



FORGE

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The January 2021 issue of *Forge Knowledge* includes two articles on hoof anatomy:

- A unique look at the caudal hoof by Paige Poss
- Maybe it's a nerve by Paige Poss
- Hints and tips for the Diploma by WCF examiners



Worshipful Company of Farriers

Clerk: Charlotte Clifford, 19 Queen Street, Chipperfield, Hertfordshire WD4 9BT

Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

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Farriers appointed to FRC Council

Farriers elected to FRC Council (three-year appointment)

Northern area (self employed):

Paul Gordon DipWCF

Northern area (employee):

D Craig D'Arcy BSc(Hons) AWCF

Southern area (self employed):

David C. Hall BSc(hons) DipWCF, Chair of the Council

Southern area (employee):

Tom Smith AWCF

BFBA farriers on FRC council

Ben Benson AWCF and Simon Moore FWCF

WCF farrier on FRC Council

Robin P. May AWCF

European Federation of Farriers Associations

President, John Ravanelli (EDHV Germany)

Vice-President, Peter Kristiansen (DMFA Denmark)

Secretary, Chris Linssner AWCF

www.eurofarrier.org

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Forge does not endorse any advertising material included in this publication.

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

President's address

Here's hoping that 2021 will be a much better year than 2020 turned out to be.

As a result of the new COVID-19 variant, much of the country is now in Tier 4, and there is talk of another lockdown being imposed on us.

We must stick to Government guidelines to protect ourselves, our families and our clients. Remember **HANDS ... FACE ... SPACE**

Many of us run small businesses and we work for people running their own small businesses. I would also urge you to prioritise working for you clients as per our BFBA 'RAC' guidance.

RED essential hoofcare. **AMBER** consider delaying
GREEN don't attend non-essential hoofcare

Carry your Farriers Registration Council card so that you can present it should it be necessary, and be seen to maintain biosecurity measures (wash your hands, wear PPE and disinfect tools/vehicles).

In these strange times, we need to remember our blessings. A few days ago I was shoeing in a remote spot - there was no-one around - the weather was good (for the time of year) and the countryside looked stunning. It made me stop and think how lucky I was to be able to keep working when so many businesses have been forced to close and people made redundant.

There are also farriers and their family members who have had or currently have Covid - we wish them a speedy recovery to full health.

Technology has been a real help to us. As an association, we continue to meet using Zoom, which allows to continue working on your behalf. As a relatively small profession it also allows us to hear about the experiences of farriers all over the UK.

It's not only the BFBA that has had to get to grips with

new technology. The colleges and lecturers have taken a flexible approach to enable apprentices to continue their learning, and apprentices themselves have embraced learning online through video tutorials and online classes. Virtual lessons have opened up a new learning resource for them to use to learn and revise. I'd like to personally thank The Worshipful Company of Farriers and its examiners for going that extra mile to undertake the Diploma exams in such difficult times.

In a year when much has been put on hold, we have continued to publish **Forge** and **Forge Knowledge** with the support of our advertisers, our printers and our contributors.

At the beginning of another year, it is time to look forward. We are optimistic that the vaccines will provide the light at the end of the tunnel and allow us to get together again.

We are working on bringing you a bigger and better BFBA Focus event in October, and are in the process of designing our new website. If you have any ideas of what you would like from our website, don't be shy - we'd like to hear from you.

As far as CPD is concerned, we have negotiated a special registration price for our members to attend this year's International Hoofcare Summit online and further details can be found on pages 24 and 25.

I, and members of the Executive Committee wish you all a happier New Year.

Craig D'Arcy, BFBA President



A promotional banner for the BFBA Focus event. On the left, there is a logo for 'BFBA FOCUS' with a small circular emblem containing the BFBA logo and the text 'Established 1904'. To the right of the logo is a large, detailed image of a horseshoe with the letters 'BFBA' embossed on its inner curve. Below the horseshoe, the text 'October 30 & 31 2021,' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the text 'in a new venue at Stoneleigh' is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The entire banner has a dark, textured background.

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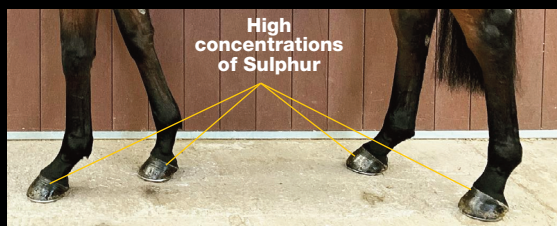


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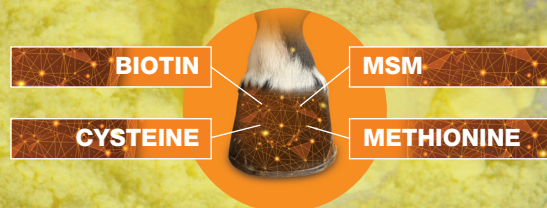


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BFBA's letter to members on the FRC Retention Fee

We continue to be concerned by such a substantial increase, particularly in such an incredibly difficult year. It has been noted that the Retention Fee in 1975 was intended to be 'similar to the cost of a set of shoes', but we are all aware of how costs have changed, in many areas disproportionately, in the last 35 years. However, whilst the BFBA understand the reasons provided for the increase in the Retention Fee the cause, specifically the disciplinary costs for which we all bear the weight of, remains a worry.

NAFBAE (BFBA) has a statutory role on Council: two registered persons are appointed, as outlined in Schedule 1, Part 1. Further detail can be found here - <https://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk/farriery-regulation>. This role is incredibly important to us and not a position that is accepted without careful consideration.

We have carried out a review of professional fees incurred by other regulated professions and the Retention Fee set by the FRC is not disproportionate. We were pleased to see a split payment option implemented but are concerned that newly qualified farriers are subject to the same level of fee as farriers in an established business.

We are now seeking further clarification on:

- The reason for the increase in the ATF fee
- A breakdown of the costs incurred by the disciplinary process

We share your frustration in the communication received from Council – its style, execution and delivery. We believe that email and phone could be used to contact Registrants and the tone of communication could be less direct and we will look to take this to FRC and to discuss this further.

The BFBA is disappointed in the increase in Retention Fee, and that the video recorded by the Chair was published on the homepage of the FRC website. We do not feel that this was an appropriate place for this and have been in contact with Council to ask that the content is removed from the homepage and replaced with a link.

In response to speculation on social media that a few farriers may choose not to pay their Retention Fee, we have sought clarification from our insurers, Eastlake & Beachell.

The following is a statement from John Howe: *'When arranging or renewing an insurance policy the Insurance Act 2015 requires you to make "a fair presentation of the risk to an Insurer". If at the time of arranging or renewing an insurance policy for your business you fail to notify that your name does not appear in the list of Registered Farriers held by the Registration Council you will be considered to be in breach of that duty by reason of a deliberate or reckless act. This puts the insurer concerned in a position once your breach is known to cancel the policy from inception.*

'The duty of fair presentation also applies to mid policy period changes. Any new policies will only be put into force if your name appears in the Register of Farriers.

'Our current scheme insurers policy sets out on page 4 under General Conditions their position in respect of "a fair presentation" and what action they will take in the event of a reckless/deliberate act.

'If you are not insured on our scheme other insurers will have the same views as the shoeing of a horse whilst not registered is an illegal act.'

This is no different than if you were to drive a car without a driving license and we would encourage all farriers to think very carefully before acting unlawfully.

The association will continue to monitor how the FRC conduct themselves and will challenge actions or conduct where it is appropriate to do so. Members with concerns should get in touch with us as matters arise.

We will endeavour to keep you informed as soon as we have further information. In the meantime, should you have any further queries at all please do contact BFBA Head Office on headoffice@bfba.co.uk or call 024 76 696595.

BFBA Executive Committee

Retention Fee increase: your questions and FRC's answers

The Farrier's Registration Council (FRC) confirmed via its website (and video) on Monday, 3 November that the annual Retention Fee for 2021 would increase to £400. Thank you to everyone who has responded to BFBA's email of 6 November 2020, inviting your questions relating to this matter. Questions and comments were received via email, phone and social media and we understand your concerns. We put your questions to the FRC and these are provided here, with the Council's answers. If you have any further queries, please contact the BFBA on headoffice@bfba.co.uk or call 024 76 696595.

Q. Why do I need to be registered?

A. The requirement to register is set out in primary legislation, The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975, 1977 and 2017. The Act establishes a statutory body, the Farriers Registration Council, to deliver the provisions set out in the Act. Details on regulation of farriery may be viewed

at <https://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk/farriery-regulation>.

Farriery is a registered profession and to practise lawfully a farrier must be registered. To practise without registration is a criminal offence, which may result in a fine of up to £1,000, legal costs and a criminal record.

Q. Who is appointed to the Council and what is their role?

A. The Council is a regulatory body not a representative body. The Council is made up of 16 members, 12 of whom are directly appointed and 4 of whom are appointed by way of an election scheme, as set out in FRA 1975 at Schedule 1;



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registrants other than those appointed are not members of the Council. The members include Registered Farriers, Veterinary Surgeons and appointees from equine and rural bodies.

The Council has powers similar to other regulatory bodies (examples include the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the General Medical Council and the Architects Registration Board – there are many others) and functions in much the same way.

As with other regulators, the Council's primary purpose is to safeguard the public interest – in the context of farriery that is the interests of the animal, its owner and the wider public. These responsibilities must be balanced with the interests of the profession and the need to safeguard the reputation of the profession. Decisions as to Council financial policy and expenditure are for the Council alone, with detailed oversight the responsibility of its Finance Committee.

BFBA appoint two Council members, presently Ben Benson AWCF and Simon Moore FWCF. Craig D'Arcy BSc (Hons) AWCF will complete his appointment to the Council by way of the election scheme on 31 December 2020.

Council members are required to comply with a Code of Conduct. The section on Corporate Governance states: *'The role of Office Holders is to deliver regulation of farriery as enabled by the Act. Members of the Council have the mutual and joint responsibility for FRC's policies and its decisions. It is entirely appropriate for Office Holders to inform Council colleagues of the views of their appointing body or that of Registered Farriers. Once they have done so their responsibilities as members of the Council must take precedence over any personal or representational views. Office Holders are expected to act in the best interests of the public and the Council.'*

BFBA appointees represent the views of the BFBA membership and, together with their professional views, debate matters with other Council members such that all views are taken into consideration. The Council exercises collective responsibility, and Council members are required to support a Council decision publicly whether they voted in favour or against.

Q. What is the Retention Fee and how is it used?

The authority to set a Retention Fee is set out at s4 of the Act and is the means

by which the Council delivers regulation. The fee is set as part of the annual budgeting exercise carried out by the Finance Committee, and subsequently considered and confirmed by the Council.

Parliamentary and public expectations of regulators have changed significantly in the near half-century since the Act became law. Significant changes in legislation also drive costs and the requirement to deliver the 2017 Act, incorporating the separation of the statutory committees from the Council amongst other changes, has been a significant cost driver.

The Council is required to maintain its accounts and appoint auditors to audit the accounts annually, after which the accounts are published.

The latest annual report may be viewed at <https://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk/news/annual-report-2019>

Q. Who decides how office expenditure is made and sets salaries?

A. The Finance Committee and the Remuneration sub-Committee of the Council.

Q. What is the ATF fee used for and why has the ATF fee increased by £15 this year?

A. The fee enables operation the ATF system, ie, to cover the cost of processing ATF recruitment, retention, reviews and removals. This includes: due diligence checks on applicants; ensuring compliance by ATFs with various policy requirements; conducting ATF reviews in light of poor performance or failure to comply with policy – this may include appeal hearings, and effecting removal from the ATF list where so directed.

Q. Why has the Retention Fee increase been made and why is it such a significant one?

A. The Retention Fee for 2021 is £400 which was decided at a Council meeting held on 21 October 2020. The reasons provided by the Chair, for the significant increase in the Retention Fee are:

- The need for a budget to meet all projected expenditure, without falling short.
- The requirement to meet legal obligations in terms of registration, approval of training and qualifications, the investigation of complaints and the

delivery of the disciplinary function.

- Additional outputs (not required by law but those that enhance our profession) which include CPD, the ATF system and action against unlawful farriery, amongst others.

The most significant driver of the increase is the volume and complexity of complaints made to the Council resulting in disciplinary hearings. The Council is required to receive complaints and referrals by law, and may itself be held liable if it fails to deal with them properly. The Council notes that the attitude, behaviour and conduct of a minority of farriers is not acceptable and is damaging the reputation of the profession. Correcting this is a priority and is everybody's business.

The number of complaints received by the FRC in 2019 is set out in the 2019 Annual Report. While the number of complaints made in 2019 may not have appeared to be increasing significantly there is a projected increase in volume, and cases that have been referred to the Disciplinary Committee of late are of increasing complexity and may take a number of days or even weeks to complete. One complex, contested case can incur costs in excess of £100,000.

The FRC is a not-for-profit organisation and must maintain adequate reserves so that the organisation can continue to operate should it face an adverse change in financial circumstances. Current policy is that the equivalent of 12 months expenditure is held in Reserve. At the end of 2019 the FRC held the equivalent of 4.9 months of expenditure.

Registrants have the option to make two six-monthly payments if they choose. The Council continues to offer a discount to registrants opting to pay by direct debit; this method of payment offers convenience to the registrant.

Q. I took my WCF Diploma in September and had to pay the same fee in September as I would have paid in May. I am now asked to pay a further £400 just weeks later. Is it fair that I have to pay the same amount in September that I would have paid in May and why am I being asked for a further £400 now?

A. Ordinarily you would have taken the examination and registered in May 2020 – this was not possible and examinations and registration were slipped to September 2020. Those joining the register are required to pay the

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registration fee set by the Council. The May (in this case September) intake pay the registration fee for the year in which they join the register, the December intake pay the fee for the following year. You are not being asked to pay any greater fee than you would ordinarily have been required to pay.

Q. Why has the increase in the Retention Fee been made in the middle of a pandemic?

A. Fees are reviewed and adjusted at the same time each year as part of the Council budget-setting exercise. The pandemic is coincidental to this but Registered Farriers have been able to practise – with some restrictions – throughout 2020, other professions has not been so fortunate.

The pandemic has not reduced the number of complaints received by the Council, indeed at the time of writing these responses the number of complaints is on an upward trajectory.

Of course, the pandemic has been difficult for many people for different reasons. The Council understand that the increase has come at a difficult time.

Q. On page 3 of the 2019 Annual Report, who do the FRC define as their 'stakeholders'?

A. Stakeholders are:

- The equine – which cannot speak for itself, cannot exercise choice over the farriery it receives and is the reason Parliament chose to legislate for the regulation of farriery.
- The equine owner – who has a legitimate and reasonable expectation that a registered farrier is safe, competent and presents no risk to the equine.
- The public – who have a legitimate and reasonable expectation as to the conduct of registered professionals.
- The profession – who must have the following to function: a system of registration; an approved standard; an approved entry level qualification, and an approved course of training and training institutions to deliver training.

In addition, the profession has chosen to deliver the workplace education and training element of the apprenticeship via the Approved Training Farrier system, and the profession has also chosen to promote lifelong learning through a system of continuous professional development (CPD).

Q. On page A4 of the 2019 Annual Report why are the office fees separate from administration/PR, what is included in these categories and why are they so high?

A. Office operations includes all matters relating to running the offices of a national regulator; such as insurance cover, depreciation, business rates, maintenance, utility costs such as lighting, heating and water, and cleaning. Administration and PR includes the operation of the Council website, Registration cards and stickers, the Bulletin, phones, postage, stationery, advertising and college presentations. The amounts are that required to deliver the outputs of the Council.

Q. How many staff are employed by the FRC and are they part or full time?

A. The Council staff amount to six full time equivalents, details are at Paragraph 11, page A13 of the Auditors Report.

Q. Why is the figure for office equipment so high and what does this include?

A. The Council applies depreciation to its tangible fixed assets, which include the office building, building improvements and office equipment further details found at Paragraph 5, page 11 of the Auditors Report. As well as the building, tangible assets include the heating system and office furniture (chairs and desks), the website, computers and associated software, and the database hosting the Register.

Q. Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted on the costs incurred by FRC and how? Have FRC furloughed any staff or been eligible for any business funding?

A. The Council has continued to deliver its outputs during the pandemic, including influencing Government policy to the benefit of equines and Registered Farriers. No staff have been furloughed and the Council is not eligible for business funding.

Q. What payment options do I have, and can I pay in instalments?

A. Invoices have been sent out by post. Those paying by direct debit in one payment will receive a £10 reduction in the Retention Fee.

- Under 65 single payment by direct debit £390.
- Under 65 payment split in instalments by direct debit £400 (£200 on 10 December 2020 and £200 on 10 June 2021).
- Under 65 single payment in full not by direct debit £400.
- Under 65 payment in instalments not by direct debit £410 (£205 on the 10 December 2020 and £205 on the 10 June 2021).
- Over 65 single payment by direct debit £195.
- Over 65 single payment in full not by direct debit £200.
- Non-practising List single payment by any means £15.
- ATF fee single payment by any means of £95, or two instalments of £47.50.

It is important to note that if you fail to pay the correct fee on time you will be charged the Retention Fee plus the Restoration Fee in order to be restored to the Register.

Following the announcement of a second lock down in respect of the pandemic, the Council agreed to offer a stage payment scheme.

Q. Why is it less to pay by direct debit?

A. In response to requests to facilitate payment by direct debit some years ago the Council set up a direct debit scheme, and offers a discount by way of an incentive to registrants.

Q. Why is it more to pay by debit card?

A. The Council offers a discount to incentivise payment by direct debit, there no additional charge to the registrant for payment by card.

Q. Are any allowances to be made for those taking time off work for a significant period of time, for example maternity or illness?

A. Registrants who intend to leave the Register for a significant period, ie, one year or over are advised to contact the FRC to enable the reason for time off to be noted.

Removal from the Register for non-payment of the annual Retention fee will result in a requirement to pay the restoration fee in addition to the Retention fee.

Q. What is the FRC doing to keep costs down in the future? Can we be sure that we won't have another huge increase next year?

A. Noting the reason for the fee increase set out above the future of the fee is in the hands of registrants and their conduct. Costs for the running of the offices will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis as in previous years.

Q. Could email be utilised to reduce printing and postage costs of the Bulletin and any other correspondence?

A. The Council increasingly conducts its business electronically and in recent years has modernised its website to carry more information for the benefit of the public and registrants. The Council has considered making the Bulletin exclusively on-line (it may be viewed via the website) but has opted to retain printing and distribution of hard copy.

Q. I initially learnt about the increase from social media. Why was the increase posted on the FRC website and not confirmed in writing?

A. The Council announced the increase in the fee by way of its website in a manner accessible by all, assuming on-line connectivity, and to ensure consistency of message. The increase has been confirmed in writing, by post, via invoices as normal.

Q. What is the Finance Committee and who is on it?

A. The Finance Committee (FC) is a non-statutory committee of the Council; it is responsible for all financial planning and decisions on expenditure. The FC has specific delegated powers and answers to the Council; the FC is made up of six members, including at least one Registered Farrier.

Q. What is the role of the Investigating Committee (IC) and Disciplinary Committee (DC)?

A. The IC is a statutory committee and its work is conducted at the specific direction of Parliament and independently of the Council; FRA 1975, s13 and Schedule 2 refer. It conducts *'...preliminary investigation of cases... in which it is alleged that a person is liable to have his name erased from the register on any grounds specified in s15 of the Act'*. Put simply, it considers all complaints and notifications about

Registered Farriers received by the Council.

The IC consists of six members appointed by Council, there are four lay members and two members are Registered Farriers. The IC must not include a member of the Council, an officer or servant of the Council, or a member of the Disciplinary Committee.

The IC must decide, based on documentary evidence, if a matter might amount to serious misconduct in a professional respect before referring the complaint to the Disciplinary Committee (DC). The IC may also award non-statutory warning letters and advice letters at their discretion; these do not amount to sanctions.

The DC is a statutory committee and its work is also conducted at the specific direction of Parliament and independently of the Council; FRA 1975, s14 and Schedule 3 refer. It is responsible for *'...the consideration and determination of disciplinary cases referred to it...'* (by the Investigating Committee) and any matter referred under s9 of FRA 1975.

The matters that are routinely considered by the Disciplinary Committee are set out at s15 of FRA 1975 and include offences involving cruelty to animals, fraudulent registration and any matter judged by the DC to amount to serious misconduct in any professional respect.

The DC consists of nine members appointed by the Council, there are six lay members and three members are Registered Farriers. None of the members may be a member of the Council, an officer or servant of the Council, or a member of the Investigating Committee.

Q. What safeguards are in place for false/malicious complaints?

A. The bar for referral is high and the IC must be sure that a complaint is properly made out and may amount to serious misconduct in a professional respect. Data from 2019 illustrates the point:

- Enquiries made to the Council, 60
- Complaints considered by the IC, 23
- Complaints referred to the DC, 9
- When measured against an indicative register of 3000 that represents 0.3% of the register being referred to the DC.

Q. Can the FRC place a fine or fee for the recovery of costs when a defendant is found guilty?

A. No, the Council has no powers to levy fines or to recover costs. This is common amongst most regulatory bodies, not just the FRC.

Q. There are unregistered farriers working in my area. Whose responsibility are they and how should I report them?

A. Practising farriery if not registered is a criminal offence. Criminal offences may be prosecuted where there is sufficient evidence to sustain a case, and the prosecutor must be sure that the case meets both the 'realistic prospect' test and the 'public interest' test.

While FRA 1975, s16 makes it a criminal offence to carry out farriery if not registered, the Act does not confer any powers of law enforcement on the Council; the Council has no power of arrest, no power of entry and no power to seize evidence – in the UK these are matter for the Police or other law enforcement bodies. Where the Council receives worthwhile detailed information from witnesses in respect of unlawful practise it may consider a private prosecution in England and Wales, or make a report to the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland. This is an expensive undertaking, the most recent private prosecution cost the Council around £40,000. The process for reporting illegal farriery is detailed at <https://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk/illegal-farriery>.

Q. Whose responsibility is it to regulate barefoot trimmers?

A. Barefoot trimming is not a regulated activity; however barefoot trimmers are not beyond the law and remain subject to the Animal Welfare Act. There is no formal definition for barefoot trimming as there is for farriery. Anyone wishing to make a complaint about a barefoot trimmer should do so to the Police, the RSPCA or the relevant membership body.

Q. What role does FRC play in respect of education of farriers?

A. Sections 11 and 12 of the Farriers Registration Act set out that the Council approves courses of training (ie, the apprenticeship), qualifications (ie, the entry level qualification) and training institutions (ie, the colleges). Planning and delivery of farriery training, inclusive of recruitment of apprentices, resourcing of education and training, and securing funding for publicly funded apprentices, is the responsibility of training providers, ie, colleges and ATFs. ●

New farriers join the profession

Apprentices took the Worshipful Company of Farriers Diploma exam in November at the UK's four farriery training colleges – Hereford, Myerscough, Warwick and Enniskillen in Northern Ireland. Congratulations to those now joining the register of farriers.



Hereford College

Mr Ross Beaver, ATF is Mr Gavin Moody DipWCF
Mr William Friston, ATF is Mr Tom Pears AWCF
Mr Charlie Marden, ATF is Mr Daniel Downton DipWCF
Mr George Rose, ATF is Mr Oliver Gregory AWCF

Enniskillen College

Mr Cecil Fitzgerald
Mr Adrian Lee Sheridan, ATF is Mr Robert Halford DipWCF MF(IMFA)
Mr Paul Donnelly
Mr Caolán Kelly
Mr James O'Driscoll
Mr David Verdon

Myerscough College

Mr William Thomas Badlan (passed with Distinction), ATF is Mr Kelvin Lymer DipWCF
Mr Henry Thomas William Carnall, ATF is Mr James Coburn AWCF
Miss Grace Elizabeth Kelly, ATF is Mr Richard Helliwell DipWCF
Mr Thomas James Pigford, ATF is Mr Huw Dyer AWCF
Mr Thomas Stott, ATF is Mr Jason Sim AWCF
Mr Matthew Thorne, ATF is Miss Rebecca Lowe AWCF
Mr Ryan James Evans, ATF is Mr David Howell DipWCF
Mr Alan Martin O'Brien, ATF is Mr Nicolas Clarke AWCF
Mr Paul David Walker, ATF is Mr Robert Rush AWCF
Mr Dominic Welch, ATF is Miss Sarah-Mary Brown FWCF
Mr Henry William John Young, ATF is Mr Adam Young FdSc AWCF

Warwickshire College

Mr Adam Prescott, ATF is Mr Gary Pickford DipWCF
Mr James Black (passed with Distinction), ATF is Mr Richard Spence AWCF
Mr Marcus Burrows, ATF is Mr Luke Silcock DipWCF
Mr Robert Gamman, ATF is Mr Andrew James AWCF
Mr Luke Richard Hayes, ATF is Mr Paul Young BSc(Hons) DipHE
Miss Loti Anne Innes-Parry, ATF is Mr Benjamin Benson AWCF
Mr Ashley Allsopp, ATF is Mr John Blake AWCF
Mr Luke Cottier, ATF is Mr William O'Shaughnessy AWCF
Mr Billy Eden, ATF is Mr Clifford Martin DipWCF
Mr James Hill, ATF is Mr William O'Shaughnessy AWCF
Mr Brandon Moxon, ATF is Mr Andrew Martin AWCF
Miss Torran Platt, ATF is Mr Mark Humphrey DipWCF
Mr Calum McQuade, ATF is Mr Adam Davenhill DipWCF

Congratulations

WCF Apprentice support

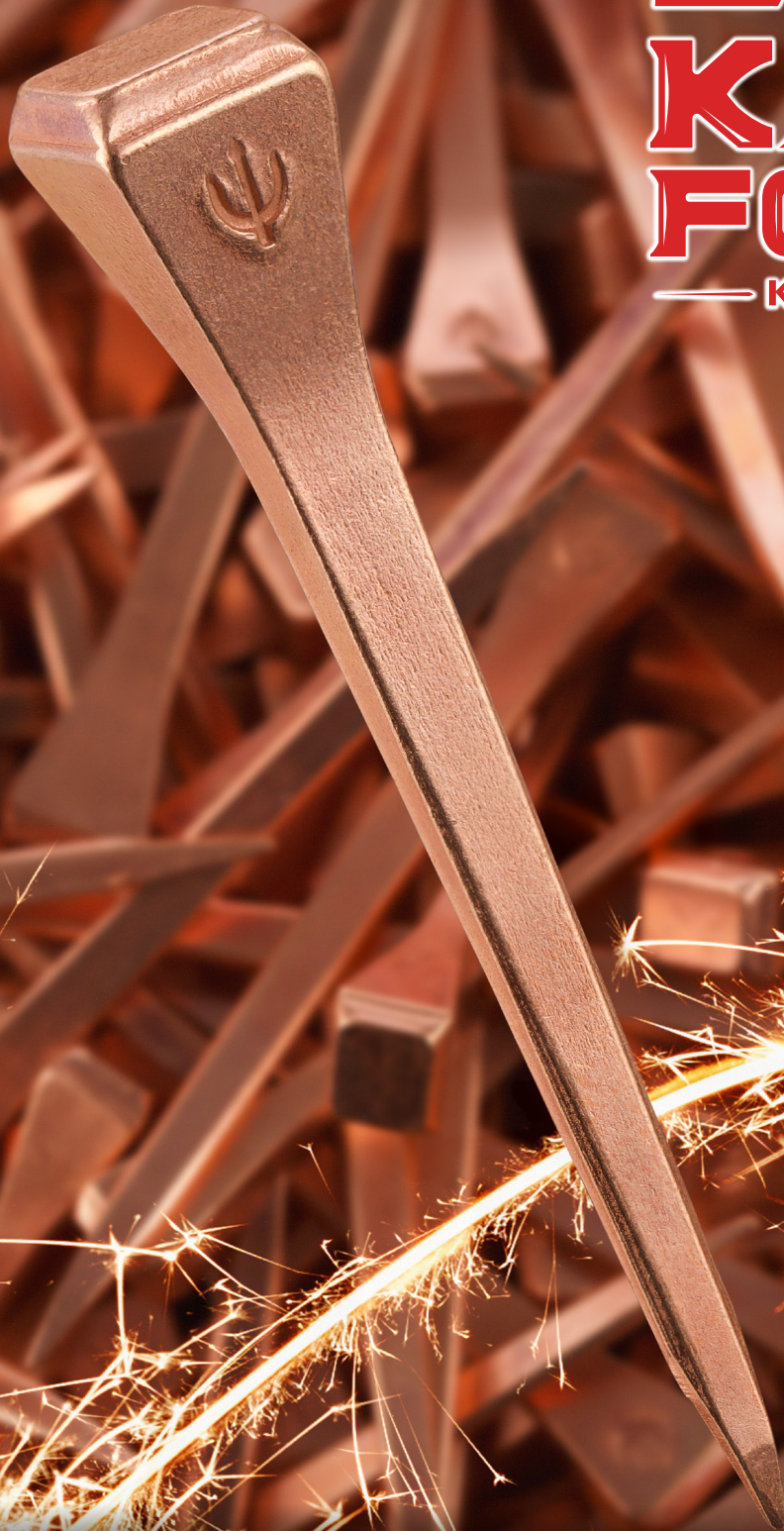
Last summer the Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF) hosted a 'masterclass' for fourth-year apprentices at the BFBA's forge at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire. The *Registrar Coreen Beckford explains* that this was a weekend workshop for those taking the DipWCF examination, tutored by WCF Examiners.

Pictured are Robert Shave FWCF and Stephen Hill FWCF demonstrating aspects of shoemaking. The event also covered shoe fitting to dead legs, tuition in assessment technique and useful tips. Its main aims were to help participants consolidate what they knew about measuring feet and identifying foot shapes, as well as demonstrating the Company's active engagement in the craft.

'We received some very good feedback from the apprentices to say how useful it was, how much they enjoyed it and how approachable the tutors were. The most enjoyable thing about this event was having the opportunity to experience the free-flowing exchange of information and contributions that came in the form of group participation. The WCF Examiners, with their years of experience, enthusiastically equipped the attendees with information to help them succeed and build their self-esteem.'

It is intended that the masterclasses will run throughout the calendar year, with a session for third- and fourth-year apprentices twice a year, and a session for first- and second-years in the summer each year.





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In brief



Diagnosis and treatment of equine metabolic syndrome guidelines updated.

The Equine Endocrinology Group (EEG) recently updated its guidance on the diagnosis and treatment recommendations for equine metabolic syndrome.

EMS is associated with a reduction in the normal response to insulin (insulin dysregulation) and places horses at high risk of developing laminitis.

Dr Nicola Menzies-Gow, Reader in Equine Medicine at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) has been a member of the EEG – an international group of clinicians and researchers that work together to advance understanding of endocrine disorders in horses – since 2016. The group meets every two years to review diagnosis and treatment recommendations based on new research findings.

RVC researchers have been studying laminitis for over 20 years and were among the first to define endocrinopathic laminitis, a condition often caused by EMS.

Reference

The full set of recommendations can be found at:
https://sites.tufts.edu/equineendogroup/files/2020/09/200592_EMS_Recommendations_Bro-FINAL.pdf

Read more about RVC's laminitis research at:
<https://rvc.uk.com/equine-laminitis-research>

International animal charity SPANA launched an emergency feeding programme in Marrakech this year, to save the city's carriage horses facing starvation due to the global pandemic.

Hundreds of caleche horses in Marrakech are suffering from malnutrition and struggling to survive following the collapse of the tourist industry amid COVID-19. The horses usually transport holidaymakers around the bustling medina, but the loss of income has left their owners unable to afford to feed them.

Morocco is not the only country in which working animals are facing a dire situation. In Tunisia, Egypt and other tourist hotspots, a similar crisis exists, with increasing numbers of animals being abandoned by their out of work owners, SPANA says.

Globally, an estimated 200 million working horses, donkeys, camels, elephants and other animals provide a livelihood for over half a billion people in the world's poorest communities. By doing the jobs of trucks, tractors and taxis – and transporting people, goods and water – these animals ensure a livelihood for impoverished families.



www.spana.org

Retired blacksmith/farrier Albert Wright thought Forge readers might be interested in this price list from 1957, which he believes was the first official price list published by the Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire District of the National Master Farriers', Blacksmiths' and Agricultural Engineers' Association. It is interesting to note that unruly horses were charged according to time spent, and all Sunday work was charged at double time. Mr Wright who is now 89 years old worked in Lancashire, Bermuda, America, the Bahamas, and as Sergeant Farrier to HM the Queen, before retiring to Hampshire

NATIONAL MASTER FARRIERS', BLACKSMITHS' & AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION			
LANCASHIRE — CHESHIRE and NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE			
MINIMUM PRICE LIST			
From 1st. October, 1957			
Entire Horses	Per Set, Light 48/-	Heavy 55/-	
Cart Horses		Per Set 40/-	
Vanners		Per Set, 39/-	
Carriage Horses, Hunters and Polo Ponies		Per Set 34/-	
Light Horses		Per Set 31/-	
Cob and Ponies (14 hands and under)		Per Set 27/-	
Ponies (12 hands and under) and Donkeys		Per Set 26/-	
Removing	3/- over half price of Shoeing		
Odd Removes (according to size)		3/6 to 5/-	
Odd Old Shoes (according to size)		3/6 to 5/-	
Shoe Fastening	2/6 to 3/6	Per Shoe	
Strap Bars, Rest Bars & Plain Round Shoes		5/- each extra	
Box Bar Shoes		6/- each extra	
Pads: 1's 5/3; 2's 5/9; 3's 6/3; 4's 6/6; 5's 6/9; 6's 7/3; 7's 7/9; 8's 8/-			
Simplex Pads, per pair, Ponies 3/-, Light Horses 3/6, Vanners 4/-			
Cart Horses 4/6			
Simplex Blocks	Cart Horses 1/- each; Light Horses 9d.		
Leathers	from 3/- to 4/-	per pair	
Stopping		1/- per pair	
Frost Nailing		4d. per nail	
Stud or Screw Holes		6d. per hole	
Mordax Studs		3/- per Stud Fitted	
Bevelled Shoes		8/- per Set extra	
Unruly Horses charged according to time			
ALL SUNDAY WORK DOUBLE PRICE			
Shoes not bearing the Anvil Stamp must not be fastened			
Stock Horses		Double	
All second-hand pads to be charged for - 1/6 per pair and upwards			
ACCOUNTS STRICTLY NETT			
All Horses at Owners' Risk while on these Premises			
THESE PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE			
All Leathers, Pads, Screws and Cogs to be supplied by the Farrier			

New research suggests that the amount of weight ponies lose when dieting may be linked to gut microbes

Horse nutrition company Spillers says a new study offers a better understanding of why weight management may be particularly challenging for some horses and ponies. Individual ponies differ in the abundance of specific faecal bacterial populations that may allow them to increase their ability to digest fibre, thereby losing less weight when on a diet, the research shows (Morrison et al 2020). This raises the possibility of predicting weight-loss success by analysing the faecal microbiome of individual animals, Spillers says.

The study found significant individual variation in how much weight was lost, with an almost two-fold difference in the percentage of weight loss achieved by those losing the greatest and least amounts of weight. The study also showed that losing less weight was associated with specific bacteria that aid in fibre digestion and subsequent weight loss.

Reference

MORRISON, P. K., et al (2020) Equine gastrointestinal microbiome: impacts of weight loss. *BMC Vet Res* 78
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12917-020-02295-6>

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OPINION

What do you think?

Training for the Diploma examination

By Carl Bettison

In my opinion, too many apprentices fail the Diploma examination at their first attempt. Why is this? Here are my thoughts and ideas and what apprentices can do to prepare for the exam to give themselves the best chance of passing.

An apprentice farrier spends four years working towards sitting the Worshipful Company of Farriers Diploma Examination (Dip WCF), which is the end point assessment of their apprenticeship. Once they have passed that exam they can be placed onto the Register run by the Farriers Registration Council and practise as a professional.

Like all exams, you have to study and work hard to pass.. Those who prepare well generally pass first time, those who don't, will fail.

Unfortunately, too many apprentices fail the Dip WCF on their first attempt, the reason is often quite simple. You may be a very good apprentice, having excellent theoretical knowledge, be very good at fitting readymade shoes. You may be confident nailing-on aluminium race plates onto poor thoroughbred feet, and, if the feet get too bad, you know how to glue-on race plates. You are really good at trimming feet, including dealing with chronic laminitics. You are used to using modern materials and you also know how to weld in steel inserts when fabricating bar shoes – you may even be a wizard with a Baldor grinder.

You can do all of the above very well...but none of the above is part of the Dip WCF exam, so you will not be tested on it.

The exam day

On the day of the exam, you will be asked to make and fit two shoes, probably a concave shoe and a $\frac{3}{4}$ fullered shoe, and occasionally a plain stamped shoe.

Training yourself for the exam

Within the apprenticeship, I believe apprentices should train to pass the Dip WCF exam – if all apprentices did this the pass rate would be likely to be over 95%.

I think it is harder today for ATFs to make training an apprentice a profitable business. Time spent training costs the ATF money both in time, but also in steel, coke and gas, not to mention the extra overheads of running a workshop, plus paying apprentices who are absent on annual leave, sickness or time spent at college.

There are a few key elements that the apprentice and ATF can adopt, which will greatly increase the chances of passing the Diploma first time.



Competing during the apprenticeship offers many benefits

Personally, I didn't like the forging certificate – the pre-farrier course – which apprentices used to have to complete. I thought the average standard of forging was not that good, they were given too much time to forge test pieces. However, having said that, the pre-farrier course did teach good students how to forge, so they came to their ATF already knowing how to light a fire and forge metal, thereby saving the ATF time and money teaching these basic, but very important skills.

All apprentices should be strongly encouraged to take part in shoemaking competitions, and the shoes they are required to make should be the ones they would expect to make in the Diploma exam.

All shoes should be made to a size, rather than apprentices being given pre-cut steel. Learning to make shoes to size, is the most important skill in shoemaking. Another good thing about competitions is the timing aspect – a bell starts and stops the class, and a person in a white coat watches you work, in much the same way as the exam is run. This teaches timekeeping, working under pressure, tool maintenance and dealing with pressure when things go wrong, such as burning a shoe, making the wrong side etc. Another huge benefit is that at competitions in the UK you get to watch some of the world's best shoemakers – for free – so you can learn from them.

Everyday at work, apprentices should select one horse, measure it for a pair of front or hind shoes. Once back at the forge they should make a pair of shoes for that horse, so when they go back to shoe the horse again, they can try on the shoes to check if they are the right size. You can do this with racehorses as well, you don't have to actually fit the shoes (of

course it would be better if you did), you just have to see if you make them the correct size. If you do this on one horse a day and you make just five pairs of shoes a week, after a few weeks everyday you will be trying on bespoke shoes that you made for that horse.

Second year, make and fit

ATFs should also provide dead legs for apprentices to practice 'make and fit', and they should do this from the second year. This task could set under test conditions, with the apprentice given a strict time limit.

Third year learning

During the third year, apprentices should be fitting shoes onto live horses. Initially, these could be readymade shoes, followed by handmade shoes - concave and $\frac{3}{4}$ fullered and plain stamped. (If you have no horses to which plain stamped shoes are fitted, practice on dead legs).

Fourth year - mock exams and competitions

To my mind, the best preparation for sitting the Diploma are mock exams. Apprentices should sit their first mock exam at the beginning of the fourth year, even if it's on dead legs. They should aim to progress to full mock exams six months prior to sitting the Diploma. So if the apprentice 'fails' this, the training system allows them six months to get up to standard. Any student who is not up to standard should not be allowed to sit the exam and must wait until the next exam date.

All fourth year apprentices should compete in live shoeing competitions, BFBA and the colleges should also be encouraged to run shoeing competitions aimed especially at fourth year apprentices. These could be more educational in nature, giving the judge time to provide feedback during the class.

'Learning to make shoes to size is the most important skill in shoemaking.'

General advice

If more apprentices spent time making and fitting shoes under the pressure of competition or mock exams, they would be better prepared for the Diploma exam.

So, in summary, apprentices can spend four years working towards taking the Diploma, or four years training to pass the Diploma. I always say to apprentices that the night before the exam they won't be worried about removing the old shoes and trimming the feet. They won't be worried about nailing on and clenching up. But they may well worry about making the shoe the right size and whether it will fit.

If it's the right size you will make it fit, if it's the wrong size it will never fit.

So the take home message is simple, train and practice the things you know the WCF will ask you to do in the Diploma exam, being good at other things will not help you to pass.



Mock examinations offer excellent preparation for sitting the Diploma

More 'fab farriers' receive awards

The Donkey Breed Society asked *Forge* to share its 'heartfelt thanks to farriers for keeping members' donkeys in fine fettle during what has been a very difficult and challenging year'.

It has also announced that the Fab Farriers Award is being rolled out across the whole country in 2021.

First to be awarded certificates across the UK in 2021...you heard it here first...from the Southern Region of the Donkey Breed Society. They are:

- **Colin Goldsworthy** of Yeovil, nominated by Trudy Affleck.
- **Richard Wiggins** of Basingstoke, nominated by Ray and Wendy Andrews.
- **Adam Young AWCF FdSc** of Reading, nominated by Jane Lewis.
- **David van den Broek AWCF** of Reading, nominated by Julie Broadhurst.



The Northern Region farriers who have received their Fab Farriers Awards are Tom Dyson Dip HE Farriery (nominated by Sally Lowe), and Craig D'Arcy BSc (Hons) AWCF (nominated by Pam Moon)



Your chance to win!



a Horses Inside Out seminar

Anyone who has been to a Horses Inside Out event will know that they are not only fascinating but also exceptionally educational. BFBA is delighted to have teamed up with Gillian Higgins to offer two BFBA members the opportunity to win a place on one of its anatomy webinars.

To take advantage of this opportunity you will need to join the new Horses Inside Out online academy and learning hub. Membership is free. To do this, just click the 'Login or join The Academy' icon at the top of the academy page.

Joining the academy gives access to exclusive tutorials and shared videos, the opportunity to book on live webinars and access to recorded webinars, allowing you to watch and study at a time convenient to you. You can also select pay-to-view lectures and online video courses.

Without the usual live horse lecture demonstrations and courses because of COVID-19, joining the academy is a way you can still learn more about horses from the inside out.

Although the academy is in early days, lots more videos and lectures will be added over the coming months. It also has free exclusive tutorial videos and online lectures, as well as live and recorded webinars.

The two winners will win a free place at a seminars of their choice. To be in with a chance of winning, text your name and the title of the Horses Inside Out 2022 conference to 07773 790257 by 1 February 2021

Available webinars are listed at www.horsesinsideout.com/academy



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Many congratulations to college group 41S who recently sat their WCF Diploma examinations. So good to see so many of you doing well, it has not been the easiest end to your apprenticeship! Don't forget to take advantage of the superb offers Stromsholm have for newly qualified farriers – get in touch with the office to find out more!

The Apprentice College Block Award

The Stromsholm College Block Award recognises apprentices that have had a particularly successful college attendance or made exceptional progress since their last attendance. Nominations are made by college tutors. It is always heartening to receive these nominations and, when we share the news on our Facebook page, it is so good to hear all the positive comments from friends and family. The winners receive a Stromsholm voucher and certificate.

Awards have been made to:

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE

40L **Louis Webb** (ATF Mr P Webb) – for achieving a Distinction for his WCF Diploma

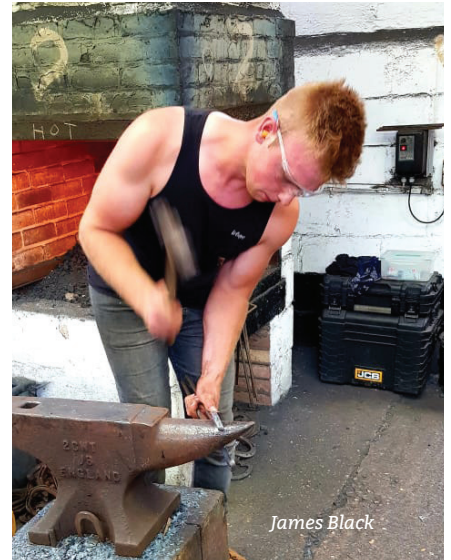
41S **James Black** (ATF Mr R Spence) – for achieving a Distinction in his WCF Diploma

HEREFORD COLLEGE

41S **Will Friston** (ATF Mr T Pears AWCF), 'for consistent high standards in both practical and theory and a good Dip WCF Pass'

44S **Jamie Long** (ATF Mr S Saunders Dip WCF), 'for high level of progression in practical ability since last block'

43S **Cameron Brady** (ATF Mr C Powell FWCF), 'for high standard of theory



knowledge resulting in an A grade end of block assessment'.

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

43S **Christopher Stead** (ATF John Brannen), 'for working hard on his theory with top results and making excellent progress with his practical'.

Myerscough also noted that 'all the blocks have participated fully in the online delivery during the current COVID-19 restrictions with support from their ATFs. However, they have all been keen to return to College for face-to-face delivery'.



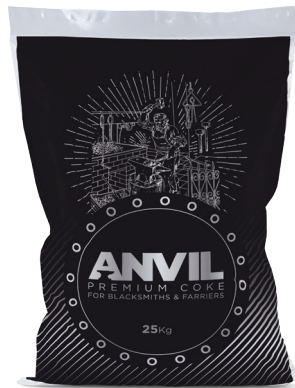
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Ben Benson AWCF, DipWCF, Master Farrier, ATF

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It has been our pleasure for 20 years to interact with some of the finest people we have ever met. The farrier industry is a remarkable industry which we are so grateful to have been a part of.

There is a time and place for everything, and it is our time now to step aside as the manufacturer of the Hoofjack®. We are fortunate that Hoofjack® has found a new home with The Royal Kerckhaert Horseshoe Factory. Well known within the farrier industry, Kerckhaert is ideally suited to take Hoofjack® to the next level. We are thankful to Martin Kerckhaert for his desire to acquire Hoofjack® and wish the Kerckhaert company the best of success.

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BESIDE THE FIRE

Marc Jerram

Marc was born in Hednesford, Staffordshire and began riding ponies at the age of five. During his teenage years, he competed regularly at mounted games and decided that he wanted to work with horses. Having a keen interest in farriery, he began his apprenticeship in 2002 and passed the Diploma exam in 2006. After graduating, he travelled around New Zealand shoeing horses before returning to the UK in 2008 to set up a full time farriery business. During the same year he enrolled on the farriery degree course at Myerscough College, passing the FdSc with distinction and the AWCf exam in 2012. In 2014, he passed BSc (Hons) in Farriery with first class honours. Currently, Marc is in the final year of the Graduate Diploma in Equine Locomotor Research at the Royal Veterinary College while also maintaining a busy farriery business on the Staffordshire/Shropshire border.

Who influenced you and how?

I've always been lucky to have worked to have worked with motivated farriers throughout my career from my apprenticeship, through to the degree course and now at the Royal Veterinary College. These colleagues, with their desire to improve their techniques, have been my greatest inspiration.

Tell us about a typical day's work

I start quite early so I'm at my forge at 6.30am every morning getting shoes ready for the day and I'm at my first appointment for 7am. I like to see two or three at every appointment whether that is shoeing or trimming. I like to stop at least half-an-hour for lunch before ending the day around 6pm. My original intention was to start early and finish early - I do struggle with the finishing early part!



Tell us about your business interests

My business is mostly focused on problem feet, lame horses or performance problems. I have a big interest in hoof rehabilitation and getting feet to function better. That said, I also do plenty of straightforward work. I tend to avoid taking on big numbers at one yard, I would prefer to see a handful at each yard I visit, which then allows me to be in control of not having to work on unruly horses or work for bad payers!

What was your most difficult, challenging or puzzling work experience?

I have found canker to be a big problem to overcome with the few cases I've dealt with. Each one seems to follow its own path and no two cases respond to the same treatment protocol. A good, proactive vet is your greatest ally with these cases.

What was your proudest moment?

Being a father to two wonderful daughters - Elizabeth and Harriett - they make all the hard work seem worthwhile.

What is your secret to a perfect fire weld?

A good quality flux like iron mountain makes the job much easier. I like to dust it on the scarf at cherry red, place back in the fire and when you see smoke coming from the steel, that's the time to strike with repetitive three strikes either side. This method seems to have worked well for me over the years.

What do you still want to achieve?

In the short term, to complete the Grad Dip ELR, and long term to attempt the FWCF exam. Over the past couple of years

I've done some lecturing too for farriers, vets and horse owners so I'd like to expand on this too once COVID-19 has run its course.

Of all the farriers dead or alive, who would you want to spend some time with and why?

I have always thought it would have been good to have worked with Dave Duckett during his time in the UK. As a farrier, he has always been years ahead of his time in both theoretical and practical knowledge.

If you could change one thing, what would it be?

Mobile phones and social media have a lot to answer for in terms of the conduct of our nation. I think we were far happier before their existence.

When you're not working, what do you like doing?

I still do a fair bit of riding and have taken up running in the last couple of years, taking part in obstacle course races. This has allowed me to raise funds for various charities and is also very rewarding.

First aid. Top tips for dealing with kick injuries to the abdomen

A kick to the arm or leg can cause a fracture, but a nasty kick to the chest or stomach could result in internal bleeding, says Cory Jones of Outdoor First Aid.

1. Internal bleeding – where blood leaks into the body cavity as the result of the blow from a kick damaging an internal organ – should be suspected if someone is in a lot of pain and goes into shock.
2. The casualty may have no external signs of injury.
3. The casualty may pass out, especially if they are showing signs of dizziness or disorientation. Lie them down and raise their legs.
4. If they pass out, put them in the recovery position and place a blanket over them to keep them warm.
5. Do not press the person's stomach to try to assess the extent of injury as this could cause more damage.
6. If internal bleeding is suspected, the casualty needs to get to hospital as soon as possible.

Doctors have compared horse kick injuries to the impact of getting hit by a small car moving at 20 miles an hour. A kick to the chest can even cause a person to go into cardiac arrest.

Find out more about dealing with horse kick injuries and internal bleeding by attending a first aid course, such as the ones run by Outdoor First Aid, <https://outdoor-first-aid-courses.com>. To find out which first aid course is best for you, check out its equestrian first aid webpage.



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Horse & Hound NAF Five Star Profleet **FARRIER OF THE YEAR**

The 2020 Horse & Hound Awards – held in partnership with NAF – included the search for the **NAF Five Star Profleet Farrier of the Year**. The awards aim to ‘recognise a farrier who has had a positive impact, who through his or her knowledge and effort, has made a difference to an equine or equines’ performance or wellbeing’. Congratulations to the four farriers who made the shortlist, but there could only be one winner - drum roll please...it’s Daniel Bennett, Hereford college tutor, podcaster and Hovis’ ‘cool new shoes man’.

THE WINNER

Daniel Bennett AWCF Class 1, a farrier for 26 years

What made you become a farrier? ‘I grew up around horses and didn’t do well at school, which put me off training for any qualifications. But then at 18, I gained the qualifications to become a farrier in the army. I went on to teach farriery as well and set up on my own as a farrier on leaving the army.’

Your best shoeing achievement: ‘I have had a lot to do with H&H’s equine blogger Hovis – he’s now in his late teens and I have shod him for about 12 years and have more pictures of him on my phone than any other horse! He has raised so much money for charity.

‘I enjoyed working with the army horses and was used to seeing traditional old working horse problems, due to how much road work they do. I also work with some top dressage horses.’

‘Teaching has been a massive part of my life and is something I enjoy. Farriery competitions have also taken me all over the globe and I have my own YouTube channel and podcast.’

THE SHORTLIST

Sam Dracott DipWCF, a farrier for 12 years

What made you become a farrier? ‘My mum used to compete in driving trials and I used to do eventing. When it came to choosing a career, I wanted to do something that involved horses. I could not have worked in an office – I wanted to do something practical with my hands and horses were all I knew. I love my job – every day is different and it keeps me on my toes.

Your best shoeing achievement: ‘There isn’t one stand-out horse over the years, but I have shod a few high-end dressage horses. However, my best achievement is probably turning around some severely laminitic horses, who have been on death’s door and badly lame – that is always satisfying.’

Alun Evans DipWCF, a farrier for 10 years

What made you become a farrier? ‘My family have always bred horses, so I’ve been interested from a young age. I’d see the farrier at the yard and think, I’d like to do that.’

Commenting on his win, Daniel said: ‘It’s very humbling to have got so many votes and nominations, especially as I’m only out shoeing two days a week.’ Daniel, who teaches farriery for the rest of the week, said being a farrier was a lifestyle, not a job – it’s hard work on your body and mentally. ‘Every day is a learning day; my old boss used to say that, but to see a horse with a specific problem get better and to be part of that is really rewarding.’

Daniel has been shoeing Clydesdale Hovis for 12 years. ‘He’s a great horse to shoe, and a great character. He’s raised so much money for Bransby Horses, and his supporters are an amazing bunch. I’d like to thank all of them, and everyone who’s voted for me, especially the farriers and students and everyone at Herefordshire and Ludlow College.’

The awards can be viewed at <https://www.horseandhound.co.uk/awards>



Your best shoeing achievement: ‘There isn’t one stand-out horse, but those who are struggling are the most satisfying to work with. It is always great to see them competing and winning again. I shoe plenty of showjumpers. When I first started out, their problems were mainly acute traumatic issues, but they’re now niggling injuries that worsen, because so many train on surfaces.’

‘I have always loved working with horses and problem horses in particular. I get a buzz from working with the vets and owners to bring them back to their best – it is always worth the wait.’

Ryan Darbyshire DipWCF, a farrier for 15 years

What made you become a farrier? ‘It’s a different job and is based outdoors, which has always suited me. When I was young, I used to watch the farrier do our ponies, which is how I became interested. Then I started out in farriery straight after school, aged 16.’

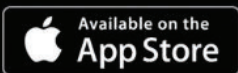
Your best shoeing achievement: ‘I get the most satisfaction from seeing a horse walk in lame and then walk away sound. I mostly work with dressage horses and vet referrals – I will be at the vets’ at least once a week. I enjoy working with high-performance Prix St Georges dressage horses and I see quite a broad range of problems.’

Previous winners of this prestigious award include top farriers Jim Balfour and Paul Woodall.

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— Sherry Bumbarger, Phillipsburg, Pa.

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LETTERS

Disciplinary hearings. Time to explore sanctions?

Could the Farriers Registration Council (FRC) clarify what sanctions the Disciplinary Committee can apply to farriers found guilty of professional misconduct, and who sets these?

At the moment, it seems the only punishment is to remove the farrier from the Register for differing lengths of time, depending on the severity of the offence. Would it not be better, in the case of a first offence – NOT related to animal welfare – that a suspended sentence could be imposed? For example, a 6-month removal from the Register could be suspended for three years, so if the farrier involved did nothing wrong for the next three years they would remain on the Register. If, within those three years they re-offended, they would then be suspended for the original offence – which could be extended by the Disciplinary Committee when taking into account the new offence committed.

Another option that was suggested to me would be to give the offender a community sentence, requiring them to complete voluntary work for a local charity for a set number of hours. I understand this would take more administration to achieve.

**Carl Bettison AWCF (Hons)
Owner and Director of Stromsholm**

- *The FRC was invited to comment, but declined because of plans to publish an article on this topic in its Bulletin.*

Should shoemaking be part of the diploma exam?

There are many things in the DipWCF syllabus and in the examination that are not covered by the Farriers Registration Act (FRA) and, conversely, there are many things in the FRA that are neither in the syllabus nor examined.

One huge elephant in the room is shoemaking. Many farriers and the Worshipful Company of Farriers seem obsessed by this and many farriers identify themselves by this skill, but is

it really worthy of inclusion in both the syllabus and exam? Should we regard shoemaking in the same way that we have accepted that purchasing nails is a far better use of time than making ones own?

There are now thousands of shoes available, made from traditional steel and aluminium, along with various prefabricated weld-in inserts. This growing list is not restricted to metal shoes and the market place is filled with a variety of nailed and glue-on shoes made from a range of polymers.

Given the availability of the 'traditional' shoes along with those that cannot be 'handmade' in the conventional sense, perhaps it is time to remove shoemaking from the syllabus and use that time to prepare apprentices for the emerging market?

It is often said that shoemaking is a fundamental to the shaping and fitting of shoes, something that although I find myself in agreement with, does not necessarily mean that altering the shape of a machine-made shoe cannot be taught as a separate skill.

Additional time could be allowed for those wishing to make shoes and apply them in their DipWCF exam and the skill element would still be an intrinsic part of the AWCF exam.

Perhaps the DipWCF exam should be apply and fit a nailed-on shoe and a glue-on one of the candidate's choice? This would go some way to addressing the anomaly of teaching and examining aspects of farriery that are not covered by the Act, namely making shoes, while addressing the 'application' element of the Act. Is this too radical an idea? Is the industry being held to ransom by a need that no longer exists?

**Jeff Newnham DipWCF
Managing director, Pro-Glu**

Response from James Sutton BVetMed CertEP MRCVS, chair of the WCF Examinations Board

It is perhaps worth asking the question, how much do you want to retain the skills and craft of a professional farrier and how much do you just want to be technician? In my view, only being capable of nailing on a shoe that someone else has made reduces the craft to that of a fitter. If you follow this through why would you want to study the theory either? You don't need a knowledge of anatomy to nail a readymade shoe onto a foot, but having such background knowledge

differentiates a craftsman from a fitter. Lowering the skill level required for the Diploma, and consequent registration to practise, would undoubtedly lead to an increase in numbers qualifying.

The decision as to what is included in the syllabus was made by the Farriery Apprenticeship Steering Group (FASG), an industry-led body. I totally support the FASG's decision to keep this in the syllabus for the new apprenticeship. Its decision was also favoured by the Department of Education.

There is a general consensus that the syllabus will not change until several cohorts of candidates have been through the Diploma, so, for the moment there is no prospect of changing this, even if the FASG and associated bodies wanted to, which I feel they would not.

Response from Cliff Barnes AWCF, chair of the Farriery Apprenticeship Steering Group

Mindful of its responsibility to develop the new syllabus that would lead to the entry level qualification into farriery, the FASG debated this subject at length. In doing so, it considered exam systems and the syllabuses of other countries, including those that use a machine-made shoe as part of the end-point assessment.

After very careful consideration of all the information – including similar comments to those expressed in Jeff Newnham's letter – it was decided that the UK would continue to use handmade shoes in its end-point assessment the DipWCF for the foreseeable future.

The skills required to produce handmade shoes cover all the skills used by a modern farrier, not just in the fitting of shoes, but any required to modify one when necessary.

Regarding the use of glues, it was decided that although most farriers use them frequently, to include them in the syllabus would extend the apprenticeship beyond what was acceptable at this time.

LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION

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In the January issue of *Forge Knowledge*

Forge Knowledge contains farrier science and is published as a member-only benefit. BFBA membership is free for apprentices.

American research technician Paige Poss provides two articles for the January 2021 issue of *Forge Knowledge*. Her first article offers a unique look at the caudal structures of the hoof, while her second piece, uses dissection images to illustrate how the primary nerves descend through the soft tissue structures of the caudal aspect of the hoof. In doing so, she suggests a possibly overlooked cause of caudal foot pain – maybe it's a nerve.

Paige Poss' lifelong love of horses led her to a degree in Animal Science at North Carolina State University in the USA. She went on to work as a research technician in the fields of biochemistry, toxicology, physiology and nutrition.

In 1999, Paige's journey into hoof care began with a

laminitic horse. This lame horse led to a new career as a hoof care professional. Trimming hooves sparked her intellectual and scientific curiosity and evolved into a full-blown fascination with hoof and horse anatomy.

Blending her love of photography and anatomy, Paige has dissected and photographically documented hundreds of equine lower legs. Her passion is creating images that teach, and her images and clinics give others the chance to explore the hoof in a supportive, creative and encouraging format.

Paige recently accepted a position at the University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine as a research technician in the anatomy department. She continues to trim a select group of horses.

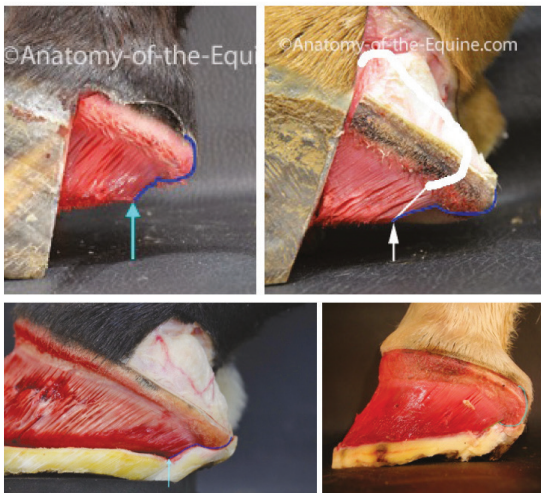


Fig 4: Dissection of four feet with different heel bulb morphologies

Dip Tips

In November last year, the BFBA invited WCF examiners and farriery colleges to share some advice for those taking their WCF Diploma examination. These 'DipTips' were posted on Facebook and Instagram to help candidates avoid making some common mistakes and see where they could pick up extra marks. In the first piece, a WCF examiner looks at the trim for a flat three-quarter fullered shoe.



A WCF examiner focuses on 'heel fit' and what examiners are looking for – and what to avoid

Prosecution for unlawful farriery upheld

The Farriers Registration Council issued a press release on 15 December 2020 concerning an appeal hearing by Mr Jude Hubbard against his conviction for unlawful farriery.

On 10 and 11 December 2020, Carlisle Crown Court heard an appeal against conviction by Mr Jude Hubbard (also known as Mr Jude Oliver and Mr Jude Conlan) in respect of a finding of guilty in respect of committing unlawful farriery at Carlisle Magistrates Court on 9 December 2019. Mr Hubbard had been apprehended by the RSPCA and the police while shoeing a horse at the Appleby Horse Fair on 6 June 2019.

The Court heard the case afresh including hearing all the witnesses. The Court dismissed Mr Hubbard's appeal; confirmed that the original finding of guilty stood; confirmed that the original fine of £100 and victim surcharge of £30 stood; that the original costs order of £5000 stood, and an additional costs order of £7674.72p was awarded against Mr Hubbard.

This is Mr Hubbard's second conviction for unlawful farriery in as many years; Mr Hubbard appealed against both

convictions and on both occasions the appeals have been dismissed.

The Council offers the following advice to horse owners

Horse owners, and most especially those in South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire, are reminded that Mr Hubbard/Oliver/Conlan is not a Registered Farrier and never has been, and he holds no farriery qualification. Please carefully consider the welfare of your horse and employ only a Registered Farrier.

● Following this hearing, it came to light that Mr Hubbard had been using the BFBA's logo to legitimise himself as a farrier. The BFBA was appalled to hear this and is seeking legal advice ... (this can be updated).

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Kerckhaert Kings Plate competition

A new year, and new hope for a 'smoother' year ahead. 2020 has certainly been a challenging one! At the time of writing, we are eagerly awaiting the festive National Hunt meetings which traditionally boast many feature races. We will be cheering our yards on, albeit from the comfort of our own homes, and wish them every success.

In this update of Kings Plate success, we offer special congratulations to Adam Curtis (Audarya) and Toby Pedley's (Glass Slippers) for their Breeders Cup winners, Tom Hardy for his two Group One winners in France (Gear Up & Subjectivist) and John Benfield following Bristol De Mai's third win in the Betfair Chase.

Ghaiyyath was crowned Cartier Horse of the Year following a superb Flat season which included wins in the Coronation Cup, Coral-Eclipse and Juddmonte International. Ghaiyyath wore Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound Plates and was shod by Derek Poupard and Phil Brook and trained by Charlie Appleby

Well done to our Kings Plate winners *Special congratulations to*

★ **Tom Hardy**, farrier for Mark Johnston, trainer of Gear Up winner of the Group 1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud. He shod Gear Up, with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with the Liberty Secure nails



Kings plate Competition

THE KERCKHAERT KINGS PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP NATIONAL HUNT

Trainer	Prize money	Farrier
1 Paul Nicholls	£1,013,712.88	Tom Bougourd
2 Dan Skelton	£593,437.40	Spud Allison, Pip Smith & David Webley
3 Nicky Henderson	£430,942.10	Chapel Forge Farriers
4 Fergal O'Brien	£419,413.36	John Benfield
5 Nigel Twiston-Davies	£410,678.13	John Benfield

FLAT

Trainer	Prize money	Farrier
1 John Gosden	£3,081,596.24	O'Shaughnessy Farriery
2 Andrew Balding	£2,463,089.65	Eugene Cullen
3 Mark Johnston	£2,089,277.46	Tom Hardy & Justin Landy
4 Charlie Appleby	£1,490,102.57	Derek Poupard & Phil Brook
5 Sir Michael Stout	£1,043,603.07	Joe Rose & Iain Nixon

Correct at 7 December 2020

★ **Tom Hardy**, farrier for Mark Johnston, trainer of Subjectivist Strikes winner of the Group 1 Prix Royal-Oak. Subjectivist was shod with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with the Liberty Secure nails.

★ **Toby Pedley** shod Glass Slippers who won the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Trained by Kevin Ryan Racing and ridden by Tom Eaves, Glass Slippers was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with the Liberty Secure nails.

★ **Adam Curtis** shod Audarya with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound to win the Filly & Mare Turf at the Breeders Cup for trainer James Fanshawe.

★ Ga Law, shod by **James Stewart**, was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound nailed on with Liberty Secure to win the Rising Stars Novices' Chase at Wincanton for trainer James Snowden.

★ Kingswell Theatre won the Glenfarclas Cross Country Handicap Chase at Cheltenham for trainer Michael Scudamore Racing, ridden by Tom Scudamore. Shod by **Wesley Powell**, Kingswell Theatre was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound and nailed on with the Liberty Secure.

★ **John Benfield** shod third time winner of the Betfair Chase, Bristol De Mai, with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound nailed on with the Liberty FJ0. Bristol De Mai was trained by Nigel Twiston-Davies and ridden by Daryl Jacob.

★ **Mark Galliers**, farrier to Evan Williams, shod Coole Cody with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound nailed on with the Liberty Carrera Cu nails to win the Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham.

★ Epatante won the Betfair Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle. Shod by **Chapel Forge Farriers**, Epatante was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound and nailed on with the Liberty nails. Epatante is trained by Nicky Henderson and was ridden by Aidan Coleman.

Away from the racetrack...

Congratulations to farrier **Paul Horner FWCF** who shod Pica d'or, with Kerckhaert Classic Sports. Phoebe Locke and Pica d'or won CCI 4* at Strzegom in Poland.

GET IN TOUCH!

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





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The value of lifelong learning

Continuing professional development (CPD) enhances the skills you learned completing your formal farriery training in order to achieve the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and join the FRC register.

Once you have passed the WCF Diploma and are qualified to shoe horses, there is still much to learn. Lifelong learning is about broadening knowledge and some will take this as an opportunity to focus on developing specific skills.

Education – whatever field it may be – teaches you facts and encourages you to think. Once qualified you will soon come across puzzling cases that make you question why and how things are done. Embarking on continuing your learning can help you to take on new and interesting challenges. By taking a planned approach to further learning puts you in charge of your own ambitions, and career development can help you reach your goals. As you increase your abilities, your confidence will grow.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is compulsory for farriers. Since 2014, it has been mandatory for Approved Training Farriers (ATFs) who must achieve a minimum of 10 CPD points each year, and since January 2016, all newly registered farriers have been required to undertake CPD.

CPD is encouraged and promoted through courses and events put on by the BFBA and the WCF, among others.

According to the WCF website, learning activities should help you maintain and improve your skills:

- The quality of care given to horses and the public, and
- The standards of the team and the services in which farriers work.

It further states that farriers should recognise what they do well, address areas requiring improvement, and explore new knowledge, skills and behaviours.

CPD keeps you up-to-date and competent.

Why CPD is important for farriers?

The FRC website says that clients – and horse owners in particular – will be able to see whether their farrier is keeping themselves up to date, and use this information to make informed decisions on which farrier they engage to trim and shoe their horse(s).

Through CPD, farriers improve not only their technical knowledge and techniques, including the use of modern materials, but are also updated on related topics such as modern business practice and software, client relationships, and remedial shoeing. If a complaint is made about a farrier's work their CPD record will be investigated.

What activities count as CPD?

There is a range of activities that can help you to improve as a professional farrier or employer. Examples of activities include:

- Learning knowledge and skills at conferences, seminars and courses.

Good CPD practice

- Keep your CPD record up-to-date so that you don't have to complete a large number of CPD entries when your CPD record is called for review.
- Aim to complete more than the minimum amount of CPD required each year.
- If you have had a career break or taken maternity/paternity leave during the period covered by our CPD review, it is acceptable to have gaps in your CPD record. You will need to explain the reasons for these gaps and, where possible, support this with appropriate evidence.
- Take part in a range of different types of learning.
- Take part in and record CPD from different types of learning relevant to professional farriery. It is good practice to take part in some activities where you can learn with other farrier professionals: for example, workshops, conferences and meetings of professional bodies, and to attend events that provide an opportunity for networking and discussing professional issues with your peers.
- Read the FRC Guide to Continuing Professional Development.

- Self-directed learning, including reading, writing or undertaking research on advances in farriery or veterinary science.
- Studying for advanced qualifications.
- Learning with others, such as talking to colleagues or going to workshops.
- Acquiring new business skills, including customer service, information technology, employment law, financial understanding, first aid, and health and safety.
- Acquiring teaching skills through courses or qualifications.

Just as important as doing CPD is reflecting on what you have learnt and recording it.

Recording your learning

In order to meet the FRC's CPD standards you must:

- Keep a legible record of your CPD. The best – and recommended – way to do this is electronically at www.farrierycpd.org or on a computer or as a hard copy on paper.
- Attain a minimum of 10 CPD points per year, averaged over a three-year period, ie, 30 points in three years, which reflect relevant learning and enhance professional knowledge and standards.
- Submit your CPD record to the FRC when requested to do so.

As a farrier, you are responsible for your personal learning and recording it. You should identify your CPD needs, plan how you will meet them, and undertake CPD activities that are relevant to your craft and support your professional development.

At work with Redwings' farriers

Father and son team Bob and Robbie Rush run a successful farriery business across East Anglia. Their biggest client is Redwings Horse Sanctuary, which cares for more than 1,000 rescued equines in Norfolk and Essex. Here, the pair give us a glimpse of life as a farrier at the UK's largest horse sanctuary, and explain how their experience has shaped their view of the role of farriers more widely.

Farriery at Redwings is definitely a unique combination of the unusual and the mundane. The bulk of the work we and our apprentices carry out is routine trimming on the paddocks. We can spend whole days going through groups of 20-plus cobs in wet fields.

Most of the horses at Redwings are in the sanctuary because they have long-term health or behavioural issues, meaning they're not suitable for rehoming. The only shoes we provide are for horses being prepared for rehoming, or those that need therapeutic shoeing, which amounts to less than 10% of the horses we see.

But there is incredible variety in the type of equines we work with at Redwings compared to most of our customer rounds. They have everything from Shires to Shetlands, and Thoroughbreds to donkeys and mules. There's a huge age range as well, from foals at foot, to a large number of geriatrics. There are plenty of residents well into their 30s and working with older, stiffer equines involves respecting their joints and how long you're asking them to lift their legs for.

Redwings gives our team the sort of experience you simply couldn't get anywhere else. The charity rescues up to 200 horses every year, and some of them are in a bad way when they arrive, physically and mentally. The priority is for them to have the veterinary tests and treatments they need, including having their feet assessed and trimmed. Often, the safest, kindest way to do this initially is for the vet to sedate the horse so the vet, farrier and handler can work together to get everything done. In extreme cases, a horse may need to have a general anaesthetic. Trimming the neglected

● R C Rush Farriers is a third-generation farrier company founded by Robert George Rush senior FWCF, who was a WCF examiner. Nowadays, Bob senior keeps an eye on proceedings from behind a desk by doing the bookwork. Bob and Robbie Rush are both ATFs and qualified to AWCF level. Over 20 apprentices have been through training at Redwings.



hooves of a recumbent horse is not straightforward as you have no opportunity to check the balance until the horse is on its feet again, by which time you can't do any additional work.

Redwings quarantines all new horses while they're tested for strangles. It's not uncommon for horses to arrive with the disease, but we still see to their feet unless they're really unwell. We're very used to working with strict biosecurity, and, again, it's good grounding for those starting out in the profession. All farriers have a responsibility to make sure we're not spreading disease when we move from yard to yard.

The poor condition of rescue animals often includes their feet. Some cases have really stretched us as farriers and we can spend time thinking, discussing and researching to try to find the best way of helping a horse with chronic hoof issues. These discussions include Redwings' vets, who also support us with x-rays or other diagnostics. The vet-farrier relationship we have is based on longstanding mutual respect and good communication that makes our work easier and more enjoyable, as well as achieving better outcomes for the horse.

As you'd expect, many rescued horses haven't always had positive interactions with humans, and we work with a lot of very nervous animals, or those that are completely unhandled. Redwings' approach to behaviour is led by their specialist team, and we've worked closely with them on many occasions – which gives our apprentices extra insight when they're working with novice customers after qualifying. As farrier, we see our role as part of a team that are helping a horse learn to be comfortable and relaxed with regular hoof care, whether that's within the sanctuary, or in the hands of another farrier if the horse is rehomed in the future.

This pony arrived at Redwings with chronic laminitis and X-rays showed marked rotation in all four feet. A plan was made with the vet to place a pair of clogs on the front feet, and steel heart bar shoes behind, but the prognosis was very guarded. He was shod every 30 days and slowly got better with every shoeing cycle. Today he is sound and is closely monitored in a small sanctuary herd



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Mort, Firebird Forge

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Adrian, Bringsty Forge



Sadly, many of the most challenging hooves that come through the charity's gates are issues that could have been prevented with earlier intervention. Horses often have other issues too, such as emaciation or obesity, lameness and malnutrition, and these can affect their stance, mobility, the quality of their hoof and ability to regenerate tissue.

In these situations, most of what we try to put right is long-term neglect and if more horse owners saw where long toes, underrun heels, laminitis, cracks, deformities or bacterial infections can end up, perhaps a lot of issues wouldn't be overlooked so readily. We've seen some extreme pathologies and the sad reality is that in a small number of cases the horse is beyond saving. You don't get used to that.

Thankfully, we can help most horses to at least become pasture sound, although they may need long-term specialist trims or shoes to keep them comfortable. Redwings gives us freedom to think laterally and try new things to solve a problem. There have been a lot of memorable cases over the years, and for a farrier, the experience of unusual and advanced pathologies in a sanctuary setting is invaluable. We've probably seen more cases of canker in the past 10 years than most farriers see in a lifetime.

Working with customers

Being at Redwings has given us more understanding of what a welfare issue is. We, and the farriers we have trained, have the confidence to talk to other clients about issues above the coronet band if something is not looking quite right or the owner seems oblivious to a problem. Farriers see horses often enough to build a good relationship with an owner and notice small changes that may have been missed. Is the horse getting fatter, thinner, lamer or stiffer? In our experience, most owners will thank you for diplomatically asking a question that shows you care about their horse, and many farriers perhaps underestimate how much customers value our knowledge and experience.

We also believe farriers can improve welfare in other ways. We are usually the most regular professional visitors to a yard, but it can be easy to turn a blind eye to a consistently underweight horse in the next stable, or an owner who has taken on a young horse they don't have the knowledge or experience to cope with. If we don't feel we are the right person to raise the issue, we call a local welfare officer to talk the situation through.

We know how much effort charities put into working with owners, and the earlier they can get involved the better. We've



This pony was one of a group of Shetlands with very neglected feet that belonged to a struggling owner. We enjoy working with Redwings Field Officer to resolve cases like this, so the ponies are able to receive the care they need in their home and an ongoing relationship can be established with the owner. The second photo was taken after eight months of regular visits

About Redwings Horse Sanctuary

- ◆ The UK's largest horse sanctuary established in 1984
- ◆ More than 1600 acres at 11 UK sites
- ◆ Around 1500 sanctuary residents at any one time
- ◆ More than 700 equines rehomed on a loan basis
- ◆ Up to 200 more equines in need rescued every year
- ◆ Its own veterinary hospital staffed by eight vets and team of nurses
- ◆ Five visitor centres in Norfolk, Essex, Warwickshire and Scotland
- ◆ Funded entirely by public donations

worked with Redwings to support people in difficult personal situations that mean they're struggling to care for their horses. At other times an owner might just need educating, or reminding of their responsibilities to their horse. This is where welfare officers come into their own, and it's always worth having their numbers in your phone.

Our time at Redwings has definitely influenced our work with customers and made us better able to deal with owners who perhaps aren't taking hoof care seriously enough.

Here are our practical top tips for dealing with owners:

- When dealing with new clients always take photos before and after you work on their horse, and include notes on foot condition.
- Don't be worried about reporting/informing Redwings or a similar welfare organisation if you think a horse is suffering or likely to suffer if nobody intervenes
- Try to stick to communication by text messages or emails and keep them
- Keep your local vet informed and on board if you are dealing with horses with poor welfare, it is better to work as a team throughout
- Don't get yourself hurt! If you think a horse is too dangerous or you can't get a professional job completed, inform the client from the start, then make a plan for sedation and/or handling training to be carried out.
- As farriers we should not be shy of talking about or actively supporting welfare. Our whole profession centres on horse welfare and good farriery is a critical part of any domestic horse's health and wellbeing. We should be proud of the contribution we make, and the unique role we develop through regular visits, building relationships and our knowledge and experience.

Farrier CPD

It's understandable that farriers aren't always sure what constitutes a welfare issue, or when and how to flag a concern. We'd really recommend farriers take advantage of a specially developed online CPD course 'Farriers and Equine Welfare', put together by Redwings and The Horse Trust. It's got a lot of case studies and farrier testimonies as well as looking at how farriers are an important part of the welfare sector and the different ways owners are supported or held to account.

The course is FRC accredited, costs £10 and can be completed at your own pace. Four CPD points are awarded on completion. For more information and to enrol on the course just email training@horsetrust.org.uk

A MESSAGE FROM THE FARRIERS FOUNDATION

As we welcome a New Year, few will miss 2020. Despite last year's challenges, The Farriers Foundation has continued to be a safety net for our profession, providing help and support for farriers and their families who need it.



Like many other charities and welfare organisations, the maintenance and delivery of the service we provide, have perhaps never been so important. The funding we need to meet these needs is under intense pressure, and we look forward to being able to organise and attend fundraising events as soon as it is safe to do so.

Rest assured, those who need our support can continue to reach out – we are here for them.

To those whose contributions make this help possible, we send our heartfelt thanks. And those who give their time to The Farriers Foundation, whether as Trustees or fundraisers, should be proud of what they help our charity to achieve.

Email thefarriersfoundation@gmail.com
Tel 01785 281867
www.thefarriersfoundation.co.uk

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The new apprenticeship contract is a game changer in protecting my business. This BFBA contract has been specifically written for ATFs – offering transparency about the responsibility of the employee and employer, while safeguarding the ATF's business. It covers social media as well as responsibility to the apprentice when terminating an apprenticeship early, and financial investment that the ATF has made to that apprentice.

This ATF membership will give our businesses a level of support and protection that has been missing for some years. Peace of mind is a huge thing when we are taking out insurance policies and this is about giving us back up and support when there's a problem, rather than leaving us feeling lost and alone. (Ben Benson AWCF, ATF)

Alongside the standard benefits of BFBA membership, **ATF membership** brings you a **free employment contract** between you and your apprentice(s). The contract has been developed by BFBA to help you avoid all the major pitfalls that might affect you and your business. Negotiating your own contract would cost in the region of £2500. This is a valuable benefit – did you know all apprentices should have had a contract in place from February 25, 2019?

Membership includes a FREE half-hour consultation on employment issues and human resources, as well as further support at a special ATF members' rate.

ATF membership costs £210. Call Holly Flack at the BFBA office, 02476 696595, and benefit your business now!



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* Than the 10mm LiBero Concave

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HOOF PAD ZNO

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- Recommended for use during wet seasons, preventing thrush
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HOOF REPAIR WHITE

Hoof reconstruction and repair
Glue on steel, aluminium & plastic shoes



- Adhesive designed for large and small hoof repairs
- 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 white/beige color

SILICONE

Protective filling material



- It gives good protection and coverage of the sole
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- Can be used with any kind of pad
- It prevents debris or moisture getting in between the pad and the sole

HOOF PAD

Protective pad material
For shock absorption and support



- Your "Must have" pad material to create comfort and protection
- Urethane-based, that sets in 30 seconds and sticks directly to a clean, dry sole
- Ideal with or without any kind of pads
- Optimal shock absorption, support and protection, enhancing the general condition of the sole, frog and hoof

HOOF REPAIR BLACK

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



- Adhesive designed for large and small hoof repairs
- 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

For a super fast bonding & hoof repair
Foal extensions. Customized shoes



- It sets in 30 seconds and sticks to a clean dry hoof wall for small repairs
- Create a custom shoe for horses
- Perfect to glue on cuffs for foals or use with foal extension

HOOF PAD SOFT

Soft pad filling material
For shock absorption and support



- Xtra Soft Hoof pad material for very sensitive soles
- It sets in 30 seconds and affixes to clean dry soles
- Can be used with any kind of pad
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