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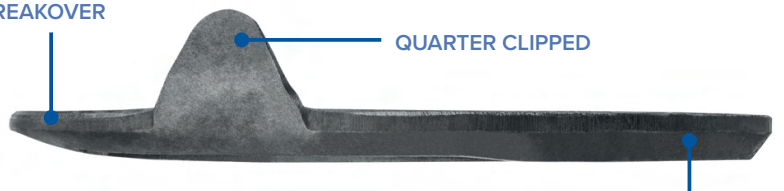
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The November 2022 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains an article for those preparing for the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers:

- Step-by-step guide to basic shoemaking
- 1. The 3/4 fullered front shoe

by Henrik Berger FWCF



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(three-year appointment)

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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

I can honestly say I can't remember having such an amazing time as I did this year at BFBA Focus 2022.

The organisation of the event and the teams by the BFBA Office, expertly delivered by **Holly Flack** and **Claire Jones**, has been exceptional. With over 1,200 people attending this year's **Focus** event, it really feels like the association has turned a corner and is now coming of age. With team **Ireland** making the history books with a spectacular win and teams from all over the world coming to pit themselves against the best in the world this year's competition was one of the best ever, and as always run expertly by **Mark Watson** and the ever-amazing team, the **Purple Army**.

The Focus event has come so far since its beginning in 2011, when it consisted of four gazebos and a small lecture theatre run as a single day event. We are proud that it truly is an **International Team Competition and also a world-class Convention** with some of the **best practitioners in the world**. It is one of the leading farriery and blacksmithing events in Europe.

This year – for the first time – we included a blacksmithing demonstration from the **Wessex Guild of Blacksmiths** with **Don Mallet** giving his time to show us forging from a blacksmith's perspective. It was awesome to put a spotlight on the other 'B' in BFBA! Blacksmiths have not had an opportunity to see what we are able to do at Focus and I hope that they too could enjoy a competitive component at the event!

We also saw a brand new aspect to the competition and we held the first UK International Bladesmithing Competition. It was supported by **Central Forge** and **Multitool Products** (which supplied grinders and guidance!) and was expertly run by Alex Prentice, who did a great job pulling in a team to help coordinate and get the competition set up and broken down. We saw a huge interest in this area and in the next few years I would like to see this competition develop to the same heady level as the international farriery competition, to be seen as the first **World Championship in Bladesmithing**.

We can't put on events without our sponsors and I would also like to sincerely thank **Mustad**, **Jim Blurton**, **Hoofit**, the **American Farriers Association**, **Calor**, **Barmond (Special Steels)** and **Blockworks UK** for their support.

The **lecture presentations** featured a group of **outstanding speakers** with topics that looked into the barefoot world to see what alternatives are available. As farriers, we can sometimes be quick to see shoeing as the best vehicle for foot management, but actually we can incorporate the barefoot management of horses in our practices when it benefits the horse.



Continuing professional development (CPD) was very much the buzz word at Focus. From 2023 onwards, farriers are required to record a minimum of 10 points of CPD and those of you who attended should reflect on what you learnt and record it. Changing rules can be a challenge when it feels that suddenly the goal posts have changed; however, most farriers are professional and proactive people who make time to learn new techniques and procedures. The basics don't change, but our understanding does. We all recognise that **knives and rasps left unsharpened become blunt** and harder to use, and it is the same for our skills. We must **ensure our skills and knowledge are in good shape**. Why wait half a career to learn something that can help you make a difference – either to your clients or your bank balance! The truth is, we want industry professionals (from builders to medical practitioners and surgeons) to maintain their understanding and to do their best for us, and we need to do the same for our clients and the horses we serve. But, we also need to **budget that cost into our prices** (just as we do rasps, tyres, shoes, gas and so on).

During the **Focus** weekend we enjoyed some **interesting and thought-provoking lectures**, learnt from the **best demonstrators**, caught up with the **latest products and services**, and had the chance to **meet up with friends** – for less than the cost of a couple of trims. Who can say fairer than that?

**Ben Benson, BFBA President,
AWCF, DipWCF, ATF, CEF, Master Farrier**

sound advice



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FOCUS



The BFBA members area was the venue for a reception for Focus exhibitors. It was an opportunity for the Association to thank the farriery industry for their support and to commit to making BFBA Focus bigger and better. Members could use their own space to enjoy coffee, tea, pastries and sweet treats, to meet up with friends or business colleagues and take the weight off their feet. Phoebe Colton did a great job of hosting the area and making sure everyone was well looked after.



Hundreds of goody bags were packed in readiness for Focus. The bags were sponsored by Jim Blurton



All-day refreshments were popular at the BFBA members-only area

Media and podcasting



Podcasters Danny Bennett (the lockdown farriery podcast) and Brian Mullins from Canada (<https://mullinsfarrierpodcast.libsyn.com/>) attached a microphone to a Jonathan Nunn hammer and made their way around Focus and the International Competition making bite-sized recordings that were posted on Facebook. Not only were these popular, but they also kept viewers bang up to date with whole event - the market place, the members area, those who were attending and the organisers. Danny and Brian also set up a media suite where they recorded a number of podcasts. Always smiling, they had some great chats with the farriery industry. Do log on and listen.



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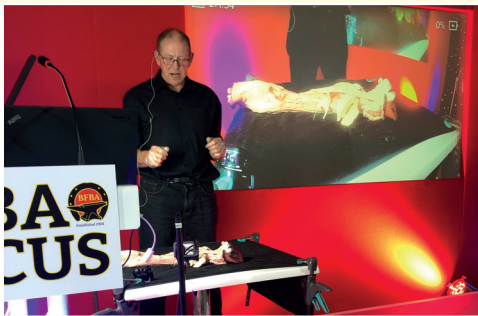
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Focus speakers



Marc Jerram highlighted the importance of obtaining accurate and reliable data on the static and dynamic assessment of the horse. He discussed the use of cutting-edge technology to highlight minute changes in the horse's hoof and upper body movements, while gathering comparative data to assess a horse's progress over a period of time. Dr David Marlin covered the stresses and strains of exercise and Robbie Richardson's talk was entitled 'Barefoot. Are we missing out? Mark Johnson DipWCF covered anatomy as it is applied to hoofcare and chartered physiotherapist Sam Daplyn described what dynamic and static observation of the horse actually tell us. Vet Brian O'Meara looked at the foot and farriery from a veterinary perspective .

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



Demonstration area



Farrier Ian 'Spud' Allison's demonstration was entitled 'shoeing the engine room', while Jay Tovey covered the fitting of bar shoes. Hippocrates Blacksmith, a cloud-based service for equestrian businesses was on hand to talk about its systems

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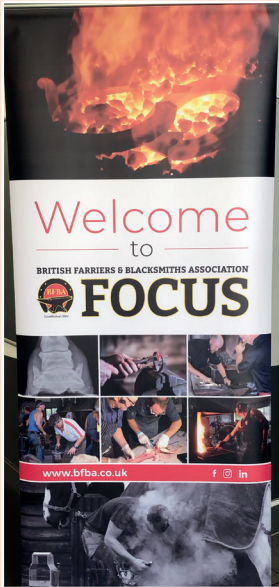
Marketplace

Best stand winner



The winner of the best stand award was **Silverback Chaps**. Our mystery shoppers felt that the stand was well dressed and the staff were helpful and well informed. Congratulations to the team. Silverback won an advert in *Forge* magazine and a discount off a stand at next year's BFBA Focus.





BFBA merchandise was popular



'Focus was a fantastic weekend'



Mustad marked its 190 years with a YouTube video – 190 years in 190 seconds – which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qR4cZ7uFxBw>
#Mustad190Years #MustadByYourSide



The Blacksmiths Guild put on a demonstration on the Sunday and hope to get more involved in Focus in future

Farriery Apprenticeship Working Group (FAWG) seeks new members

In 2012, the farriery apprenticeship started to make the move from the old NVQ/QCF system to the government's new Trailblazer apprenticeship scheme. Over the next 10 years the Farrier Apprenticeship Working Group (FAWG), headed by Cliff Barnes AWCF, secured the new apprenticeship with the Institute for Apprenticeships (IFA).

This work consisted of writing the new standard and the **end-point assessment** (EPA), which is the final stage of the apprenticeship. It is an objective assessment of whether the apprentice has developed the skills, knowledge and behaviours outlined in the apprenticeship **standard**.

The **standard** is the document that is used by any potential apprentice to understand what they can expect from their apprenticeship and, conversely, what is expected from them.

The **EPA** document is used by the Worshipful Company of Farriers – our **EPA organisation** – to produce the EPA, the Diploma-level examination. It is also used by the colleges for them to produce their farriery training so that apprentices are correctly prepared for the examination.

Under the new scheme, the first cohort of apprentices will take their EPA in May 2023.

All of this work has been achieved by a group of farriers,

mainly Approved Training Farriers (ATFs). It is now time for the committee to look for new members. So, if you're an approved training farrier (ATF) with recent experience as an ATF, are recently qualified or would just like to be more involved in the future of farriery training, please apply by email to fawgchairperson@gmail.com

If you would like more information about what's involved, you can call Cliff Barnes on 07850 971299.

Positions available

Chair

This role will require a high level of ability to communicate in all aspects of our apprenticeship, both with the government bodies involved, as well as all stakeholders. The applicant must have the ability to organise, host and chair meetings and keep the industry at large informed and engaged.

Vice Chairperson:

This person will shadow and assist the chair in all aspects of their role, with a view to taking over when the chairperson's tenure ends or they are unavailable.

Members of the committee:

People who can communicate and work closely with other members of the committee in a professional manner.

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.

Step-by-step guide to basic shoemaking. Part 1. The 3/4 fullered front shoe

By Henrik Berger FWCF

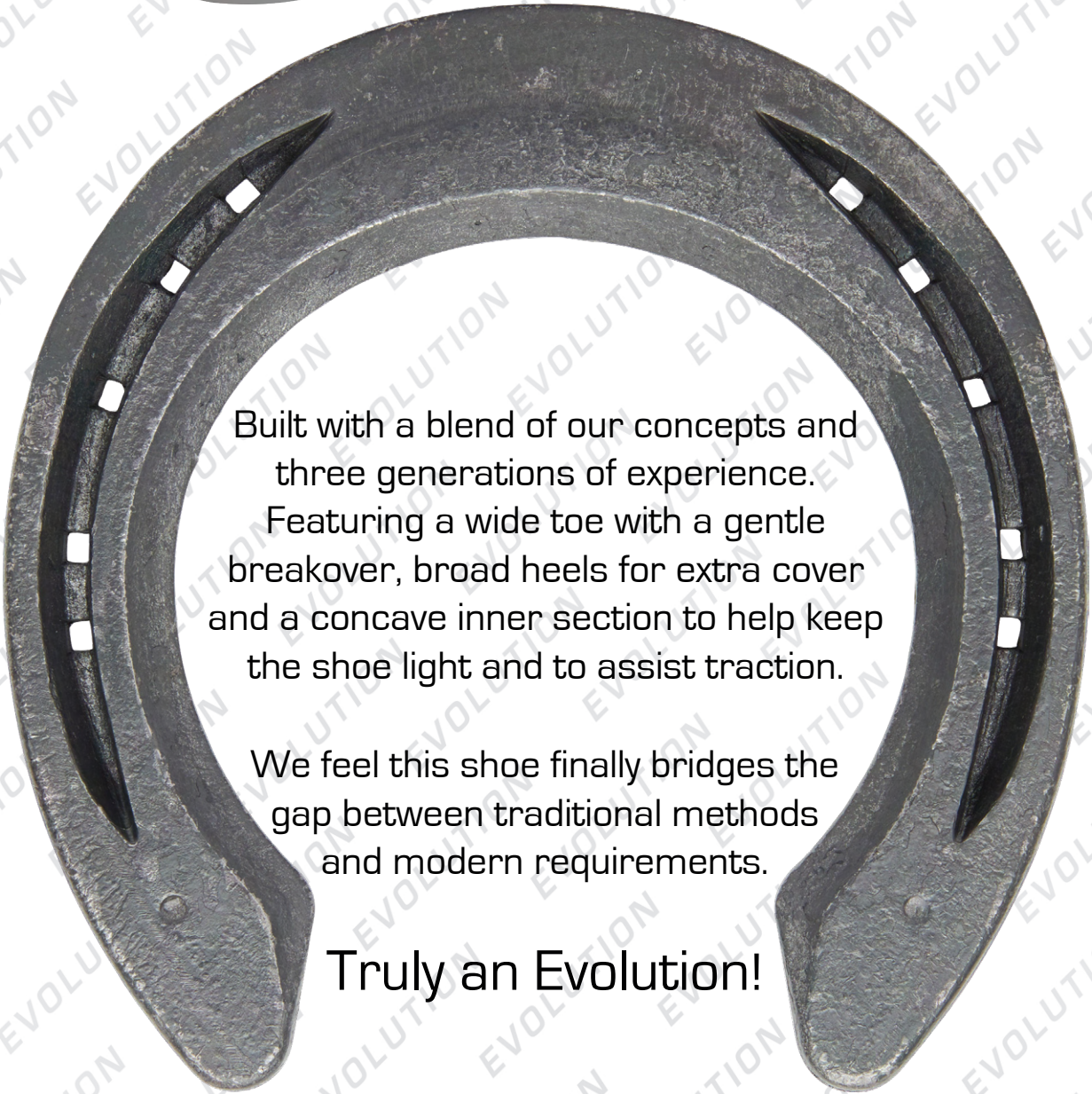
This article by Henrik Berger of the Viking Farrier Academy in Denmark aims to promote shoemaking using a methodical approach gleaned over years of shoeing, shoemaking and competing at the highest level. The articles in this series can be used by both novice and apprentice farriers to help them develop efficient and repeatable skills at the anvil, and by farriers who wish to compete.



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Malcolm Paine's anchor project in Western Australia

By Merv Allen FWCB

By the wonders of the Internet, news recently reached the Blacksmiths Guild about a Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Award winner living in Australia who appeared on an Australian Broadcasting Corporation programme. Company records show that Malcolm Paine was awarded his Diploma of Merit in 1962. Here is his story:

'My connection with blacksmithing started in 1945 when I started work as a 14-year-old at W.G. Moulsey in Farnham, Surrey. As a General Blacksmiths at a time when iron and steel were in short supply, our work was mainly recycling and repairing tools. Worn horseshoes were used to make tools and were constantly having to be remade into new horseshoes. The old smiths couldn't do this with mild steel or at least they found it difficult. Horseshoeing at that time was an important part of the business.

'When necessary, blacksmiths were employed casually for perhaps one day a week. These men were in their 70s and 80s who had continued to work through the war years. It was from these men that I found an interest in iron. They had little time for that 'mild steel stuff' – it had to be iron!

'When the Second World War ended, mild steel took the place of iron and the coal mines ceased to produce Welsh Smiths' Coal. Mechanical welding found a place in workshops and agricultural engineers took the place of many blacksmiths.

'With the agricultural work drying up and working horses being replaced by tractors, many blacksmith shops closed. The blacksmith shops that carried on turned more to decorative ironwork with replacement and restoration of war damaged ironwork providing employment.

'After completing National Service in 1951 I moved to London to join a firm that produced ironwork for large department



stores, such as Harrods. This was where I first met Colin (Tommy) Tucker. (Tommy Tucker FWCB LWCB was a Company Gold Medal holder [MA].)

'In 1953, I moved to Waltham Abbey and spent two years at the gunpowder factory working as a welder and doing part time work for Ken Bateman at Essendon Forge in Hertfordshire. I joined into partnership with him and specialised in decorative wrought ironwork. This business is still operating as Mill Green Forge. Moving back to Farnham and Church Lane Forge, I produced sculptural items using forging and fabrication.

In 1963, I joined Colin Tucker at the Wimbledon workshops of the Rural Industries Bureau (CoSIRA) as an instructor and adviser for wrought ironwork and welding. During this time I visited blacksmith's shops across the Southern Counties instructing apprentices, and they in turn would attend instructional sessions at the R.I.B. In Wimbledon. During this time the first formal visit of English smiths to France was organised by the R.I.B. I was involved with this event by providing information and details of the collection visited.

Now that I am retired, my aim is to pass on some of the knowledge and skills I have learned. My book "The

General Blacksmith" covers basic traditional techniques of this ancient craft and also tells a tale or two.

So, to the anchor-making project. Inspired by the video of the Shetland Anchor (Bruce Wilcox FWCB and Sons Forgings, Hillswick, Shetlands [MA]) having a special interest in wrought iron I thought the forging and welding of an anchor in the traditional manner would be an excellent project for members of the West Australian Blacksmiths Association. To tackle something that involved working with large sections of iron would be a rare experience for them.

The iron was sourced from farms and scrap yards. The shank, 4 feet of 2x2 inch; the hooks, each 2 feet of 2 x 2 inch from old cart axles. The flukes, 5 x 1 inch obtained from dray tyres. The stock, 1 inch round from bolts salvaged from a restored jetty. The chain, 7/8 inch round from tie rods salvaged from a demolition site. This was all iron aged about 100 years old.

All the equipment had to be portable as the building we were using was part of the museum complex. As the anchor had to be made in a traditional manner, the fuel for the fires was charcoal. We used electric fans, our only non-traditional aid.

Three fires were arranged in a row, the first and largest used to forge the shank and hooks. The centre fire was used to produce the flukes and to forge the stock. The third fire was for the chain and shackle maker. To weld the hooks to the shank we used two fires and it was necessary to synchronise these when bringing the pieces to a welding heat. Two strikers worked with eight to 10 lb sledge hammers during the welding and drawing out.

The anchor is displayed in the Busselton Jetty Museum, Western Australia www.busseltonjetty.com.au

**Malcolm Paine AWCB,
Blacksmiths' Association of
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Army Challenge Cup

By Don Mallett AWCB LWCB

The Army Challenge Cup was held in the Blacksmiths Shop at Ministry of Defence Lyneham between the 1 and 3 August, 2022. The competitors had two hours to make a hanging basket bracket, a task set by Don Mallett AWCB, LWCB.

The competition judge was Mr Hector Cole FWCB, MBE and the winner was Craftsman Wood, second was Craftsman Bullard, third was Craftsman Holmes, fourth was Craftsman Shannon, fifth was Craftsman Back and sixth was Craftsman Mills.

The winner will be invited to the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths (WCB) Awards Luncheon in London to receive the Army Challenge Cup. The competitors all did really well considering they had only had just short of four weeks' blacksmithing experience and the judge had some wise words for them all.

I would like to thank the sponsors – WCB, Vaughans (Hope Works), Swan Products and Gibbins Aprons for their continued support.



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Lambourn Race Division

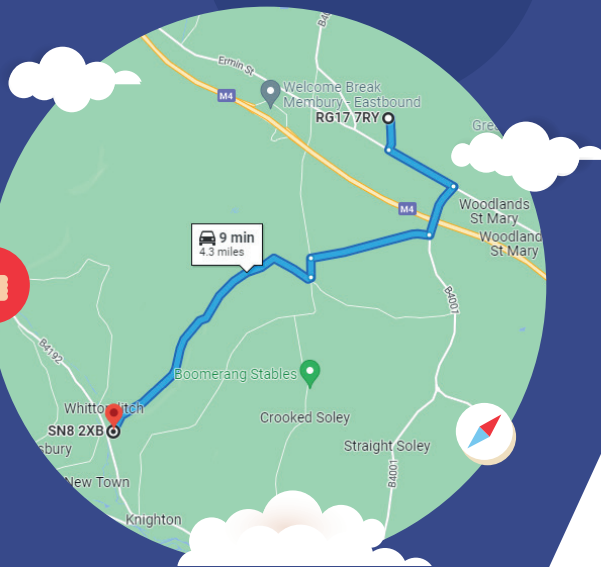
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MYSTERY CLASS HANDICAPS COMPETITORS IN CHARITY CLASS

This year's Wessex Heavy Horse Show and Country Fair competition farriery competition was held at the Turnpike Showground, near Shaftesbury in Dorset. The judges were Alex Collier DipWCF and George Rogerson DipWCF. The midday class was a mystery class, where two farriers worked together, but had to work with only three arms and two eyes between them, which meant their hands were joined and each had one eye covered. The proceeds from this class raised £360 for The Farriers Foundation.

Class 1

1. Tom Faulkner
2. Matt Sole
3. Sultan Al Ameri

3. James Sutton
4. Nicholas Cooper
5. Toby Thoroughgood

Class 2

- 1 Christian Welsford
2. Kiran Smale
3. George Hayter

Class 5

- Winners: Hannah Chamberlain and Christian Welsford

Class 3

1. James Hayter
2. Joe Frank

Class 4

1. James Hayter
2. Joe Frank
3. James Sutton



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Caleb Green
Russell Floyd
Kim Lacey

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Danny Elliott & Graeme Moran (Managers)
Steven Beane
Alex Collier
George Rogerson
Ben Taylor
Olli May (reserve)

France

Stéphane Bréhin (Manager)
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Hans Meier
Reto Eggenberger
Laurin Bärtschi

USA

Travis Smith (Manager)
Sawyer Spradling
Daniel Jones
Juan Berumen
Brian Buckner
Adam Fahr

Wales

Joe Whitehead (team member and manager)
Matthew Rees
Elgan Harries
Nicholas Johnsey

Ireland

Alwyn McKeown (Manager)
Paul Robinson
Rodney Ross
Will O'Shaughnessy,
Edward O'Shaughnessy
David Lynch

**APPRENTICE
COMPETITION**

British Army

Adam Cooper (Manager)
Mike Hansford
Abbie Robinson Wyss
Jake Trathen
Jacob Reuter
Lawrence Marsh

England

Danny Elliott (Manager)
Henry Chitty, George Hayter, Theo Williams, Alex Willis, Charlie Pimblott

France

Stéphane Bréhin (Manager),
Martin Varaut, Evan Lamy, Ronan Rouchvarger, Théo Duboust

Scotland

Ally Smith (Manager),
Matt Bradley, Grant Nelson, Chris Stead, Peter Rogers

Sweden

Johannes Sandsten Atlason (Manager)
Daniel Rosdahl
Hilda Tedefalk Nygren
Lasse Backman
Nathalie Karin Jane Varenstål

USA

Ben Mangan (Manager)
Matthew Shaklee
Mason Mileski
Jake Ynguez
Shamus Mangan

Wales

Joe Whitehead (Manager)
Zak Jones
Joe Buckley
Connor Stephens
Saul Barker
Connor Thomas



Horses are horses and they don't always behave as you expect them too



Apprentice Judge Russell Jones shows vet Kirsty MacGregor what the judges look for in the shoes



Steven Beane draws an audience at the anvil



Chief Steward Mark Watson thanked everyone involved in the competition. He said the judges had done a fantastic professional job, remaining cool calm collected even in stressful moments, adding that they managed everything with a smile and great humility.

He also thanked the team managers, saying that he had been in constant communication with them before the event. He recognised the competitors' commitment in travelling thousands of miles and putting in hours of practice. Having competed for 17 years, he understood what it took to compete at this level. He received a standing ovation for his own role.

Judges Douwe Dokter and Ian Gajczak said they had had an amazing weekend. At the prizegiving dinner, they thanked the BFBA for the invitation to judge and Mark Watson for his 'brilliant organisation'. They said they had been presented with some spectacular work and found that they were very much on the same wavelength – never too far apart on the scores.



Vet Kirsty MacGregor of Bakewell Veterinary Clinic watched the trot up after the shoeing, along with the judges (from left) Douwe Dokter and Ian Gajczak, and chief steward Mark Watson (right).



Jed Hallam handled the scoring



The Irish team received a huge cheer before accepting their prizes from the American Farriers Association President Hank Chisholm CJF, who presented the awards alongside BFBA President Ben Benson

‘History and recognition and dedication and persistence will pay off... all the tons of coke – all the tons of steel – the horses shod for free – air fares to get together for practice – blood, sweat and the odd tear (and the odd broken ankle) – but tonight is what it is all about.

Ed O’Shaughnessy

Results

Best Specimen Shoe

Apprentice George Hayter, England

Apprentice Individual

- 1 Matt Shaklee, USA
- 2 George Hayter, England
- 3 Zak Jones, Wales
- 4 Grant Nelson, Scotland
- 5 Shamus Mangan, USA

Apprentice Team Championship

- 1 Team England
- 2 Team USA
- 3 Team Wales
- 4 Team Scotland
- 5 Team France

Reserve Team Member Champion

- 1 Olli May, England
- 2 James Frost, Army
- 3 David Lynch, Ireland
- 4 Adam Fahr, USA
- 5 Kim Lacey, Canada

Best Specimen Shoe, Gas Team Forging

Will O’Shaughnessy, Ireland

Team Gas Forging Championship

- 1 Team Ireland
- 2 Team England
- 3 Team Wales
- 4 Team Scotland
- 5 Team USA

Best Specimen Shoe, Friday

George Rogerson, England

Best Dressed Foot, Friday

Matt Clooney, Army

Best Shod Foot, Friday

Rodney Ross, Ireland

Best Overall Team Shoening, Friday

- 1 Team England
- 2 Team Ireland
- 3 Team Scotland
- 4 Team France
- 5 Team Switzerland

Best Specimen Shoe, Saturday

Paul Robinson, Ireland

Best Dressed Foot, Saturday

David Varini, Scotland

Best Shod Foot, Saturday

Daniel Jones, USA

Best Overall Team Shoening, Saturday

- 1 Team Scotland
- 2 Team Ireland
- 3 Team Sweden
- 4 Team England
- 5 Team France

Overall Individual Championship (Classes 1, 2 and 3)

- 1 Alex Collier, England
- 2 David Varini, Scotland
- 3 Will O’Shaughnessy, Ireland
- 4 Paul Robinson, Ireland
- 5 Jesper Eurenium, Sweden

BFBA International Team Horseshoening Championship 2022

- 1 Team Ireland
- 2 Team England
- 3 Team Scotland
- 4 Team France
- 5 Team Sweden

Class 1. Team Gas Shoemaking (Friday)

1.5 hours for 4 team members to make a different specimen each using only one anvil and gas fire.

Class 2. Team Horse Shoening (Friday)

2 hours per round for 2 team members to make and fit a 3/4 fullered shoe to the horse and make a specimen each.

Class 3. Team Horse Shoening (Saturday)

1.5 hours per round for 2 team members to make and fit a plain stamp shoe to the horse and make a specimen each.

Class 4. Reserve Open Team Members (Friday)

1 hour for 1 reserve team member per country to make a pair of specimen shoes from gas forge.

Class 5. Apprentice Team Gas Shoemaking (Saturday)

Same as Class 1, but for apprentices.

Class 6. Apprentice Individual Gas Shoemaking

45 minutes for the individual apprentices from each team and a reserve member to make a pair of specimen shoes.





Shamus Mangan, USA, 5th place apprentice individual



Matt Clooney won the best dressed foot on Friday



The French apprentice team took fifth place in the team apprentice championship



Fifth best overall team on Saturday was France



Overall team shoeing on Saturday, Jesper Eurenus took fifth place



Best dressed foot on Saturday, David Varini



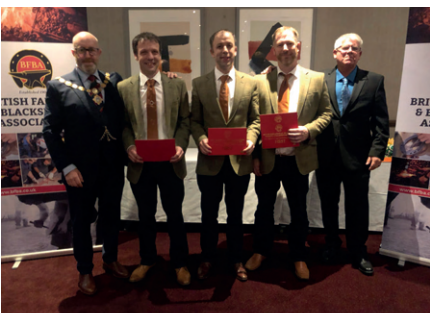
Best overall team shoeing Saturday, was won by Scotland



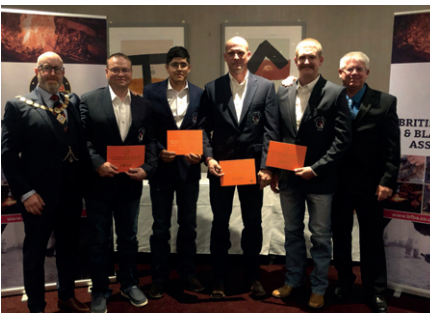
Best overall team shoeing on Friday was won by England



Best specimen shoe on Friday, George Rogerson, England



Team gas forging champions Ireland



USA gained fifth place in the gas forging



Overall individual champion, Alex Collier



Team gas forging championship, third place, Wales



Olli May was champion reserve team member



Best specimen shoe, George Hayter

Opportunities for training and diversifying in India

By Bernard Duvernay HonFWCF

A Tanga is a very light horse-drawn cart, drawn by a pony and used to transport passengers or goods in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Today, in large cities, Tanga transport has mostly been replaced by rickshaws and taxis. Bangalore, once a resort town for the inhabitants of Madras and Bombay during the monsoon periods, has now become a megalopolis of more than 13 million inhabitants. Numbering 3,000 in 1911, there were only 175 ponies remaining in 2011. There is no longer any room for horses in present-day Indian cities, and yet some owners cling to this activity, which they perpetuate from generation to generation for centuries. Today, confined to the poor neighbourhoods of this city, the drivers of Tanga remain specialised in transporting building materials; pipes, plastic tanks or wooden furniture.

Tanga ponies work on asphalt or concrete roads and therefore require strong shoeing to protect their hooves from the abrasiveness of the ground. The equipment of the farriers located in the streets of Bangalore comes down to a small armful of tools, a semblance of an anvil, a handful of nails and a few shoes bought from a specialised blacksmith.

It was in a small cul-de-sac in the copper collectors' district that I found Azam, the farrier with whom I had an appointment to spend the day. I had, however, lingered a little, fascinated to discover all that can be recovered from a household appliance (computers, televisions, washing machines, all-purpose electrical appliances, and so on) when disassembled with care! But let's get back to Azam who was at work, finishing shoeing the hind feet of a pony still hitched to his Tanga. Squatting under the pony, the farrier showed incredible dexterity in working in horribly uncomfortable positions. His work finished, we went to sit in the shade so we could get to know each other better and share a cup of chai.

Azam told me the story of his family, street farriers for countless generations. A swarm of kids surrounded us, which were Azam's I didn't know, they all seemed used to helping the farrier with small tasks. Azam then took out of a jute bag the shoes he was using. These shoes are forged from rods of



The typical tanga pony with its cart

concrete iron of which we can still see the diameter at the toe and the streaks on their branches. Azam never went to school and is illiterate, but this did not prevent him from becoming a recognised craftsman in this neighbourhood.

After this chatter, Azam had to return to his customers who had waited peacefully until then, but who were beginning to show signs of impatience to return to their transport work. However, now our farrier's tools had disappeared! Theft is very common and I felt responsible for diverting Azam's attention. Especially since here, there is no need to report the offense to the police... Azam questioned a few shopkeepers who quickly put him on a track. A few minutes later, he reappeared, his tools in hand, displaying a big smile to let us know that the incident was closed and that he could resume his work.

I don't know how many kilometres these ponies travel a day, but to see the wear on their hard metal shoes and

The typical shoes made from construction steel



Shoeing in the street



Azam at work, using a wooden board on his knee and a chisel for trimming

knowing that the pony at hand had come to be shod only 15 days ago, I dare not imagine.

The days are tough, both for the horses and for these men. Azam, equipped with his basic instruments, unshod, pared, re-nailed a new iron shoe, made his clinches on the ground, gave a little rasp and then went on to the next one. Bent under the cart to shoe the hind feet, he wasn't scared by the discomfort. And it was with just as much dexterity that he finished shoeing a hoof. In about 20 minutes the four feet were fitted with new shoes for the modest sum of £2. Azam, who has always worked in this part of town, is worried about the disappearance of his clientele.

He does not know, however, is that other activities may be waiting for him on the outskirts of this turbulent city. Here, equestrian leisure activities are developing rapidly in the Indian countryside. Just as happened in Europe about 80 years ago, horses are rapidly driven out of the cities to become pets and leisure animals. Farriery in the city may be doomed to disappear, although it undoubtedly has a future in a context where his craftsmanship would regain a certain prestige. Azam, with his years of experience working for poor customers, moreover in very harsh conditions, will have no difficulty practising a type of farriery adapted to more delicate horses who require better shoes, with added more attention to the details of limb balance.

FAF therefore wishes to bring to the attention of these farriers the future possibilities, by inviting them to courses run



Working under the Tanga to shoe the hind feet



The shoe on the foot

by the Flying Anvil Foundation (FAF). These are organised in our school, far from the hustle and bustle of the city, with the goal of enabling farriers to acquire further knowledge and farriery techniques – with an approach that takes into account Indian culture.

Applications from these street farriers come in gradually as they progressively become aware that their clientele is evolving. These courses are given on our premises in Rajasthan and it is a pleasure to see these craftsmen regain hope for a much brighter future than they suspected.

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Since our charity was founded, we have helped many farriers and their families through difficult times. Jonathan Nunn writes: We have supported some during end-of-life care with financial assistance or equipment to make life easier. We have paid for lifesaving surgeries for some and even helped families with funeral costs for their loved ones when they have passed. Before Covid-19, we had £39,000 available to help. We continued to assist people throughout lockdown, despite no fundraising events being held for over two years due to lockdowns. We survived because we are volunteers who fundraise for our cause.

To date, our charity has given over £60,000 in financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries and we are now appealing for your increased help and support.

Currently, we have limited funds while having more dependents than ever who rely on our help. Please do whatever you can to support your charity, which is the only registered charity of its kind in the world. Let's not let The Farriers Foundation down.

BFBA INTERNATIONAL BLADESMITHING COMPETITION 2022

SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER Hall 2, NAEC Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LH

In association with Multitool Products and Central Forge

The bladesmith competition was a tremendous feature at Focus – incredibly interesting and a brilliant effort by all the competitors. The class ran over three hours, in four separate sections. Starting with a blank billet of steel (provided by **Barmond Special Steels**), the 15 smiths forged and shaped their blade.

They were then given time to grind the basics into the blade, followed by heat treatment using an Evenheat Kiln and an oil quench. Once the blades were hardened, each smith worked with our 84 Engineering Belt Grinders at a grinding station to finish their blades. Finally, the handle was fitted (thanks to **Blockworks UK**) and the knife received a final polish and was sharpened.

The competition was skilfully commented by **Toby Murrill of Toby, Fire and Steel** – a podcaster and YouTuber with a strong online presence. He also described the fascinating judging process.

The judging panel included **Scott McLellan from Sheffield Knife Sharpening**. Scott and the

panel marked each blade as it was made.

Knives placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd won a cash sum of £500, £250, £100 and although the competitors were allowed to keep their knife the winning knife (pictured below) was donated to the auction, which took place at the prizegiving dinner for the International Team Horseshoeing Competition.

The auction items raised more than £6300 for the association and the Farriers Foundation. The highest bid ever placed for an auction item was for a shoe worn by one of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery that pulled the gun carriage that carried the Queen's coffin to Westminster Abbey.

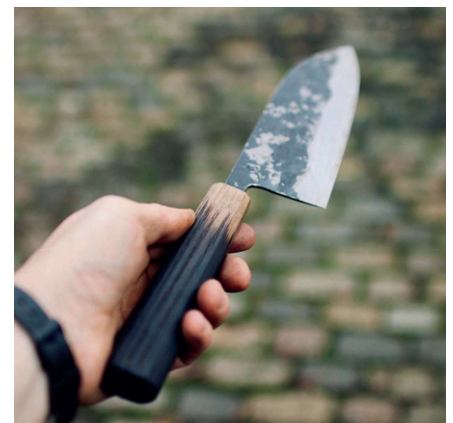


Bladesmith competition results

- 1 Simon Maillet
- 2 Joe Garnett
- 3 Hans Meier
- Best handle **Simon Maillet**
- Best grind and finish **Joe Garnett**
- Best forged blade **Simon Maillet**
- Best newcomer **Decklan Clarke**
- Sharpest and best performing **Simon Maillet**



Images of the winning knife by French bladesmith Simon Maillet @simonchefknife



Worshipful Company of Farriers Higher Examinations

The following farriers achieved a pass in Associateship of the Worshipful Company of Farriers

Samuel Green AWCF of Rutland

Charlie Dyson AWCF of Dorset

Jason Critton AWCF of Colorado, USA

Heather Beauchemin AWCF of Illinois, USA

The following farrier achieved honours in the Fellowship of the Worshipful Company of Farriers

Nigel Fennell FWCF(Hons) of Kentucky, USA





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We are delighted to have received two nominations for a college block award from Myerscough College. These apprentices have surpassed expectations and will receive a certificate and Stromsholm voucher for their troubles!

Congratulations MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Michael Roberts (Block 1). Michael was nominated as 'he was on time for all classes. He worked hard in both theory and practical and the work he produced was excellent for block 1. He took part in the BFBA Lancashire and Cheshire

competition held at the college and stewarded throughout the competition. He also helped with the WCF Balance course, again stewarding throughout the practical aspect of this course.'

Michael is trained by **Norman Johnson** BSc (Hons) DipHE DipWCF.

Rosie Dobson (Block 4). Rosie was nominated for 'working hard in her theory and attaining the highest mark on block. She works hard in practical sessions. Rosie was always on time for her classes.'

Rosie is trained by **Anthony Wilson** AWCF



Rosie Dobson



Michael Roberts

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Don't forget to sign up! Visit www.stromsholm.co.uk and follow the link to Apprenticeship Club. Signing up is FREE, quite and easy and you gain lots of benefits including 10% discount on tools throughout your apprenticeship.

Changing habits and behaviours

Catherine Wensley-Green continues her series of articles on looking after your mental health.

'Our lives change when our habits change'

Matthew Kelly

Habits are essential

Controlled by the unconscious mind, habits are a way of carrying out functional tasks without having to use our conscious mind to think through the process, which would be impossible due to the enormous amount of information we are exposed to every day.

Have you ever driven a car to a destination and arrived only to realise you have very little recollection of the actual journey? That is the unconscious mind in action. Or think about a daily task such as brushing your teeth, you do it automatically, probably thinking about something else entirely.

Because habits are unconscious they are very hard to break and because they are automatic, we mostly don't realise we are doing them until we are actively doing them, if at all.

Repetition creates neural pathways in the brain, the more we repeat a behaviour, the stronger the neural pathway becomes and the more ingrained the habit, therefore, the harder the habit is to break.

So each time we consciously decide to change a habit, yet unconsciously carry out the behaviour until we consciously realise we are doing it and stop, it is too late. Neural pathways are already being created or being strengthened.

The brain's input

The main job of our brain is to keep us alive. Safe is alive and familiar is safe, so our brain encourages us to do exactly what we always do. It does not care if we have undesirable habits, it does not care if we are happy or not, in love or not, growing as a person or not. It just wants us to stay alive.

The brain will actually encourage you to revert back to an old habit, back to the familiar, back to the safe.

Any new habit will feel uncomfortable and a huge effort will have to be made to consciously think about carrying out a new habit, or not carrying out the old one.

Creating new habits

- ▶ Swap don't stop. We are stubborn creatures and the more we tell ourselves NO, the more likely it is we will rebel against it. Swap the habit for something else.
- ▶ Baby steps. To bypass the brain wanting you to stay in the familiar, take baby steps in your habit change. Changing a small part of the habit every day will lead to long term results.
- ▶ Don't make a big deal of it. Unfortunately some people

will try to discourage you when changing a habit – it can make them feel uncomfortable that you are making an effort to change. You don't need to tell anyone your plans and because you are taking baby steps, you can quietly go about it without anyone making a fuss. Also, if you have a blip, you can begin again quietly, without anyone pointing the finger, or making you feel like a failure.

Write down what you want

- ▶ Write a list of the habits you do want. Beside each habit write why you want it and how you feel when you don't do it.
- ▶ This can also be reversed by writing down the habits you DON'T want, why you don't want them and how you feel when you do them.

Aside from helping her clients, Catherine is a livery yard manager in south Gloucestershire and she is married to a farrier. To find out more about how she may be able to help, visit Hope and Aspiration, www.hopeandaspiration.com

Strength and resilience

By Di Harvey, Director of Equine at Venn Mediation

Catherine Wensley-Green's September Forge feature, 'Practising and Strengthening Resilience', struck a chord with me. Increasingly, resilience is something we all need more than ever.

In our mediations, we are seeing that complaints have become more personal in nature between horse owners and their vets, farriers and other equine professionals. It can be difficult to separate yourself from the accusations levelled at you sometimes. Such behaviour from clients can take its toll on you physically, impacting on your ability to work through loss of sleep, worry and stress.

A recent mediation was between a horse owner and her vet. The farrier had been dragged into it too. The accusations were flying around on social media, Facebook reviews and correspondence. The owner accused the vet and farrier of making her horse lame.

To set the scene, the horse owner was a new client to the farrier and the vet practice. Both professionals wished to assess the horse's foot issues. The horse was observed when led in hand in the arena and on the firmer surface of the track.

Guild forge-in successful weekend

The Blacksmiths Guild held its annual general meeting on September 25, as part of its Guild weekend. Once again the event was held at Cholderton Farm Park, near Amesbury in Wiltshire. It was an educational event – an opportunity for novice smiths to get together to learn from those with more experience at the anvil. The visiting public could also have a go and this was especially popular with children who made a variety of items and showed some real skill.

At the AGM, the Master, Merv Allen FWCB, was happy to report that the pandemic was finally under control, although still at large. 'As with every organisation, we continually monitor the situation and are ready to act when necessary to safeguard our students, the public and ourselves. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to scientists, doctors, engineers, care and support workers around the world who tirelessly dedicated themselves to combating the virus.

'During the year we managed to catch up on our programme of courses, which were all well attended and enthusiastically received. These included five Introduction to blacksmithing courses and three second level courses (hammer and tongs, further techniques and firewelding) together with a members' weekend, which is booked for the 3–4 December at Kingston Maurward College, Dorset. All members are welcome whatever their ability. We have booked space in Dorchester's Convivial Rabbit Micro Brewery for those wanting to join in an evening of friendly banter, acoustic music and first-class beverages, both alcoholic and non. The pub does not serve food, but the likes of pizza and Chinese can be ordered from local suppliers and delivered to the comfort of your table.

'I am delighted to report that as well as our courses at Kingston Maurward, we are broadening our base of teaching venues to include at Brinsbury College, near Pulborough in Sussex, and have just signed an agreement with MoD Lyneham to use its REME workshops, under the direction of Guild committee member, Don Mallet LWCB, FWCB.

'As well as our ever-popular introductory courses, we are planning weekends in **repoussé, pattern firewelding, working with wrought iron** and an exceptional **masterclass on forged locks and keys** to be delivered by European Master Smith, the amazing, **Lazar Urumov FWCB**. In order to fund Lazar's course and make it widely available, we are in discussions with the WCB in the expectation that we can access the Gabriel Masterclass fund.

'I extend my sincere thanks to our tutors and support volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm help make our courses happen.

'It is important to recognise that with our extended programme of courses we must evaluate how we can effectively deliver the full programme. We only have a small team of tutors within the Guild and cannot expect them



Photos Marina Jacklin



to have the time to spare for an increased number of teaching hours. We can recruit the services of specialists like Lazar for

particular teaching passing on the costs to students, but for Guild courses a discussion is needed. If any members would like to consider becoming part of our teaching team we would love to hear from you.

'Last December we said goodbye to Life Member Brian Hill. Brian was a friend to many Blacksmiths both young and old around the West Country and beyond. The tributes and dedications at his funeral confirmed his legacy as a shining light in our Craft and I am thrilled that his family have joined us this weekend.

'On a bitterly cold day in March, Guild members, WCB Liverymen and friends enjoyed a visit to The Royal Armouries at Fort Nelson near Portsmouth, which is home to the national collection of artillery and historic cannons. My thanks to guild member Steve Restall for organising the visit and I hope that a Guild Blacksmithing event can be organised at this truly impressive site during 2023.

'In June, we spent a day displaying our skills and wares at the Underfall Yard in Bristol, near the SS Great Britain. The event coincided with the WCB Prime Warden's Weekend and was well received by members of the Livery and the public. My thanks go to all those who participated and Julie and Matt of the Underfall. We will be working on getting another extended event lined up for 2023.

'The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (BFBA) has organised a high-profile event called Focus on the 29 and 30 October at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. In addition to an International Farrier's Competition, there is a bladesmithing event. Don Mallet FWCB who has organised events at the same site in the past, has secured a space for the



Guild to provide demonstrations and promote our work.

'During the year we had the pleasure of awarding **The Blacksmith Guild John Hall Hammers** to **Ben Barnes**, a Level 3 student at Brinsbury College, and to **Craftsman Wood** at the **REME Training Centre in Lyneham**. Doug and I attended the ceremony in Brinsbury and Hector Cole kindly presented the hammer at Lyneham on our behalf. We are extremely grateful to John's family, the benefactors of this prestigious award, for their generous support.

Our **website** is now up and running and, apart from a few tweaks, is in much better shape than the original. Please log on regularly to keep abreast of what is happening in the Guild and of course, your feedback is always appreciated.

The Crucible newsletter goes from strength to strength and has an ever-increasing circulation in the UK and overseas, with many congratulatory and appreciative comments being received. Among a number of future developments, plans are being made to increase our customer base for advertising. I want to sincerely thank Sheree and Doug Campbell for the phenomenal amount of time and effort they put into publishing *The Crucible* and again make a plea for your input in the form of photos, words or both. This is an opportunity for you to get your business and activities in front of a very wide audience.

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to Committee members **Angus, Don, Doug, Jonathan, Keith, Martin, Mort** and **Nick** for their loyalty to the Guild and for their efforts both seen and unseen. This is especially the case in the planning and organisation of the Forge-In/AGM weekend, courses and the Hugh Adams project. Thanks also to our new Secretary Dawn who, despite difficulties, has risen to the

challenge and is now an invaluable member of our team.

Recent events are witness to the devastating effects brought about by **climate change**. As I reported at last year's AGM, it is vital that we do our utmost to reduce dangerous emissions to the atmosphere and have embarked on the road to becoming carbon neutral.

Guild committee members Nick and Mort have participated in discussions with the **British Artist Blacksmiths Association's Future Fuels Group**, and we are trying out various fuel options at this AGM – our findings will be reported back. In addition, we made a £200 donation to The Woodland Trust, and you may have noticed a number of collection tins for this charity around the site. The tins are also on show at Guild Courses and other events. All monies will be donated at the end of the year. My thanks go to guild member Phil Taylor for his help in this important project.

'I now enter my final year of tenure as Master, believing that we are now on our way in developing a high profile to a widening audience and becoming a more professional organisation. We now have regular contact and information share with blacksmithing organisations in Australia, Belgium, France, Ireland and the USA, with further opportunities including closer involvement in the pipeline.

'There is much still to do and there will undoubtedly be challenges along the way. I will continue to give my best efforts and with your help enhance our status as a first-class educator to all who have an interest in our ancient and noble Craft.

'I extend my best wishes to you and yours and long may your fires burn bright.'



Phil Taylor (left) was awarded the Audrey Paull Perennial Trophy, in recognition of his longstanding support of the Blacksmiths Guild. the Master Merv Allen FWCB presents the trophy



The Frank Day Trophy is awarded to a smith with less than three years of experience. Emelia Orving was this year's worthy winner who is learning her skills from Kevin Boys in Rotherhithe, London. She had brought along a beautiful and functional door knocker made of a rock caged in steel

The horse was diagnosed as laminitic and X-rays were taken to determine the rotation of the pedal bone.

Following the X-ray results and discussion between the owner, vet and farrier, a course of action, including the administration of bute and deep bed box rest was agreed. The owner then accused the vet and farrier of being negligent and unprofessional by inflicting pain when assessing the horse's movement on the harder surface. She said they had made her horse worse. She refused to pay her vet bill or farrier's bill. She called out a barefoot trimmer instead. The barefoot trimmer did not refer to the X-rays.

What would you do if this horse owner was your client?

As professionals, it was actually the duty of care to the horse that troubled the farrier and vet most in this case. The payment for work done was also pretty high. The horse was clearly suffering and needed careful management and treatment.

We are seeing more mediations with inexperienced

owners who have a horse for the good of their mental health and do not ride or have horse management knowledge. They often consider them as one of the family and that everything must be done to save them, regardless of cost – until the bill arrives.

In over 60% of the disputes that we deal with, when we explore the complaint with the parties, it turns out to be poor communication that is the real cause of the issue. The description of the problem, the recommended course of action and the management need to be explained in a way the client understands and is on-board with. When the owner, vet and farrier work together, the client buy-in reduces the subsequent opportunistic refusal to pay. Time taken to include the owner in discussions will also lead to the best outcome for the horse.

Venn Mediation Ltd offers 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, visit <https://venn-mediation.co.uk/> or call 07813 276642, or email diane.g.harvey@gmail.com

Support The Farriers Foundation

The Farriers Foundation was at Focus raising funds to help farrier families. The trustees invited everyone to visit the stand, purchase merchandise or donate to our essential charity. They weren't disappointed by the result, raising £12,000 over the weekend. This, and the money still coming in from #setsappeal the charity has topped an all-time record. Jonathan Nunn said: 'Your support for us has gone a long way towards



putting The Farriers Foundation back on the road to being able to continue doing the great work for farriers and their families. Thank you everyone for your contributions and help for us to do this.



Let's keep this going, <https://www.justgiving.com/farriersfoundation>



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Hoof reconstruction and repair
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- 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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Protective filling material



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- Your "Must have" pad material to create comfort and protection
- Urethane-based, that sets in 30 seconds and sticks directly to a clean, dry sole
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HOOF REPAIR BLACK

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



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

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