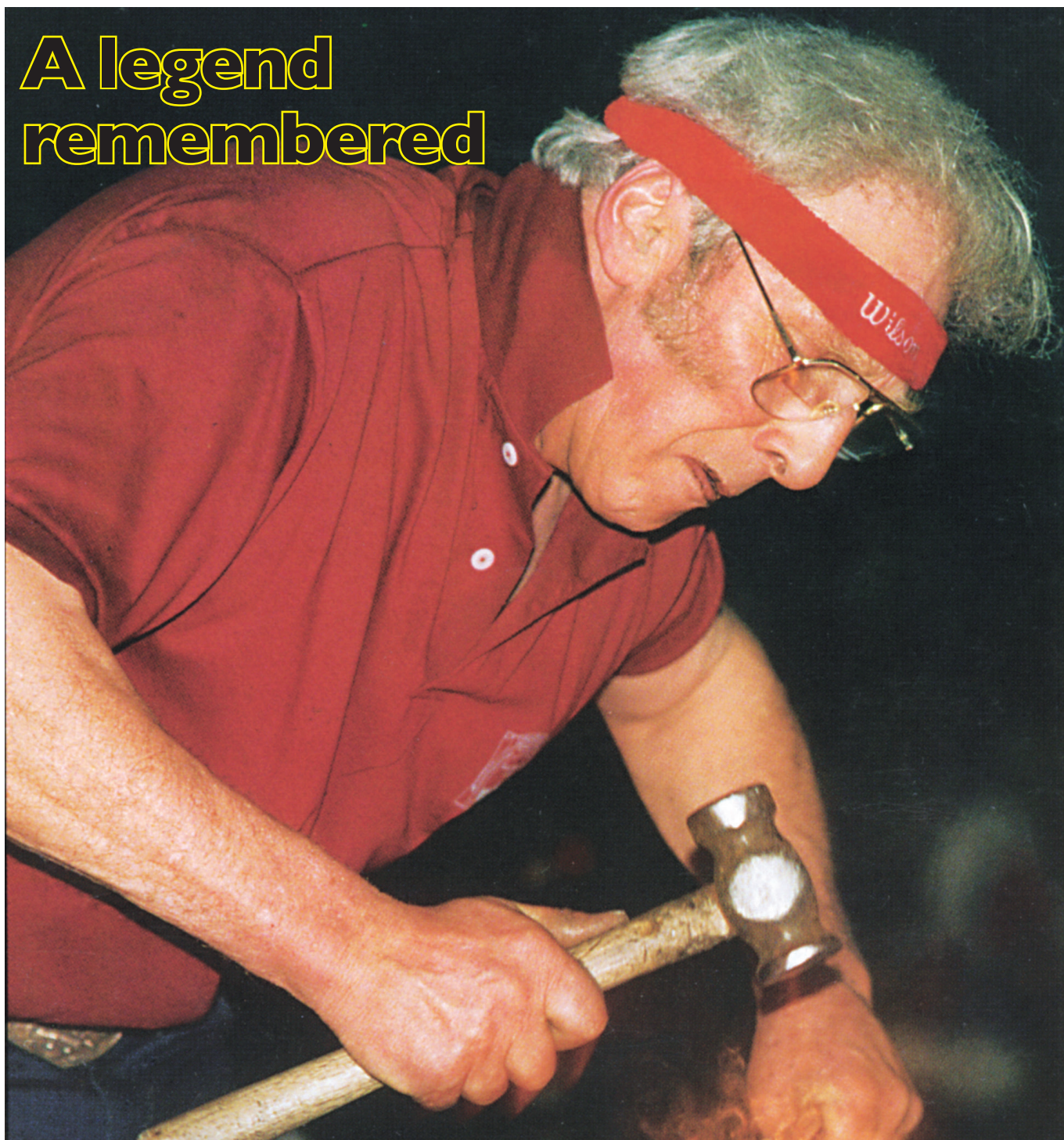




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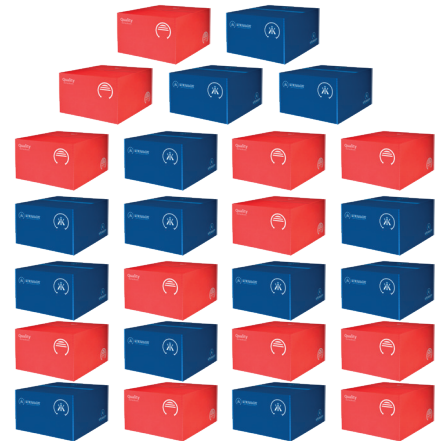
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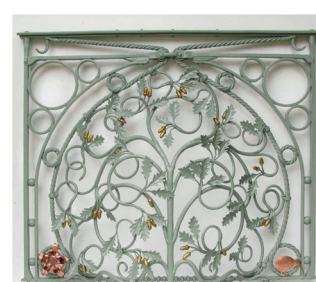
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The May 2022 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains two articles:

- **Relationships between conformation, hoof morphology and lameness**

By Mark Aikens DipWCF, FdSc, BSc(Hons)

- **Unstable hooves, dysfunctional feet**

By Andrew Poynton FWCF



### Worshipful Company of Farriers

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

### Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

Clerk: Jill Moffatt, 9 Little Trinity Lane, London EC4V 2AD

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President, John Ravanelli (EDHV Germany)

Vice-President, Peter Kristiansen (DMFA Denmark)

Secretary, Chris Linssner AWCF

[www.eurofarrier.org](http://www.eurofarrier.org)

### Farriers appointed to FRC Council

Farriers elected to FRC Council (three-year appointment)

Tom Smith, FWCF, GradDipELR,

Chair of the Council

Toby B. Daniels, DipHE, DipWCF

Derek T. Gardner AWCF

### BFBA farrier on FRC council

Simon Moore FWCF

### WCF farrier on FRC Council

Robin P. May AWCF

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

# President's address

As my second term as President comes to a close, it is time to vote on a new leader to take our association forward. It is your right as a member to vote in the new officers at the AGM. The AGM takes place this month in its new hybrid format and I look forward to seeing some of you in person and others who will join us online.

Moving on is also a time to reflect. The past two years were blighted by Covid-19, but the pandemic did give the Executive Committee an opportunity to stop and think – it was a chance to examine the role of the association and concentrate on some key pieces we felt we needed to deliver for our members. As a result, the things we put in place are now coming to fruition – our new AWCF course, our new website, our new National Secretary and our use of social media.

As a group of volunteers, we are a dedicated team. We work tirelessly for farriers and blacksmiths and to promote our crafts and nothing sums that up more than at Focus. I have to say one of the stand-out moments of my Presidency was Focus last year when the event that had been cancelled, but came back with a bang after Covid restrictions were relaxed and all parts of the industry supported us. Our Membership Secretary Holly Flack, Gill Harris and Claire Brown all worked tirelessly to organise our thoughts and ideas on Focus into the wonderful weekend it was. The team including the Executive, Farriery Craft Committee and the Purple Army all worked flat out to make the event so special and I will be always be grateful.

I would like to welcome our new National Secretary Claire Jones. Claire joins Holly Flack in a busy office and they are our first point of contact for our members sometimes in stressful and difficult circumstances. The office do a great job for all of us and I'd also like to acknowledge their support and many others, without whom we could not achieve what we do.



Claire Brown and Holly have spent many hours with our website developer to launch our new website **[www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk](http://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk)**. Believe me, it's been a mammoth job. The Forge & Farrier website is now owned by the BFBA. It incorporates the very best of the original site, but has an updated and improved design, enhanced mobile compatibility and a wealth of educational resources for members. It's digital content alone will be a great benefit for members to help with CPD requirements.

Our AWCF course was launched last month. We were delighted to welcome 19 farriers to BFBA HQ on 23 April for the initial assessment day with tutors Danny Bennett and Dean Bland.

Developing the new course began with discussions between Danny and Dean, Ben Benson and myself. We wanted our course to be inclusive, while recognising that not every participant would be at the same learning

stage. Our discussions led to the development of two learning routes to provide a bespoke course and an enjoyable and interesting experience.

Following the retirement of Linda Quinn from Myerscough College, I have now joined the Farriery Department in a full-time role as Assistant Head of Farriery. I plan to keep my hand in and will still do a bit of shoeing too.

Good luck to all apprentices who are taking their Diploma examination this month. Take a look at the Dip tips that we have on Facebook. There is some very good advice.

Although in many ways, life is returning to normal, Covid-19 has been a challenge and will continue to affect our lives. We may be learning to live with it, but it hasn't gone away. And it won't. Hands, face, space should remain everyone's mantra.

**Craig D'Arcy, BFBA President**



# FOCUS

**Our 2022 BFBA Focus event will  
take place at Stoneleigh,  
on 29 and 30 October  
alongside the International Team Competiton**





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# BFBA education *New*

## Continuing professional development

*The BFBA fully endorses lifelong learning – it is the key to a progressive industry – and it is how you stay relevant, adapt and keep one step ahead. Continuing professional development (CPD) boosts your confidence and reinforces your professional credibility.*

CPD was formally introduced to farriery in 2008. In 2014, it became mandatory for ATFs and all newly Registered Farriers from January 2016. In 2023, CPD will become mandatory for all Registered Farriers. ATFs are required to attend one of the annual educational training courses provided by the farriery colleges. CPD activities should be undertaken in the areas of knowledge, skills and behaviours.

Fitting CPD around your working day and your personal life doesn't have to be a challenge, as CPD encompasses a broad range of activities. The FRC recognises both formal activities (studying for higher qualifications) and informal activities (webinars, reading and listening to podcasts). Whilst some incur a financial investment there are many activities that you can undertake that are free of charge.

### BFBA CPD

CPD activities organised and recognised by the BFBA carry the BFBA CPD stamp. Those successfully completing a BFBA training course will receive an email that will include a certificate to verify their attendance and a 'virtual badge'.

The badge is designed to be compatible for use on social media and business websites and within e-newsletters. It is a great way of demonstrating to both your clients and the general horse-owning public the commitment you have made to lifelong education and enhancing your skills and knowledge.

### CPD Committee

The newly CPD Committee meet in-person and online throughout the year to brainstorm ideas and educational activities provided by the BFBA.

Committee members include: Ben Benson AWCF, Danny Bennett AWCF Class 1, Wayne Preece FWCF, Abby Bunyard AWCF, Phoebe Colton, Gill Harris, Claire Brown and Holly Flack.

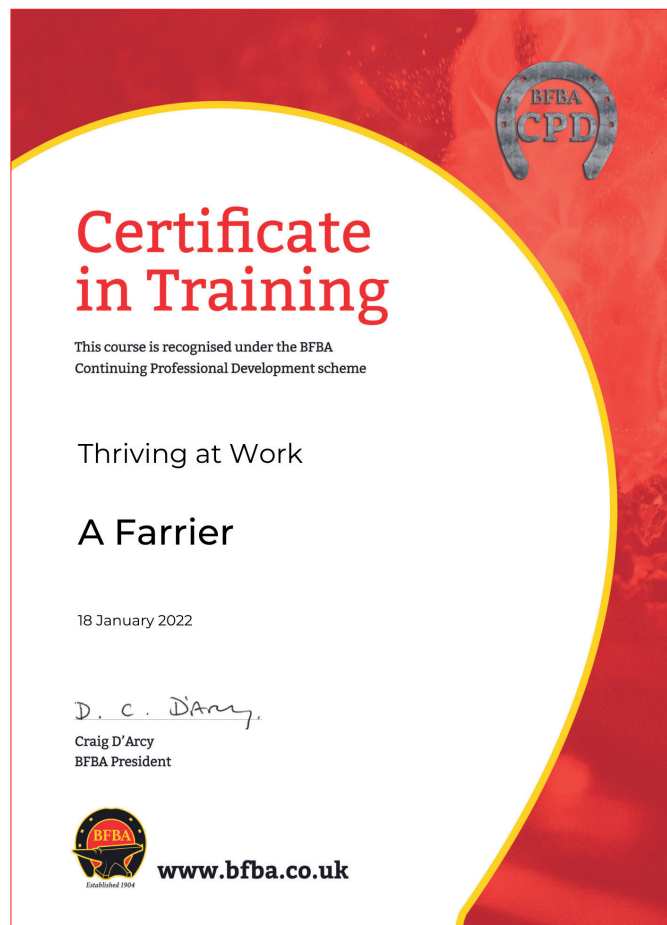
### We want your suggestions!

If you have a suggestion for a course or lecture, are looking for CPD inspiration or have a query regarding any educational activities or content please contact Holly Flack on [membership@bfba.co.uk](mailto:membership@bfba.co.uk) or call Head Office on 024 76 696595.

The new BFBA Forge & Farrier website includes a Members' area, which hosts an evolving number of articles and videos that are free-to-access for all BFBA members, covering a wide variety of subjects. This is one of the many ways in which the BFBA supports and enables our members throughout their career.



CPD activities organised and recognised by the BFBA will carry the BFBA CPD stamp. Those successfully completing a BFBA training course will receive an email that will include a certificate (see below) to verify their attendance and a 'virtual badge' like the one on the left.







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# BFBA launches new website, with a wealth of educational resources

The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (BFBA) are delighted to announce the launch of its brand new website.

The internationally recognised Forge & Farrier website, now owned by the BFBA, incorporates the very best of the original site, but has an updated and improved design, enhanced mobile compatibility and a wealth of educational resources for members.

The Events Calendar is the most comprehensive record of future and past events for farriers, apprentices and blacksmiths.

Are you searching for your next apprentice? Are you an apprentice looking for an ATF? Are you selling a vehicle or getting rid of unwanted stock?

All farriers and apprentices can place a Classifieds advert FREE OF CHARGE. These are also shared on our social media pages.

[www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk](http://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk)

[www.bfba.co.uk](http://www.bfba.co.uk)

## LOGIN >

BFBA members can access the Member' Area, which includes an evolving resource, rich in educational videos and articles. CPD at your fingertips!

Access the members area by using your webcollect email address and BFBA membership number.

😊 For your interest and ease, the videos and all articles published in Forge Knowledge can be searched by author and/or keyword.

You can also read the American Farrier Association's No Foot No Horse and access resources specifically for members.

**Don't miss an update! Follow us at**



Having trouble logging in to the Members Area? Call BFBA Head Office on 024 76 696595 or email [headoffice@bfba.co.uk](mailto:headoffice@bfba.co.uk)

## Bespoke Pilates for Farriers

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The course has been designed with farriers in mind, with a focus on mobility and stability of the lower back and hips.

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For further information, and testimonials, please go to [www.pilateswithjo.com](http://www.pilateswithjo.com).

**To register your interest, to book a course or to ask any questions, please call Jo on 07815046005.**

**Did you know?...that taking instruction and mastering the correct technique for pilates when taught by a qualified and competent instructor could be deemed maintaining your 'fitness for role' and would therefore amount to learning and may form part of your CPD activities. Please note that the subsequent repetition (practice of pilates thereafter) would not.**



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## 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.

## SPECIALIST HORSESHOES

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# New National Secretary

Claire Jones recently joined the BFBA in her new position as National Secretary, providing administrative and membership support throughout the association. With good organisational skills and experience in office administration and marketing, she also understands first-hand the challenges of running a business.

'I'm very excited to be working for the BFBA and supporting its members and the Executive Committee. I've only been here a short while, but have already learnt so much

about the industry and have huge admiration for farriers and the work they do. I feel very lucky to be based at Stoneleigh and I'm particularly looking forward to seeing the forge in action!'

Claire can be contacted by email: [admin@bfba.co.uk](mailto:admin@bfba.co.uk) and phone 024 7669 6595.



## BFBA's new AWCF course begins

*In the March issue of Forge we launched a brand new BFBA course to support farriers wanting to achieve the Worshipful Company of Farriers Associate Examination (AWCF).*

A 'Diagnostic Day' took place on 23 April at BFBA's headquarters at the Forge, Stoneleigh, which gave the tutors an opportunity to assess the candidates and advise them on which of the two routes would suit them best in order to complete the AWCF examination.

19 participants have signed up for the course and attended the first session.

- 'Route 1' supports candidates to prepare through participation within a 10-module, level 4/5 course delivered over 12 months, completing the AWCF examination in two parts over a 1-year period.
- 'Route 2' supports candidates to 'Step Up' to the AWCF exam preparation course through participation in a 5-module, level 3 course delivered over six months, before proceeding to then complete the AWCF Examination in two parts through participation within the 10 module, level 4/5 course.

The BFBA AWCF course tutors are **Danny Bennett** AWCF, CertEd, A1 Assessor and **Dean Bland** BA(Hons) DipWCF(Hons) GradDipELR Dip.Ed MAFA.

For an in-depth breakdown of the course structure, to ask any questions and to book, please contact BFBA Head Office on 024 76 696595 or email Holly on [membership@bfba.co.uk](mailto:membership@bfba.co.uk)



**Hampshire farrier Alex Prentice DipWCF was one of the group who attended the first session. He said:** 'I was apprehensive about attending the AWCF diagnostic day having qualified 17 years ago. But we had been given revision notes beforehand by the examiners for the day and I made sure I was as up to speed as I could be. On the day, I was still nervous about answering the exam style questions as well as the practical assessment, but all went well. I have wanted to take the associate exam for a long time, but life always seemed to get in the way. I am really looking forward to learning again and gaining a greater understanding of the reasons why we shoe in the style we do and the way this affects remedial shoeing.'

## Our AGM takes place this month

**As the coronavirus pandemic restrictions have been lifted, we have been able to invite members to attend the BFBA AGM on 21 May 2022 in person. Invitations were sent to members by email in early April, with a request that they register their attendance by 21 April.**

It is always great to see members face to face, however, we also appreciate the convenience of being able to attend

meetings online and it is for this reason that our AGM will be a 'hybrid' event, so our members can choose how they attend.

BFBA members must pre-register to attend and/or receive the link to access the meeting, and vote. The AGM will begin at 10 am and should take approximately two hours. Attendees last year found the experience a positive one and enjoyed taking an active role in shaping the future of the association.





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# Standing with the people of Ukraine

*The BFBA Executive Committee, like many others across the world, is shocked by the situation in Ukraine.*

This shortened link will take you to BFBA's JustGiving page  
<https://bit.ly/3rCu8VH>

We would like to support the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. DEC – the Disasters Emergency Committee – brings together 15 UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas. Donations to the DEC appeal will be match funded by the UK Government up to £20 million. To read further about their work visit their website at <https://www.dec.org.uk/>

## How you can help?

- Shoe (or trim) a horse, pony or donkey
- Instead of invoicing in the usual way, ask the client to donate directly to this page

OR, have you got another idea?

- Sell old stock, auction an item, make a donation. Every effort counts and will be appreciated.



## Will you join us?

BFBA Treasurer, Abby Bunyard, kicked off the fundraising. 'I think we have all been saddened by what we have seen and heard on the news and feel compelled to do what we can to help. Every contribution is valuable.'

'The humanitarian disaster is disgraceful,' continued BFBA President, Craig D'Arcy. 'We understand that everyone is facing rising costs in the months ahead but hope that farriers will be able to show their support as they so often do in whatever way that they can.'

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# How to Write a case report

*Case reports are a valuable resource that can lead to advances in farriery and benefit horses. They provide information on new ideas and information that can help farriers build on their knowledge and provide the best care for their clients. BFBA is keen to include interesting and novel case reports in Forge Knowledge. For those who are new to writing, this guide may help.*

## Summary

Begin with a paragraph of up to 150 words to introduce the case. Your aim is to attract and inform readers. It should include important information, as well as explaining why the case is important or unique, and therefore of interest to the reader.

## The body of the case report should include

**Signalment and history:** Include basic information about the animal involved – the species, breed, age, and sex, and its history, as regards the case being covered.

**Findings:** Body condition, foot condition, previous visits or treatments. Results of trot up or examination of feet/legs. Has there been any veterinary involvement? If so, what was found?

**Diagnosis and treatment plan:** Include your plan for treatment, how this was achieved, special instructions for owners, compliance, and so on (plus any medications/treatments).

**Outcome:** Chronological progression of the case. Once treatment finished, what degree of resolution was achieved (success/failure), what follow up was required.

**Images:** Include high-quality images that are relevant to the case. Captions help the reader with their understanding. Areas of interest could be highlighted using arrows etc (these can be added by us if you indicate where they should be).

## Discussion

Explain why you selected this case. Is it new to you? Compare with similar or supporting articles from published work. Either case reports or/and research articles should be referenced.

The discussion allows you to explain the functional changes that accompany a particular syndrome or disease, as well as the outcome and relevance of the case to farriers.

The discussion may encourage further reading and is a resource for future authors carrying out a literature search.

If you faced limitations during the case, they should be mentioned in context within the case progression.

The closing paragraph should briefly detail any conclusions arising from the case, which add to the reader's knowledge base.



*In the March 2022 issue of Forge Knowledge, Andrew Poynton FWCF described how nine years after he first treated a lame Appaloosa mare with mismatched feet, he was called in again to repeat the remedial farriery that had previously restored her to soundness*

**Tips:** If you have any tips for others approaching similar cases, do add them.

## Acknowledgements

Acknowledge individuals who have helped with the case.

## References

Cite relevant supporting literature if there is any.

## General information

The first use of an abbreviation/acronym should be spelled out in the case report, ie, hoof pastern axis (HPA). For subsequent mentions, the abbreviation can be used.

## Happy to help

If you have an interesting case you would like to share, do get in touch at [forge.bfba@gmail.com](mailto:forge.bfba@gmail.com) and we will be happy to help you.



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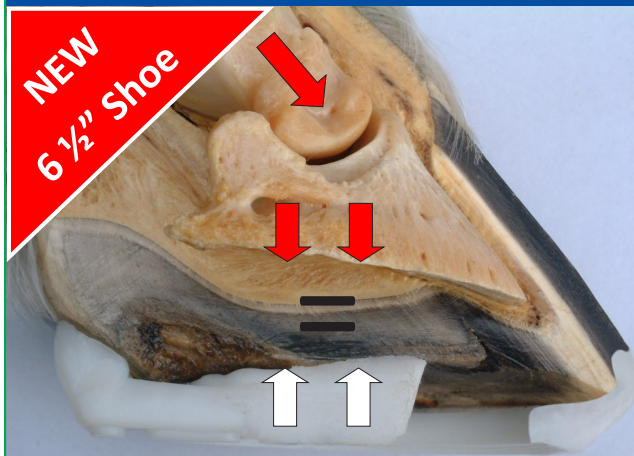
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## OBITUARIES

# Remembering David Wilson FWCF

*International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame member David Wilson, BEM, FWCF, passed away March 7, 2022. He was 85.*

For more than 200 years, members of the Wilson family have been shoeing horses at St. Andrews, Scotland. A sixth-generation farrier, David Wilson spent his life shoeing Clydesdales and other horses in eastern Scotland. The family tradition continues in an eighth generation with his grandson Josh.

An active competitor, David won many shoeing and forging competitions, including 13 gold medals at the Royal Highland Show throughout his career. He was named reserve champion in the World Championship Blacksmith's competition at Calgary in 1982 and returned in 1985 to capture the World Championship Forging Championship. In 1986, he won both the blacksmith and forging world titles.

He judged four times at Calgary, at many other contests and given clinics around the world on his heavy horse shoeing skills.

David was a Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, an examiner for the Worshipful Company of Farriers, President of the National Association of Farriers, Blacksmiths & Agricultural Engineers from 1995 to 1997 and a member of the American Farrier's Association. In 1983, he was presented with the British Empire Medal for outstanding services to farriery in Scotland. A memoir of his life, 'Sparks From the Smiddy, The Life Of A World Champion Farrier', was published in 2015.

He was inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame in 1995.

## An Inspiration, by Jim Ferrie

Dave was a generation ahead of myself and my brother Allan when we were introduced to shoeing contests by my father, the late Craig Ferrie. Dave was virtually unbeatable. His eye for symmetry in a horseshoe was amazing, as was his attention to detail and his sheer skill.

Dave and I practised tirelessly together for my first time at the World Championships in Calgary in 1985. There were six 2-man classes that year and we won five of them. Although the reality of it was that he won five and I kept him supplied with hot steel. Dave won the World Championship title that year at the age of 48. An amazing achievement.

Fantastic though that was, it was in Scotland against his peers that Dave really shone. He won the Clydesdale Shoemaking title at the Royal Highland Show an incredible 11 times. The competition in that class was particularly strong with Edward Martin, Jack Scott, Pat Balfour, Jackie Duffy and Sandy Duff — all legends of men who were his competitors. Hunter shoeing was also a specialty of his. "Penny on a Penny," he would say to me.

It was his achievements competing and winning with the Scottish team at the Internationals in Ireland that inspired Allan and me to follow him and his teammates.



Despite all his farriery achievements, teaching and mentoring, most of all I remember him as my friend. Dave and his wife Mairi made their house a second home to me and my late wife Shona during the '1980s and 1990s. We would practise for contests and then go fishing.

His shoeing legacy lives on through his son David and grandsons Josh and Eli, all of whom are accomplished farriers. I know they made him very proud.

Dave will be missed by the farriery community around the world, and I know he will certainly never be forgotten.

## A true gentleman, by Paul Duddy

When I learned that David Wilson was coming to examine my students for the pre-farrier course in Enniskillen campus, I was very pleased.

We would spend the day together sharing stories of farrier competitions. I always persuaded him to do a demonstration for my lads, but it wasn't really for my apprentices; the lesson was for me. I have to this day a full set of Clydesdale shoes he made at Enniskillen College, which I treasure still.

I was only an apprentice when I first saw David at the international competitions around 1982, which was first held at the Dublin Horse Show in Ireland. My boss Martin Leahy told me to keep an eye on him as he had certainly put David high on his estimations as a tradesman and competitor. In later years, I had the good fortune to be judged by him in Calgary and he was one of the few men to be asked to judge the big contest more than once.

David was a true gentleman of our trade and will be missed by us all who had the good fortune to spend a little time with him. To exemplify what a true craftsman is, one would have had to look no further than David Wilson.

## A Scottish great, by Billy Crothers

Our industry has lost one of the true Scottish greats. David was a brilliant farrier and an outstanding blacksmith, a fierce competitor and unbeatable on his day.



I was very fortunate to have watched him in action. I, like many, learned so much from David, not just technically; he set such a great example to us all. He was gracious in triumph, but also gracious in defeat, not that defeat happened very often.

I recall the first time I met him. I was a young man at my first visit to Edward Martin's competition in Closeburn. My eyes were wide open. David drew a stumpy, short, not very attractive hind foot. It didn't phase him, but then, nothing did. He made a beautiful concave shoe out 3/4 x 1/2 – the trickiest section. By the time David had finished, all the missing parts to the scabby wee foot had been filled by metal, including a rolled set toe for protection. The shoe looked like it had grown there. Everyone was in awe. However, it was a routine job for David 'nee problem, laddie'.

Outside of farriery, I was fortunate enough to have played a few rounds of golf with David at St. Andrews. He was just as competitive and tenacious at golf, but luckily without quite so much skill. I do not have many regrets in life, but my biggest is I did not make time to visit David often enough. It's my loss. I could have learned so much more from such a great man.

We will all miss him dearly. Rest in peace David Wilson.

### Unbelievable talent, by Bob Marshall, Canada

David was such a gentleman who was very passionate about his work and extremely generous with his knowledge. He would come over to Canada and do all sorts of demonstrations for us. He was so talented, it was unbelievable. I remember one day he was doing a demonstration making a Clydesdale shoe without a striker. He was doing it with a propane forge and a small anvil. The propane was starting to get low and the shoe was red. It never phased him. He just carried on and made that shoe like it was nothing.

He had an incredible touch with the hammer. I used to tease him, 'David, I don't even think you hit it, but it always bends'. He would say, 'Oh yeah, Bobby, you don't have to murder it. It's just a piece of steel. It's quite easy'. I go, 'Oh yeah, right, sure it is'. He was amazing like that.

This career I've had with shoeing has been tremendous. The people I've met from many parts of the world with competitions and demonstrations and so forth have been an incredible career for me, and David always stood out. You never heard anyone say anything negative at all about him. He just smiled quietly and carried on. He's a tough one to let go.

# Jamie Stewart, BA, VetMB, MRCVS

James Patrick MacGregor Stewart tragically died in April 2022, writes Dr David Williams of the University of Cambridge.

The Facebook page of the practice where Jamie worked in North Yorkshire reveals the flood of grief from friends, colleagues and clients, only equalled by the waves of thanksgiving and appreciation for a wonderful caring and compassionate vet.

Jamie always knew that equine and farm medicine was his calling. His was a wonderful mix of exceptional intelligence and superb craftsmanship in his work.

Student colleagues remembers that he was always there to help anyone who didn't understand as well as he did. Often while sitting in the library, a queue of fellow students would form, all clutching their elective projects for Jamie to cast his eye over their statistical calculations.

His care of others continued as he worked as an equine intern at Cambridge vet school. He was always willing to help



any student who was finding the work challenging, but he never made anyone feel bad for not knowing something, or for lacking a skill.

He was a vet who wanted to understand exactly what was going on in each and every case. He had to know the exact mechanism that had led to the clinical signs with which he was confronted. There were never any shortcuts, regardless of how busy or how tired he was – every case was given 100%.

Jamie trained in farriery on top of his veterinary qualification, so that he would be better able to help the animals he cared for.

He was a skilled cricketer, and point-to-point jockey too, very well respected by his fellow riders.

He was a wonderful young man with a great sense of humour, a booming laugh and a warm heart. His funeral was held at St Mary's church, Wycliffe, County Durham on 28 April.



# Kings plate Competition

*What a Cheltenham! It was a delight to see so many enjoying the four-day festival, basking in sunshine. Many Kerckhaert plates made their way into the winners' enclosure – congratulations to all concerned.*

## Champagne moments

★ Court Master won a handicap chase at Newcastle for trainer Michael Scudamore, ridden by R McLernon. Court Master was shod by **Wesley Powell** with Extra Sound Plates and 3D pads by Derek Poupard.



Court Master

★ L'Homme Presse won the Grade 1 Scilly Isles at Sandown. Congratulations to **Mike Jones** and **Ashleigh Lidster** who shod L'Homme Presse with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carrera Medium Nails. L'Homme Presse was trained by Venetia Williams and ridden by Charlie Deutsch.

★ Glory And Fortune won the Betfair Hurdle at Newbury for trainer Tom Lacey and jockey Stan Sheppard. Congratulations to **Dan Shinton**. Dan shod Glory And Fortune with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails.

★ Constitution Hill and Nico de Boinville were victorious in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle for trainer Nicky Henderson, ridden by Nico de Boinville. Congratulations to **Chapel Forge Farriers** who shod Constitution Hill with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails.

★ Edwardstone won the Sporting Life Arkle Challenge Trophy Novices Chase for trainer Alan King. Congratulations to **Darrin Oldman**. He shod Edwardstone with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails. Edwardstone was ridden by Tom Cannon.

★ Corach Rambler won the Ultima Handicap Chase. Congratulations to farriers **Douglas Crawford** and **Gregg Crawford**. They shod Corach Rambler with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails. Corach Rambler was trained by Lucinda Russell Racing and ridden by Derek Richard Fox.



Team Crawford

★ Marie' Rock won the Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle at Cheltenham Festival. Congratulations to **Chapel Forge Farriers** who shod Marie's Rock with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails. 'Marie's Rock' was trained by Nicky Henderson and ridden by Nico de Boinville.

★ L'Homme Presse was an impressive winner of the Grade One Brown Advisory Novices. Congratulations to **Mike Jones** and **Ashleigh Lidster** who shod L'Homme Presse with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carrera Medium Nails. L'Homme Presse was trained by Venetia Williams and ridden by Charlie Deutsch.

★ Global Citizen won the Johnny Henderson Grand Annual chase on day two of Cheltenham. Congratulations to **Charlie Sands** who shod Global Citizen with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carrera Medium Cu Nails. Global Citizen was trained by Ben Pauling Racing and ridden by Kielan Woods.

★ Tom O'Brien won the Pertemps Network Final Handicap Hurdle on Third Wind. Congratulations to **Andrew Charles** who shod Third Wind with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carrera Medium Nails. 'Third Wind' was trained by Hughie Morrison.

★ Coole Cody won the Craft Irish Whiskey Co. Plate Handicap Chase for trainer Evan Williams and jockey Adam Wedge. Congratulations to **Mark Galliers** who shod Coole Cody with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carrera Medium Cu Nails.

★ Chambard secured victory in the Kim Muir Handicap Chase for trainer Venetia Williams and jockey Miss Lucy Turner. Congratulations to **Mike Jones** and **Ashleigh Lidster** DipWCF who shod Chambard with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Carrera Medium Nails.

★ Lord North won the Group 1 Dubai Turf for trainer John and Thady Gosden, ridden by Frankie Dettori. Congratulations to **O'Shaughnessy Farriery** who shod Lord North with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails.



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

*Our chat with featured farrier, Shane Francis can be found on page 18*



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## Spotlight on... Shane Francis DipWCF

**Shane Francis qualified as a farrier in 2013 and shoes mainly racehorses in and around Sussex. On 14 May 2022 he will take part in the Injured Jockey's Fund charity race at Newbury racecourse celebrating HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Shane started riding four years ago when a racehorse he was fond of retired and he is now enjoying hunt rides and hunter trials.**

### Who or what inspired you to get into farriery?

I had a week's work experience with Steve Fisher and that was me hooked on shoeing! I've always liked working with my hands. I left school and went to Plumpton College to do blacksmithing and got my forging certificate - while working part time on a farm for harvest and at my local steel works. On site one day we were putting up a steel frame building and I came across a farrier working away and he told me how to go about it.

### Describe your typical day

I start my day about 6am, the first job is to sort the dogs, chickens and children. I arrive at the race yard around 7 am - on some days I may go to two or three race yards as declarations to run are made.

### Describe your farriery clients

We shoe for nine-time UK champions Chill Winston horse-boarding team (Winston being the one-eyed wonder horse ex-racer).

It is very rare I get a cob type to shoe! I'd say 90% of my horses them are thoroughbreds. I have six main national hunt yards and a couple of hunting, eventing and showing yards - plus the horse-boarders!

### Horse-boarding....Have you tried it?!

I had to try; it is such a buzz being on a mountain board and being towed by a horse at speed!

### What do you look for in racing plates?

Good nail pitch and hard wearing.

### Which are your preferred plates in the Kerckhaert range? What is it you like about these plates in particular?

Kings Extra Sound with Liberty Carrera Secure nails. They are easy to fit due to their shape and are definitely the



hardest wearing plate for life span on the big national hunt horses.

### On to the big race...

### From farriery to race-riding! How did that happen?!

For years I've worked away in a stable watching the horses go by on the gallops and I have always wanted to try it myself. The little voice in my head kept telling me don't, you'll fall off and break yourself and not be able to work, but decided to go for it - it's for a great cause to raise money for the Injured Jockey Fund (IJF). The IJF has helped a lot of people I know, so it's definitely worth the risk and the racehorses know their job and are all really great rides.

### Who and what has been helping you to train?

I've got an Equisizer at home that the amateur jockeys let me borrow. My other half, Hannah, has been teaching me (she used to ride point-to-point) plus all the staff at Sheena West Racing and jockey Marc Goldstein on work days.

### Who will you be riding?

I am not sure yet, but it may well be a jumps horse against the flat yards, so I may be pushing for a good few furlongs!

### How are you feeling about the big race?

I'm feeling confident as long as I can give up the fry-ups and make the weight. There's 12 in the race who are far more experienced than me, but I'm giving it my all!



**Best of luck to Shane on 14 May. If you can support him, scan the QR code above or search for Shane Francis on the Just Giving website**

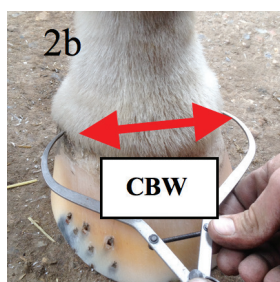
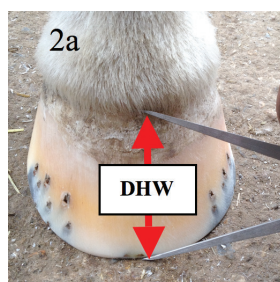


# In the May issue of *Forge Knowledge*

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

**Relationships between conformation, hoof morphology and lameness.** By Mark Aikens DipWCF, FdSc, BSc(Hons)

It has long been reported that poor farriery can be a major cause of equine lameness but, as Mark Aikens explains, this may not be the whole story. Within his dissertation as part of his foundation degree (FdSc) at Myerscough, he set out to evaluate whether a correlation exists between conformational defects, hoof morphology and whether a horse is likely to become lame.



## Unstable hooves, dysfunctional feet

By Andrew Poynton FWCF

An ex-racehorse was in need of some serious farriery attention when presented to Andrew Poynton with cracked, overgrown, unstable hooves. Here, he explains how synthetic materials, adhesives and plastics can be a real game changer in the treatment of such cases.



**Fig 1:** (a) The combination of shallow hooves along with overgrowth had resulted in a complete complicated quarter crack and toe cracks. (b) Superficial attempts at stabilisation had been attempted



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# My life as a blacksmith and the Carter Lane balconies

By Steve Rook FWCB, winner of the Tonypany Cup 2020

*My life as a blacksmith started with the book Country Blacksmithing by Charles McRaven; what really caught my attention was the work of Samuel Yellin, which featured in the book.*

Ever since school I had always had a keen interest in making things, be it in wood or metal, and I was encouraged by my father who came from an engineering background.

After reading Country Blacksmithing, I was pretty much hooked on the idea of moving from the world of motor engineering to blacksmithing and started experimenting at home in an old shed.

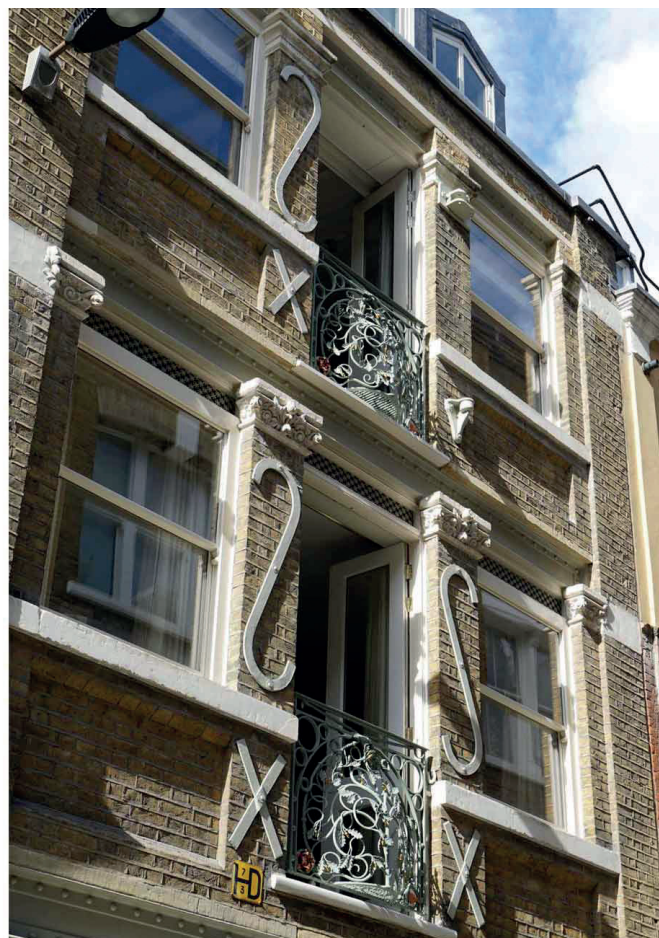
After some initial attempts at blacksmithing on my own, I realised that if I wanted to move forward at any pace I would need some help and looked for courses. At that time, Hereford, the National School of Blacksmithing, was the only place to go. I completed my year there and then I set up my business, attended some courses run by Frank Day at Cannington Forge, Somerset, and became a member of the Wessex Guild.

These early years sowed the seeds for my love of traditional forge work.

I would have to confess, at this point I had no real knowledge of design but soon realised that the design process was an essential ingredient of high quality work and sought to educate myself by extensive reading and visiting art galleries.

Moving on to the present day, my work centres on the making of commissioned work for discerning individuals looking for good design and craftsmanship and something that is unique to them.

When creating my projects, I focus on the processes of hot forging, often taking inspiration from the natural world and then translating it into the language of steel.



Surface textures and details bring the forms to life both through vision and touch. As a maker who works to commission, you are primarily satisfying your clients' needs but having said that, you bring to bear your own design influences and language, which shapes what you make for any particular client. For me, as a maker, I am satisfying my client and my own creative drive. The piece of work often has to satisfy a number of criteria. It has to have visual integrity and relate to the place where it is located. Patience is a necessary quality for both the maker and the client alike; time-consuming design and creative processes are always at work, from the first sketch through to the last hammer blow. Good quality work takes time to make.

While my making philosophy is rooted in the use of traditional forging methods and processes, I prefer to create from a contemporary viewpoint that is very much of today. I feel this enables my work to communicate the qualities of the craft that give so much freedom for creative expression and brings such life and energy to the work. These traditional methods and processes and good design are centre to my core values as a maker and give the work integrity.

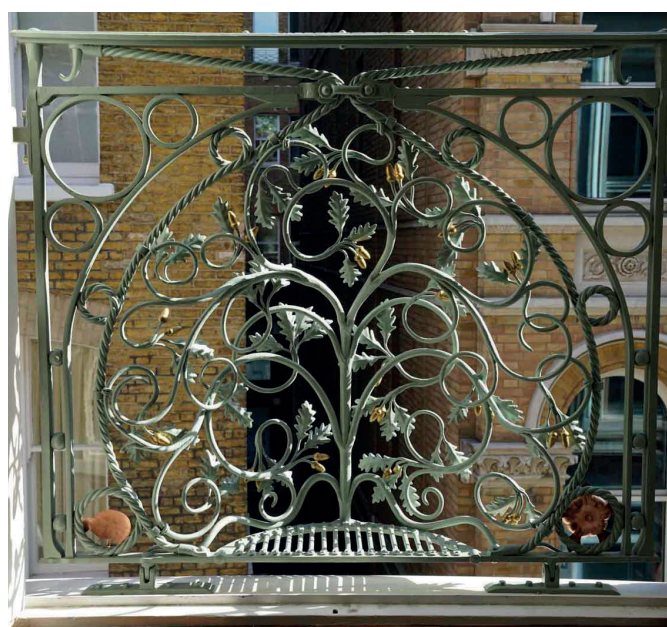






Though I have said I like create from a contemporary position there are two periods of ironwork that I find inspirational: one being Art Nouveau for its innovative and sensitive use of line and natural forms; the other is medieval ironwork – this often has an energy about it and very much the hand of the maker.

When thinking about the design process, the Carter Lane balconies are a good example for me of a piece which integrates well with the building and satisfies the client's brief. The brief was to pick up on the industrial heritage of the building, which had been a book depository and the more floral architectural detail on some of the surrounding buildings to soften the design. I produced three proposals for the clients – two had a much more contemporary take and were based very strongly around books. Although the chosen design did not feature books overtly, the book theme was picked up on the curved top rail of the balcony, which was incised as the



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spine of the book: one referenced the date the building was constructed and the second referenced the family name and dates. The Victorian swing crane to used to create an outer framework with the arc of each crane facing each other. Although the cranes were on a smaller scale, I made them to look as authentic as possible and included ropes and pulley wheels. The crane arcs produced a good interior shape which could then be filled. The chosen design for this space was a bow fronted oak tree using gold painted acorns for highlighted details. The coper motifs represent the Tudor rose for England and the kiwi for New Zealand, the nationalities of the clients.

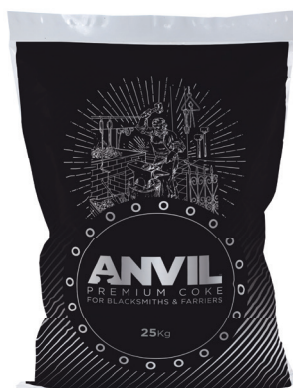
Looking back, some of the most enjoyable parts were the technical challenges such as the problem in solving how to accurately make the two bow fronted oak trees and then how to secure them in the space. Many areas of the balcony needed special tools made and, more importantly, I wanted the pieces of work to have the feeling they had been made and related to the era of the building. This part must have been successful as the tour guide who go past now point out the Victorian balconies to the tourists.

Asked what advice I would give my younger self, a glib answer would be to go into financial services as it pays better. On a serious note, I would say don't be frightened to explore and investigate your own ideas. You never know where they will lead. You also can't have success without failure and making things certainly teaches you that.



The Tonypandy Cup was presented to the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths (WCB) by Past Prime Warden Lt Col Delwyn Dennis. It is awarded for a piece of work of 'outstanding technical merit', in honour of Lord Tonypandy – an Honorary Court Member of the WCB, who was better known as George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons

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### WORKING PARTY EVENT

**1-3 JULY**



The NHIG is holding its inaugural Working Party at Nettleham Hall in Lincolnshire, where the Grade I listed gates and railings, dating from the early 18th century, are on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register. Its plan is to follow the conservation of these gates over several years via working parties led by Fred Suffield of Anwick Forge, himself a graduate of the NHIG Bursary scheme.

This event presents an ideal opportunity for anyone interested in conservation blacksmithing to get some hands-on experience, but is equally relevant and open to anyone who works in the field of built heritage or has general interest.

The first working party, from Friday 1 – Sunday 3 July, will be one of exploration and discovery as we break into teams for site excavation, site investigation and condition reports. All being well, the next working party would focus on site dismantling and removal.

Camping will be available on site (own tents) or people can make their own accommodation arrangements. All meals will be provided except for the Saturday night meal, which will be at a local pub.

Further details and weekend programme can be found at <https://nhig.org.uk/events/event/nhig-working-party/>

### SUSSEX BFBA BRANCH CPD DAY

**Thursday 16 June**  
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#### Jay Tovey FWCF

The digital cushion and its  
relationship with the external hoof

#### Andrew Casserley FWCF

The effect of frog support pads and packing

#### Gavin Golby AWCf

A breakdown of breakover

**TPD data analyst reviewing the race card**

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– £100 apprentices

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**Joe Gillings 07875 178554, Ben Casserley**

**07885 494687 Joe Frank 07875 949689**

**Limited spaces. Book by 26 May**



If you are a blacksmith with at least five years of practical experience, the NHIG invites you to consider joining a pilot run of its proposed accreditation scheme in May 2022.

To express an interest and further details please email Jessica [info@nhig.org.uk](mailto:info@nhig.org.uk). Numbers on this pilot scheme will be limited so please don't delay!

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# The Flying Anvil Foundation meets another farriery world, the Lohar farriers in India

By Bernard Duvernay HonFWCF



The Lohar (blacksmiths or ironworkers) is a caste called (OBC) Other Backward Class, a collective term used by the Government of India to classify castes which are educationally or socially disadvantaged.



Gadia Lohars (also known as Gaduliya Lohars or Rajput Lohar) are a nomadic community of Rajasthan. They are lohar (ironsmith) by profession who move from one place to another place on bullock carts, which in Hindi are called gadi, hence the name 'Gadia Lohar'. They usually make and repair agricultural tools and household utensils.



In the cities you encounter Lohars who are specialised in shoeing horses, also Lohars who are making shoes for farriers. Their knowledge of shoe making and shoeing horses is very poor. You notice some typical mistakes, such as the placement of the nail holes, the shape of the shoes, some make the same shape for front and hind feet. On shoeing you can observe the poor preparation of the feet, a lack of fitting between the feet and the shoes, a lack of length on the shoes and poor nailing.





Their forefathers were blacksmiths and farriers in the army and claim to be descendants of Maharana Pratap (†1597). When the Mewar fell to the Mughals they pledged never to return to their homeland, never to settle anywhere else and never to live under a roof until Maharana Pratap won Chittorgarh. Sadly, Maharana Pratap didn't regain Chittor back and hence the Lohars continue their pledge today.



Photos & text: Bernard Duvernay  
Historical information: Wikipedia

Pratap Singh I, popularly known as Maharana Pratap, was a Hindu Rajput king of Mewar. He was titled as 'Mewari Rana' and was notable for his military resistance against the expansionism of the Mughal Empire and is known for his participation in the Battle of Haldighati 1576 and the Battle of Dewair 1582.



Lohars are very good at iron work, but honestly, I would say that their nomadic lifestyle has been a huge hindrance to their acquiring knowledge of horse shoeing. They have never become aware of the modernization of the farriery profession, they are completely disconnected from developments in craftsmanship and the world in general, and we have never had a single Lohar in our farriery school in Dundlod, Rajasthan.

## Exam achievements

*The Worshipful Company of Farriers has held examinations in Sweden, South Africa and Denmark this year. The following successes have been announced by the Registrar.*

### Exams held in Sweden

Mr Jesper Mortensen AWCF of Denmark  
Mr Allan Riis AWCF of Denmark  
Mr Daniel Ahlberger AWCF of Sweden  
Mr Martin Bruks AWCF of Sweden  
Mr Henrik Jansson AWCF of Sweden  
Mr Niklas Pettersson AWCF of Sweden  
Mr Nikolai Refsahl AWCF of Norway  
Mr Rickard Svärd AWCF of Sweden

### Exams held in South Africa

Mr Jacques Kruger DipWCF  
Mr Dewald Pretorius DipWCF

### Exams held in the UK

Mr Philip Martin FWCF of Wiltshire



Ms Sarah Pinkney AWCF of Norwich  
Mr James Ashforth AWCF of Nottinghamshire  
Mr Mark Humphrey AWCF of Leicester  
Mr Christopher Hole AWCF of Staffordshire  
Mr Tobias Pedley AWCF of North Yorkshire

### Exams held in Denmark

Mr Henrik Thomsen AWCF of Denmark  
Mr John Ravanelli AWCF of Germany

*Congratulations to all successful candidates*

# NAF @ The Forge

## Five Star Farrier

*In this issue we met up with Sam Dracott DipWCF to discuss his pathway to success and unveil exclusively to you, some interesting facts about our Five Star Farrier.*

### When did you qualify as a farrier?

I have been a qualified Farrier for 9 years. I did my pre-Farrier course when I was 18, started my apprenticeship when I was 19 and qualified as a Farrier in 2013. I'm 32 this year, it's gone quickly!

### What is the most enjoyable thing about your job?

I love that every day is different and it's always satisfying seeing improvements in the horse's welfare and hoof structure after I've seen them. It's so rewarding when I make a difference with specialised and remedial shoeing, giving the horse dramatically improved results..

### If you could spend a day in someone else's shoes, whose would they be? Why?

Jason Statham because he's got slightly more hair than I have.

### What is your most memorable appointment with a client and why?

I went to do a couple of trims and ended up staying 2 hours looking at the owner's private luxury car collection. That was an interesting day, the cars were absolutely incredible.

### What is your most treasured possession?

My dog Roxy. I went to a yard when I first qualified and was given her as a puppy and she's come to work with me every day since..

### Best refreshments from your clients?

I would have to say one of my customers brownies with a cup of tea is always a winner.



Sam Dracott

### What top tips would you give to up and coming apprentices

Farriery is an interesting and rewarding profession, however there are no shortcuts to being a Farrier. My advice would be to make sure you learn and master the basics and be punctual – that goes a long way. Remember, you're only as good as your last job.

### What top tips would you give to horse owners to help with hoof care

My top tips for good hoof care are making sure you pick out your horses' hooves daily, see the Farrier regularly and use a moisturising and conditioning hoof oil to prevent dryness and cracking.





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# April fools: did you get caught out?

*Newbury Racecourse announced on 1 April that it was involved in a new trial to paint the 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> racecourse blue – the brand colours of its sponsor, BetVictor – in readiness for that afternoon's racing. It announced the news with a video on Facebook.*

Keith Otteson, Clerk of the Course for Newbury Racecourse, explained that this was not the first time Newbury had led the way for innovative turf husbandry. Back in 2006, he said, it had been the first racecourse to cover the entire course in frost cover, which was subsequently adopted by others following its success.

'We are particularly excited about trialling this new innovation here at Newbury this afternoon and we hope it's something that will be rolled out across a number of other our fixtures and that the initiative might be adopted by other racecourses across the globe in the future.'

'Amayse Sports Branding Solutions were the team responsible for bringing this extensive operation to life and are well versed in this area, having significant experience at painting 3D turf logos for a host of leading sporting venues. With the help of their expertise, the 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> racecourse would require 33,333 litres of blue paint and approximately six hours of manual labour to cover the entire course ahead of the first race at 1.15pm.

Trevor Lee Marcs, Amayse Turf coordinator said: 'We've not been asked to do something on this scale before and it's a big job. Luckily only one coat of paint is required and a couple of retouches throughout the day, otherwise it would become a very costly operation.'



*Newbury Racecourse: Taking brand exposure to a new level*

Jamie Snowden, local racehorse trainer who has been instrumental in garnering support from his colleagues added: 'Initially the concept was met with some scepticism, but given the recent studies which demonstrate that horses don't see certain colours and having trialled the blue paint on the schooling ground in Lambourn, the horses are not affected and actually might even respond slightly better to blue.'

'It can get a bit messy, but they just need a hose down afterwards and I'm a big fan now.'

Sam Boswell speaking on behalf of sponsor, BetVictor added: 'We are absolutely thrilled to be involved in this trial which is really taking brand exposure levels to new heights and you simply can't put a price on that.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6BH6R-BbAo>



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## WELCOME

*Time certainly doesn't slow down. We are sending positive thoughts and the very best of luck to 42L who sit their WCF Diploma examinations in the coming weeks. Don't forget, we have great offers for newly qualified farriers – do get in touch!*

## The College Block Award

The College Block Award is given for a number of reasons and it is always a pleasure to receive the nominations from the colleges. Effort, overcoming a particularly difficulty, end of block results and progress are all highlighted by tutors. Those nominated receive a certificate and Stromsholm voucher.

**In this issue we congratulate**

## WCG MORETON MORRELL COLLEGE

**Kendell Norris (42L)** 'Achieved an outstanding end of Block 7 theory result.' Kendell is trained by ATF Laurence Ridgeway DipWCF

**Viktor Mester (46S)** 'Outstanding results in both the Practical and Theory assessment on his first Block.' Viktor is trained by ATF William O'Shaughnessy AWCF.

**Ross Bonnett (44L)** 'Consistent hard work in his practical with a good result in his end of block theory assessment.' Ross is trained by ATF Iain Nixon AWCF.

## HEREFORD COLLEGE

**Carwen Owen (43S)** 'For being most improved in practical'. Carwen is trained by J Hughes DipWCF.

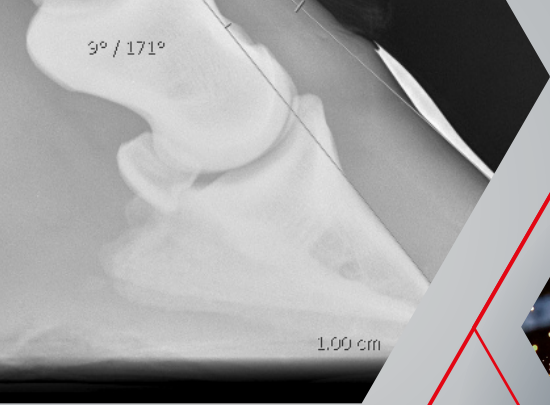
**Hannah Chamblain (42L)** 'For best QCF portfolio'. Hannah is trained by A Bunyard AWCF.

**Will Hyatt (46S)** 'For gaining A grades for knowledge and skill'. Will is trained by K Lymer DipWCF.



If you haven't already, don't forget to sign up as a member to the Stromsholm Apprentice Club (which you can do at any stage of your apprenticeship). Visit **[www.stromsholm.co.uk](http://www.stromsholm.co.uk)** and follow the link to Apprentice Club. Signing up is **FREE**, quick and easy and you gain lots of great benefits including a 10% discount on tools throughout your apprenticeship.





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# Awards for skilled foot care

Pictures by Trevor Clarke



Sarah Mary Brown FWCF being interviewed about her role as judge of the Best Shod Award at the Randox Health Grand National 2022 in a segment that was played daily during the race meeting. In it, Sarah Mary promoted best practice farriery and safe shoeing

*The Worshipful Company of Farriers Best Shod Award was judged and awarded at three recent events. The National Shire Show, the Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown and the Randox Health Grand National race meeting*

Aintree celebrated a first this year in that the Best Shod award was judged by Sarah Mary Brown FWCF, the first woman to judge the award. The Best Shod Shire was judged by Stephen Hill FWCF and the Grand Military Gold Cup was judged by



Gina Andrews about to be interviewed immediately after winning the Foxhunters' Chase, riding the best shod horse, Latenightpass

## Randox Health Foxhunters' Chase (Thursday)

Latenightpass, was shod by Farrier Liam Whelan DipWCF, of Warwickshire. The horse is owned by Mrs P. A. Ellis and trained by T. Ellis. Ridden by Miss Gina Andrews, **Latenightpass went on to win the race.**

## Randox Health Topham Chase (Friday)

Pink Eyed Pedro, was shod by Farrier, Matthew Rees DipWCF, of Bridgend. Pink Eyed Pedro is owned and trained by Mr David Brace.

## Randox Grand National Steeplechase (Saturday)

Fortescue, was shod by Farrier Liam Evans DipWCF, of Shropshire. Fortescue is trained by Henry Daly and owned by T. F. F. Nixon, who received the Le Reve Trophy.

*Best Shod Award at the National Shire Horse Show was won by Wayne Balfour DipWCF. The judge was Stephen Hill FWCF. Shire Deighton Chumley is owned by Mr & Mrs B Walker. The photograph is by Jacqueline Pettigrew of Auchengree Clydesdales*



Picture Peter Ibbotson RSS

*The Grand Military Gold Cup for military amateur jockeys was held at Sandown Park on 8 March. The winner of the Best Shod Award was Tim Morrissey DipWCF Hons who shod Roc D'Apsis, ridden by Lieutenant Commander Vicki Sollitt. A Company brass plaque was presented by Past Master The HRH Princess Royal*



# QEST 30th anniversary celebrations



Artisan blacksmith Leszek Sikon had the opportunity to showcase his work during the 30th anniversary of the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST). Among many guests at the event, he had the honour to meet HRH Prince Charles, who is the patron of the Trust

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# PhD student develops app to help combat obesity in horses

*The University of Glasgow has created and updated a free weight management app to help owners monitor their horse's bodyweight and condition.*

The new version of the Equi-BCS app has been refreshed in response to a survey of more than 100 people, including equine professionals, and horse owners. It was developed by Katie Williams, an equine nutritionist, who carried out the survey and development of the app as part of her PhD in veterinary research at the University.

The app allows owners to record and share their horse's weight data, making it much easier for professionals to support them and help keep their horse's weight on track. This feature also supports horses that are not holding their weight, so health issues can be spotted early.

Obesity is a serious health and welfare issue for horses just as it is for many domesticated pet species. The resulting insulin dysregulation or disruption to the horse's normal metabolism, can result in laminitis, a potentially fatal disease. The prevalence of veterinary-diagnosed laminitis ranges from 7% to 23.5%, but it is thought to be even more common if those with subclinical signs are included.

Equine obesity has also been shown to increase the risk of complications following emergency colic surgery.



Ms Williams said: 'One of the toughest challenges for any horse owner is keeping weight off their horse, and previous studies have shown that horse owners tend to underestimate their horse's body condition score. To succeed, a collaborative approach is required including vets, nutritionists and farriers working together with horse owners.'

The app contains detailed images and instructions to help horse owners score their horse accurately and photos can be uploaded and stored so that horse owners can remind themselves of how their horse has looked in the past.

Research in human weight tracking apps has shown that frequency of use correlates with greater success, so an important feature of the app is that it will remind users when they are

due to assess their horse again.

Ms Williams added: 'It is incredible how quickly a horse can change and so monitoring regularly, ideally every two weeks, is key. Receiving a reminder will provide the prompt that many people need to ensure they take time to assess their horse and either make adjustments to the ration, or seek advice from their vet or nutritionist.'

● The Equi-BCS app can be downloaded for free from Apple's app store or Google Play.



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# Consultation on equine identification

*The recent launch of a consultation on equine identification (ID) is a positive step forward for horse welfare, says World Horse Welfare.*

A consultation on equine ID shake-up is of 'pivotal importance', the charity says. As such, World Horse Welfare welcomes the DEFRA's launch of a consultation to seek the public's views on the UK Government's proposals for improving equine identification and traceability in England.

DEFRA acknowledges in the consultation that the data on the current Central Equine Database – which should contain up-to-date details of all equines resident in the UK – is inaccurate and incomplete, for a number of reasons, including the fact that horse identification documents (passports) are paper-based.

Among the proposals that DEFRA is consulting on is allowing equine owners and keepers to update their horses' passport details online or via a smartphone app, free of charge.

Roly Owens, Chief Executive of World Horse Welfare said: 'Ever since the 2013 horsemeat scandal, we have highlighted the pivotal importance of a shake-up in equine ID. The current system is simply not working and having a simple, effective digital system is vital to underpin many aspects of the enforcement of animal health and welfare regulations, not least being able to trace a horse suffering from poor welfare back to the person responsible for it.'

'DEFRA now has a fantastic window of opportunity to get it right and we encourage anyone connected to horses to take part in the consultation. By so doing, you will have your voice heard and be contributing to a change for the better for horse welfare.'

Anyone in England can respond to the consultation, which was launched on 5 April, but the charity is cautioning that the consultation questions may not be easily accessible due to the technical language used. It says that anyone wanting their say will have the ability to share their views through a simpler survey World Horse Welfare has helped to develop, which has been launched by the British Horse Council. The aim of the



survey is to collect the views of all those involved with horses and feed them back into the DEFRA consultation.

The consultation is only for England at this point in time, and World Horse Welfare is working with the equine sector to encourage governmental counterparts in Scotland and Wales to follow suit and develop an integrated, workable and efficient system with linkages between GB and the EU that will drive enforcement on non-compliant equine keepers and movements through an intelligence-led approach, while making it far easier for compliant keepers to keep the system up-to-date.

- The DEFRA consultation can be found at <https://bit.ly/3Mb3paQ>
- Details of the British Horse Council/World Horse Welfare survey can be found at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HORSEPASSPORTS/>

*This survey is anonymous and you can exit at any time. It will not be possible to identify individual people from their responses. Most people will be able to complete this survey in six to 10 minutes. If you have a special interest in enforcement or breeding there are optional sections available for you to complete, which will take additional time.*



Newmarket farrier William Mulqueen has caught the driving bug. The family decided to do something different for an Easter Monday by joining the London Harness Horse Parade at Ardingly in Sussex



(from right to left) Worshipful Company of Farriers Liverymen Peter Ibbotson, Tom Burch and David Mitchell under the watchful eye of Past Master Howard Cooper inspected the horses' feet for the show

# Changes to the Highway Code

*Insurer Hastings Direct, recently contacted its policy holders offering advice on areas of the Highway Code that it says often cause confusion among drivers.*

## ● The two-second rule

The Highway Code says to allow at least two seconds from the vehicle in front – and at least double this in bad weather conditions. As the car in front passes a fixed point, such as a sign or a bridge, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) suggests counting to two.

## ● Using a mobile phone

Most drivers know that it's illegal to hold a phone or sat nav while driving. If you get caught doing so, you can expect six penalty points and a £200 fine. The government has now tightened the rules on the use of mobile phones – banning drivers from using any device to take photos or videos, scroll through playlists or play games.

## ● Motorway driving

Although statistics consistently show that motorways are one of the safest types of UK roads to drive on, the introduction of smart motorways has led to some confusion among motorists. To help with this, the Highway Code has been updated with clearer advice on:

- Where to stop in an emergency.
- The importance of not driving in a lane closed by a red X.
- How variable speed limits are used to keep traffic flowing.

## The Highway Code - what's changed?

Keeping up to date with the Highway Code can be achieved through the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website. Recent changes include.

### Hierarchy of road users

One of the biggest changes is the introduction of the 'hierarchy of road users'. This is to make sure that those 'who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others'. The new hierarchy looks like this:

1. Pedestrians
2. Cyclists
3. Horse riders
4. Motorcyclists
5. Cars and taxis
6. Vans and minibuses
7. Buses, HGVs and other large passenger vehicles.

As pedestrians are the most at risk road users, they have priority above people on bicycles, horses, motorbikes etc.

### Pedestrian priority at junctions

The new rules also clarify pedestrian priority at junctions. That means drivers and riders should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross the road.

The code says, 'At a junction you should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which you are turning.' (Rule H2)



1000 words / Shutterstock

There is also new wording around the priority at zebra crossings. Rule 195 now says that drivers **MUST** give way when a pedestrian has moved onto a crossing. And that they **SHOULD** give way when a pedestrian is waiting to cross.

Hastings Direct explains that the exact wording in the code is important. The word 'MUST' means it's an offence to disobey this rule, and you could get a fine or points on your licence if you ignore it. The words 'SHOULD/SHOULD NOT' or 'DO/DO NOT' indicate something that's advised – it's not an offence to ignore it, but if you're involved in a collision, it could be used to establish your liability in court.

### Passing distances

The rules around passing distances have also been updated. Drivers are now advised to leave a minimum distance of 1.5 metres when overtaking a cyclist at speeds up to 30 mph and 2 metres when driving over 30 mph.

**When it comes to overtaking horse riders and horsedrawn vehicles, you should reduce speed to under 10 mph and leave a 2-metre gap.**

If you need to overtake a pedestrian walking in the road (with no pavement), allow 2 metres of space.

The new Rule 72 clarifies where cyclists should be positioned on the road. Cyclists should ride in the middle of their lane when they are:

1. On quiet roads and streets.
2. When they're in slower-moving traffic.
3. When they're approaching junctions or narrow roads.

If a vehicle is moving faster than them, cyclists should allow the vehicle to overtake while they still keep a minimum of 0.5 metres away from the kerb.

*It's always worth checking the rules for yourself. These can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>*



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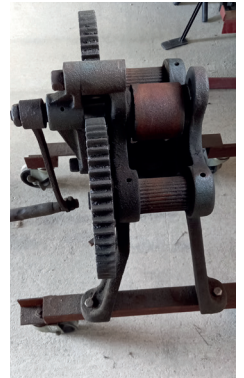


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	22 x 10	2 - 4
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- Bonds to most shoes
- Affixes to a clean dry hoof wall
- Sets in approximately 1 minute and hardens within 5 minutes while maintaining flexibility to ensure natural hoof movement
- Hardens to black color

## SUPER BOND

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
- It seals the pad from any debris or moisture getting in between the pad and sole



## COMFORT 200 CC DISPENSER AND MIXING TIPS

- Premium quality dispensing gun for 200 cc cartridges



- Bag of 10 pieces
- Perfect fit on the 200 cc cartridge

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