



FORGE

FORGE IS THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION



**BFBA: review
of 2022**

**BFBA Focus
popular podcasts**

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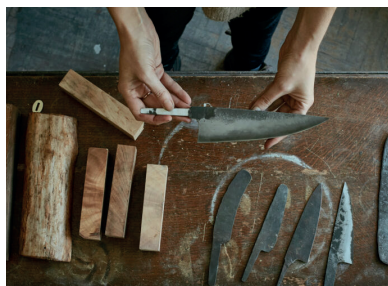

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The January 2023 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains the article:

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

by Henrik Berger FWCF



Worshipful Company of Farriers

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European Federation of Farriers Associations

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Vice-President, Peter Kristiansen (DMFA Denmark)
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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

We are in a new year. 2023 will bring changes in many aspects of our lives – socially and professionally.

The past year was pretty hectic and full of trials and trepidation. As far as BFBA is concerned, at our annual general meeting we saw a number of new changes to the Executive Committee. Dan Harman AWCF GradDip ELR joined us and Huw Dyer stepped in as Treasurer to allow Abby Bunyard AWCF to put herself forward as our first female Vice President. I was very fortunate to take over as President from Craig D'Arcy AWCF. We were joined in the office by Claire Jones who is doing a sterling job coordinating the administrative responsibilities for our association.



reluctant to increase prices is that we see our clients regularly and become friendly with them, which makes us feel guilty about putting up prices. It is important to remember that we are not increasing prices to make more money, but simply to cover higher costs.

Continuing professional development (CPD) is something for us all to get to grips with. As an ATF, I have had to achieve 10 mandatory points a year for some time. Avoid feelings of dread if you are wondering how you can fit CPD in on top of a busy job. In reality, it is quite straightforward to complete and log your learning.

In 2022, I was fortunate enough to be invited to Great Yorkshire and the Royal Welsh shows to present trophies on behalf of the BFBA. I was so impressed by the standard of the work demonstrated. To be able to dedicate time to compete, let alone practice, is a huge undertaking, and that's before you win a rosette!

We also saw a number of changes that directly affected us all as prices of fuel, gas and stock increased dramatically. It has been something that has affected all industries in the UK. A builder friend of mine was saying that building materials, such as wood, has doubled in cost in the past 18 months. Plastic products (pipes to manhole covers, for example) have gone up by 67%. When I looked at my stock, I held out increasing my own prices until the last of my suppliers added their summer increase. I deliberately didn't want to have to increase prices several times as costs started spiralling. However, I wish I had so that as we went through the year clients were able to prepare for higher costs. By June, as by the last increase came through I saw my shoes go up in price by 16%. I had to pay increased insurance costs (and extra for my apprentices, too) and gas becoming scarce earlier in the year caused a spike in prices, which briefly came down but are now marching back up.

It has been a definite change of wind with everyone now forced to look at their costs and what they are charging for their services. I have always felt that the cost of farriery in the UK is too low bearing in mind the level of training and expertise provided. This may sound harsh, but I have always felt that the horse industry is strange in how budgets are prioritised. Lessons and tack are seen as necessary investments whereas fundamental costs, such as for shoeing or feed sometimes seem to be items that get constantly scrimped on. I think another reason why we are

Daniel Bennett is our new BFBA CPD chairman and will shortly launch our CPD programme for 2023. I am really excited to see such a varied and progressive range of options that will be available for all levels. On top of that, a new intake of candidates will embark on the BFBA AWCF course this year. In my opinion, this is the best course for those wanting both hands-on and theoretical guidance, and direction to help them achieve this higher level exam.

A huge thank you goes to Claire Brown for her hard work over the past five years. She has undoubtedly given us a strong voice and the right tone to make sure that British farriery has a voice and seat within the equine sector. Claire (alongside our forge editor Gill Harris) gave us the opportunity to bring Forge Magazine home when Newton Mann Publishers ceased trading in 2017. Claire also was the voice that gave the BFBA the exposure and push to use (and even internationally recognised and copied) the traffic light scheme when Covid-19 arrived and the country went into lockdown. No-one knew what to do, but with Claire's help we managed to not only show how we were an industry that needed to keep working, we also gave other industries the confidence and model to copy to make sure that the welfare of the horse was not compromised. I'm glad to say that Claire has not stepped too far away and will continue to be part of the Association and the industry. We have managed to twist her arm to stay on in a more consultancy role and working across the equestrian industry working with National Equine Welfare Council and the British Horse Society to make sure farriers' voices are heard.

The Association is in a good place. Membership is up on last year, and we are proudly looking at an even more progressive, happy and positive year going forward!

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

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In 2022 we pledged to...

Continue to promote farriers' and blacksmiths' work and interests

- A group of blacksmiths and bladesmiths presented demonstrations and competed at BFBA Focus in October. We hope it marks the start of a new era for the Association.

We will listen to you and stand up for you.

- We highlighted the Farriers Registration Council Consultation on the standard of proof used at Stage 1 of the disciplinary process and invited farriers to a zoom meeting to discuss the issues. We also supported Farriers Week in July and invited the equestrian community to acknowledge their farriers. We are collaborating with the Blacksmiths Guild to be more inclusive.

We are planning a bigger and better Focus event for 2022.

- Focus 2022 was held in a new venue at Stoneleigh. Blackdown Halls provided a prestige venue for this year's event. Our aim is again to build bigger and better for 2023.

The BFBA International Team Shoeing Competition will take place.

- We were thrilled to be able to host the International Team Horseshoeing Competition after a break due to Covid-19. We are grateful for the support of the American Farriers Association in helping us put the event on.

We will launch our new BFBA website.

- Our new website was launched in April 2022. The new members' area contains CPD, back issues of Forge Knowledge members' benefits.
- The members only section also contains recordings of the presentations made at Focus. Don't forget to log the CPD you have done alongside reflections on what you learnt and how you apply your new knowledge.
- Did you know that there's a Classifieds section on our website? You can find items for sale, as well as job and apprentice opportunities. It's the first port of call if you're looking for an apprenticeship or if you're an ATF looking for an apprentice. www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/classifieds-listings

We want to help you thrive at work.

- 'Thriving at work' was a one-hour interactive webinar that was held in January 2022, brought to you by the BFBA with the Veterinary Defence Society.

We will hold CPD events and courses, including launching a new AWCF course.

- We launched our new AWCF course in March offering two tailored routes to achieving the WCF higher level examination. Our tutors Danny Bennett, AWCF, CertEd, AI assessor, and Dean Bland BA(Hons), DipWCF(Hons),

GradDipELR, DipEd, are looking forward to welcoming a new cohort in 2023. Our new CPD committee, chaired by Danny Bennett, organised a successful laminitis clinic in September. Much more is planned for 2023.

We will negotiate discounts and benefits for our members.

- In March we announced a 3p per litre saving for BFBA members through UK Fuels Fuelplus card. We also worked with Pilates with Jo, to bring you bespoke mobility support.

We will publish Forge magazine for all farriers and Forge Knowledge additionally for our members.

- *Forge* magazine is published six times a year and *Forge Knowledge*, its CPD sister magazine is published alongside for members only. Both magazines benefit from your input, so please do consider keeping the farrier family up to date with your news and support the learning of others by sharing your interesting case reports, and so on.

We will work with our partners to bring you advice and support.

- We work with Eastlake and Beachell (insurance), Morrish Solicitors (legal issues), NAF (nutrition), the American Farriers Association, Venn Mediation, and Andrea Brereton (HR) to support our members.

Members will vote in the next President at the annual general meeting.

- At the AGM held on 21 May, 2022, Ben Benson was elected BFBA President and Abby Bunyard was voted in as the Association's first Vice-President. She will stand for election as President at the 2024 AGM.

We will work with other equestrian organisations to promote farriers and farriery.

- Farriers now have representation across the equestrian industry including a seat at the British Horse Industry Council and the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC).

Meeting attendance will include industry representation the European Federation of Farrier Associations, among others

- UK farrier and former BFBA President Chris Linssner is the registrar and secretary of EFFA (www.eurofarrier.org/)

We will take on a new member of staff to help with office administration.

- We welcomed our new National Secretary Claire Jones

Continued on page 6/



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to BFBA in April 2022. Claire can be contacted by email to admin@bfba.co.uk or telephone 024 7669 6595.

We will hold regional events and support our branches

- We have supported our Branches and highlight their events on social media. We welcomed new Branch Southern Central and highlighted its founder Alex Prentice in *Forge*.

We will support the new Trailblazer.

- The Association has supported the new apprenticeship and looks forward to the first WCF end point assessment Diploma exam in May.

We will run blacksmithing/bladesmithing events.

- This year's Focus event included a bladesmithing competition, which proved to be well supported and enjoyed by everyone. The bladesmiths were enthusiastic competitors and the event was run by Alex Prentice, supported by Multitools and Central Forge, and commented on by Toby Murrill of Toby Fire and Steel.

We will continue to help our members.

- We regularly ask you what you want from your Association. We welcome your comments. We also fully support The Farriers Foundation, fundraising and publishing news of its activities.

Highlighted in *Forge* in 2022

Fishing for Farriers raises funds The Farriers Foundation

Farrier Matthew Cooney organised a 'Fishing for Farriers' event in September, attended by 20 farriers. The event raised £1300 for the foundation.

Tokyo Olympics

Greig Elliott described his incredible experience of being a member of the support team for the equestrian disciplines in Tokyo.

Your Horse Live

The Donkey Breed Society highlighted its Fab Farriers and one of these – Graham Smith – a skilful donkey farrier kindly provided a demonstration of working on 'different' hooves.

Farriers' lives remembered

Farrier Bob Armstrong HonFWCF was also 'The World's Greatest Stuntman'!

Material choices in ironwork conservation

The National Heritage Ironwork Group reported on its one-day conference 'Living in a Material World'.

Blinkin 'ell. Stevie Fisher's Roughest Ride

Edwina Darlow reviewed Stevie's book.

Somerset crafts

Farriers were among the craftspeople

featured in a project 'Craft – Somerset Portraits and Voices'!

Stevie Fisher watches Mark of Gold make his dream come true

Stevie makes it to Plumpton to watch his horse run.

What are the alternatives to coal?

A range of different fuels are tried out and reported by the Blacksmiths Guild.

Forge garden wins at Chelsea

Simon Hall AWCB of Branscombe Forge in Seaton, Devon, contributes to a winning garden at Chelsea Flower Show.

Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

The WCB celebrates 450 years since its charter was granted.

Continuing professional development

In a CPD feature, the BFBA confirms its commitment to lifelong learning through its CPD committee chaired by Danny Bennett. Other members include Ben Benson, Wayne Preece, Abby Bunyard, Phoebe Colton, Gill Harris, Claire Brown and Holly Flack.

Standing with the people of Ukraine

In May, we invited farriers to support the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal to raise

money for the people of Ukraine.

How to write a case report

Keen to grow the body of knowledge within farriery, we published an article describing how to write a case report. We hope that farriers will share their interesting cases with *Forge Knowledge*.

Obituaries

We paid tribute to Brian Hill, David Wilson FWCF and vet Jamie Stewart.

Flying Anvil Foundation

Bernard Duvernay HonFWCF has shared stories of his travels to Lohar and other regions of India, and Kyrgyzstan.

Best Shod Award

Sarah Mary Brown FWCF became the first woman farrier to judge the Best Shod Award at Aintree.

Changes to the Highway Code

We highlighted changes to the Highway Code that affected all drivers. The changes included details of the two-second rule, using a mobile phone, motorway driving, the hierarchy of road users, pedestrian priority at junctions and passing distances.

BFBA AGM

At the AGM we said goodbye to two Executive Committee members – Sarah Mary Brown and Philip Martin – and thanked them for their work. The full



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report can be found in the July 2022 issue, pp 4-10.

Lifetime Journalism Award

Well-deserved recognition for Fran Jurga of Hoofblog, Hoofcare and Lameness and HoofSearch.

Kings Plate Competition

Forge covered the Kings Plate Competition in every issue of Forge.

Horse health

Laminitis, strategic use of wormers, a new strangles vaccine, equine sports massage, lifetime equine insurance, remote temperature monitoring of horses,

Life after Farriery

Marc Lockwood AWCF submitted an interesting article on financial issues and retirement planning.

Resilience

Catherine Wensley-Green provided a series of articles on resilience and

looking after your mental health with some sound advice on how to improve your coping skills. www.hopeandaspiration.com

Apprentice Club

It was lovely to be able to recognise the hard work and dedication of apprentices through the Apprentice Club features.

Equine performance

Mike Williams of Total Foot Protection considered the forces involved in biomechanical movement in a article entitled Force Majeure.

Other CPD

The Horse Trust and Redwings Horse Sanctuary created an online course for farriers on equine welfare and legislation.

<https://www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/fwp-cpd-essex-2017>

Focus and the International Team Horseshoeing Competition

Focus and the 'International' featured heavily in the post-event issue, as well as on social media. The podcast series

by Canadian farrier Brian Mullins and UK farrier Danny Bennett proved very popular and there is more to come from them.

Forge featured the speakers, the demonstration area, the marketplace, the competition results, the social events, the bladesmith competition and, of course, the sponsors without whom we couldn't put on such a popular event.

Army Challenge Cup

The Blacksmith Shop at MoD Lyneham hosted the Army Challenge Cup. The task, set by Don Mallett LWCB was to make a hanging basket bracket, which was judged by Hector Cole.

Blacksmith Guild forge-in

The Blacksmiths Guild held its AGM and forge-in event at the end of September. It was an opportunity for novice smiths to learn from those with more experience in a friendly learning environment.

The weekend also had a social component, during which its awards were presented. Emelia Orving, a smith with less than three year's experience won the Frank Day trophy.



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From Shod to Barefoot

David Greenwood, Sarah Logie and Mark Trussler

- Examine the pros and cons of shoeing versus barefoot
- Focus on the role of the registered farrier
- Regulations surrounding decision making
- Maximising the welfare of the horse
- Suitability choice for different circumstances



13 February 2023 – 7pm

Keeping Feet in Great Shape

Sarah Brown and Mark Johnson

- The farrier's decision-making process
- How to get the best out of a set of shoes
- Hoof boots – pros / cons / considerations
- Keeping your horse's hooves healthy
- Remedial Shoeing



Image credit: Jon Stroud

20 February 2023 – 7pm

Surfaces and Competing

Ben Benson and Aksel Vibe

- What are the rules around shoeing and barefoot?
- Sporting considerations
- All about surfaces
- The judges' perspective
- Competing from amateur to Olympics
- Safety
- Considerations for the five domains



Image credit: Jon Stroud

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MAXIMISE POTENTIAL

BEVA SAYS IT IS VITAL TO REVERT TO BI-ANNUAL FLU BOOSTERS

As equine influenza (EI) vaccine supply returns to normal, following a significant shortage, and just at a time when the UK is seeing an increase in EI activity, epidemiology experts are advising that there is sound scientific evidence as to why bi-annual vaccination schedules should be promptly re-implemented. The *Equine Veterinary Journal (EVJ)* has published a special early view article reviewing the science behind the enhanced EI vaccination schedules, in particular the replacement of annual boosters with a mandatory bi-annual vaccination programme.

EI is a highly contagious respiratory disease that remains endemic in the horse populations across numerous countries and infection is characterised by rapid spread and significant morbidity in the immunologically naive. With the introduction of mandatory EI vaccination by most competitive equestrian disciplines after the early 1980s, the scale and number of outbreaks have in most years been relatively small. However, disease events such as those experienced in the UK in 1989, 2003 and most recently in 2019 have demonstrated EI's epidemic potential, even in vaccinated horse populations.

In their article 'Equine influenza bi-annual boosters: what does the evidence tell us?' Victoria Colgate and Richard Newton build on the work recently published by Fleur Whitlock and colleagues in 'An epidemiological overview of the equine influenza epidemic in Great Britain during 2019'. They discuss what has been learnt from previous outbreaks and explain the evidence from mathematical models to show why bi-annual boosters are beneficial.

Epidemiological data from previous natural EI outbreaks have repeatedly demonstrated the impermanent nature of the protection provided by vaccination and observational field studies repeatedly highlight the potential for 12-monthly boosters to leave a vulnerable immunity gap at both the individual animal and population level. Mathematical models of EI transmission confirm that six-monthly rather than annual EI booster vaccinations are preferable to establish and maintain effective population level immunity to EI.

Ideally vaccine strains should be updated in a timely manner to ensure inclusion of the most epidemiologically-relevant strains, however, this is a slow and expensive process for equine vaccine manufacturers. In the absence of updated vaccine strains, bi-annual vaccination is strongly recommended to help compensate for antigenic drift between vaccine and circulating EI viral strains.

'Although the recent EI vaccine shortage has necessitated a temporary relaxation of competition vaccine schedules, we must now renew the message that six-monthly boosters are optimal and necessary', said Professor Celia Marr, Editor of the *EVJ*.

The Editorial can be found at <https://beva.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/evj.13898> and is free to view.

Two related articles can be found here: <https://beva.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/evj.13874>

<https://beva.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/evj.13885>



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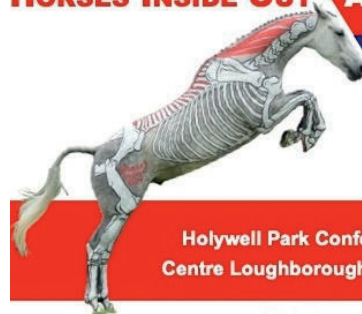
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DORSET FARRIERS SUPPORT THE FARRIERS FOUNDATION SET APPEAL



BFBA Vice-President Abby Bunyard and 10 local farriers got together recently at Abby's forge to raise money for The Farriers Foundation Page's #settsappeal. This wonderful charity supports the farriery industry and has helped so many farriers in need over the years.

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BFBA Focus podcasters

A common theme in my life since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic has been to have ideas to make my already busy life even busier. I've also gained the inability to say the word NO! I started the Lockdown Farriery Podcast primarily to reach out to farrier apprentices who were unable to attend college. Over the past couple of years, the podcast has reached over 80 countries and had over 50,000 downloads.

Having been involved with BFBA's Focus event for some years now, although mainly on the International Horseshoeing Competition side of the weekend, I have seen both sides of it grow and develop. I would like, as many others involved would, to see it become one of the biggest international farriery conventions in the world. It was at this point where I took my first idea to the BFBA Executive Committee (EC).

My plan was to invite fellow farriery podcaster Brian Mullins to come over from Canada for BFBA Focus 2022, where we would try to capture as much content over the weekend as possible with the aim of keeping people informed and to promote the event to a wider global audience. In this way, I hope we can encourage more UK and international farriers to come and join us at this year's event. The EC were fully supportive of the idea and helped to make it happen.

Brian and his partner Hannah arrived at my home the Sunday before Focus. Although we had formed a virtual friendship through our podcast over the last two years, we had never met in person. We have all experienced that feeling that sometimes you just know you will get on well with someone, which I was pretty sure I would with Brian.

Thankfully, this was more than true! We clicked instantly, it was as though we had been working together for years. Our week started with a flying visit to Newmarket to meet fellow podcaster and farrier legend Dr Simon Curtis.

Simon suggesting we went to the Newmarket Racing Museum; however we discovered it was closed on a Monday! Luckily, there were plenty of watering holes in the home of racing. Later, we were shown around some of the top racing yards by Iain Nixon. The day finished where the visit started – in a pub with many Newmarket farriers.

Day 2. I had agreed to host the Canadian team at Mark Watson's forge for two days of team practise prior to their move to Stoneleigh. Coincidentally, team USA was practising up the road, being hosted by Alex Mercer. This gave Brian and I the opportunity to get some build-up content by going and interviewing both teams. Listening to Brian interview these teams brought home to me just how important the Stoneleigh international competition is to farriers around



the world. That evening after having dinner with team Canada, we went home and recorded some intro sound bites, and once everyone in the house went to bed, I started work editing episode 1. This included realising that we should have a new theme tune for the BFBA Focus Podcast, so I recorded one from scratch. By 3.30 am I was finished and went to bed.

Thursday was Focus set-up day. Whilst Brian and I rolled our sleeves up and got our hands dirty helping set up the competition area during the day, Brian made use of any opportunity to interview members of the Purple Army in between shifting anvils and fires. This also included recording items with teams arriving from overseas.

Friday was competition day 1 and Brian turned into sportscaster mode, getting post-round interviews and general chat from around the arena floor.

On Saturday and Sunday we had the Focus event in full swing where the bulk of our content came from. We got interviews from exhibitors, lecturers, legends and attendees, alike. Brian hosted a live cast in the members' area each lunch time, which were amazing.

The whole experience was exhausting. However, watching our little idea evolve and develop over that week and listening back and editing the content it was

well worth it. I think between us we managed to capture the essence of BFBA Focus and the International Team Farriery Competition.

For me, the biggest take home was the amazing working relationship and friendship that developed with Brian, and I hope that we get the opportunity to do it again next year.

For those who don't listen to podcasts, they are easy to listen to and can be counted as CPD if there is a learning outcome. They are free and can be easily listened to on you phone or other devices.

Although the BFBA Focus Podcast is over for the year, the content can be still found at the Lockdown Farriery Podcast. Brian is releasing content through his own channel, The Mullins Farriery Podcast, including some longer in-depth interviews, already he has released amazing episodes with Abby Bunyard and Billy Crothers.

These Podcasts can be found via iTunes, Spotify, or any Podcast provider. Failing that just Google it.



Getting to know the gut

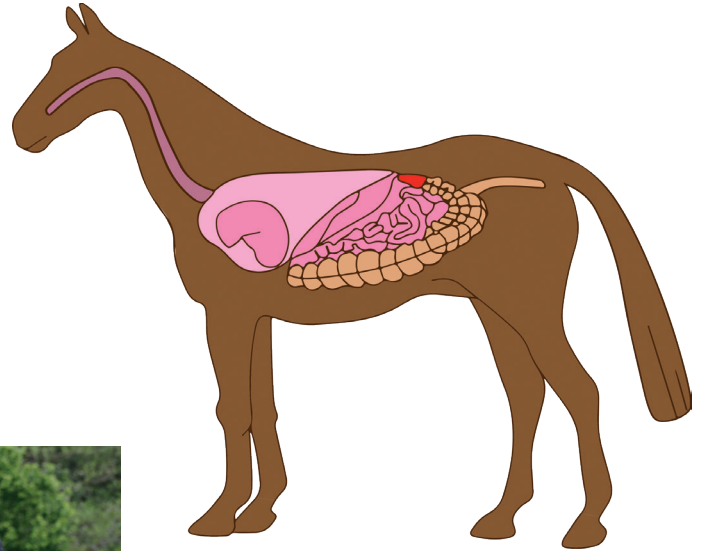
Most of us tend to recognise when a horse or pony is undernourished by its appearance, lacking condition and perhaps not performing as our clients would like to see...but have you ever thought what lies beneath? Here, NAF nutritionist Griselda Beaumont, BSc (Hons), ANutr (Animal), introduces readers to the horses' gut.

As nutritionists, we are often assessing general condition against a body condition score (BCS), the 6 stage example in the box below is a good assessment of how we can evaluate the difference between those that require help and those that are healthy. As farriers visit individuals frequently, it may be that they recognise behavioural changes for example. Therefore, the information contained in this article may prove helpful to clients if questions are asked. It should also be highlighted that gut health is fundamental to a healthy hoof.

GUT ANATOMY

In horses as in people, the gut is largely responsible for wellbeing. An unhappy gut leads to an unhappy horse and vice versa.







The gut in our minds begins in the stomach, but the actual digestive process starts in the mouth. The teeth chew the food and mix it with the individual's bicarbonate saliva before swallowing. This saliva has the power to help neutralise the acidity of the stomach, which is the



smallest stomach in relation to body size of all domestic animals.

The stomach can easily come under threat with modern diets and management systems. It has two areas, the 'squamous' at the top and the 'glandular' at the bottom. The squamous region is where the food, saliva and water enter the stomach. Unlike the glandular region, its lining is not protected against the acidic environment. It relies on a fibre mat that sits on top of the glandular region, preventing any splashing that may occur should the fibre mat not be retained with dietary intake, or if acid levels increase dramatically.



	Score	Condition		Neck	Back & Ribs	Pelvis
AT RISK	0	Very poor		Marked ewe neck. Narrow & slack at base and on either side of croup	Tight skin over prominent ribs. Backbone, sharp & easily seen.	Angular pelvis – skin tight. Deep cavity under tail.
	1	Poor		Ewe neck, narrow and slack at base.	Ribs easily visible. Skin sunken around an easily visible backbone.	Rump sunken but supple skin. Pelvis & croup well defined. Deep depression under tail.
IDEAL	2	Moderate		Narrow but firm.	Ribs just visible. Croup well defined, some fat. Backbone covered, but easily felt.	Rump flat either side of backbone. Slight cavity under tail.
	3	Good		No crest (except stallions). Firm neck.	Ribs just covered, but easily felt. No gutter along the back. Backbone covered but felt.	Covered by fat & rounded. No gutter. Pelvis easily felt.
DANGER AT RISK	4	Fat		Slight crest.	Ribs well covered, need firm pressure to feel. Gutter along backbone.	Gutter to root of tail. Pelvis covered by soft fat – felt only with firm pressure.
	5	Very fat		Marked crest, wide & firm. Folds of fat.	Ribs buried – can't feel. Deep gutter along a broad back.	Deep gutter to tail. Pelvis buried – can't feel.

The glandular region sustains digestive secretions where the acid produced begins to use enzymes to split up the proteins. The stomach then releases the food into the small intestine.

Here, along its lengthy elastic narrow channel, it metabolises most of the diets vitamins and minerals as well as fats, proteins and a vast percentage of the soluble carbohydrates.

Unlike a ruminant, the horse is a hindgut fermenter. This means the microbial fibre digestion occurs mainly in the large intestine, which constitutes around 60% of the total gastrointestinal tract. Fibre digestion creates energy and heat, assisting the individual's ability to regulate its body temperature. There are billions of different cultures of microbial colonies within the hindgut microbiome, acting like an army to breakdown fibre and the remaining carbohydrates that have escaped the small intestine.

The gut itself is responsible for around 80% of the equine immune system, and with the stomach being no larger than a rugby ball, it is the vast channels of the intestine that make up the majority of the gut - with 20+ metres of small intestine and the extensive capacity the large intestine (hindgut) can take in, the whole system needs to be taken care of.

GUT REACTION

The health of the gut will largely depend on the individual's diet and lifestyle. When an interruption in fibre intake occurs, the fibre mat in the stomach can easily breakdown. This can create discomfort in the squamous region of the stomach, by allowing acid to escape and splash onto the non-glandular or unprotected area.

Similarly, dietary changes, no matter how small can affect the bacterial populations. This can reduce the uptake of nutrients from the ingested fibre and an unsettled gut is likely to be the response.

To avoid a gut reaction, retaining continuity in the diet is paramount. Supporting the gut when travel, change of diet, workload or lack of variety in fibre occurs, will help to retain gut health.

GUT RESPONSE

Farriers may have seen the impact of the modern lifestyle on horses, be it for those that are stabled, on a combined routine or on all-year-round turnout, fibre sources tend to lack variety and, as a result, impact gut health. Science also tells us the reduction of soil nutrients has led to reduced nutritional intake to support all round, year-round gut health.

So what can we do to help?

Firstly, saliva can be assisted by providing high alkaline support, as well as additional calcium carbonate to provide that important buffer for the stomach acid.

The squamous region of the stomach can be supported

'GUTSY' FARRIERS RECOGNISE THE SYMPTOMS

- ▶ Digestive upset
- ▶ Reduced appetite
- ▶ Poor physical appearance
- ▶ Loss of performance
- ▶ Stereotypic behaviour
- ▶ Lack of energy
- ▶ Weight loss
- ▶ Uncharacteristic behaviour
- ▶ Kicking at the girth
- ▶ Irritable when touched



by ingredients that can help provide an additional coating to support the mucosa lining itself. The addition of compatible fibre can then activate itself on the mat to support against the loss of its integrity when dietary stress can break the layer down to expose the acidic compound of the glandular region.

When moving into the small intestine, it is essential for the walls and villi itself to be in good health to ensure the uptake of nutrients. Ingredients can help maximise the surface area while aiding wall strength and villi elasticity.

Strong prebiotics and probiotics can help rebuild the hindgut environment, with prebiotics essentially providing a source of food for the probiotics to grow existing members and recolonise new populations.

It is important to choose the right levels and the right types that can survive the foregut environment and provide their maximum benefit to the hindgut itself. Then, you have the new addition into the equine diet, the postbiotic. These provide additional fuel for the probiotics, supporting their growth and helping to reinforce the immune system, keeping the bad bacteria under control.

Additional support such as ingredients capable of clearing unwanted items from the gastrointestinal tract will help to keep it clean, healthy and fit for function.

It has been proven that feeding biotics help enhance the efficiency of the hindgut and new research has led to the development of a new biotic and NAF to launch its new compound NAF BioC, found in NAF Five Star GastriAid for total gut health and the clinically proven NAF Five Star GastriVet to target the modern stomach.





Fishing for Farriers raises money for The Farriers Foundation

On the 23 to 26 of November Fishing for Farriers held its third event. These events are designed to get farriers together to socialise outside of the farriery environment and raise some much-needed money for The Farriers Foundation.

On this occasion, we wanted to push the boat out a bit and try fill one of the most prolific day ticket waters in the UK, Brasenose Two, Linear Fisheries largest carp water.

With some help from non-farriers we managed to get 32 people down to the Oxfordshire venue for three days and nights of fishing. At 0945, organiser Mathew Cooney began with the draw

for swims and before we knew it, the 32 people were in place to start fishing.

The event was a massive success with 35 fish coming out of the lake, which before we arrived had only produced two fish in the previous 10 days.

Ryan McDonald walked away with the prize for largest weight of fish and a small trophy. At the end of the event the auction managed to raise a total of £2,500 for The Farriers Foundation.

If anyone is interested in carp fishing and would like to join us on one of the future events, please look us up on Facebook – Fishing For Farriers.

Fishing for farriers would like to thank all the sponsors for their kind donations to the event.

- Alex Mercer Tools
- Ryan McDonald
- Handmade Shoes (UK)
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- Steve White & Kev Ralph MAD BAITs
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- The Farriers Foundation

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COST OF LIVING CRISIS SURVEY

BFBA is working with NEWC member charities to support the launch of an important new **survey to find out how the current economic climate is affecting equine owners and keepers.**

Findings will be used to produce a report which will be shared as appropriate with governments and local authorities and will enable guidance and advice to be developed and published to support those caring for equines across the UK.

The survey for equine owners can be accessed at <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90512690/7d5c9aef4d5e>

Please **SHARE** this with your clients!

The survey link for equine rescue/sanctuary organisations is smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NEWC2022/

The surveys will run until 31 January and should take no more than 20 minutes to complete.
Thank you

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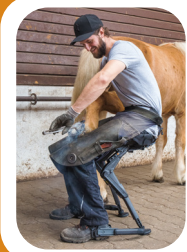
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“Basically, I could keep working like this all day. The Chairless Chair will give me a few more years at work. A few times I was on the verge of saying I can’t keep on shoeing anymore.”

Farrier Stefan Neutz

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THE PRINCIPLES OF FARRIERY

Chris Colles BVetMed PhD HonFWCF MRCVS,
Ron Ware FWCF and John Hayes AWCF

Fully updated
second edition



Crowood Press has published a new edition of The Principles of Farriery by Christopher Colles, Ron Ware & John Hayes.

*New
edition*

This fully updated new edition starts with a brief history of farriery, then looks at the legalities of the job and how to control equids for trimming and shoeing. The authors describe the care and maintenance of the forge and farrier tools, as well as the anatomy and function of the horse, especially the lower limbs, the principles of foot balance, and the practice of shoeing.

In the January issue of Forge Knowledge

Forge Knowledge is a member-only benefit offering an opportunity for gaining CPD.

Step-by-step guide to basic shoemaking. Part 2. The 3/4 fullered hind shoe

By Henrik Berger FWCF

This is the second in a series of articles by Henrik Berger of the Viking Farrier Academy in Denmark. The series 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.



Apprentices get free BFBA membership. Get your own copy of Forge Knowledge and Forge, email membership@bfba.co.uk

What is a notifiable disease?

At last year's Focus event, notifiable diseases were mentioned in a number of the presentations. As there appeared to be confusion about them, Forge is publishing this information about notifiable diseases involving horses, summarised from the gov.uk website. To find out more visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/notifiable-diseases-in-animals#specific-notifiable-animal-diseases>

A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities. The collation of information allows the authorities to monitor the disease and provides early warning of possible outbreaks. Vets, animal keepers and owners are legally obliged to report to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), even if they only suspect that an animal may be affected. The Department of Environment and Rural Affairs website includes a collection of guides to notifiable disease in animals. There are currently 45 notifiable animal diseases and a number of these involve horses. Some are zoonotic, which means they can also infect people.

Notifiable diseases can be:

- endemic – which means they are already present in the UK, such as bovine tuberculosis
- exotic – not normally present in the UK, such as foot-and-mouth disease

Some endemic and exotic diseases are zoonotic, which means they can pass between animals and humans, such as rabies.

What happens when you report a notifiable animal disease?

When you call, a duty vet from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) who will ask you about the animal(s).

If the APHA duty vet cannot rule out a notifiable disease on the phone, further investigation will be needed. A veterinary inspector will usually need to visit the premises.

The duty vet will explain what restrictions must be followed before the veterinary inspector arrives. For example, it may be necessary to stop moving animals susceptible to the disease on or off the premises. It may also be necessary to stop moving anything that can transmit the disease, like meat products, equipment or vehicles.

When the veterinary inspector visits the premises, they may take samples for testing if they cannot rule out a notifiable disease. For some diseases, they may need to cull the animal to take samples. The veterinary inspector may put restrictions on the premises. These restrictions must be followed to stay within the law.

A temporary control zone can be put around the premises, depending on the suspected disease. This restricts the movement of animals susceptible to the disease and helps to stop it spread.

If you suspect a notifiable disease in your animals, you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301. In Wales, call 0300 303 8268. In Scotland, contact your local Field Services Office. Failure to do so is an offence.

Restrictions continue until the investigation is complete. If a notifiable disease is ruled out, the restrictions will end.

If a notifiable animal disease is confirmed

APHA will carry out further investigations at the premises to assess:

- How long the disease has been present
- Where the disease came from
- Whether it has spread

APHA will put restrictions on any premises the disease is likely to have spread from or to (for example when animals have been moved). It may also introduce restrictions in a wider area, depending on the risk of the disease spreading. These are called disease control zones.

Specific notifiable animal diseases

African horse sickness

Signs of African horse sickness may include:

- swelling and redness around the eyes and elsewhere on the face
- frothing and discharge from nostrils
- fever
- slow and heavy breathing
- coughing
- swollen face

How African horse sickness is spread

African horse sickness is carried and spread by midges. It's not spread directly between horses.

Further information on prevention and control <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-horse-sickness>

Anthrax

How to spot anthrax

Anthrax can cause death in pigs and horses, though less quickly than in cattle and sheep.

The main clinical signs of anthrax in pigs and horses are:

- hot painful swellings in the throat area
- sudden colic pain in horses
- loss of appetite in pigs

Risk to people

Anthrax symptoms begin with a flu-like illness. This is then followed by respiratory difficulties.

Direct contact with anthrax can cause raised boil-like lesions on the skin which develop a black centre. This skin infection normally responds to early treatment with antibiotics. If you inhale anthrax spores, they can cause damage to the lungs, which is often fatal.

If you suspect anthrax:

- contact your local APHA office immediately and isolate the animal or carcass
- do not move, skin or open the carcass of any suspect animal
- disinfect blood or other fluids from any suspect animal, as soon as possible, with a Defra approved disinfectant
- do not kill or bleed any sick animals
- watch any animals that have been in contact with the suspect animal, and isolate them if they show signs of infection
- pay particular attention to cows, as people can be infected by drinking contaminated milk

Further information on prevention and control <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/anthrax-how-to-spot-and-report-the-disease>

Bovine Tuberculosis (a zoonotic disease)

Bovine tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium bovis*, (*M. bovis*), which is closely related to the bacterium that causes human and avian tuberculosis. All mammalian species, including humans, are susceptible to bovine TB.

It is mainly a respiratory disease. Transmission can occur through nose-to-nose contact and also through contact with saliva, urine, faeces and milk.

Cattle can become infected when directly exposed to infectious cattle (or other infectious animals) and their excretions. The movement of cattle with undetected infection is the most likely way that disease spreads to new areas.

Contagious equine metritis (CEM)

A case of CEM was confirmed in a stallion at a premises in Gloucestershire on 3 February 2022.

The stallion is being treated and follow up testing is ongoing. No other animals have been identified as being in close contact with the stallion.

The last outbreak of CEM in Great Britain was in June 2021 in Devon.

How to spot CEM

Stallions do not show clinical signs of the disease, but they can carry it.

In mares you should look out for discharge from swollen genitals, especially 1 to 6 days after mating. Infected mares may also be temporarily infertile, so if your animal is failing to get into foal, get it examined by a vet.

Laboratories and CEM

CEM is a reportable disease for laboratories. If a laboratory suspects the disease is present in a sample from your animal, they must contact their nearest APHA office immediately.

If you suspect CEM you should:

- tell your vet immediately - they may take samples from your horse for lab testing
- isolate any horses you think are affected
- stop the suspect horses mating
- avoid using semen from stallions with suspected or confirmed infection

If CEM is confirmed

CEM can be treated with antibiotics. There are no public health implications.

Dourine

Dourine affects horses, donkeys, mules, zebras and other members of the equid family. It doesn't affect humans. There has never been a known case of dourine in Great Britain. Further information on the signs of Dourine can be found on Defra's notifiable disease section of its website.

Epizootic lymphangitis

Epizootic lymphangitis affects horses and mules. It can affect cattle, but this is rare. It doesn't affect humans. The last outbreak in Great Britain was in 1906.

Equine infectious anaemia (swamp fever)

Equine infectious anaemia only affects horses. People aren't affected. The last outbreak in Great Britain was in 2012.

An epidemiological report on Defra's website provides a summary of the investigations by APHA to control the two incidents of equine infectious anaemia in Cornwall and Devon in 2012.

Equine viral arteritis

Equine viral arteritis (EVA) affects horses, donkeys and other equids. It does not affect people.

Equine viral arteritis is a notifiable disease in:

- stallions
- mares that have mated or been inseminated within 14 days

How to spot equine viral arteritis

Advice on spotting the signs, how the disease is spread and how you can help prevent it is available in this poster:

Signs of equine viral arteritis can include:

- abortions (failed pregnancies in mares)

Equine viral arteritis
a disease that affects horses, mules and donkeys

www.gov.uk/guidance/equine-viral-arteritis

Signs can include:

- abortions (failed pregnancies)
- conjunctivitis (bloody tissue around the eye)
- swelling of testicles or udder
- swelling around eyes and lower legs
- fever and runny nose
- anorexia (poor appetite)
- lethargy and stiff movement

Many infected horses will show no clinical signs. In rare cases the disease can cause severe clinical signs or death in young foals.

The disease can be spread through:

- mating
- artificial insemination
- contact with aborted foetuses
- contaminated equipment
- on the breath of infected animals for up to 2 weeks after initial infection

Stallions can carry the disease without showing clinical signs and spread the disease through sexual contact, or if their semen is used for artificial insemination.

You can help prevent the disease by:

- practicing good biosecurity on your premises and follow codes of practice (<https://codes.hhib.org.uk>)
- testing all stallions, teasers and mares before breeding
- talking to your vet about vaccinating stallions
- following guidance on isolation and testing when importing horses

If you suspect disease you must isolate any animals, stop them mating and report to APHA.

By law suspicion of disease must be reported:

England: 03000 200 301 | Wales: 03003 038 268 | Scotland: local APHA office



Advice on spotting the signs of EVA, how the disease is spread and how you can help prevent it is available in a downloadable poster, which is available in English and Welsh. Visit the gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equine-viral-arteritis>

- lack of coordination and balance
- inability to move
- staggering or standing with an open stance
- seizures

Glanders and farcy

Glanders and farcy affect horses, donkeys, mules, goats, camelids and a variety of other animals. People can also be affected. The last confirmed case in Great Britain was in 1928.

Rabies

Rabies affects all mammals including dogs and people. Rabies was eradicated from all UK animals except bats in 1922. The last case in an imported animal outside of quarantine was in 1970.

Surra

Surra is a parasitic disease that can affect camels, cattle, buffalos, donkeys, llamas, mules, pigs, goats, sheep, dogs and cats. It is found in North Africa, Asia and Central and South America. It does not affect people.

How to spot surra

The clinical signs can vary according to the strain and infected species.

Clinical signs include:

- anaemia
- weight loss
- fever
- abortion
- leg swelling
- chronic wasting in cattle
- nervous signs - common in horses and can resemble rabies in dogs

In camels and horses, it is often fatal and progresses quickly. In buffalo, cattle, llama and dogs it can also be fatal. But these species tend to develop milder clinical signs.

Vesicular stomatitis

Vesicular stomatitis affects cattle, pigs, horses and donkeys. It can also affect sheep and goats, but they are more resistant to it. It doesn't affect people and has never been present in Great Britain.

How to spot vesicular stomatitis

The signs of vesicular stomatitis are similar to foot and mouth disease (FMD). The only way to confirm the disease is by laboratory testing.

The main signs of vesicular stomatitis are:

- fever
- blisters on feet, snout, lips, tongue and inside the mouth
- lameness
- increased production of spit.

- conjunctivitis (bloody tissue around the eye known as 'pink eye')
- watery eyes
- swelling of testicles or udder, also around eyes and lower legs
- fever and runny nose
- depression
- anorexia (without appetite)
- lethargy and stiff movement

Many infected horses will show no clinical signs. In rare cases the disease can cause severe clinical signs or death in young foals.

Equine viral encephalomyelitis

Equine viral encephalomyelitis mainly affects members of the equid family, such as horses, donkeys, mules and zebras. Other animals can also be affected, such as cattle, sheep and goats, pigs, birds, including poultry, dogs, rodent. People can also be affected.

How to spot equine viral encephalomyelitis

Clinical signs can be different depending on which virus the animal has. Some animals will not show any signs at all. You may spot these signs soon after infection:

- fever for several days
- lack of appetite
- loss of weight and condition
- depression
- stiffness and weakness

You may spot these signs in the later stages of infection:

- behavioural changes - such as circling, head pressing or aimless wandering
- hyperexcitability
- blindness

Warble fly

Warble fly mainly affects cattle. It can also affect horses and deer; it doesn't affect people. The last outbreak in Great Britain was in 1990.

How to spot warble fly

The main sign of warble fly is large, soft and painful swellings on the back of the animal of up to 3 mm wide. The disease is spread by the warble fly, which lays eggs on the hide of animals.

West Nile fever

How to spot West Nile fever

In horses, clinical signs can include:

- lack of energy
- loss of coordination
- weakness in limbs leading to stumbling

Some horses will not show any signs at all.

BEVA says there is no need for alarm as West Nile Virus is diagnosed in the UK

On 6 November 2022, a case of neurological disease resulting from infection with West Nile Virus (WNV) was diagnosed in an unvaccinated seven-year-old Warmblood mare that had recently returned to the UK from competing in Spain. The timeline was such that the infection was almost certainly contracted in Spain with signs worsening when the horse got back to the UK. The horse was transported straight to a leading equine hospital and having now been discharged, is recovering well at home. There is no risk of onward spread within the UK.

West Nile Virus is a notifiable disease because of the threat it poses to human health. However, this case need not prompt alarm as the infection does not spread from horses to other animals or people. Although horses can become very sick, and even die, when they become infected, they have very low levels of virus circulating in their bodies, insufficient for the infection to be transmitted.

This is not the first time WNV has been detected in a horse in the UK, in October 2013 the condition was diagnosed in a horse arriving in the UK from Europe. The virus is becoming increasingly common across Southern and Eastern Europe where it is spread between different species, primarily birds, by blood-feeding mosquitoes.

With rising temperatures spread of WNV to Northern European Countries, including the UK, is increasingly possible. Cases in horses have been identified this year in multiple countries, including France and Germany. This case serves as a reminder of the value of vaccinating horses that are travelling to countries where WNV is common, such as Southern and Eastern Europe and The Americas.

Vaccines are available in the UK. The risk is highest in Summer and Autumn when mosquitoes are more prevalent. It is also a reminder of the importance of remaining vigilant for signs of the disease in horses that are travelling. Signs typically include muscle tremors, weakness, stiffness, ataxia (wobbly gait) and potentially recumbency.

Biosecurity measures to prevent disease

- Do not bring infection onto your premises, or spread it around other premises on your clothes, footwear or hands.
- Where possible, limit and control visitors – people and vehicles.
- Keep access routes, parking areas, yards, feeding and storage areas clean and tidy.
- Have pressure washers, brushes, hoses, water and disinfectant available.
- Do not allow contact with neighbours' livestock and maintain your fences
- Introduce a pest control programme.
- Fence off streams and rivers – supply clean fresh drinking water in troughs.
- Keep livestock away from freshly spread slurry.
- Ensure your record keeping is accurate and up-to-date.
- Be vigilant to spot any signs of disease among your animals.
- Train staff on the principles of hygiene and disease security.
- Discourage vermin.
- Wear protective clothing and footwear.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after handling livestock.
- Avoid wearing dirty clothes and footwear when moving to other premises where livestock are kept.
- Keep vehicles clean inside and out, paying attention to areas where dirt may be hidden such as wheel arches.
- Make sure that animals kept indoors have fresh clean dry bedding and dispose of used bedding away from livestock, people and watercourses.
- Clean and disinfect buildings and equipment after use by livestock
- Use mains water wherever possible.
- Have water bowls or drinkers above the level for faecal contamination.
- Clean feed and water troughs regularly.
- Discourage dogs and cats from walking in feed troughs.
- Keep feed in a clean, dry store.
- Keep feed stores covered and shut to ensure no access by dogs, cats, vermin and wildlife.

See Health & Safety Executive (HSE) guidance for agricultural workers on zoonoses, which outlines the duties under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 and the simple control measures such as hand washing.

See also HSE guidance on preventing or controlling ill health from animal contact at visitor attractions or open farms.

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OBITUARY

John Hayes AWCFC

1959-2022

Farrier John Hayes' died on 31 October 2022. His funeral was held on 24 November. In the eulogy, the congregation heard that John was always a larger-than-life personality. His sister Sue said:

'John was a dearly loved husband, dad, grandad, brother, stepson, friend, lecturer, and an Associate of the Worshipful Company of Farriers.

'Everyone knew when he was around, thanks to his great sense of humour, his antics or his ability to speak out when things were not as they should be. He fulfilled any task he undertook diligently. He was highly respected as a family man and farrier, and his legacy will continue not only through his daughters and his grandson, but also the many students who had the privilege of being taught by him and also through the book that he coauthored, 'The Principles Of Farriery'.

'John's life started on the 31 May 1959 in Walsall in the West Midlands. He was the second child of Margaret and John Hayes and younger brother to Susan and eventual older brother to Helen and Gillian.

'The family moved to Quorn when John was three-years-old, home of one of the oldest fox hunting packs in the country, which led John to his love of horses. Family life was full, they had a Jack Russell terrier called Patch and had family camping trips and days out at Bradgate Park. He had many friends in school and was a well-respected member of Quorn cubs and later a reliable newspaper boy in Quorn.

'John was always a character, for example bringing unplucked pheasants home from the market on the bus over his shoulders and putting the bus ticket in their beaks. He was a loving brother running to the rescue of Helen with a hairbrush when she had a disastrous haircut or upsetting the local residents with wheelies on his moped.

'John enjoyed the nightlife that Loughborough had to offer, showing off his flamboyant dancing skills that led to Karen agreeing to marrying him on 26 July 1986.

'At this point in his life, John was a member of the British Army, having joined in 1977. Married life started in Hyde Park Barracks, as by this time, he was a member of the Household Cavalry.

'During this period – on 20 July 1982 – the Hyde Park and Regent's Park IRA bombing occurred, which John had to assist with. Seven horses and 11 people were killed. A painting was undertaken of one of the injured horses called Sefton, who was honoured as horse of the year, and John had the honour of being painted holding Sefton. He jokingly asked that his belly be slimmed down in the painting.

'From Hyde Park Barracks, John was transferred to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and he and Karen moved to Melton Mowbray where his two daughters Hannah and Kate



were born. The family moved with John when he was transferred to Sennelager Barracks in Germany where they lived for two years. John and his family returned to the Melton Mowbray Barracks in October 1998 and he left the army seven months later. Having served in the British army for 22 years, John left to take up a position as a farriery instructor at Warwickshire College, eventually becoming senior lecturer in farriery in 2014. John (or Sarge as he was known), is greatly missed as he had so much respect and gratitude from hundreds of farriers. Martin Reed recalled that 'the working environment seemed to envelop around Sarge, a truly talented gentleman'.

'John was a loving proud father. Hannah and Kate could always go to him for help and advice, and the family was so relieved that John lived to see the arrival of his much-loved grandson Ezra who was born on Thursday, 29 September.

'John was a dedicated family man who was so proud of his daughters. The family moved to their home in Klondike Way, Asfordby when John left the army. John had always promised that the family could have a dog and Hannah and Kate were so delighted when John and Karen surprised them with a new puppy, Tug. Tug was a well-loved family member and he lived a long and happy life and there was much sadness when he died.

'John made the most out of life – his food, beer, love of golf, football, the Grand National (John could be relied upon for the best tips as to who to bet on), weekends away, afternoon naps, (the bed at his mums was always the comfiest), music (he was always trying to get his daughters to sing along with him), meals out with his sisters (known as the luscious ladies), and spending time with his family and friends. He never forgot family birthdays, sending cards where, because of his brilliant sense of humour, he would always add inflated prices written on the back.

'Seeing so many people here to say goodbye to John today shows just how loved and admired he was and how much he will be missed. His legacy will live on with his daughters, grandson and the many students who will use the knowledge and skills passed to them through John in his positions both within the Army or Civilian training schemes and the book he coauthored of which his family are so proud.

'He will be sadly missed by his immediate and extended family. He had many close friends, particularly John and Jane, Martin and Val, Andy and Kathy, Richard and Carol, Frazer and Deb and the regulars at the Carrington pub.

'Life without John will never be the same. He fought long and hard to stay with us, enduring years of illness and pain although he always strived to never let this hold him back. He was surrounded by family and love in his last days. Loros could not have done more to ease his passing, which is why the family are welcoming donations for them today.

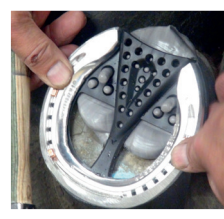
'John will leave a void in all of our hearts, but it is reassuring to know that his memory will live on and at long last he can rest in peace.'



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In November 2022 the following candidates passed the Worshipful Company of Farriers Diploma examination.

CAFRE Enniskillen Campus

Mr Jamie McDonnell DipWCF
Mr Damien Moran DipWCF
Mr Oisín O'Reilly DipWCF
Mr John McCormick DipWCF

Herefordshire and Ludlow College

Mr Lewis Cato DipWCF, ATF Mr Duncan Cooper DipWCF
Mr Christian Welsford DipWCF, ATF Mr Stuart Taylor AWCF
Mr Carwen Owen DipWCF, ATF Mr James Hughes DipWCF
Mr Kaan Sezek DipWCF, ATF Mr Arthur Bell DipWCF
Mr Adam Sharam DipWCF, ATF Mr Luke Silcock AWCF
Mr Kieran Smale DipWCF, ATF Mr Andrew Boyer AWCF
Mrs Mary-Anne Talling DipWCF, ATF Mr Mark Talling AWCF

Warwickshire College

Mr James Hardy DipWCF, ATF Mr Steven Beane FWCF
Mr Wayne Martin DipWCF, ATF Mr John Benfield DipWCF
Mr Joe McClurg DipWCF, ATF Mr Andrew Smith AFCL



Myerscough College

Mr Huw Parry DipWCF, ATF Mr Daniel Thomas DipWCF
Mr George Christopher Dey DipWCF, ATF Mr Garry Harland AWCF
Mr Grant Walter Nelson DipWCF, ATF Mr David Newall AWCF
Mr Christopher William Stead DipWCF, ATF Mr John Brannen DipWCF
Mr Sol Harry Tovey DipWCF, ATF Mr Jay Tovey FWCF
Mr Calum Joe Sweeney DipWCF, ATF Mrs Sarah-Mary Brown FWCF
Mr Ben Andrew Worrall DipWCF, ATF Mr Neil Murray DipWCF
Mr William Harland DipWCF, ATF Mr Graham Harland DipWCF

The Tour de Farrier held its first ride in 2015 when the riders tackled riding Coast to Coast from the Lake District to North Yorkshire. After several successful events in Wales, the Tour will return to its Coast to Coast roots in 2023.

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Good foundations

Farriery intervention in the first few months of a horse's life could make the difference between a lame horse and a sound one. Stephanie Bateman speaks to industry experts about the importance of foal farriery, and how insurance can play a vital role in keeping horses sound.

Every horse owner knows how important a horse's conformation is to its soundness, but rather fewer understand how key to influencing potentially negative deviations is correct farriery from birth.

"Assessing a foal's limb and hoof conformation as soon as it is standing is vital, as so much more can be done to improve the limb in the first few months," says master farrier and president of the BFBA Ben Benson. "The foal's posture and how it moves gives you an insight into what you are dealing with – you are looking for the limb and joints to be in the right proportion and the right alignment so the horse can develop in the right way."

Depending on where the deviation is, depends on how you deal with it – the higher up the limb it is, the more effect you can have on that limb.

"You want to deal with it as simply and quickly as you can to be the most impactful," adds Ben. "Everything is so soft and malleable in a foal, meaning you can alter it positively. Leaving things and seeing if they get better with time reduces your chance of making a beneficial change."

The first six to eight weeks are the most influential because most things start to set and close up in terms of bones and growth plates.

"It is critical that the farrier is a regular and frequent part of the horse's life, especially in the first six months and for the first two years while it is still growing," says Ben. "The common thing to do is trim the horse until it's a yearling and then turn it away for two years, but by the time the horse is two, it's usually too late to make any changes. From a handling point of view, a foal who has seen the farrier regularly will also be a much better horse to handle later on."

It's vital that the farrier, and in some more serious cases, the vet, sees the horse as soon as possible and that it has regular maintenance, because that is the cheapest and most effective system for keeping a horse sound.

"Looking after a horse's feet is like taking out an insurance policy," Ben says. "You can significantly reduce your vet bills if you give your horse's feet the treatment they need and manage them appropriately."

Insuring soundness for life

Farriery and insurance go hand-in-hand. Without insurance, many owners cannot afford the ongoing remedial farriery that their horse needs, and this can result in lame horses.

Unfortunately, many insurance policies only cover conditions for the first 12 months, meaning owners are later left to fend for themselves and horses don't receive the treatment they need.

"A good insurance policy should support you through your horse's working life, and work with you," says Ben. "There is nothing worse than getting to a point where your insurance policy doesn't support you anymore."



CASE STUDY:

Emma Blundell of Mount St John Stud

Breeder of elite dressage horses in Yorkshire, Emma Blundell runs Mount St John Stud; she also understands the importance of foal farriery.

"Farriers are a very important part of our team – as important as the vet – and we have a farrier Martin Haigh, who specialises in the foals and the youngsters," says Emma. "Most of the foals are seen by him in the first month, and then every two to four weeks, but if it's something complicated, they may need to be seen sooner by the vet to collaborate with the farrier."

"You can have a foal that is born with totally correct limbs and hooves, which then deviate and have gone bad by the time they're two or three with poor management, and you can equally have something that is born with poor limbs that, after good management, looks good again."

"Most of it is simply trimming, but it could be extensions or heel wedges to support the tendon, and in some extreme cases, surgery. It's amazing what can be achieved with perseverance. Sometimes it's just taking millimetres off a tiny foal hoof that can make the biggest difference. It's a lot of attention to detail."

Thankfully, a ground-breaking new insurance policy offers lifetime cover from 30 days, meaning horses are insured for life, and does not exclude parts of the horse once a claim has been made to treat it. So, treatment bills can be covered year after year for chronic issues (up to £10,000 of vet fees a year), ensuring horses' lifelong welfare.

Agria is one of the world's leading animal insurers, specialising in small animal, equine, and agricultural insurance. Founded in Sweden over 130 years ago, Agria started underwriting policies in the UK in 2009 and is now a prominent part of the UK pet insurance sector.

"One of the reasons we offer lifetime cover from 30 days old is because we understand the importance of early intervention, and intervention that is sometimes required to continue well past the horse's first year," says Vicki Wentworth, CEO of Agria UK, and herself a keen event rider. "We know there are some ailments and deformities that manifest themselves right from the very beginning, and many of them, if they are caught and treated early, can mean that the horse goes on to live a healthy and prosperous life."

Vicki has had two incidences prior to her joining Agria, where she's needed to call upon the services of a remedial farrier. "I bought a 14-month-old foal and was aware that she'd had one remedial farriery session at birth, but was told it was nothing to worry about and not to take any further action," explains Vicki. "She was slightly pigeon toed at birth, and had remedial farriery continued through the early stages of her life, she wouldn't have been so prone to injury. Sadly, she damaged her digital flexor tendon and after spending a fortune on remedial farriery trying to get her sound, we ended up retiring her at five."

Vicki's other horse, Dabz, a former event horse who now showjumps and competes in dressage, suffered acute bruising to his feet when getting out of his field and galloping down a stony track.

"He damaged his navicular and it has taken me 18 months to get him sound again," says Vicki. "He had x-rays and my farrier re-balanced his feet using spider plates and dental impressions which cost £280 a set every four weeks for nearly a year. If I'd had lifetime insurance, I'd have been supported financially."

A lifetime policy will ensure that welfare can continue through the horses' life, not just so that they can be ridden and competed, but more importantly that they live a long, comfortable life.

"If your horse receives the right farriery, you have every chance of reducing the wear and tear on joints and soft tissue,

Foal limb deformities

Foals can be born with limb deformities that are either present at birth (congenital), or develop after birth (acquired). They fall into two categories: flexural, where the tendons and ligaments are either too loose or too tight, or angular which are deviations from the normal axis of the leg.

Rapid growth spurts and/or excess nutrition can cause acquired flexural deformities which can involve one or more joints. If treated and corrected early, most flexural problems have a good prognosis, but if left unmanaged, they can lead to unsoundness.

Angular limb deformities are either an inward or outward deviation, and management depends on the severity and location of the deviation on the limb.

A foal's fetlock does the majority of its growing during the first two months of age, so angulations involving the fetlocks must be corrected very early. The knees' and hocks' rapid growth, however, continues until four to six months of age.

Limb angulations that are acquired such as flexural deformities, are associated with incorrect nutrition and mineral or vitamin deficiencies.

and therefore, degenerative conditions," adds Vicki. "Correct farriery is one of the key elements that we can influence as horse owners to ensure our horses stay sounder and have longer working lives.

"It's not for the fainthearted when things go wrong, and it can be very depressing when you're forking out money hand over fist, but there is light at the end of the tunnel, and a lifetime insurance makes that light shine even more brightly because you're going to get to a resolution much more quickly and with a lot less financial hardship."

Ben agrees: "I'm so impressed with how forward-thinking Agria is because they appreciate that things do go wrong and that owners need continual support, not just for the first 12 months of the condition. If the insurance company steps up, then so can the horse's support team including vets and farriers, and the horse doesn't suffer. A start to end policy where nothing is written off is so liberating, and equine welfare will undoubtedly be improved by that."

Agria research

Agria strives to reduce the risk of lameness in horses, and so in 2021, The Agria Research Fund collaborated with the Swedish University of Agricultural Science and Swedish showjumper Peder Fredricson, to study the impacts on movement and force on the horse with and without shoes. The study is still ongoing, but to read the latest findings and find out more, visit www.agriapet.co.uk



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Horse & Hound Farrier of the Year

Recognises the farrier who, through his or her knowledge and effort, has made a difference to a horse or horses' performance or wellbeing during the year.

The 2022 winner:



The late Brendan Murray

Brendan was official Team GBR eventing farrier for 26 years, including duty at seven Olympic Games and over a dozen World and European Championships. He spent 22 years with the King's Troop, ending as master farrier for the regiment, and was part of the cortège for Princess Diana's funeral. As part of the British team entourage, Brendan was a linchpin behind the scenes. He would set up immaculate beds for the horses, hang the flags and look after the grooms. Brendan was also the show farrier at the London International Horse Show and had a sideline as a stunt rider and farrier in films.

A satisfied client says: "Brendan's life was devoted to the care of horses. He was a gentle soul with the patience of a saint and his farrier skills were second to none. Aside from the more public duties for the King's Troop and Olympics, Brendan would take the time and care for my own horses, and he often told me how proud he was of them. He lent his experience and knowledge and had a way of putting things so they made sense. I'll forever miss his guidance, knowledge, expertise and caring touch with my horses."

Brendan passed away on 9 September after a short illness.

Also shortlisted were:

James Black, Bassetlaw, Notts

From a young age, James was fascinated to watch his competition ponies being shod and was inspired by his own farrier to pursue it as a career. After a pre-farrier placement and then his four-year apprenticeship, James scored a distinction in a final exam and is now preparing for his BSc degree.

"I am grateful my apprenticeship gave me a good work ethic," says James. "This knowledge led me to speak to my peers in the Blankney Hunt and South Notts Pony Club branches, sharing my experience and encouraging others to work hard and never give up on their dreams."

"Over the past two years, I've aimed to give my customers a good service by spending time observing their horses, explaining and drawing diagrams to help them understand what I'm trying to achieve with corrective trimming and shoeing, to enhance horse performance and comfort."

A satisfied client says: "James's dedication and interest in every horse is exemplary. He never leaves until he is sure

both horse and owner are happy, and is always studying to improve his knowledge and provide an even better service. He has an amazing knowledge of not just the feet but the whole mechanics of the horse's legs and feet and takes time to explain and discuss with the customer."

Dale Greenwood, Walsall, West Midlands

"My stepmum owned a livery yard, so riding horses was all we wanted to do growing up," says Dale. "At 16, I started helping a local farrier and loved it. I managed to get an apprenticeship with a farrier I knew nothing about, but it turned out he was in the Welsh horse shoeing team who were world champions at the time! I was very lucky to get that training, which involved shoeing a range of horses including racehorses. Everybody who worked there did shoeing competitions, so we spent our evenings practising in the forge. It set me up well for the future."

"I shoe a wide range of horses including professional showjumpers and carriage horses and a lot of much-loved pets. I get a lot of enjoyment out of making a difference in how a horse moves. Many horses come to me with poor feet and I work hard to improve them; the racehorse background comes in handy there. I also enjoy the wide variety of people I meet and to hear their equestrian story."

A satisfied client says: "This man saved my horse! She was 25 with pedal-bone rotation, Cushing's and a collapsing heel and she lived to the ripe old age of 30 thanks to Dale, who never saw her as a problem. Now I have another thoroughbred with thin soles and again Dale has stepped up to the mark and is totally amazing."

Tyler Pesci-Griffiths, Cardiff, Glamorgan

"I have been around horses since the day I was born, with my father being a farrier and my mother being a highly experienced horsewoman," says Tyler. "I took the inspiration to become a farrier from my father, David Griffiths, as well as family friend Wade Willis who trained me. Dad had to retire early due to ill health and I wanted to continue his legacy and make him proud. I used my dad's business name, Caerphilly Forge, when I set up on my own."

"My favourite discipline to shoe for is eventing. I shoe a number of eventers including my own and I enjoy seeing them go on and do their job. I take pride in doing the best possible job in each individual foot. There is nothing more satisfying than helping a horse come sound. And the customers are a big highlight. I enjoy a good chat with them and putting the world to rights!"

A satisfied client says: "Tyler puts so much time and care into his work. He is patient and kind to the horses under his care. He is also supportive to owners with advice and always has the time to explain the treatment."

• *Previous winners of this prestigious award include farriers Chris Bailey, Jim Balfour, Paul Woodall and Daniel Bennett.*

Knifemaker among the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust's (QEST) new scholars

QEST has announced the names of the 25 new craftspeople who have been awarded funding to further their training and education, making the total grants awarded this year £450,000 to 47 makers.

The new Scholars and Apprentices include makers working in architectural origami, thatching, knifemaking, woodturning, the endangered craft of sporrán making and much more.

The 2022 QEST scholar who wants to study more about Knifemaking is Holly Loftus of London. QEST said:

Holly is currently the only woman in Britain making hand forged culinary knives professionally. Working entirely alone, she forges blades using carbon steels known for their durability and edge retention, and fits them with handles made from locally sourced native timbers.

After completing a City & Guilds qualification in Forgework, Holly spent three years working for Blenheim Forge making their Japanese



influenced culinary knives. This experience gave her the

opportunity to develop her own work out of hours and pushed her further to make the high-performance knives she crafts today. In 2020 Holly was recipient of the Newby Trust Craft Excellence Award and has since been working full time from her workshop in London's craft studios, Cockpit Arts.

QEST funding will enable Holly to travel to the USA and study knife-making in the American tradition with three master bladesmiths. She will expand her bladesmithing skills with mastersmith Timothy Potier at the New England School of Metalwork, study metallurgy with mastersmith Kevin Cashen, and develop new forging methods with mastersmith Bob Kramer, setting Holly on the path to becoming the UK's first master bladesmith.



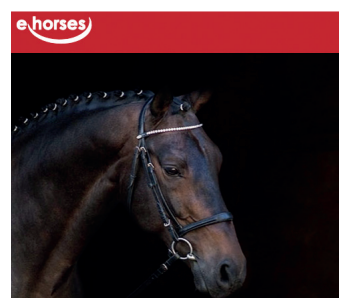
Digital horse sales overtake conventional channels

Online horse market ehorses says that digital sales of horses has overtaken conventional ways of buying and selling horses.

During Covid-19 the sale of horses boomed and the international horse market had never been so lucrative. It believes that digitalization offers opportunities to include pictures and videos, which are popular with buyers.

In 2022, ehorses celebrated its one millionth sales advert connecting people and horses worldwide.

ehorses GmbH & Co was established in 1999 and was the first horse market on the Internet. The company says it has recently become the largest horse market globally. More than 13 countries employ ehorses, whose website is accessible in nine languages.



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This durable 40 mm rasp will accompany you for up to 60 horses!



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Versatility is key.

HELLER RED TANG provides reliability with its close teeth structure over a 40 mm surface.

Performs especially well with dry and hard hoofs.



BLACK LEGEND

High performance.

HELLER BLACK LEGEND is effective and sharp, while being more rust resistance due to the black coating covering the entire 40 mm wide rasp.

This rasps performs particularly well in wet weather.



BLACK MASTER

Every-day performance.

HELLER BLACK MASTER is the perfect workhorse for the everyday use. Its small and concentrated teeth over the 40 mm surface makes trimming easier.

