



FORGE

FORGE IS THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION



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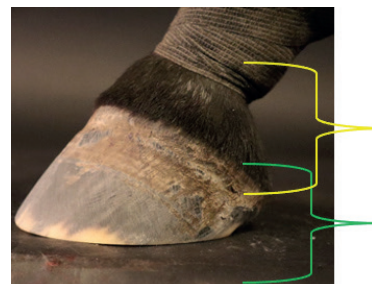
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The November 2021 issue of
Forge Knowledge contains two
articles:

● **Toe cracks versus quarter cracks**

by Stephen Britten AWCf

● **Performance flip flops**

by Curtis Burns APF



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www.eurofarrier.org

Farriers appointed to FRC Council

Farriers elected to FRC Council

(three-year appointment)

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Derek T. Gardner AWCf

BFBA farriers on FRC council

Simon Moore FWCF

WCF farrier on FRC Council

Robin P. May AWCf

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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

Wow, we did it – our Focus event on 30 and 31 October was tremendous – but we couldn't have done it without you. More than 800 of you came along to enjoy what for many was their first event since Covid-19 arrived early in 2020.

I and my Executive Committee (EC) thank you for supporting this milestone event. We are grateful to our sponsors, the companies that made up the marketplace, the competitors, speakers and guests.

Mark Watson did a fabulous job of running our special Home International event and the apprentice gas shoemaking classes. They all ran smoothly and highlighted some areas where we can make the experience the best it can be for the International Team Horseshoeing Competition when it returns to Stoneleigh in 2022.

Many said how much they liked being indoors, especially as the showground had some heavy showers over the weekend. Many of you have also given us lots of really good ideas on how we can make the event even better. Thank you. We are having a wash-up meeting very soon and will consider everything you have suggested. We will also be deciding on a date for 2022, so watch this space.

The build-up for Focus began on the Thursday before, and many people helped until everything was tidied away on Monday morning. Holly Flack, Claire



Brown, Mark Watson, members of the Craft Committee, the purple army, the Executive Committee, family supporters and helpers were on hand for much of this time and I am extremely grateful to all of them.

Our members enjoyed having a space with seating, coffee and refreshments in their own area within Focus. Our newest EC members Phoebe Colton and Sam Masters, hosted the area, and John Chilman kindly brought along a selection of past issues of Forge magazine that were flicked through by many visitors.

In other news, our new website development is progressing well. We are excited that it will encompass new features including a members area with a range of materials for farriers. Videos of the Focus presentations, back issues of Forge Knowledge and copies of the American Farriers Association newsletter 'No Foot, No Horse' as well as advice, documents and BFBA guidance will all be easily accessible to members. It will also open up opportunities for us to provide useful resources for overseas members, which is an exciting prospect.

As winter – and Christmas – approaches, we recognise that many families will have suffered loss over the past year. Let's look after ourselves and our families, protecting ourselves as best we can from Covid-19. Stay safe and stay well.

Craig D'Arcy, BFBA President





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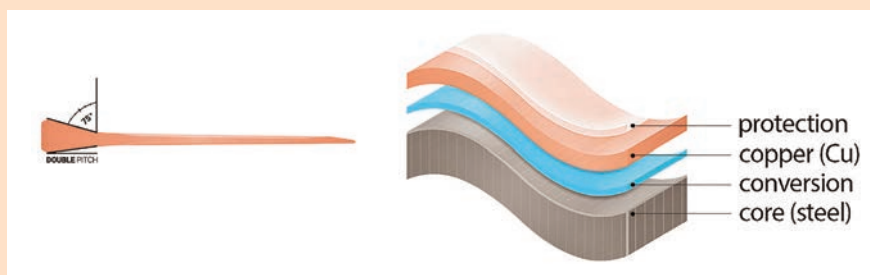
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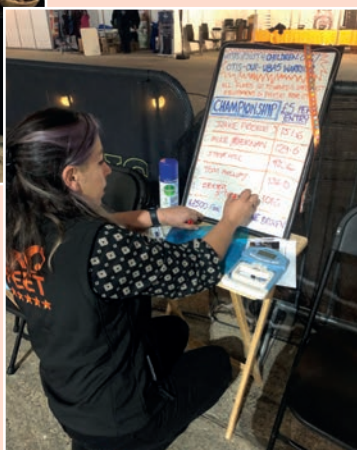


naf-equine.eu/uk/hooves



BFBA FOCUS

Our members were provided with a special area where they could enjoy coffee and sweet treats, meet up with friends or business colleagues and take the weight off their feet. Some took part in Phoebe Colton's grip strength challenge to raise money for a cause that was close to her heart. The champion is revealed on page 10



Pre-registered farriers were welcomed with a goody bag containing a variety of product samples and items supplied by companies with stands in the market place



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Focus speakers



Under a theme of 'Skills, knowledge and behaviour', our speakers – Simon Moore FWCF, Wayne Preece FWCF, Mark Johnson DipWCF, Jeff Newnham DipWCF and Dr David Marlin covered topics such as hind foot balance, the use of synthetic materials, the importance of shoe fit and sympathetic shoeing, and hoof anatomy as part of a taking a whole horse approach to shoeing, among others. Suzanne Rogers and Jo White from Human Behaviour Change for Animals discussed the safety angles of a farrier's work and Jonathan Nunn described how and why The Farriers Foundation was started and how it helps farriers and their families who need support. The Farriers Foundation is planning another fundraising ball, which will be held on 5 March 2022 in Cumbria.

The presentations were filmed and will be made available to our members.



The open forum, ably chaired by Dan Harman, is a chance to ask questions of representatives from organisations such as the BFBA, the colleges, the Farriers Registration Council and the Worshipful Company of Farriers. From left, Stephen Hill, Simon Moore, David Greenwood, Danny Bennett, Coreen Beckford, Craig D'Arcy and Ben Benson. A report will appear in the January 2022 issue.

Demo area



Among the demonstrations – by Grant Moon, Jonathan Nunn, Billy Crothers, Wayne Preece, Jeff Newnham – were opportunities to learn about how the Werkman Black gait analysis tool can help farriers in their daily work, tool maintenance, how to achieve shoe modifications from your van, the use and application of caudal support pads and 'Let's get glueing' with Jeff Newnham.

Developing over **50** different styles



3D HOOFCARE

Derek Poupard is the owner and inventor of 3D HoofCare and HoofCast. Having spent most of his career ambitiously trying to improve the quality of a horse's hoof, his latest efforts have shown positive results in a very short time frame. Through the use of incorporating the latest technologies such as 3D printing to create the HoofCare product, as well as developing this product alongside his own HoofCast product, the goal was to emulate the horse hoof in its natural state of being barefoot.

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Marketplace



'All set up and ready to go'



'Love this great new venue'



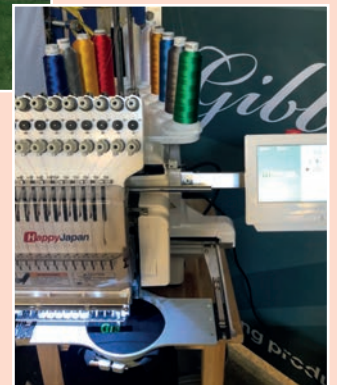
Farrier Tim Richmond from Amersham was delighted with his purchases



'Focus is a great opportunity for us to bring our experts to talk to farriers about our products'



'Focus is a fantastic event'



'We always do well at Focus and even ran out of stock of some lines'



'Security is good here'



Best stand winner



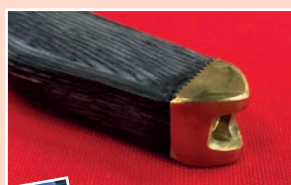
The winner of the best stand award was **Richard Ash Horseshoes**. Our mystery shoppers felt that the stand was well dressed and the staff were helpful and well informed.



'Focus has been our first trade show for a long time'



'We've been able to introduce the benefits of our new website'



'It's great to introduce new products'



Pre-farrier skills test



A pre-farrier test of skill offered potential apprentices with an opportunity to meet potential ATFs and get themselves noticed. Entrants made a test piece using a coke fire. The winner was Rebecca Black Wood (top) and her prize was a specimen foot, kindly donated by Stromsholm. In second place, farrier's daughter Grace Stephenson was presented with a BFBA hoodie. We wish them well on their farriery journey

Forging welfare partnerships

The National Equine Welfare Council promotes resources to help farriers with owners who are struggling to take on advice.

At this year's BFBA Focus, the National Equine Welfare Council stand

exhibited a wide range of equine welfare cases where farriers had either worked to improve foot-related problems of equines brought into charity care, or, where the farrier had told charities about a concern. There were examples where the cases had been resolved with and without the farrier's direct involvement.

The event was an opportunity to hear what welfare issues farriers see in the UK as well as to raise awareness of the educational resources available to help with these. For example, Body Condition Score charts and Grazing Muzzle guidance are popular to reinforce laminitis prevention and management advice to clients.

This year, there was also a prize for every farrier who spoke to a representative from one of the member charities - Blue Cross, Bransby Horses, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, RSPCA, The British Horse Society, The Donkey Sanctuary, The Horse Trust, and World Horse Welfare - and almost 50 farriers took this opportunity. Here are some of the views about what equine welfare organisations can do to support farriers in their role promoting good equine welfare

'There is need for more communication between welfare organisations and farriers to explain the help available.'

'Clearer guidance on how to report issues and [assurance about] confidentiality'

'Support with cases. I'm unaware of who to contact to help educate horse owners'

Farriers who attended BFBA Focus received a free contact card in their delegates' bag to encourage them to contact an equine welfare organisation about a concern confidentially.

They were also able to enrol on The Horse Trust/Redwings Horse Sanctuary online training for farriers on equine welfare and the law, which is FRC accredited and worth 4 CPD points. Visit <https://horsetrust.org.uk/training-courses/farriers/>



Another Focus champion



With a grip score of 186, Liam Collins was the Focus grip champion, helping to raise £1500 to provide specialist equipment and physiotherapy for Otis, a 14-month-old from Oswestry in Shropshire. Otis has an extremely rare genetic condition called UBAS, which only 30 other children in the world have. This gene alteration means he has a devastating type of epilepsy called infantile spasms.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/otisouruba5warrior>



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Donkey Breed Society recognises more 'Fab' farriers

To date, 27 awards have been given to Fab Farriers across the UK. The Donkey Breed Society's (DBS's) regions continue to promote this award, which is ongoing, and nominations can be submitted at any time. The DBS will continue to acknowledge the wonderful donkey farriers who really take the time and trouble to appreciate that our donkeys' needs are different from those of horses and ponies. Farriers who go the extra mile deserve recognition and we are grateful to Forge for featuring these fab farriers!

Mike Kiernan is from Uppington Smithy in Shropshire and has been a farrier for over 30 years.

He is pictured with Douglas the donkey and apprentice Will Midwinter is looking on! Mike was nominated by DBS member and donkey owner Carla Lowndes, who told us: 'All of the farriers at Uppington Smithy in Shropshire are incredibly good and kind with every animal they trim or shoe – horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. They are especially considerate with youngsters and nervous animals.'

Mike keeps my donkeys' feet in very good condition and he projects a sense of calm around them as he works. My donkeys are all young and have learnt he's kind, compassionate and unflappable. As we know a donkey never forgets, so I am very grateful that he is setting them up well to behave properly with all the farriers they will meet in their long lives.'

Sue Field, Donkey Welfare Adviser at The Donkey Sanctuary nominated John Vry, saying: [he is] 'one of the most Fab farriers I know. Going the extra mile for donkeys and their owners is something John has done since the first time I came across him when looking for a farrier to help an elderly couple with some very difficult donkeys that a dealer had sold them.'

It was out of his area but nonetheless he agreed to trim them, so we met up at the premises where he was as good with the donkeys as he was to their owners. As their health deteriorated John did everything he could to help, even filling in the paperwork when they had to be relinquished to The Donkey Sanctuary.

Since that first meeting John now trims a large number of Sanctuary guardian donkeys with his

usual care and empathy. Understanding donkeys and the differences in the way their feet are dealt with is something that John understands well. Always willing to help at any time, he is a firm favourite with all his clients and deals with any emergencies that arise in his usual cheerful caring manner, trying to make time in his busy life to attend the same day. If ever a farrier deserved recognition of his skills and attitude, it is John Vry.

The latest 'Fab Farriers' from the Donkey Breed Society's Western Region are Phil Brush, Glen Nott and Mike Kiernan. From the Eastern Region are farriers, Steven Rust, Barry Richards, Mark Evans, Stephen Hill, John Vry and R. K. Nicholls. Huge congratulations to all our 'Fab Farriers'!



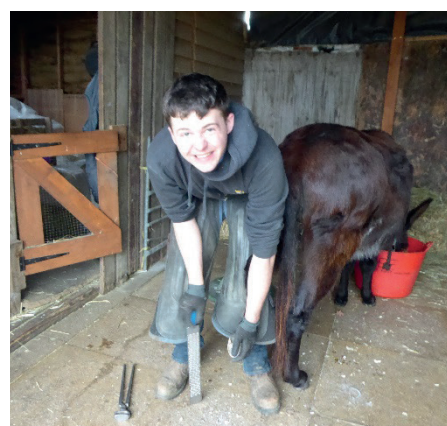
Mike Kiernan from Uppington Smithy, Shropshire. Apprentice Will Midwinter holds Douglas the donkey



'It's nice to be recognised'



Fab Farrier John Vry is pictured with two of the Sanctuary's guardian donkeys, Wally and Dilly. (right) Phil Brush from the Western Region of the Donkey Breed Society was nominated by Claire Harper



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**GOODBYE
FREDDIE**

Gillian Higgins (Horses Inside Out) had to say goodbye to Freddie Fox in July when he was laid to rest after 24 years.

She said: Freddie Fox has given so much to the equine world. He has helped to educate thousands of people across the world through Horses Inside Out. He has contributed to raising awareness about equine anatomy, biomechanics, movement, soundness, welfare, riding, training and management practices for the good of horses everywhere. I am so pleased that Freddie will live on to help future generations of equestrians from all disciplines and walks of life as he is immortalised in my books and videos. It's humbling to think just how many people across the globe must have a picture of Freddie in their bookshelves at home.'

To read more about Freddie and his life, visit www.horsesinsideout.com/post/freddie-fox

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Kerckhaert Kings Plate competition

We were delighted to see the incredible haul of medals gained by our equestrians (and all of the sports) at this year's Olympics and Paralympics! It was delightful to witness competitors at the very top of their sport and the wonderful team spirit demonstrated. Our warmest congratulations to all of the medal winners – and their incredible support teams – for representing Team GB so well. Closer to home, we continue our success on the track with our Kings Plate winners.

Kings Plate winners

- ★ A Derby-King George double was secured by Adayar. Congratulations to farrier **Phil Brook**, **Derek Poupard** and **Gerhard Schoombie**. Adayar was shod with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carrera Secure Cu. Adayar is trained by Charlie Appleby Godolphin and ridden by Adam Kirby.
- ★ Alcohol Free won the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood. Congratulations to farrier **Eugene Cullen** who shod Alcohol Free with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carrera Nails. Alcohol Free was trained by Andrew Balding and ridden by Oisín Murphy.
- ★ Ebro River won the Keeneland Phoenix Stakes at the Curragh. Congratulations to farrier **Eoin Murphy** who shod Ebro River with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound. Ebro River was trained by Hugo Palmer and ridden by Shane Foley.
- ★ Palace Pier claimed victory in Deauville. Congratulations to **O'Shaughnessy Farriery**. Palace Pier was shod with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty FJ1 Nails. Palace Pier was trained by John and Thady Gosden and ridden by Frankie Dettori.
- ★ Trueshan was triumphant in the Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup on day one of the Qatar Goodwood Festival. Congratulations

Hurricane Lane with farrier Phil Brook right and Phils Holder



Derby winner Adayar with Gerhard Schoombie (left) Phil Brook and Derek Poupard

Eugene Cullen with Ben Tillett and Abbie Bayley following their successful Royal Ascot

to farrier **Stuart McGaffin**. Trueshan was shod with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty FJ0 Nails. Trueshan was trained by Alan King Racing and ridden by Hollie Doyle.

- ★ Mishriff won the Juddmonte International at York's four-day Ebor Festival. Congratulations to **O'Shaughnessy Farriery**. Mishriff was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty FJ1 Nails. Mishriff was trained by John and Thady Gosden and ridden by David Egan.
- ★ Silvestre De Sousa riding Winter Power won the Coolmore Nunthorpe Stakes at York. Congratulations to farriers **Jim Lawson** and **Matt Argo**. Winter Power was shod with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty ASV 1 3/4 Nails. Winter Power was trained by Tim Easterby Racing. Winter Power continued the winning streak to claim the Coolmore Wootton Bassett Nunthorpe Stakes.
- ★ Hurricane Lane claimed the Cazoo St Leger. Congratulations to farrier **Phil Brook** and **Gerhard Schoombie**. Hurricane Lane was shod with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound,

nailed on with Liberty Carrera Secure. Hurricane Lane was trained by Godolphin's Charlie Appleby and ridden by William Buick.

- ★ Native Trail claimed the Group 1 National Stakes at Curragh.

Winter Power, Jim Lawson (left) and Matt Argo (right)



Congratulations to **Phil Brook** and **Gerhard Schoombie**. Native Trail was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure. Native Trail was trained by Godolphin's Charlie Appleby and ridden by William Buick.


★ Walton Street won the Canadian International At Woodbine. Congratulations to farrier **Phil Brook** and Gerhard Schoombie. Walton Street was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure and is trained by Godolphin's Charlie Appleby, ridden by William Buick.

★ Loving Dream and jockey Frankie Dettori secured the Prix de Royallieu. Congratulations to farrier **O'Shaughnessy Farriery Ltd.** Loving Dream was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty FJ1 Nails. Loving Dream is trained by John and Thady Gosden and ridden by Frankie Dettori.

★ Trueshan won the Prix du Cadran. Congratulations to farrier **Stuart McGaffin**. Trueshan was wearing Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty FJ0 nails. Trueshan was trained by Alan King Racing and ridden by James Doyle.

★ Saffron Beach won the group one, Kingdom Of Bahrain Sun Chariot Stakes. Congratulations to farrier Iain **Alexander Nixon**. He shod Saffron Beach with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure. Saffron Beach was trained by Jane Chapple-Hyam and ridden by William Buick.

★ Space Blues ran out an impressive winner of the Qatar Prix de la Foret at Paris, Longchamp. Congratulations to farrier **Phil Brook** and **Gerhard Schoombie**. They shod Space Blues, with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure Nails. Space Blues was trained by Charlie Appleby and ridden by William Buick.



Kings plate Competition

THE KERCKHAERT KINGS PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP

NATIONAL HUNT		
Trainer	Prize money	Farrier(s)
1 Fergal O'Brien	£400,960.34	John Benfield
2 Paul Nicholls	£290,809.05	Tom Bougourd
3 Donald McCain	£260,773.18	Alex Lake (Border Counties Farriers Ltd)
4 Nicky Henderson	£159,220.55	Chapel Forge Farriers
5 Philip Hobbs	£242,393.61	Ben Parker

FLAT		
Trainer	Prize money	Farrier(s)
1 Charlie Appleby	£4,379,061.68	Phil Brook and Gerhard Schoombie
2 Andrew Balding	£4,052,513.53	Eugene Cullen, Abbie Bayley and Ben Tillett
3 John and Thady Gosden	£3,793,250.03	O'Shaughnessy Farriery
4 Mark Johnston	£3,126,464.18	Tom Hardy and Justin Landy
5 Tim Easterby	£1,841,647.29	Jim Lawson and Matt Argo

Correct at 13 October 2021

GET IN TOUCH!

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

Dengie grows its green credentials

Horse feed supplier Dengie has announced that it is now using 100% renewable green energy, which has zero carbon dioxide emissions.

The switch to green energy is part of Dengie's continued commitment to sustainability, including its recent accreditation by the Investors in the Environment scheme. This formalises and builds on initiatives that the company has instigated as part of its status as a Royal Warrant holder.

Other recent sustainability achievements include introducing hybrid and fully electric cars into its

small fleet of company cars, installing solar panels on new office buildings, and introducing the maximum amount of recycled plastic into its packaging.

Dengie is currently using about 60 tonnes of recycled plastic material in its feed bags per year. This equates to approximately 150,000 four-pint milk bottles.

Since the solar panels were installed in 2019, the excess energy generated has put enough energy back into the grid to supply an average household

Dengie

with electricity for four years.

Dengie says that it has a strong ethos in producing sustainable feeds, adding that it grows as many of its own ingredients as possible.

Its alfalfa is grown within 20 miles of where it is made into the finished feed making it one of the lowest 'feed miles' of any horse feed ingredient, the company says, adding that this provides the best traceability possible. This means that every bag of Dengie feed can be traced back to the field it was grown in.

Stromsholm apprentice seminar



The Stromsholm 2021 Apprentice Seminar was held at a new venue just outside Milton Keynes at Wychwood Stud, home of the Devil's Horsemen.

The Devil's Horsemen was started by Gerard Naprous and is now run by his son Daniel and daughter Camilla. Today it is the UK's main provider of horses, riders and horse-drawn carriages for the film industry, both in the UK and overseas. The Devil's Horsemen now has over 700 carriages, many of which are made in its workshops. It also has several horse-drawn forges, from the First and Second World Wars.

This year's format of the apprentice seminar was different to previous years.

Sixteen apprentices took part in the DipWCF exam preparation, which was overseen by current and past WCF Examiners. Kevin Willard, Jay Tovey, Jonathan Nunn and Simon Curtis.

The format was to make and fit one three-quarter fullered shoe in 60 minutes. A mark was given for the foot trim, shoemaking, shoe fit and nail and finish. There were four horses with four apprentices in each round. The examiners explained exactly what they were looking for prior to the round commencing, they also gave feedback to each apprentice. Those apprentices who were on the next round were able to shadow the Examiners to see how they marked the shoeing job. Each examiner marked two horses.

The other two examiners spent 10 minutes with each apprentice going through the oral part of the exam, and they then spent time with the apprentices on the live horse assessment and shoeing plan. All the apprentices also took part in a multiple-choice theory paper, marked out of 25.

The day was very relaxed and informal, and the Examiners did a great job helping the apprentices relax and giving them an insight into what to expect on the day they sit the Diploma exam. It was very noticeable how much information was exchanged between the Examiners and apprentices.

On the day, we also had eight apprentices who had joined Russell Jones and Gary Darlow for a Darlow & Jones clinic. These apprentices were given a shoemaking demo by Gary, and then made shoes under the watchful eyes of their tutors, before moving on to making and fitting shoes using dead



legs. These apprentices also took part in completing the multiple-choice theory paper.

I would like to thank everybody at the Devil's Horsemen for their hospitality and also for showing many people around their collection of carriages and harness rooms. Also special thanks to Russell, Gary, Simon, Jay, Kevin and Jon. Thanks also to Swan Portaforge for the loan of gas fires and the Staffordshire Branch of the BFBA for the use of their equipment. Also, thanks to everybody at Stromsholm for all the work behind the scenes and keeping the day running to time.



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2021 BFBA FOCUS HOME INTERNATIONAL

Competitors

England

Steven Beane
Matt Randles
Liam Collins
Alex Collier
George Rogerson (reserve)

Wales

Joe Whitehead
Ryan McDonald
Ed Simcock
Ian Schofield

Ireland

Rodney Ross
Paul Robinson
Ed O'Shaughnessy
Will O'Shaughnessy
David Lynch (reserve)

Scotland

David Varini
Lewis Balfour
Sarah Beane
Grant Watt
Andy Dryburgh (reserve)

British Army

Paul Jones
Josh Cooksley
Pete Forster
Josh O'Niel
Tom Faulkner

England apprentices

Henry Chitty
Lewis Agnew
Sol Tovey
George Day

Wales apprentices

Tyler Pesci Griffiths
Huw Llewelyn Parry
Aled True
Zak Jones



The horses supplied for each day were of uniform size with good feet. Our competition area sponsor provided each horse with a Pro Feet rug and NAF bucket



Members of the purple army always do a great job, helping to ensure that the horses and competitors were comfortable, a job made easier with much more space than is usually the case. With torrential rain bucketing down outside, everyone was more than happy to be under cover



Judge Ian Gajczak told the competitors he wanted to see minimal paring of the sole and frog



Vet Kirsty MacGregor of Bakewell Veterinary Clinic (right) watches the trot up after the shoeing on the Sunday, along with (from left) judges Danny Bennett and Ian Gajczak and chief steward Mark Watson



The new Stoneleigh anvils were in use for the first time, along with new Greystone fires

Home International Results



Many congratulations to the England senior and apprentice teams who were victorious at the 'Home International', which took place alongside the British Farrier and Blacksmith Association's Focus event over the weekend of 30 and 31 October.

The senior team – Matt Randles, Steven Beane, Liam Collins, Alex Collier and George Rogerson – fought off tough competition from teams from Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the British Army. Ireland's Paul Robinson secured the narrowest of victories over England's Steven Beane to claim the title in the Individual Championship.

England's apprentice team – George Dey, Solomon Tovey, Louis Agnew, Henry Chitty and George Hayter –

demonstrated promising talent for the future by securing the Apprentice Championship. George Dey and Solomon Tovey took the Apprentice Individual Championship and Reserve Championship respectively.

The competition arena was generously sponsored by NAF and Stromsholm Farrier Supplies and the two days of competitions were kindly judged by Ian Gajczak DipWCF, Danny Bennett AWCF and Danny Mallender AWCF.

'The lads smashed it' said a delighted Danny Elliott, England Team Manager. 'A huge thank you to the BFBA for hosting the event – we have waited for this for a long time – and to our team sponsors Richard Ash Horseshoes and Silverback Chaps and to the judges'.

Class 1 Team Shoeing, Individual, Saturday

- 1 Will O'Shaughnessy
- 2 Lewis Balfour
- 3 Liam Collins
- 3 Paul Robinson
- 5 Ryan McDonald
- 6 Steven Beane

- 3 Alex Collier
- 4 Rodney Ross
- 5 Steven Beane
- 5 Ed O'Shaughnessy

Class 3 Overall Team

- 1 England
- 2 Scotland
- 3 Ireland
- 4 Wales
- 5 British Army

Class 1 Team Shoeing, Saturday

- 1 England
- 2 Ireland
- 3 Scotland
- 4 British Army
- 5 Wales

Class 3 Individual

- 1 Paul Robinson
- 2 Matt Randles
- 3 Steven Beane
- 4 Liam Collins
- 4 Lewis Balfour
- 6 Ryan McDonald

Class 2 Team Gas Individual Scores

- 1 Ryan McDonald
- 2 Matt Randles

Overall Individual

- 1 Paul Robinson
- 2 Steven Beane
- 3 Ryan McDonald
- 4 Lewis Balfour
- 5 Liam Collins
- 6 Alex Collier

Apprentice Individual

- 1 George Dey
- 2 Ross Johnstone
- 3 Sol Tovey
- 3 George Eastwood
- 3 James Jenkins
- 6 Grant Nelson

Apprentice Team

- 1 England
- 2 Wales

Combined Apprentice Class

- 1 George Dey
- 2 Sol Tovey
- 3 Lewis Agnew
- 4 Henry Chitty
- 5 Huw Llewelyn Parry
- 6 Tyler Pesci-Griffiths
- 6 Zac Jones

Apprentice Team Individual

- 1 Sol Tovey
- 2 George Dey
- 3 Henry Chitty
- 4 Aled True
- 5 Lewis Agnew
- 6 Tyler Pesci-Griffiths
- 6 Huw Llewelyn Parry
- 6 Zak Jones

Complete results can be found at <https://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/events/2287/bfba-home-int-horseshoeing-and-apprentice-comp.htm>



@apprenticefarrier



Billy Machin

A warm welcome to the new apprentices on college block 45L. We wish you all the best for the next four years!

Don't forget to register as a member of the Stromsholm Apprentice Club! Benefits include a 10% discount on tools throughout your apprenticeship. (ATFs – if you are reading this – make sure you give them a nudge too!)

The College Block Award

The Stromsholm College Block Award is made following nominations from college tutors to apprentices who have put in the extra effort, overcome a particular difficulty, reached new heights or simply for consistent, solid progress. These awards recognise those striving to do their best. Winners receive a Stromsholm voucher and certificate.

HEREFORD COLLEGE

43S **Cameron Brady** (ATF Chris Powell FWCF) 'for distinction in theory'.

42L **Hannah Chamberlain** (ATF Abby Bunyard AWCF) 'for distinction in theory'.

45L **Kevin Hoke** (ATF A Bell AWCF) 'for distinction in both knowledge and behaviours'.



Hannah Chamberlain



Kevin Hoke

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

45L **Billy Machin** (ATF Spud Allison DipWCF) 'for making an excellent start to his farriery apprenticeship, he was keen to learn and progressed well in both his theory and practical. Well done Billy keep up the good work.'



Cameron Brady

MAKE SURE YOU'RE A MEMBER!

Join the Stromsholm Apprentice Club! Benefits include a 10% discount on tools throughout your apprenticeship. Join online today to receive your FREE apprentice pack!

www.stromsholm.co.uk/apprentice-club-4-w.asp

Home International Individual winners



Individual winners Paul Robinson and George Dey.



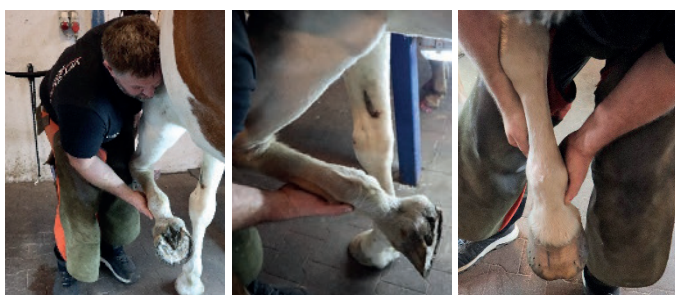
Trimming. The basic foundation for the shod and unshod horse

By Henrik Berger FWCF, Viking Farrier Academy (part of Viking Farrier Tools, Denmark)

Before any trimming work can be carried out on the horse a complete appraisal needs to identify the overall age, condition and conformation that need to be accounted for prior to the trim.

This should consist of a thorough assessment of static conformation assessment followed by a dynamic assessment - first at the walk to establish foot fall, ground interaction and break-over then at the trot to check for soundness prior to work commencing.

Trimming



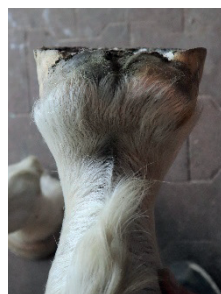
After evaluation of conformation has taken place, the foot can be eye-lined using the long axis of the third metacarpal or the short axis of the pastern, if there is evidence of a limb deviation higher! Trimming of the feet can then be initiated.

The goal of the trimming is to achieve hoof balance in relation to the limb above and within the confines of the horse's natural conformation remembering we cannot change the conformation of the mature animal only compensate for it!

A well-balanced hoof is said to have a straight hoof pastern axis (HPA) in relation to a line through the spine of the scapula and a dorsal hoof wall angle of approximately 47-52° in the fore foot and approximately 50-55° in the hind foot. This should be parallel to the parietal surface of the distal phalanx (P3) and will also depend on breed. Some breeds have a more naturally sloping angle such as the Thoroughbred, while Warmbloods tend to have a more upright hoof. It is really important that the trimmer should be able to recognise normal compared with broken forward or backward.



Hoof pastern axis (HPA): (left) normal HPA, (middle) broken back HPA, (right) broken forward HPA

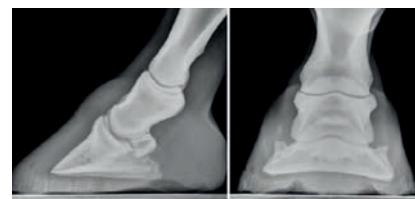


It is vitally important to keep the weight bearing surface of the foot directly under the limb to support the weight of the body and distribute concussive forces and loading equally over the foot's bearing surface.

If it is not possible to achieve this in the trim, shoes can then be used to aid in placing the base of the foot directly and symmetrically under the limb.

In certain therapeutic cases, radiographs can be invaluable to contribute with more

information about the position of the coffin bone, such as precise location of the centre of rotation of the coffin joint, palmar/plantar angle, solear depth, founder distance, increased thickness of the hoof wall, rotation and lateromedial sinking. Obvious bone pathologies can be noted and considered such as sidebone, ringbone and so on.



Phalangeal alignment should also be noted in both the latero/medial view and the dorso/palmar view, although it is thought that the horse does not necessarily stand with the phalanges aligned it is a good starting point and should not be dismissed.

In a horse with what is considered a normal regular conformation when trimmed correctly, the forelimb should be positioned so that a straight line perpendicular to the ground from the scapula spinous should bisect the radius and the touch the ground in line with the heel bulbs.

This will balance the forehand of the horse and distribute the load evenly over the joint surfaces.

In the hind feet, a straight line perpendicular to the ground from the tuber ischia (point of buttock) should run down caudal to the metatarsus then touch the ground just behind the heel of the foot.

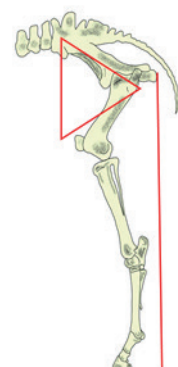
When the trim is balanced correctly, the blood circulation, proprioception (sensory nerves) and shock absorption within the foot can function optimally.

Good blood circulation ensures a good flow of nutrients

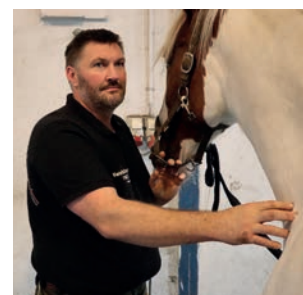
Pelvic limb alignment



Scapular and phalangeal alignment



Pelvic limb alignment





to the tissues of the foot thereby contributing to better horn growth, stronger laminae, and a more well-developed digital cushion.

A well-developed digital cushion contains more collagen and fibrous tissue, which ensures good shock absorption when the hoof hits the ground during the

impact phase of the stride, better load distribution during the stance phase and aid in venous return of blood from the foot.

The frog should be strong, healthy and in proportion to the rest of the foot to support the digital cushion during load bearing, allow good expansion of the heels, care must be taken that no sharp ridges are created which could become problem areas and create internal compression of the underlying coria especially in dry conditions.

In the balanced trim, it is important to remember geometric proportions of the foot to keep the external hoof capsule symmetrical to the coffin joint.



The length of the toe should be the same as the distance between the dorso/distal tip of the toe to the centre of the foot (Duckett FWCF 1990) the distance from the point of force which is situated approximately 8 mm from the true point of the frog to the last weight bearing point of the heel should also be the same distance.



Another means of deciding hoof wall length is to adjust it so that 50% of the weightbearing surface is lying in front of the point that lots of authors identify as the centre of rotation of the coffin joint.

Care must also be taken to maintain solear depth and concavity to avoid pressure related conditions such as solear bruising and indirect pressure on the circumflex artery.



There are external landmarks that can help to align the hoof capsule around P3 and distal interphalangeal joint one of these is the heel notch or jam line at the heels, which can guide you in heel height and is more reliable than using the widest part of the frog which can be manipulated with the knife.



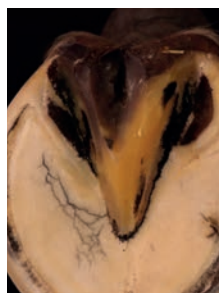
The author uses the trimming procedure shown in the pictures above. Removing loose solear horn and trimming the frog back to the bulbs of the heels initiate the trimming.

The goal should be to create symmetry in the sole and bars and create concavity in the sole if it is not present (above right).



To keep the foot strong, it is important to maintain a large and healthy frog, that will be able to participate in weight bearing. It is important to keep the hoof capsule as strong as possible by

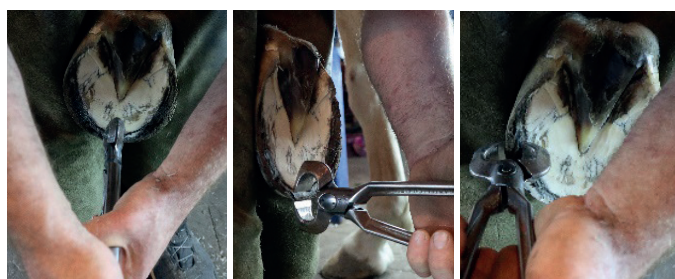
leaving the bars strong to aid in support of the heels.



The hoof wall is trimmed from the toe to the heels, leaving enough wall to contribute to the concavity of the sole, causing the coffin bone to migrate toward the ground during weightbearing without putting pressure on the circumflex artery or the sensitive laminae. If the horse is to be barefoot,

more wall is left to protect against wear and is rounded off at the edges to prevent chipping and cracking!

Nippers should be worked from the toe back towards the heel on the side which is observed to be the highest, making sure they are 90° perpendicular to the foot; it is important to keep them flat and not to dip the quarters! The nippers should



be moved around half a cut at a time and at no time should the wall removed be lower than the sole! The opposite side should then be trimmed to the same level.



Rasp position and level is crucial to achieve a flat balanced foot. The rasp must always be held as much as possible in both hands with even pressure on the rasp.



The rasp should be taken in a plane around the foot working evenly down from the heel to the toe then across the toe and back up to the opposite heel, the process should then be reversed following the same pattern.

The rasp can be used to correct the position of the quarters and smooth out the transition from the quarters into the heels achieving better symmetry and making the shape of the foot easier to fit to if being shod.



The foot is then taken forward and dressed back to maintain strong straight horn.

In order to achieve symmetry of the foot, flares are removed to make the foot stronger. Flares are often a sign of bad foot conformation and if left alone they will contribute to increasing foot problems (cracks, bruising, pedal bone fracture) and uneven loading of the limb. When flares are removed it is important to consider the thickness of the wall and make the changes gradually and/or to add support to the opposite side of the hoof, so over trimming is not performed which can often lead to further distortion of the hoof capsule. The shape of the foot is assessed in line with the coronary band.



To achieve a strong hoof, it is important to keep the horn tubules growing in a straight line, by rasping the wall, using the angle of the proximal third of the hoof capsule as a guide. It is also important to keep an adequate amount of horn to keep the wall strong enough to support the weight of the horse.

Viking Farriery Academy Mission Statement

Today's farriery industry is changing and evolving worldwide with greater focus on depth of knowledge and skillset to deal with the modern equine athletes.

With this in mind, Viking Farriery Academy is starting a new course in January 2022, which doesn't focus on any particular examination, but aims to improve knowledge and skills across the broad-spectrum of the farriery industry.

If you are interested in taking higher farriery qualifications, this course may help you achieve your goal.

The course will consist of 10 sessions, 2 days per month, Fridays and Saturdays from January to December (except for July and August).

Each session will cover theoretical and practical aspects of farriery,

including the use of synthetic materials such as glues, fillers and polymers.

Theory sessions will be carried into the workshop to reinforce and establish the link between the theory and practical aspects of the industry.

Shoemaking will be available to those that wish it, but we will also be using and adapting machine made shoes for those that do not wish to hand forge shoes.

The main tutors are Henrik Berger FWCF and Wayne Preece FWCF. We will aim to get guest industry specialists to cover certain aspects they specialise in if there is interest and demand!

The course will be held at Berger's Smedie, Norre Aaby, Denmark.

There is access to a fully heated classroom with wide screen and projector and a fully equipped forge

with up to 10 coke and gas workstations.

If interested, contact Soren Millet at Viking Farriery Tools for further information. If you decide to attend come with an open inquiring mind and don't be afraid to ask questions or for guidance.

You can sign up for any of the sessions you want to attend so you can dip in and out as you please; however, although most sessions will be standalone there will inevitably be a build-up of knowledge session by session. The more you sign up for, the more cost-effective it will be!

Disclaimer

We can't be held responsible for changing dates, postponing or cancelling sessions due to unforeseen circumstances such as pandemics, plagues, famine, climate disaster or war!

Common trimming errors and possible consequences

Trimming error	Consequences
Long toe	<p>When the toe is left too long, the point of break-over is placed further in front of the coffin joint.</p> <p>This means that the lever arm of the coffin joint is increased. When the lever arm is increased the force needed to rotate the joint (and the hoof) also increases.</p> <p>The deep digital flexor tendon (DDFT) is the force that rotates the coffin joint and therefore the tension is increased on this tendon. In turn, the DDFT puts pressure on the navicular bone and related structures (eg. impar ligament, podotrochlear bursa) (Willemen et al 1999).</p> <p>In addition, the pressure on the dorsal laminae increases (especially on hard ground) with risk of tearing in the laminae of the dorsal hoof wall, as well as causing separation between the dermal and epidermal laminae (Moyer 1981)</p>
Long heel	<p>A long heel usually grows steep walls. The steep walls limit the expansion of the hoof capsule.</p> <p>The consequence of this limited expansion is that the frog and digital cushion do not descend into the hoof capsule and therefore do not participate in weight bearing. The shock normally absorbed by these structures will instead affect the joints in the distal limb.</p> <p>Since a relative long heel will create a broken forward HPA, there will be flexion of the coffin joint and hyperextension of the fetlock joint.</p> <p>The flexion of the coffin joint and the hyperextension of the fetlock joint means increased tension on the suspensory ligament and the superficial digital flexor tendon as these structures support the fetlock (Balch, 1995).</p>
Low heel	<p>The relative low heel causes the hoof pastern axis (HPA) to be broken back. It often starts with under-run or collapsed heels, sometimes because of a long toe or an over trimmed toe (pulling the shoes to hard back, weakening the dorsal hoof wall).</p> <p>The risk of low heel increases if the hoof is sloping. When the HPA is broken back the load on the back third of the hoof is increased. This means that the structures in this part of the hoof are stressed and that the pressure on the arteries in the hoof leads to nutrition failure, weakening the structures in the back part of the hoof (digital cushion, frog) leading to decreased shock absorption.</p> <p>Furthermore, the angle of the DDFT around the navicular bone creates increased stress on the bone and the tendon increasing the risk of navicular disease (Balch 1995).</p>
Lateromedial imbalance	<p>Horses do not load their hooves symmetrically, but exaggerated asymmetry in form of lateromedial imbalance can be caused by poor foot conformation or improper trimming, leaving one side of the hoof higher than the other or failure to create symmetry of the solar surface.</p> <p>Lack of symmetry causes one part of the hoof to carry more load than the other and causes the hoof to rotate during landing and weightbearing.</p> <p>When one side of the hoof carries more weight, the loading of the distal joints is uneven, creating increased concussion of the cartilage and bone on the side of the joint that carries more weight.</p> <p>On the opposite side the collateral ligaments of the joints are subjected to greater stress.</p> <p>Another consequence of lateromedial imbalance is shearing because of uneven loading on the lateral and medial side of the hoof.</p> <p>This creates tension between the lateral and medial structures in the hoof. When the shearing forces are high deformation of the hoof capsule will occur.</p> <p>If rotation is created in the leg all joints are subjected to torsion between the proximal and the distal bone in the joint as well as stretching of the ligaments around the joints (especially the collateral ligaments (Parks 2003).</p>

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New caudal support pad

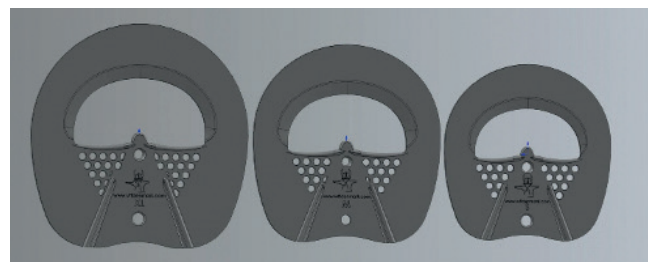
Henrik Berger uses his own design of welded-in inserts, which he says can be used with dental impression packing material to incorporate the whole of the caudal aspect of the foot, especially the internal bars.

The shore strength of the dental impression material used should be taken into account as these can range from soft to firm. Some of these products can become very firm in certain conditions and in these cases may cause pinching.

The strong point of these inserts are they are mechanically strong.

'For horses that need maximum support and protection due to lower solear mass, I have designed and produced a range of hoof pads. Again these come in a range of shore strengths from soft to firm and choice is based depending on situation and usage. These are used with pour-in pad material. Generally, I use mainly Glue-U Shu-Fill material, but they can also be used with dental impression material/Magic Cushion and so on. As you can see from the photographs, I have tested these products in a variety of ways.

New to this range are a new caudal support pad that can also be used with dental impression material or pour-in materials. These are based on the design of the weld-in inserts, but offer increased flexibility and weight reduction, which is perfect for lighter breeds of horses with caudal hoof pain, including cases of founder type 1 and navicular syndrome.



As well as an application to help in the treatment of equine foot pathologies, these pads can be used to add support, flotation and help restore foot function on the sport horse. They are made from a plastic polymer incorporating antimicrobial material, helping to maintain and promote hoof health, and have a two-year shelf life



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

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

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

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



flamefast

BESIDE THE FIRE, WITH

Neal Tredinnick DipWCF

Neal Tredinnick is an Essex-based training farrier who shod the gold medal winning horse Explosion for the Tokyo Olympics for rider Ben Maher. He also shod London 2012 gold medal winning horse Triple X.

Who influenced you and how?

When I very first qualified as a farrier, I worked with Richard Pay, a farrier who specialises in performance horse shoeing, particularly show jumpers. Richard inspired me and gave me the drive to educate myself and further my professional abilities to be the best I can be at my job. I learnt so much from him, which led onto me focusing on sports horse shoeing. I now work very closely with American vet Dr Alex Ray. His attention to detail is second to none and he has made me realise how the slightest difference in trimming, hoof balance and shoeing can make a drastic difference to the performance of my clients' horses. He has led me to understand that the more I know, the more I need to know!

Tell us about a typical day's work

I like to be up early and start my day as early as first light allows! I feel motivated and fresh first thing in the morning and I like to beat the local rush hour traffic. I take my time with my work – in a typical day I shoe six horses. I enjoy chatting to my clients over a cup of tea (maybe even a bacon roll), I communicate with them about their horses, talk about any issues they've had, any successes or areas of concern that I can assist with. I often discuss cases with clients vets, go over x-rays and watch my clients' horses walking and trotting up and down to gauge how the hooves are landing. I like to be home with my family once my three children are home from school, the evenings are normally spent watching my daughter ride before I start planning for the following day's work!

Tell us about your business interests.

My business is divided between working full time in the UK over the summer months and then over the winter I normally travel to America every month spending five to seven days shoeing there. Several of my British clients spend the winter over in the USA and I've been travelling there to shoe their horses for at least the past 10 years.

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

A few years ago when I was in America I was just about to leave the show in Wellington, Florida, to take my flight home and an English rider came frantically running over to me, he said that his horse was lame and that he had a vet inspection in an hour's time. He asked me if I could take a look at his horse and see if I could do anything to help. I met the rider's vet at the stables. He wanted aluminium bar shoes on the



horse with floated heels, pads all round and rolled toes. We quickly drove to the farrier supply shop, bought the necessary items, got back to the show and I shod the horse in the manner requested. The rider's vet watched the horse trot up and down, he was sound! They went straight to the vet inspection, passed the trot up and went onto to compete with success in the show. I also made it to the airport as they called for last boarding. That was stressful to say the least!

What was your proudest moment

I was at London 2012 Olympic Games when the British Team won Olympic Gold. Ben Maher was riding his own homebred horse Triple X, a horse I had shod for his entire competitive career. I did his first trim down to his last competitive set (for Canada, as he was later sold). After the competition at the Olympics had finished I was invited back with all of the team for the post games speeches and to view the medals. It was incredible and I would be lying if I said I didn't have a little tear! It was an experience I will never forget. In 2021, Ben Maher and Explosion W went to the Tokyo Olympic Games and won individual Gold. Due to covid we weren't allowed to travel with the team, I watched the games at Ben's home, along with his family and all of the team who were back in the UK. It was another incredible moment, not only in Ben's career but for mine too, and also for everyone else involved who made it happen. The whole team was cheering, crying, screaming, it was amazing.

What is your secret to a perfect fire weld?

A clean fire and a clean shoe.

What do you still want to achieve?

I would like to continue to grow my client base in the USA and also to be part of the team for the next Olympic Games in Paris, when hopefully Covid-19 won't prevent us from being there!

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

It would have to be Edgar Stern. I did my apprenticeship with the Stern family in Kent. Edgar was a very unique individual, they don't make them like him anymore. He was a fantastic chap and truly a one off. If I could spend a day with him now I'd like to thank him and his family for dedicating their time to train me which has given me a career that I love. I'd also like to tell him that my name is Neal and not the 'Essex Boy'!

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

My van! Definitely my van, I keep promising myself a new one!



Blacksmiths Guild enjoys a forge-in

The Blacksmiths Guild members enjoyed a weekend forge-in at Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm Park, near Amesbury in Wiltshire, at the beginning of October.

The main feature of the weekend was to continue work on the Hugh Adam's Memorial Garden Screen, with the aim of producing a first-class piece of forge work of which the Guild can be proud.

When completed, the screen will be on display at the Camelia Botnar Foundation's Garden Centre near Horsham in Sussex. Hugh Adams was a dedicated long-term supporter of this important charitable organisation, and the Guild is grateful that the screen will have a permanent home where it can be viewed and enjoyed by the public. Additionally, the screen has been designed to be portable so that it can be displayed at events around the country, starting next year.

Attendance to the forge-in was invitation-only and included Guild Members, infill makers, honoured guests and sponsors. The celebration dinner on the Saturday night included music provided by 'The Cohorts' band and the Guild's AGM was held on the Sunday morning.

As the venue is open to the public, the event was also a great opportunity for the Guild to demonstrate its members' skills and show the public what can be achieved by hitting hot metal! Visitors could have-a-go themselves under tuition.

A sales tent offered members the opportunity to advertise themselves and sell their wares.

Despite the challenges of getting fuel to allow travel, the Guild was delighted that Camelia Botnar Foundation's blacksmithing tutors Ben and Tim were able to attend the weekend, along a former student, Sadie Star, who is now studying for a bachelor of arts degree in Blacksmithing at Hereford College.

This outstanding young smith was the first recipient of the Guild's John Hall Presentation Hammers, which have been generously sponsored by the late John Hall's family. The hammers, of two different designs, were forged by Jake Hedge of Shropshire and include hot



www.blacksmithsguild.com



(clockwise from top left) A piece made for Hugh Adams' memorial screen made by Hector Cole; a dinner was held in the function room at Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm Park; alongside being Master of the Guild, Merv is also a member of The Cohorts band; Camelia Botnar blacksmith tutors Ben and Tim in their new forge, and a peony and Yorkshire cricketer rose made by Merv for Hugh's screen

stamped images on the two side faces; one being the Guild's lily and the other, John Hall's signature. The stamps have been sourced from Roger Hampson of Wiltshire. The Guild's thanks go to both these talented craftsmen.

Ahead of his retirement and move from Warminster, Wiltshire, to Wales guild member Bob Smith had gifted the Guild with numerous wrought iron bars. These were brought to forge-in to offer blacksmiths the chance to try their hand at forging a traditional material, which demands a change in technique from that used for mild steel.

With the UN Climate Change conference COP26 approaching, the Master, Merv Allen FWCB, reported that Committee members Jonathan de Wilton and Nick Peppit had joined the British Artist Blacksmiths Association's Future Fuels Group. This, he said, would offer involvement in discussions relating to the most important subject faced by the craft.

He said: 'It is no exaggeration to say that our lives and that of the planet depend on decisions taken by organisations and ultimately world governments, now.'

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Mort, Firebird Forge

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

Adrian, Bringsty Forge



MEDIATION SERVICE FOR BFBA MEMBERS

It's not the horses, it's the people

By Diane Harvey

Farriers are respected professional horse specialists. Working with the horses' owners can be the bigger challenge! My farrier, John, used to say 'The horses aren't the problem it's their owners'. Thinking about it again now – I wonder if he meant me...surely not!

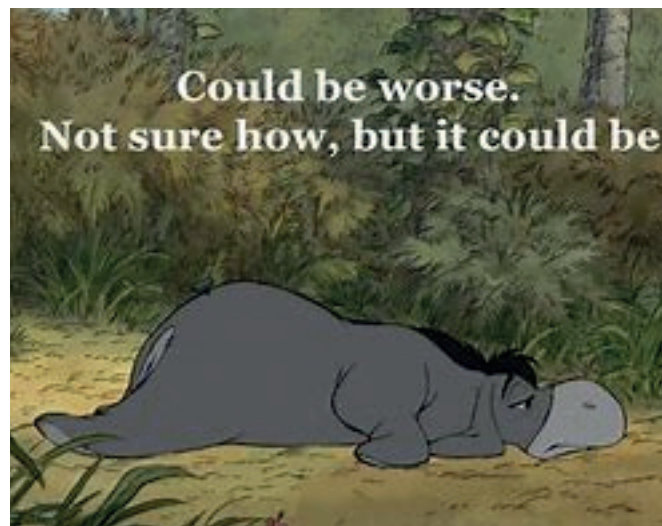
If you find yourself in a disagreement or dispute with a client, governing body, colleague or spouse, going to mediation could resolve the issue quickly and cost effectively for both sides.

Perhaps you find yourself in a dispute with a client over their non- payment of a bill, or feel that they are risking your safety by leaving you with unhandled horses. There are many potential triggers for disputes and there are several options open to you to resolve them:

- 1) Walk away and lose the income/reputational damage and accept the loss.
- 2) Consult a solicitor and take the client to court (possibly waiting up to three years for court time and paying legal fees in the interim, with no guarantee the court will find in your favour).
- 3) Suggest to the horse owner that you use mediation to reach an agreement so you can resolve the issue. Mediated resolution can even allow the working relationship to continue, should you both wish it to.
- 4) Send the boys round...which may be tempting but is never the answer!

What is Mediation?

Mediation is not where you slow your breathing and sit cross-legged on the floor. That's meditation (which is also good for reducing stress levels).



Instead, mediation is where an impartial professional mediator is appointed by individuals who have a dispute to resolve. The mediation route is voluntary, quick to set up, economical and allows both parties to stay in control of the process and the outcome, in contrast to hoping a Judge will find in your favour on the day.

So, what will a mediator do?

First let's set out what the mediator doesn't do.

The mediator is not a judge, debt collector, legal advisor, or able to wave a magic wand to make it all go away. What the mediator will do is provide an environment (virtually or in person) where F and C can sit down with the mediator, individually and, if they wish, together, to talk through the

Venn Mediation UK – BFBA Membership Benefit Provider

Venn Mediation UK has specific horse-related experience and expertise that can be a huge help in understanding and resolving disputes within the equine sector. Di Harvey and Nikki von Bulow have been involved with horses (and horse people) all their lives so they know the industry (both professional and leisure) well. Nikki played polo and Di has worked in racing, bloodstock, dressage, The Pony Club, prep yards, riding schools and run her own livery yard. She is also a listed dressage judge and trainer. Di specialises in equine related disputes while Nikki is our workplace mediator helping co-workers, employees and their managers and business owners resolve grievances and disagreements at work.

Venn Mediation is delighted to offer a free half hour initial mediation consultation to BFBA members and a 10% discount on the subsequent mediation. Please mention the BFBA and provide your BFBA membership number in your initial contact with us to arrange your free consultation.

For more information, please visit <https://venn-mediation.co.uk/>

or call 0781 327 6642 or email diane.g.harvey@gmail.com or Nikki von Bulow on 07773 004734 nvb@btconnect.com to discuss how we might help.



issues, impacts and what they want to happen. The mediator listens and questions to draw out the key points and common ground that will likely lead to a solution that both F and C can live with. Neither F or C will 'win', but neither of them will 'lose' either.

At the end of the mediation, both F and C can move on. On average 85% of mediations result in agreement being reached.

Here's an example of a mediation experience

Farrier (F) was asked to shoe five horses for a new client (C). He did so, but the bank transfer promised by C has still not happened six weeks later. The amount involved (let's say £400) would be considered by a small claims court if the legal route were taken. (Legal costs could soon outweigh the value of the debt).

F has phoned C who swears the transfer was made two weeks before.

F is losing patience and C is offended by their honesty being called into question.

C is now also claiming that the horses were poorly shod with shoes having been cast soon after.

F feels upset by an unfair accusation that could have an impact on his professional reputation.

F and C agree they want this sorted out quickly and have decided to go to mediation.



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Need to register for VAT?

By Philip Needham BA FCA, a director at Hornbeam Accountancy Services in Norwich

I am told there is much talk in the industry along the following lines... 'Fred Farrier is claiming he often shoes 10 horses a day, and yet he isn't registered for VAT, how can that be?'

The first thing is to do the maths. From Fred's website we find he charges £80 per horse, so if Fred works six days a week for 50 weeks of the year as he claims, his gross income will be:

- £80 per horse x 10 horses per day x six days per week x 50 weeks/year = £240,000 per year.

This is nearly 3 x the VAT registration limit.

But as we all know there are probably no figures in that calculation that are true.

- Not all appointments are for four shoes – let's say the average value per horse is £60
- Very few days will offer 10 horses at one location, most days have travelling time between appointments and such like, let's say six horses a day is more typical.
- Fred rarely works six days a week in reality let's put it back to five.
- Fred likes to have two or three foreign holidays a year and a long break at Christmas. Let's say 44 weeks per year working.

Now the calculation is:

- £60 per horse x six horses per day x five days per week x 44 weeks per year = £79,200 which is in fact just below the VAT registration limit of £85,000 per year.

So it is conceivable that Fred is nothing like as hard working as he pretends, and that in fact he does not have to be VAT registered, and if HMRC look at his records this is what they will show.

But when an experienced inspector is sent to investigate Fred's records he finds that over a threemonth period there are nearly 130 appointments, from which no income is recorded. A bit of simple research shows that Fred is in fact the only farrier used by most of these horse owners and while the inspector is willing to accept 30 cancellations, he feels he has found:

- 100 x £60 = £6000 of missing income in that quarter. He will assume that equates to £24,000 of undeclared income in that year.

Fred is wondering how serious this is?

The fact is, he has broken a number of laws, including Fraudulent Evasion of VAT, which carries a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine. Almost certainly his income tax return will have been prepared from the same records that demonstrated he was under the VAT limit, so there is also Fraudulent Evasion of Income Tax, which also carries a maximum sentence of seven years and an unlimited fine.

And while HMRC mostly just seeks tax and civil penalties as restitution, it does make an effort to convict and imprison a few transgressors each year. So, what can Fred expect if he is not prosecuted?

Although the HMRC can look back 20 years where fraud

is demonstrated, more probably for VAT it will look back six years (which is the limit for negligent behaviour) as that way it doesn't have to prove fraud.

If Fred got away with four years (the limit for careless behaviour) he would be a very lucky man indeed.

So assuming the inspector settles for six years, he or she is likely to ask for the following:

The £79,200 originally declared +£24,000 = £103,200, which is well into the realms of VAT. The inspector allows for some VATable costs, but concludes that gross Value Added is £90,000. VAT is £15,000 because it is 20% of the net figure – one-sixth of the £90,000. As the inspector thinks that deliberate understatement of income to avoid VAT registration is serious, he might well seek a penalty of 50% or more (he could impose a penalty of up to 100% if he deems Fred is uncooperative). When late payment interest is added, the overall cost might easily work out at £24,000 per annum, every penny of that undisclosed cash income over six years, which equates to £144,000 for tax and penalties.

Just when Fred thought it couldn't get any worse, let us not forget that £24,000 per year of undeclared income is subject to income tax. While the inspector may let it go, he will know that the VAT penalty is not an allowable expense, so even if he was inclined to reduce the annual profit increase from £24,000 by £15,000 (VAT) to £9,000 per year, with tax at 40% and penalties at 50% of that, this results in a further assessment of £5,400 per year pushing Fred well past 100% of the income he suppressed.

The VAT registration limit is a problem for farriers. Income levels tend to be close to VAT registration limits and to register for VAT is to take a substantial and ongoing knock to take-home pay.

Of course, there is no law against turning work down and for many people it can make more sense to do that than to fall into VAT registration. But all too often the temptation is to suppress cash income as Fred has done.

Beside being illegal and extremely risky as shown above, there is also a moral and economic objection. While honest farriers pay taxes that contribute to the roads they use, the schools for their kids, hospitals, and security of person for the whole family, Fred gets all these services by cheating.

It is also a criminal offence to assist someone to avoiding tax. Farriers can help close down dishonest competition by encouraging horse owners to pay for their services by bank transfer to avoid any possibility of being accused of this offence.

Finally, accountants and other professionals have an obligation and a mechanism for reporting suspected Tax Evasion. HMRC take these reports seriously and many investigations are opened as a result of tip-offs.

Fred, incidentally, is a fictional character, so no tip-off was needed.

Anyone wishing to discuss tax planning may email phil@hornbeam-accountancy.co.uk

Responding to the call for volunteers to support welfare work

The British Horse Society invites farrier volunteers to support its healthcare and education clinics, which aim to improve welfare through education. The clinics also help to avoid the need for rescuing horses and taking them into care.

The British Horse Society (BHS) has recently held three clinics – in Clitheroe, Lancashire; Ashford, Kent and Newport, South Wales – and the Society's Vice-Patron, HRH The Princess Royal visited the Ashford event.

These clinics provide a great opportunity to offer education, advice, and support on a huge range of issues and allow BHS experts to engage with and build lasting relationships with people in local communities, many of whom would previously not have communicated with authorities or equine charities.

They are run by the BHS in collaboration with the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) Trust and are supported by farriers, animal health company Zoetis and other equine charities.

Clinics offer horse owners general health checks, castration, hoof care, worming and dentistry at a reduced cost. These are not open events and, to create the largest impact, support is targeted in welfare hotspots around the UK. The BHS Welfare team offer education, advice, and support on a huge range of issues, including ensuring horse owners are compliant with equine identification legislation by offering a passport and microchip service.

Gemma Stanford, Director of Welfare, said: 'We are thrilled that our Vice-Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, could join us at this Healthcare Clinic to see first-hand how we are able to support horse owners...All horses received a health check on the day, with many of them having never been seen by a



vet before. The BHS believes prevention is better than cure and we promote horse welfare by educating, advising, and supporting horse owners and carers, to prevent welfare issues.'

Farriery is provided when necessary possible to do so. Farrier Phillip Rigolli DipWCF attended the Ashford clinic and Nigel Brown AWCF attended the Newport clinic. They help to make a real, practical difference for horses identified to be in need.

Further support was provided by Zoetis who provided all the wormer advice, BHS Welfare Advisers, Bransby, Redwings, The Blue Cross, The Donkey Sanctuary, RSPCA, World Horse Welfare.

More information about the clinics can be found by visiting: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/.../healthcare-and-education-clinics>

Higher exams achieved

The following farriers achieved a pass in Associateship of the Worshipful Company of Farriers in exams taken in October 2021:

Mr Andrew Cooling AWCF of Chesterfield
Mr Christopher Greenwood AWCF of Chesterfield
Mr Matthew Fedrick AWCF of Berkshire
Mr Mitchell Norton AWCF of Somerset
Mr Matthew Seabourne AWCF of Berkshire



Congratulations!

In the November issue of *Forge Knowledge*

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

Toe cracks versus quarter cracks

By Stephen Britten AWCF

The success of any hoof crack repair relies on a good understanding of the mechanics of the hoof capsule. Here, Stephen Britten describes how this knowledge informs his differing approaches to repairing toe cracks and quarter cracks.

Performance flip flops

By Curtis Burns, APF

For those that are unfamiliar, flip flops (historically referred to as flappers on the racetrack) are pads designed to simulate the

benefits of being barefoot while providing protection for the hoof capsule. By attaching to the front half of the shoe, they offer natural expansion and contraction of heel, making them a preferred shoeing option for a wide array of horses. Product innovation and greater availability mean that flip flops are no longer an option only for warmblood performance horses and racehorses. Instead, as Curtis Burns explains, flip flops can help a variety of horses – the key is understanding how they work, which horses they are suitable for and how to apply and maintain them.



Ambassadors sought for Strangles Awareness Week 2022

Strangles Awareness Week is set to return in 2022, following this year's successful campaign that reached more than two million people across the world.

Over 180 ambassadors – including equine professionals, equestrians, livery yards and riding centres – shared messages about strangles through social media to raise awareness among horse owners of the world's most-commonly diagnosed infectious equine disease.

For the first time, international equine and veterinary organisations in Sweden, the Netherlands, and Australia also supported the campaign. In all, more than 310,000 people were reached online, while a further 2.5 million readers received information through articles in equine and veterinary publications.

Organisers are now encouraging even more people from across the equine community to show their interest in becoming Ambassadors ready for next year's campaign, which will take place from 2 to 8 May 2022.

Ambassadors will receive exclusive Strangles Awareness Week content for their social media channels, as well as guidance on how to share their own experiences of the disease and encourage others to speak up too.

Strangles Awareness Week began in 2020 and is a unique collaborative effort between the British Horse Society, Intervacc, Keeping Britain's Horses Healthy, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Scotland's Rural College's Premium Assured Strangles Scheme, Surveillance of Equine Strangles and World Horse Welfare, who brought together their expertise of caring for horses with strangles, supporting those coping with outbreaks or research into the disease.

Andie McPherson, Redwings' Campaigns Manager, said: 'One in three Ambassadors from this year's campaign commented that they had never or rarely posted about strangles on their social media pages prior to the Week, so it gave them a platform to proactively raise the topic with their followers and clients



**STRANGLES
AWARENESS
WEEK**
2-8 MAY 2022

and start constructive conversations around the disease's prevention and management.'

It is hoped that next year's Strangles Awareness Week will provide an opportunity for livery yards, equine education facilities and vet practices to host events, such as client evenings, talks and demonstrations, as well as raising awareness online. Ambassadors will be supported with activity suggestions, editable presentations and promotional materials to help them advertise their events, with more details to be released nearer the time.

Anyone wishing to sign-up as an Ambassador for Strangles Awareness Week 2022 and be kept up-to-date with the latest news from the campaign can email campaigns@redwings.co.uk

Have your say

LETTERS

Farrier's wife expresses views about CPD in a letter to the FRC

A farrier's wife wrote to the Farriers Registration Council (FRC) and asked BFBA to reproduce it in the Forge.

I write with regard to the article published in the Farriers Registration Council (FRC) *Bulletin*, June 2021, Issue 140, p3, entitled 'The Farriery Profession and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - Next Steps'.

As the wife of a farrier who has quietly dedicated his life to his profession for 42 years, I asked the FRC whatever happened to grandfather's rights? I seriously question the necessity to 'evolve CPD'. The scheme in its present format would slowly have evolved into being a scheme that is inclusive of all Registered Farriers.

Farriers like my husband may not have qualifications, however, they are an integral part of the profession regulated by the FRC.

I have watched my husband with young farriers, they are spellbound. I have seen him at work, it is truly magical to watch a horse relax in his large confident hands.

I asked the Council to think carefully before these changes are made,

because I feel it is in danger of losing an incredible knowledge base before its time.

Furthermore, the summary to the article 'the public expect it...and the horse deserves it... is ignorant and insulting, in my opinion.

I am long enough in the tooth to remember a time when the *Bulletin* was simply printed on A4 sheets of paper. Even then money was wasted because no-one showed enough initiative to fold them so they would fit into a DL size envelope.

In recent years, it has become a glossy A4 magazine. At one point the magazine was almost 50% pictures and some one had taken the time to create a crossword. Furious, I wrote to the FRC as I felt the money they were wasting on this kind of extravagance had been earned by men and women working in conditions of extreme weather and filth they could not even contemplate!

The *Bulletin's* June edition carried a page-and-a-half dedicated to an interview with Mr Gardner. Farriers are paying for the time it takes for someone to think of the questions that have been asked of Mr Gardner, as well

as the ink and the paper this article has been written on, the A4 envelope and the large stamp that has become unavoidable.

I fully recognise the necessity for the FRC, however, my concern is raised when I hear that the FRC want to align themselves with other regulatory bodies. The profession of farriery is unique! A farrier working today works much as farriers worked decades ago.

Working conditions have changed little and the profession cannot be mechanised, made easier or cleaner. I cannot think of another 'profession' that endures the filth and weather extremes that these men and women endure. The FRC could better spend its time celebrating its uniqueness and identifying ways in which it could support this 'unique' and 'dedicated' profession. It is my belief the attitude towards the men and woman who are legally obliged to pay for the FRC is overbearing and undermining.

Farriers - men and woman - are tired at the end of the day, so hopefully I write on their behalf.

Mrs Arthur Brown
Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire

BFBA response

The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association expects all farriers to participate in continuing professional development.

Achieving the Diploma is the entry level qualification to our profession. Having achieved foundation knowledge, keeping our skills up to date ensures we continue to be competent. Continuing professional development (CPD) is a career-long process that helps to advance the body of knowledge and technology within the entire profession.

Well-crafted and delivered CPD benefits individual farriers, our profession, the horse and the public. Being aware of changing trends helps everyone to make a meaningful contribution and helps us stay interested and interesting. Experience is good, but it can mean that we tend to do what we have done before. Focusing our learning opens new possibilities and new skills.

CPD activities need to include a mixture of different types of learning. All farriers, we need to review and reflect on our learning and record the types of learning we have achieved. The range of CPD opportunities is wide. Here are some examples:

- Learning by doing/learning from colleagues
- Case studies
- Assisting a more experienced colleague or a vet

- Reading farriery and business-related articles
- Reflective practice
- Discussions with colleagues
- Carrying out farriery research
- Mentoring
- Supervising/teaching
- Involvement in wider, profession-related work (for example, being a representative on a committee)
- Learning about new techniques and technologies
- Learning from mistakes

As can be seen above, there are many ways in which farriers can achieve CPD points, and gaining CPD should be engaging and fun too.

BFBA is a leading CPD provider, as demonstrated by our Focus event, which took place over the last weekend in October. It offered many opportunities to gain a blend of learning opportunities. Our aim is to grow our CPD offering to benefit all farriers and our members will benefit from discounts on future courses and events.



Further information about CPD required by the Farriers Registration Council can be found at <https://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk/continuing-professional-development>

Making an impression

I recently attended a shoeing competition as an observer.

It was a good day – the standard of work presented was high and I could see the effort the organisers had put in to give the competitors a good experience and to provide the audience with a commentary.

However, when it came to the prizegiving, which took place at least an hour after the finish of the last round, most if not all of the competitors looked dishevelled. I don't think it would be much to ask them to wash – at least the bits on show – to put on a clean shirt and remove any hats when receiving a prize.

If we are to attract any sponsors and keep the ones we've got we need to be

a bit more observant of our image and others perception of it.

Robin May AWCF
Wokingham, Berkshire

DISCLAIMER

Forge welcomes letters for publication. They may be edited for clarity, legal reasons, length, etc, at the editor's discretion. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Forge, the BFBA, its staff or its advertisers.



STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY SHOW, 25-26 AUGUST,

FARRIER COMPETITION RESULTS

Class 1. Open Roadster Shoeing

- 1 Ryan McDonald
- 2 Chris Hole
- 3 Phillip Martin
- 4 Mark Watson
- 5 Josh Nunn
- 6 Sam Rust

Class 2. Open Cob Shoeing

- 1 Chris Hole
- 2 Ryan McDonald
- 3 Danny Bennett
- 4 Mark Watson
- 5 Wayne Balfour
- 6 George Eastwood

Class 2. Restricted Cob Shoeing

- 1 Sam Rust
- 2 James Hardy
- 3 Oliver Brookes
- 4 William Badlan
- 5 Daniel Garlick
- 6 Emily Hockney

Class 3. Open Shoemaking

- 1 Ryan McDonald
- 2 William Badlan
- 3 Phillip Martin
- 4 Grant Moon
- 5 Danny Bennett
- 6 Josh Nunn

Class 4. Apprentice Shoemaking

- 1st / 2nd Year
- 1 Joe Buckley
- 2 Harrison Jones
- 3 Miles Horton
- 4 Harry Fairlie
- 5 Joseph Lower
- 6 Harrison Willats

Class 5. Apprentice Shoemaking

- 3rd / 4th Year
- 1 George Eastwood
- 2 George Dey
- 3 James Hardy
- 4 Joe Buckley
- 5 Harry Fairlie
- 6 Harrison Willats

Vic Bailey Memorial Trophy

Chris Hole

Horseshoe & Farrier Supplies

Apprentice Challenge Trophy

Harrison Jones

Staffordshire Show Champion

The Iceman Trophy

Ryan McDonald

Blinkin' 'Ell: Stevie Fisher's Roughest Ride

Stevie Fisher
(author), *Brough Scott* (editor)

Blinkin' 'Ell is both a celebration of life and a cautionary tale. It is a raw, boisterous, untutored, unghosted scrapbook of memories from a man whose world seemed to have ended in August 2014 when a massive stroke left him permanently incapacitated with only his left eyelid for communication. It tells of how, once he found his niche as a champion farrier, Stevie Fisher burned the candle at both ends, in the saddle, at the races, or at many another jape on his countryman's horizon. The addictive wonder is not just that Stevie has, blink by blink, letter by letter, brought us these stories of his old great times and of his present grotesquely bad, but that he has done so with all the over-the-top verve of the cheering, galloping figure whose pictures on the wall contrast so vividly with the shrivelled Stephen Hawking body on the bed. Stevie Fisher took a lot out of life. Read Blinkin' 'Ell and be amazed and uplifted by how much he still has.



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Dimensions 222 x 144 mm · £16.99

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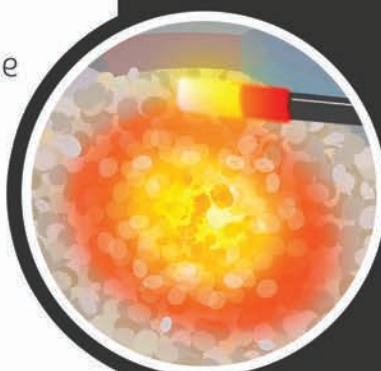
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	22 x 10	2 - 4
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	22 x 10	2 - 4
	22 x 10	2 - 4



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Hoof pad with Zinc Oxide
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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

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