out each day),
- Good practice in terms of hoof health and preventative measures.

Graham is indeed a 'fab farrier', and we thank him so much for representing all the farriers that we value so much. We hope that next year more of our 'fab farriers' will join in too - we appreciate that it was quite short notice this year! However, we would love to have your skills on show throughout the weekend to create a real celebration of donkey and mule farriery! Contact Sarah Booth, northerndonks@gmail.com if you would like to be a part of spreading the message that, 'donkeys are different' and as such, their needs must be taken into consideration!

And so, the weekend came to an end. It had been one of hard graft, challenge and excitement! A weekend in which, as well as Graham demonstrating some fantastic donkey farriery, Carl Hester visited our donkeys and agreed to become an honorary member of the Society, and Sue Mart from Bennington Carriages, gave a brilliant demo on donkey carriage driving! It had been busy, bustling and brilliant but above all, the weekend had allowed us to showcase our wonderful long ears to thousands of visitors, to tell people just why and how to celebrate our donkeys' differences!

FLAMEFAST has been manufacturing gas forges since 1980 for the education sector, both in the UK and overseas.

The forges were designed using ceramic chips instead of traditional coke/coal as these fuels were a struggle for schools to use due to cost and dealing with fumes and spent fuel. We still base our units on the ceramic chip technology as it offers a cost-effective alternative to traditional fuels, giving good object heat distribution and minimal surface scale formation on workpieces.

The forge base is just under 14 inches in diameter and can be factory set for either natural gas or LPG bottled gas use. Once powered up it reaches a working temperature in less than 15 minutes and can work mild steel bar of 2 inches from cold to forging heat in less than 10 minutes.

We have always acknowledged that the coke forge has been the preferred tool of use for both professional and hobbyist blacksmith, but with changing times due to fuel supply and disposal, coupled with new regulations regarding smokeless zones, the Flamefast DS430H forge could well be the considered solution for the future.



NEWS:

The issue with ear cropping

Ear cropping is illegal in the UK. It is an unnecessary, painful mutilation that has no welfare benefit. The practice involves cutting off the floppy part of the ear flap, often without anaesthesia or pain relief.

Despite it being illegal to crop dogs' ears in the UK, it remains legal to import and sell dogs with cropped ears or to send dogs abroad to be cropped.

Vets and animal welfare organisations, such as the RSPCA, and rehoming charities like Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, are increasingly seeing cases of dogs with cropped ears. This worrying trend is rife on social media too, with celebrities and influencers sharing images of their ear-cropped dogs. A petition calling on the government to debate achieved over 100,000 signatures and led to a debate on the issue in parliament.



Picture: David Tarfet / Unsplash



‘Provide The Most Efficient and Effective Hoof Protection & Rehabilitation System To Your Clients’, says Formahoof

Laminitis, White Line Disease, Hoof Cracks, Crushed Heels, High-Low Syndrome, Navicular Syndrome...just six of the many challenges faced regularly by farriers and suffered by countless horses and ponies worldwide. Historically, each required a different approach, with a variety of possible tools and techniques producing variable results. Until now.

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The Farriers Foundation: NEWS



Despite 2021 continuing to be tough for charities, The Farriers Foundation has survived thanks to the huge support received from individual donations and organisers of events dedicating their fundraising to our charity.

One example of the types of event that has raised money for The Farriers Foundation is Fishing for Farriers, which was organised by Matthew Cooney. The fishing took place at lakes near Peterborough, where farriers had the chance to catch huge carp and take the title and trophy made for the event by Leon Bentham.

A small auction of donated items and events managed to raise an impressive figure from a small event. Other fishing events are being organised by Matt, the next of which is already fully booked, but others are to be organised.

BFBA Farrier Focus was also a huge success for The Farriers Foundation. Just over £3000 was raised from the sale of our merchandise and donated items. Jim Blurton donated a number of tools, which contributed over £500 towards the final amount. Merchandise sales went very well as usual and many items sold out quickly.

The Farriers Foundation continues to provide financial assistance to those suffering from injury or illness and we do this wherever we can. Farrier safety also is of key importance to our constitution and we have been working alongside organisations like the HBCA (Human Behaviour Change for Animals) and The Horse Trust. They help us to look at ways we can work better - to prevent accidents and educate owners and farriers work in a safer environment.

Through working together with the BFBA and these organisations, The Farriers Foundation hopes to begin initiatives that help to make safety a priority in the future.



Trustee Mick Handley relaxing after a long day on the stand at Focus 2021

The Farriers Foundation Spring Conference and Charity Ball

On 5 March 2022, we will be holding The Farriers Foundation Spring Conference and Charity Ball at the Shap Wells Hotel, Penrith.

A one-day conference will include presentations by Dr Simon Curtis PhD, FWCF, HonsAssocRCVS; Simon Moore FWCF; Sarah Logie FWCF and Ben Benson AWCF.

We are appealing for donated items to be auctioned at the event - no matter how big or small, we are grateful for your valued support.

Tickets will be available from Central Forge. Contact Jonathan Nunn for further details 07971 280478 or email jon.nunn@me.com



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OF OUR MEMBERS**

Farriers' lives remembered:

by Carl Bettison AWCF (Hons)

I was once asked if I knew of farrier Robert (Bob) Armstrong because he had lived in Buckinghamshire. At the time, I didn't recognise the name, but a couple of years later I read an autobiography – 'The World's Greatest Stuntman. The story of Vic Armstrong' – which was when I first came across his father Bob's remarkable life and work. This is his story.

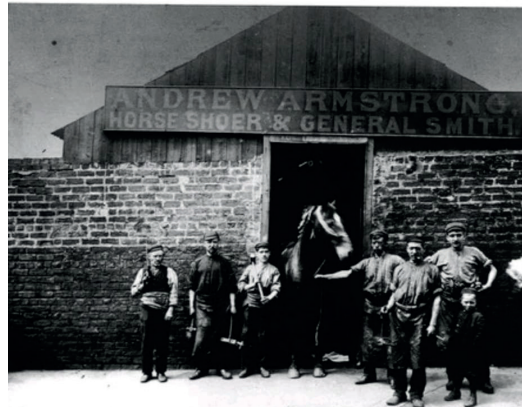
Bob's father Andrew Armstrong worked as a farrier and wheelwright in Scotland; he eventually started his own forge close to Glasgow. In the earliest picture of Bob that I've seen, he is standing in front of his father with his brothers. In the photograph, Bob was the only child wearing boots, so obviously life was tough growing up and working with horses.

During World War One, Andrew Armstrong became a Farrier Sergeant Major, which led him to move to Slough in Buckinghamshire, where he worked in the grounds of Windsor Castle (close to where the farm shop stands today). Andrew was responsible for looking after injured war horses and getting them back to full soundness, so they could return to service with the British Army. Andrew's excellent veterinary knowledge was obviously passed down to Bob, who later became a world-renowned horseman and remedial farrier.

After the war, Andrew set up a forge at the Crown Hotel, on Slough High Street. The forge was there for many years; in fact, the Crown Hotel was rebuilt three times during this period. Bob started working in the forge aged nine, with his early memories including that the OXO van was pulled by oxen. This vehicle travelled around the country promoting the company's beef stock cubes, and as young Bob was small, he was the obvious person to get under the oxen to nail the two shoes onto their cloven hooves. As he got older, he would join other farriers in the winter, standing at the bottom of Castle Hill in Windsor, waiting to fit frost nails into horses' shoes, to provide them with better grip on the icy road.

Due to Bob's growing reputation, he was appointed the British Team Farrier for the 1948 London Olympics (the austerity Games). He went on to be the British Olympic farrier for a total of five Games events.

His most memorable memories of the Helsinki Olympic Games, were that he had shod all the horses on the show jumping team, including the gold medal winner, the fabulous horse 'Foxhunter' ridden by Colonel Harry Llewelyn, who



both became extremely famous in the UK having made front page news in all the newspapers. Bob was also the duty farrier at the Horse of The Year Show for many years when it was held at White City Stadium in West London. In between Olympic Games, Bob travelled around Europe with the British show jumping team.

Back then, Bob basically did everything, managing the horses and stables when they arrived at the event, working as team farrier and, when needed, as team 'vet'. International trips were made by road and ferry, and Bob recalled travelling over the Alps driving a three-horse wooden Vincent horse box.

In 1955, Bob took his family, including three children (one being just 18 months old) to Kenya for a new adventure – a brave thing to do in that era. He was due to partner with a wealthy lady who owned a large horse breeding and training operation. Unfortunately things did not work out well. It transpired that not only was the lady an alcoholic, but the Mau Mau uprising had reached it's violent peak and she was murdered by its members. The family found itself marooned in a hotel in Nairobi for three months. Running short of money, Bob found a job training racehorses at a big farm in the north of the country, above Nakuru near Lake Navasha. For the next 12 months, the kids had a great time as they didn't go to school, but played with the children of the local workers.

Unfortunately, the violence of the Mau Mau uprising got closer and neighbouring farms were burnt down and their occupants murdered. Although Bob and his family were never attacked or threatened, life had become unbearable. At this point, Bob received a phone call asking him to return to the UK to help prepare the show jumping team for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. As it happened, the equestrian events actually took place in Stockholm due to the problems of flying horses such long distances.

Bob had always had a passion for racehorses. He gained a reputation for being able to handle and shoe the most



Young Bob – in boots – standing in front of his father

his jockey licence. He rode a horse called Moyrath at both Lingfield and Redcar. This made headlines in the *Sporting Life* as the horse was in training with Norah Wilmot who was in her 80s, making the combined age of the horse, jockey and trainer more than 160 years old.

Sadly Bob passed away in his 70s, which meant that he didn't get to enjoy a long retirement, but when I visited Vic's house, Bob's life is not forgotten.

In Vic's office, in pride of place behind his desk are both the Worshipful Company of Farriers exam certificates for his grandfather Andrew and his father Bob, plus a picture of the Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers presenting Bob with the highest award - Honorary Fellowship of the WCF - for his contribution to the British equestrian team winning gold in Helsinki.

In the hall is the British Olympic Team chest, a wooden travel box used by Bob on his travels to the Olympic Games, inside which are his farriery tools and apron.

In the sitting room are a collection of Bob's badges from numerous Olympic Games events, memorabilia from the Horse of the Year Show and medals presented by organisations such as the British Horse Society and the Shire Horse Society. By the window is a mounted hind caulk and wedge shoe made by Bob and worn by Foxhunter when he won the gold medal for Britain (pictured right). Alongside that is a magnificent clock presented by Colonel Harry Llewelyn, with an inscription which says that without Bob's help, they would never have won gold.

Vic was a speaker at this year's WCF Denis Oliver lecture and spoke proudly about the life of his grandfather Andrew and his father Bob. Also speaking was Ben Benson who had

travelled to the Tokyo Olympics, just as Bob Armstrong had done, so many years before.

Vic remarked that while early pictures of his family showed his uncle barefoot as a child, now - just two generations later - farriers are regularly flying around the world keeping top class horses sound and able to compete.



A hind caulk and wedge shoe made by Bob and worn by Foxhunter when the horse won a gold medal for Britain



The Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers with a group of Olympic Games' farriers. From left Haydn Price (6 Olympic Games), Ben Benson (3 Olympic Games), Brendan Murray (7 Olympic Games), the Master (1 Olympic Games), Vic Armstrong (Bob Armstrong was the farrier at 5 Olympic Games) and Robin May (1 Olympic Games)

World Horse Welfare welcomes EFRACom's horse smuggling and equine ID recommendations

Equine welfare charity World Horse Welfare welcomed the recent Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRACom) recommendations to the UK government for digital-first equine ID and the need to address the problem of horse smuggling. The committee has urged the government to introduce measures, including improved equine ID legislation, that will lead to improved welfare, especially for equines of a low financial value that are currently moving across borders under the radar.

Many horses travel across borders for racing and other equestrian sports, and others move legitimately for breeding, sale or other purposes. Horse smuggling, or non-compliant movement of horses, however, is a significant issue and often involves horses travelling in poor conditions and may not be fit for the journeys involved. Some end up at European slaughterhouses, and will continue to do so even after the government's planned ban on export for slaughter unless government moves to fully digital ID and traceability systems.

Roly Owers, Chief Executive of World Horse Welfare said: 'We welcome this report which contains recommendations that, if implemented, would make a huge positive difference to equine welfare. Effective enforcement relies on being able to identify horses throughout their lives and to do this the ID system needs to be digital by design, and traceability systems introduced. This will allow all those involved such as border staff, police, veterinarians and welfare organisations to work together and drive enforcement through an intelligence-led approach.'

'The existing equine identification system of paper passports, insufficient collaboration between government bodies and enforcement agencies across the UK and the knock-on difficulties in enforcing the current legislation mean it is all too easy to bypass the system and move horses on false documentation.'

'We warmly welcome the Committee's recommendations that Defra should investigate these non-compliant movements and will continue to share our intelligence and expertise to help better understand the scale of the problem and find practical solutions, and we look forward to working with Defra and the devolved governments to help inform an improved and digitised equine ID system.'

Horses are much-loved pets or members of the family to many people, but to those involved in horse smuggling between Britain and the EU they are simply a commodity. Horses may be signed out of the food chain but falsely re-identified with a fraudulent 'clean' passport to make them appear eligible for slaughter. This means a trader can still make a profit from them if they don't sell for other purposes.

Moving such horses with fraudulent passports out of their country of origin also increases the likelihood that they will

A hypothetical example of the horse smuggling trade

Horses X and Y are bought as part of a large group, with less than £500 paid for the whole lot. All horses in the group have been signed out of the food chain because of medication they have received in the past. However, the trader who has bought them has retained a bundle of passports belonging to dead horses that had not been signed out of the food chain.

The trader chooses to illegally amend the chip numbers in the old passports to match the horses they've just bought. The group is then moved on the fraudulent passports to an EU country to be sold at a market. Horse X is bought by a trekking centre, which only intends to keep it for a year and wants to have the option to send it to slaughter afterwards.

Horse Y is not sold, so the trader decides to sell it for meat (which they couldn't do while the horse had the correct passport). Some horses in the group sell at a loss, but others make a small profit, ensuring the trip is profitable for the trader.

On the same trip, the trader has also moved horses legitimately for owners who have paid for their animals to be transported. Lastly, the trader has used the move to hide a trade in drugs. The trade in the low value horses was therefore only a small part of a much more complex picture, on just one trip.

slip through the net if they do reach a slaughterhouse as, although EU Member States and the UK have central equine databases, slaughterhouse officials often cannot access the databases of other EU countries and have to rely on easily falsified documentation.

Horses are also transported under the radar for purposes other than slaughter. Enforcement agencies are often reluctant to check a vehicle loaded with horses, so they can be used as a cover for the movement of other illicit shipments including puppies, wild birds, exotic animals, drugs or money. The horses being travelled as part of this organised criminal activity are often transported long distances without current welfare legislation being observed or enforced which is a significant threat to equine welfare. To effectively fight the trade in horse smuggling it is vital that government secures a commitment from and collaboration between all the agencies involved in overseeing movements at the borders and addressing organised crimes, the charity says.

Material choices in ironwork conservation

Meghan Parker, a student at the University of Amsterdam, took up the offer of a free student place at the National Heritage Ironwork Group's Conference 'Living in a Material World', which was held on 18 November 2021 in London.

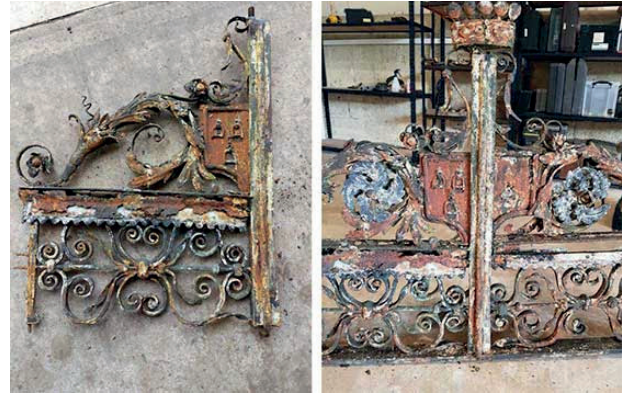
Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the NHIG's one day conference "Living in a Material World" on materials and their use in the conservation of historic ironwork. As a second-year master's student in the University of Amsterdam's conservation and restoration of cultural heritage programme specialising in metal objects, my training has mostly focused on smaller objects in museum environments. This focus has meant that I am slightly less familiar with treatments where functionality is as important as preservation or aesthetic concerns. The conference thus provided some welcome exposure to the complexities of material selection in treating historic ironwork and built heritage.

There were two main take-aways for me. One was the age-old dilemma of the conservator – deciding how much ought to be done and with what materials. Two presentations using specific material case studies were particularly valuable in that respect to me. The first was given by David James on when traditional approaches are appropriate or not, using lead filling as a model. I found myself pondering what criteria I would use to decide whether to use a traditional technique or material. It also raised the issue of knowing when to go to an expert in a traditional technique for help with a project. The other presentation was given by Dave Gant on choosing materials appropriate to a project, using his work on historic railway bridges as an example. Here, the matter of weighing safety and reliability with originality was made manifest. While it is always preferable to aim for original materials, if these materials cannot guarantee a functional bridge or are so costly that the only alternative is replacing the bridge, finding acceptable substitutes becomes paramount. His discussion of his team's decision-making process was quite informative.



Some of the most important decisions in conservation and restoration relate to material selection. In some cases, use of inappropriate repair materials can even reduce the lifespan of an object, but deciding which materials to use is not always a straightforward matter; it is based on a complex balance of knowledge and judgement, involving:

- Technical understanding of existing fabric
- Potential repair materials
- Existing coatings
- Likely interactions between these three
- Decay/corrosion mechanisms
- Ethical standards and policies
- Budget available.



But how do you go about deciding what an acceptable substitute is and when to make it? This important question formed the heart of Geoff Wallis' presentation and the discussion panel following it and led to my second take-away. How important is it to have a clearly defined code of ethics for conservation and restoration work when they may ultimately be unattainable? These codes often seem to be taken for granted, existing quietly in the background, rarely engaged with. If such guidelines are nearly impossible to achieve, why have them at all? Responses ranged from having an ideal state to aim for, giving people a common ground for communication, and providing guidance in decision making, all of which I found valuable to keep in mind. While not settling on one answer, the conference created a welcome space to consider and grapple with these questions.

Finally, it was fantastic getting to meet so many conservation blacksmiths and other diverse heritage professionals and hear about the problems they have faced and the solutions they have devised to deal with those problems. I am being trained to approach objects in specific ways, with a specific set of tools – it is always valuable to learn about alternatives and other perspectives.

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Mort, Firebird Forge

The coke was consistent and very clean producing a hard compact clinker with very little ash residue. The fire also stayed clean for a decent length of time and it was easy to clear the clinker. I would certainly be happy to use this fuel in my Forge in the future.

Adrian, Bringsty Forge



QEST. Supporting excellence in British craftsmanship

QEST – the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust – recently awarded 20 scholarships and five apprenticeships, bringing its total giving this year to £433,000 to 51 makers – its biggest year ever. The new intake includes makers working in crafts ranging from lace making to ceramics, paper artistry to luthiery and stonework to bee farming. Among the new scholars are three craftsmen who work with metals.

Rachael Colley, South Yorkshire

2021 QEST Howdens Scholar. Silversmithing & Jewellery

Rachael is a jeweller and sculptor working mainly in metals. She began her career by studying 3D Design: Jewellery and Silversmithing at Loughborough University before gaining an MA in Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork and Jewellery from the Royal College of Art in 2010. She has since been working as a senior lecturer in jewellery and metalwork.



Her main area of interest is cutlery and tableware, a craft at the heart of Sheffield's heritage, which features on the Heritage Craft Association's Red List of Endangered Crafts 2021. A QEST Scholarship will enable her to train with master craftsmen Brett Payne and Chris Knight, enabling her to further her traditional silversmithing skills, including forging, raising and tooling fabrication.

Rachael plans to design and create a new range of cutlery and tableware, and looks forward to being able to participate in Sheffield's world-renowned cutlery industry, supporting endangered crafts through innovative uses of traditional skills.

'I think through materials and making, which enable me to communicate aspects of my lived experience through the creation of a range of ambiguous artefacts, from cutlery and jewellery to sculptural installations. I'm keen to explore and challenge societal issues surrounding consumption through the use of food waste, representing it as a luxury material.'

Rauni Higson, Gwynedd

2021 QEST Scholar. Silversmithing

Rauni studied silversmithing, goldsmithing and design for three years at the Lahti Design Institute in Finland before returning to the UK in 1995 to study at the Birmingham School of Jewellery. She launched her business – Rauni Higson Silversmith – in 1997 and focuses on designing and making large scale silverware, of both a sculptural and functional nature. She was chairman of the Contemporary British Silversmiths (2014-17).

QEST funding will enable Rauni to study with three master craftsmen: Tony Bedford, Rod Kelly and Clive Burr. This will allow her to develop her skills in flat hammering and tray

sinking. With Rod she will produce large scale dishes, working with a special jig that Rod designed for such work, and with Clive she will practise fine machining skills, lathe work, milling and PUK welding. She aspires to increase output from her studio, working on bigger scale, more intricate and ornate pieces.



'Silver is a magical material that responds to light like nothing else, except perhaps the moon. It has entranced humans forever and its extraordinary malleability means that almost any form that can be imagined can be realised, with enough time, skill and patience. My QEST Scholarship is a rare opportunity to focus entirely on mastery, and to develop my skills further, so that I can pass them on down the line.'

Andrew Braund, Dorset

2021 QEST Scholar. Arms & Armour Conservation

Andrew is an armorer specialising in conservation and restoration. In 2016 he started trading as Volund Crafts, making and selling historical replicas focusing on metalwork, in particular casting. In 2018 he attended West Dean College to do a Foundation Degree in Art, specialising in Historic Craft Practices, and a QEST Scholarship will support further studies at West Dean – an MA in Conservation Studies (Metals).



As well as expanding his personal armour collection, he has been learning about conservation and restoration methods. Some of the objects he has been working on recently include artillery instruments, silver plates and other silver ornamental objects, and a 1796 pattern British infantry officer's sword.

'I love history and arms and armour fascinate me. I have spent a lot of time making historic replicas as a passion and now I am eager and excited to be working with the original objects which have inspired myself and so many others.'

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STRÖMSHOLM
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OPINION

Coping with laminitis cases

By Peter Baker AWCF

There are three triggers for a laminitic attack and a number of treatments to effect relief. I have used these to overcome this crippling condition and they have seemingly saved the animals that have been worked on. The methodology used in all cases ended this painful condition from every stage of the animals illness, which in time enabled the animals to return to soundness.

Type 1 onset. Systemic laminal inflammation

One of the first overall health conditions we need to look at is a systemic laminitis, experienced in the native equine population and set aside from the condition observed within race horse care, other than when that race horse is suffering the results of an acute major overall infection (postoperative or systemic). This infected state is separate from a native equine type, which is the significant factor within the thoroughbred.

In native breeds, laminitis occurs due to the considerable influence of plant sugars (fructose) being taken in an inflammatory state into the system of native breeds by grazing an excess of lush pasture/grass, where the sugar is not assimilated by the body and digested into a harmless form before being transferred into the equine's living tissues.

Seemingly then, the native equine's digestive system does not convert plant derived matter/fructose sugar, via digestion into an acceptable non-inflammatory systemic format.

It is reported that sugars are the harmful elements in systemic laminitis and this has been known for a long time. Harmful sugar usually gets broken down by the actions of insulin reacting through specific and all living cells, found on the outside of living structures, including those of the horse.

Here lies the problem with the/a suggested sugar protection mechanisms, these cells are reported as being partially absent on the outside of the equine hoof laminal leaves, particularly when we focus on native breeds. Thus, insulin cannot get entry to that living laminal tissue, so it cannot react effectively with the tissues of laminal bonding.

The laminal bone to hoof wall tissue then degrades and creates the suggested syndrome that amounts to a critical laminitis. This seemingly has parallels with diabetes in people. In the thoroughbred race horse, however, it seems it does not get a fructose loaded diet, but is related to simple limb weight loading. Thus, systemic laminitis is not as significant in the race horse.

Type 2 onset. Descending onset of laminal inflammation

The second development of equine laminal inflammation is one that initially shows itself in the coronary area, commonly dorsal and can be critical.

Severe lameness is not always present; however, it can be seen as little more the horse having a few 'scratchy' days. Upper hoof rings are not often initially noticed by the farrier,

other than at a later stage when the development of ring ridging is seen during the process of clinching up.

Sometimes these tissue rings are not seen as critical, the acid test being an indication they give off by the formation of repeating that is ringing/rings growing across and down within the hoof wall and repeating over a regular period of time, an indication of what is thought to be temperature/pressure changes, systemic fluid release and/or microscopic capsular movements and its transmitted downwards pressures and heat changes on/within the structures of the coronary crown.

The author suggests this may be a precursor to seedy toe, when an infection becomes critical to the animals athletic outputs. The acid test the author followed was generally started with the evidence of a dark or black area contained area within the animal's white zone toe area, which may be seen as the precursor to the seed. For that reason alone, this condition should never be ignored, but recorded and its progress monitored at following shoeings, when veterinary advice may be necessary. Veterinary treatment may then be an essential requirement.

Type 3. Ascending onset of laminal inflammation

Suppositions are now made based on my understanding of laminitis suffered by equines, which were met during my working lifetime.

The methodology I used was derived from my personal experience and conclusions that generally resulted in overcoming the pain and disabling effect of a laminitis crisis to horses in my care.

It has to be understood that within the branch of the industry that I worked, primarily race horse care, where mainly only one type of three disease inductions were seen in detail. This was displayed as a few days of scratchy change in motion, an ascending process, which was a force related to impact ascending forces, travelling across the white zone (seen as a tissue contained a darkened area) and further on up the lamina, seemingly an inflammation demonstrated by a surface stress suffered by the equine's foot and/or a bedding complex trauma loading force travelling/transmitted upwards, by complex pressures being placed on the animal's frog, solear plate and white zone into the underlying vascular structures. A force seemingly so foreign to the animal's healthy physiology that it cannot easily accommodate it. The horse only talking about it to the animal's attendants, by changes to its way of movement (relative lameness).

Comment

We need to mention the link between the relationship of sugar in the human condition, diabetes and the equine condition systemic laminitis. The question is, are there parallels?

The above three paragraphs contain data drawn from authors' experiences. Circumstances exist where the three onset conditions in practice overlap, but for simplicity of explanation I have attempted to explain these separately.



— STROMSHOLM —
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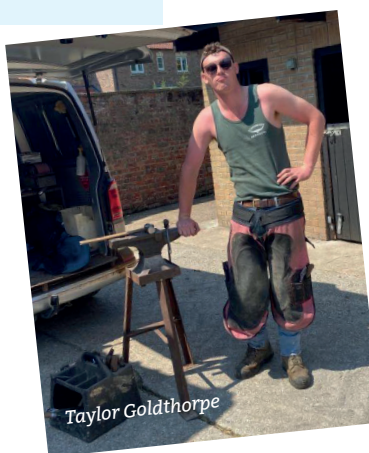


Well done to all those who recently passed their WCF Diploma Examinations. Hard work pays off! We wish you all the best for your careers ahead.

The College Block Award

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MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Alice Atkinson – 4SL – ATF Robert Atkinson)

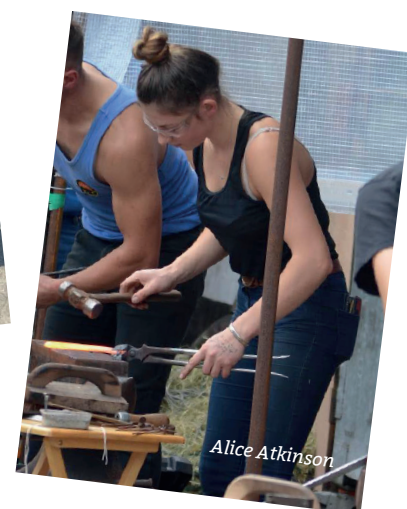
...‘for consistency in both theory and practical and excelling in the end of block exams’

Taylor Goldthorpe – 45S – ATF Chris Pedley

...‘for excellent end of block theory result and top of the group with his practical.’

Liam Burkinshaw (42S), ATF Huw Dyer AWCF

...‘for being a very focused and hard-working apprentice.’



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‘Congratulations to 42S’

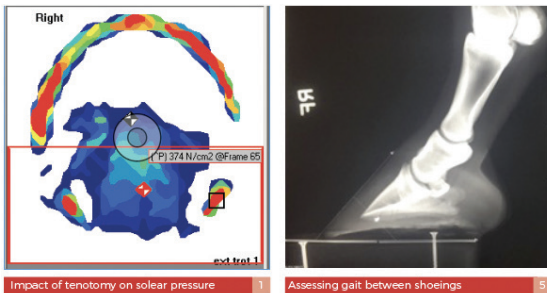
In the January issue of *Forge Knowledge*

Forge Knowledge is a member-only benefit offering an opportunity for gaining CPD. BFBA membership is free for apprentices.

Changes in solear pressure following deep digital flexor tenotomy in a horse with chronic laminitis

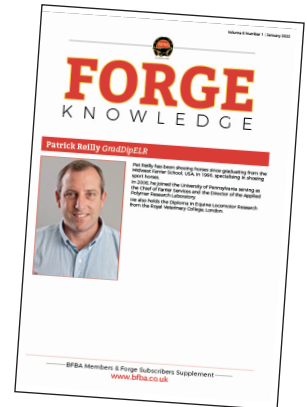
By Patrick Reilly GradDipELR

As part of his Graduate Diploma in Applied Equine Locomotor Research, Patrick Reilly described the changes in pressure



Impact of tenotomy on solear pressure 1 Assessing gait between shoeings 5

seen across the sole of a hoof following transection of the deep digital flexor tendons in a horse with chronic laminitis.



Indirect assessment of gait through rider feedback

By Patrick Reilly GradDipELR

Assessing a horse's gait just before or just after trimming and shoeing may not be ideal, but these may be the only opportunities a farrier has to do so. Patrick Reilly found that asking a rider how their horse's gait changed over the shoeing cycle provided valuable information to help him determine the optimal approach to that horse.

Edwina Darlow reviews 'Blinkin' 'Ell. Stevie Fisher's Roughest Ride'

I have to admit that I approached reading 'Blinkin' 'Ell. Stevie Fisher's Roughest Ride', with some trepidation. Would it be the Stevie Fisher that Gary and I have known for years, the larger-than-life character who lived life large and lary. I needn't have worried – it was definitely him!

The book chronicles Stevie's early life, his apprenticeship with Andrew Casserley, how he rose through farriery competitions to become one of the best apprentice/farriers competing nationally and internationally. He recounts stories of drag hunting, skiing trips, shooting days and his great love racing with great wit and laughter.

The last part of the book deals with his life after his massive brainstem stroke in 2014, but this too is handled in true Stevie fashion, with positivity and humour.

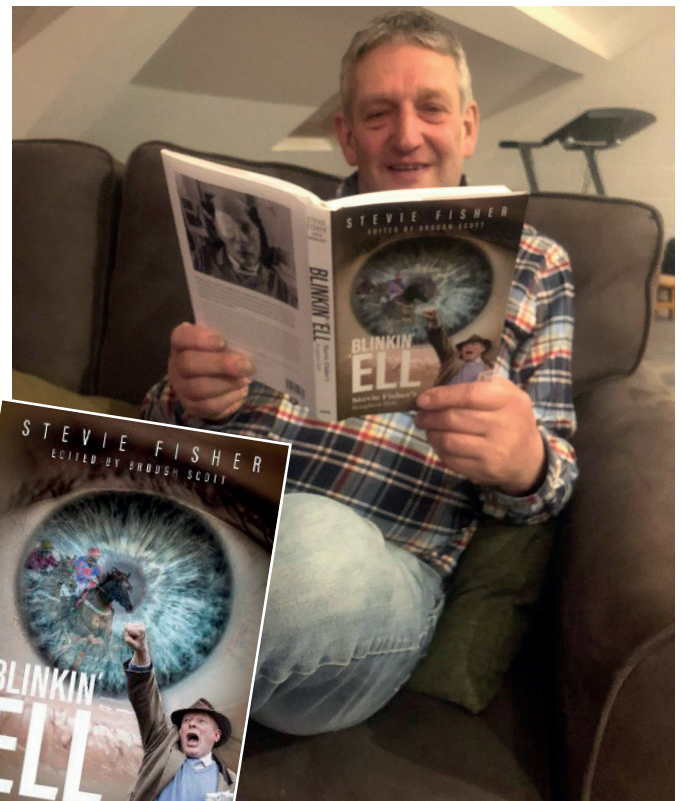
What shines through throughout the book are his spirit, his zest for life, his love of fun and the deep love he and his wife Geraldine share. After his stroke, the only movement Stevie has is his left eyelid, so the effort he went to write this book using his amazing eye-gaze computer cannot be underestimated. We find a man trapped in his body, but with his mind still as bright and active as ever. Throughout the pages, I could hear Stevie's voice telling me the stories.

I urge you to read it. It is inspirational and a true testament to the strength of the human spirit and a love of life lived against the odds. And Stevie, I still want your Bloody Mary recipe that you promised me in Calgary in 2014!

Blinkin' 'Ell: Stevie Fisher's Roughest Ride

Stevie Fisher (author), Brough Scott (editor)

Publisher: Raceform Ltd · ISBN: 9781839500732 · Number of pages 192, hardback · Dimensions 222 x 144 mm · £16.99. Available through the Injured Jockeys Fund at <https://shop.ijf.org.uk/>



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Experiencing Iceland

Jonathan Nunn finally made it to Iceland at the end of last year, having cancelled an earlier trip due to lockdown. The aim of the visit was to provide a farriery clinic for Icelandic farriers, as well as to familiarise two farriers with their new Werkman Black devices.

We had been looking forward to seeing the five-gait Icelandic horse in action and experience how the tölt measured up using Werkman Black.

The tölt is a natural, fluid gait of the Icelandic Horse, during which at least one foot always touches the ground. It is an extraordinary lateral four-beat gait, which gives the rider a smooth, bounce-free ride as there is no suspension. Most Icelandic horses do this naturally.

Before the trip, I was under the impression this unique breed had five gaits walk, trot, canter, gallop and tölt, but I was

wrong. The five true gaits are described as walk, trot, gallop, tölt and flying pace. The flying pace is not seen in all Icelandic horses and is truly considered a fifth 'gear'. This is a two-beat lateral movement, with lots of stride suspension meaning it can be extremely fast.

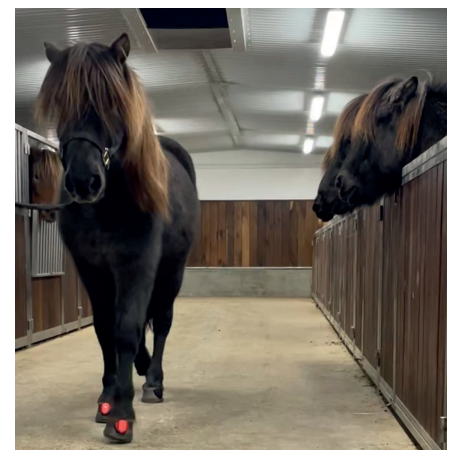
Some of these unusual strides are unique to the breed and it is considered that only the best Icelandic horses can achieve the flying pace, making them truly five-gaited.

The Icelandic people are extremely proud of their horses history. It's the only breed in the country and no other horses have been imported since the 11th century by Icelandic law. This means the breed has remained very pure and true to type.

We stayed at a place called Eldesar at Hveragerdi – an Icelandic horse centre and hotel. We measured many horses over the two days' testing the Werkman Black device's ability to measure and identify the tölt and pace.

Iceland is a fascinating country, with much to see. I plan to go back in 2022 to ride some Icelandic horses on a four-day trek because three days was not nearly enough time to see this beautiful, unique country.

In winter, life can be tough, with some extreme weather conditions. The horses we saw have obviously evolved in a way that allows them to cope well with extreme cold and arctic weather. We didn't see a single horse with a rug and many were outside in -15°C, which again is proof this hardy breed of horse is truly remarkable.



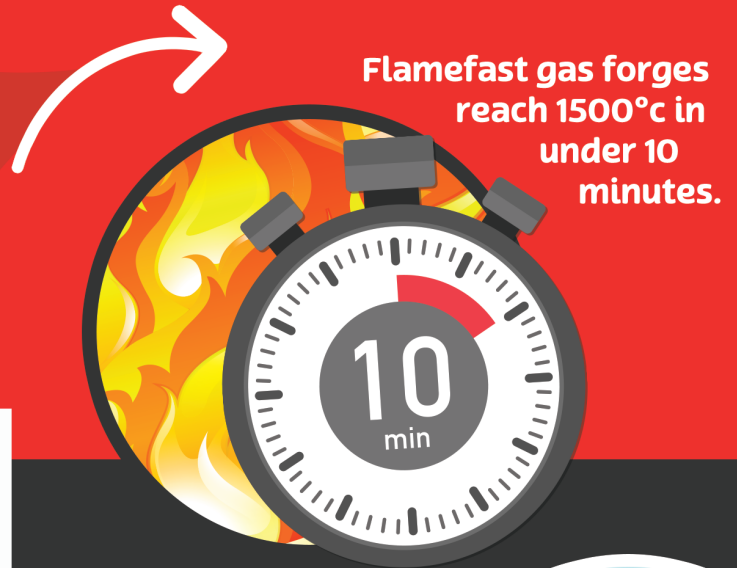
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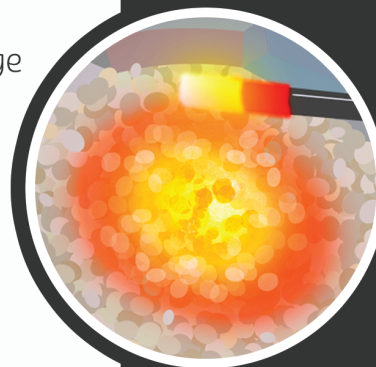
To find out more about the Flamefast Forge and pricing please contact our UK factory.

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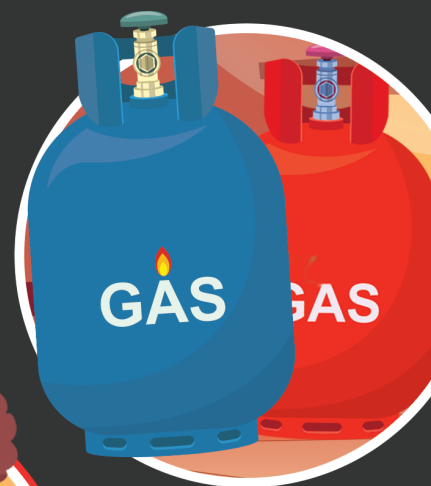
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* Than the 10mm LiBero Concave

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	22 x 8 New	00 - 3
	22 x 10	2 - 4



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- Bonds to most shoes
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HOOF REPAIR BLACK

Super fast hoof reconstruction and repair
Glue on steel, aluminium & plastic shoes



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- Bonds to most shoes
- Affixes to a clean dry hoof wall
- Sets in approximately 1 minute and hardens within 5 minutes while maintaining flexibility to ensure natural hoof movement
- Hardens to black color

SUPER BOND

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