



FORGE

FORGE IS THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

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laminitis**

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CPD programme**

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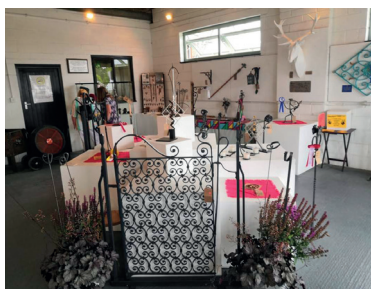
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The March 2023 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains two articles:

- Investigating the impact of different shoeing treatments on hoof heel morphology
by Nigel Fennell FWCF(Hons)
- A case study of a postoperative quitter with an associated sequestrum
by Mark Aikens DipWCF



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www.eurofarrier.org

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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

The BFBA has been working and promoting UK farriery in the USA and at home, through some of the key equine organisations.

It was a big step for the Association to go to the International Hoof-care Summit (IHCS) in Cincinnati, but recently we had an opportunity to begin a dialogue with the *American Farriers Journal* (AFJ) and its editor/publisher Jeremy McGovern. The AFJ is a longstanding American publication by Lessiter Media. Jeremy has been a key contributor to the farriery world in both his editorials and also his own writing. He gets farriers!

We were fortunate to be introduced by Mark Aikens (chair of the *Forge* magazine editorial committee) as Mark has been both an attendee and a speaker at the IHCS for many years. Jeremy has a wealth of knowledge and is as passionate about engaging and inspiring farriers as we are! We were kindly invited by the AFJ and the hoof-care summit to have a booth at the event, which took place during the last week of January.

I was blown away by the show and the attendees. There was such a positive atmosphere and a huge cross-section of farriers (American and European) that were in attendance. The topics were varied and relevant to all levels of farrier attending. The GB flag was very well-represented by Dr Simon Curtis FWCF; Simon Moore FWCF talked about the hind limb and his shoeing protocol for it, while Mark Aikens (with Joshua Sanders and Tim Shannon CJF, AWCF, APF, provided '45 tips in 45 minutes – our best footcare tips of 2022'. Dr Kate Horan from the Royal Veterinary College gave a presentation on the effects of shod versus barefoot and plastic shoes on surfaces and turf on racehorses.

It was a really inspiring four days of lectures and presentations. The Americans have such a positive outlook on their lifelong learning process. It was amazing to see the passion and camaraderie that was shown in an industry. Its one I would love to see more in the UK where conventions like Focus become a weekend of learning, networking and working together as an industry, and a useful opportunity to learning about new products and do some shopping.

I feel our industry is at a tipping point. The new CPD requirement and the large rises in costs have seen us all having to tighten our belts and put up our prices. There is never a good time to put prices up, let alone when people are not able to afford items that last year were much cheaper and in greater supply.

We seem to feel a responsibility to keep our clients' horses affordable for them (quite often at the cost of ourselves and our business). There is no single answer to this. What is hugely important is that we make sure that we are all maintaining our incomes and not subsidising our clients' hobbies. Even though it may



BFBA President Ben Benson AWCF (right) with (from left) Alan Dryg CJF, ASF, AWCF, Robbie Miller AWCF, ASF, and Craig Trnka CRF. Robbie Miller was inducted into the Hall of Fame this year

feel like a price rise might be the straw that breaks the camels back, we are not. To go up by £12 over a six-week shoeing cycle is an extra £2 a week – less than a coffee or two packets of crisps.

There will always be some who can't afford it but the majority will (with your consideration and giving notice to rises) happily pay, as they know we are all doing a great job of keeping their horses sound, and that will always be cheaper than calling the vet out when the horse is lame!

Truth is, it will be hard for the next few years with all going on in the world, but horses will always need looking after and we will make it through. It may force businesses in the equestrian sector to take a cold hard look at themselves as we see so many yards and businesses running to make little or no profit every month. It doesn't take much for a few things to go up in price or the market to fall away to leave them high and dry.

Covid-19 certainly taught me we needed to be able to build in a buffer zone of profit to be kept for a rainy day or when we needed to use it.

We also saw the sad loss of one of the real characters of the industry recently. Robin Pape was an amazing man and one of our industry's great characters. A Scotsman, a farrier, a crofter and one of life's true gentlemen. He would regularly travel over a thousand-mile round trip to come to Focus or other Association functions each year. He always had a wicked sense of humour, a deep-founded sense of professionalism and humility. We will miss him deeply and our thoughts are with his family.

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

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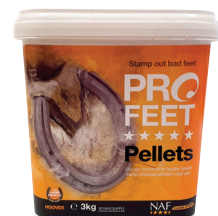
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International Hoof-care Summit

BFBA President Ben Benson and Membership Secretary Holly Flack attended this year's International Hoof-care Summit in Cincinnati, Ohio, in January. They were invited by Jeremy McGovern, the event organiser and Executive Editor of the American Farriers Journal. Here, Holly describes the trip.

When I was asked back in November to represent the BFBA at the International Hoof-care Summit, I was super excited but a tad nervous too as I had not flown in over 10 years! Nevertheless, my excitement definitely suppressed the nerves and planning for the trip started straight away. This was set to be a huge learning curve and I was keen to soak up as many new ideas to bring to **Focus** as I could, from the planning behind the scenes through to the live event. This would also be an opportunity to promote what the BFBA has to offer American farriers, too.

We wanted to take a little piece of home with us to share with everyone, so we bought a kettle for our stand and packed some good old Yorkshire Tea, along with some Tunnock's Teacakes to hand out – both went down a treat, although don't ask me how we got the teacakes there without them being flattened, it was definitely a challenge!

Focus was high on the list of what we wanted to talk to attendees about and, although we have a good attendance from an international audience already, it was surprising to find out that a lot of American farriers had never heard of Focus, so this was a fantastic opportunity to showcase exactly what BFBA's event could offer, and gauge how many farriers might be willing to travel overseas to attend, which sounds like quite a lot of them, so hopefully we will be seeing some new faces at this year's event.

Next on the list was 'Overseas Membership', which this year became digital. It has great features like access to some of the benefits within the members' area on our website, Forge & Farrier, and online access to **Forge** and **Forge Knowledge** magazines. We had good support for this and a gained an number of new members who signed up during the trade event.

We also wanted to promote the **Edward Martin Cultural Exchange** alongside the American Farriers Association. We even got to meet two of the candidates coming to the UK this year – Tiffany and Cody – who were both extremely excited. They have lots of enthusiasm to learn new things and we can't wait to host them later in the year.

Another big part of our trip was to meet up with other organisations and associations, to discuss ways in which we can support each other to benefit the industry. We have formed some strong connections and I'm looking forward to working with them all in the future.

It was great to be able to spend some time with the **American Farriers Association (AFA)**. We already work closely with the AFA and an absolute highlight for me was finally meeting my American counterpart, Martha Jones. We hit it off straight away and laughed till our faces hurt!

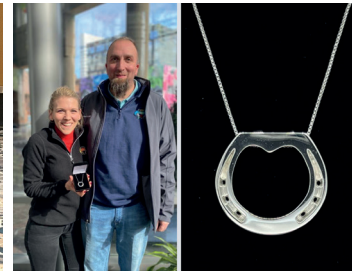
During our trip we received a generous donation from David Hallock, CJF, AWCF. David has kindly donated a handmade sterling silver necklace, patterned after his aluminium set-down bar for his AWCF shoe board, it is



The BFBA booth dressed and ready to welcome delegates



Finally meeting Martha from the American Farriers Association



David Hallock CJF AWCF gifted a handmade sterling silver necklace, to be auctioned at the BFBA International Team Horseshoeing Championship auction dinner this year

Look who we bumped into! Mullins Farrier Podcast. We were overwhelmed by the welcome and the support we received

absolutely beautiful and will be auctioned at the International Team Horseshoeing Championship dinner, such a lovely gift!



The International Hoof Care Summit was an amazing event to attend and the whole experience was fantastic, Jeremy McGovern was so helpful and keen to share his knowledge and experience for us to take home for our own event. I can't thank Mark Aikens and his friend Katie Hambrook enough for their help, ferrying us around to get supplies for the stand, making cups of tea, taking us to the best places to eat and introducing us to some great people in the industry.

We met so many kind and wonderful people and felt a huge amount of support from them all.

- The 21st International Hoofcare Summit will be held at the Duke Energy Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, January 23–26, 2024



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BFBA AWCF group complete module 4



Early in February, Danny Bennett delivered the fourth of the AWCF Practical Modules at Ludlow and North Shropshire College's Holme Lacey campus in Herefordshire – the current venue for the WCF higher level examinations.

Over the duration of the five practical module course, Danny has supported the participants, helping them to develop a practical understanding of the design, process and purpose of the bar shoe variants required for the AWCF Examination. He has provided the foundational knowledge and skills required to take the next step during this module as well as teaching the group how to apply practical understanding to the fitting process.

Danny is really happy with their progress and reflected

on the amount of positive feedback he has received following the weekend. The group has demonstrated growing confidence in their abilities and benefiting from the logic of taking a systematic approach to learning, as their foundation knowledge and skills click into place.

Moving forward, the plan is to deliver the next round of Knowledge and Skill Modules concurrently over the winter of 2023/24. We will be looking to support candidates who want to join they course by running a interview and assessment day early in the autumn; the date is yet to be announced.



We are nearing the end of a very positive and productive learning journey which has been largely due to the effort and participation of this cohort, and almost as important, we have had fun.

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BFBA FOCUS 2023

Saturday, 28 October & Sunday 29 October

BFBA INTERNATIONAL TEAM HORSESHOEING COMPETITION 2023

October Friday 27 & Saturday 28,
Prizegiving dinner on Saturday evening

BFBA BLADESMITHING COMPETITION 2023

Sunday October 29

WHERE?

Hall 2, Stoneleigh Park

BFBA's three major events of the year will take place across the same weekend at the end of October.

Focus, the International Team Horseshoeing Competition and the Bladesmithing Competition are returning to Hall 2 within Stoneleigh Park – the same venue as last year – although with a new layout.

The structure hosting the 'International' will be at the front of the building, rather than behind it. This year, the prizegiving dinner will be held on the Saturday night with the traditional auction as part of the celebrations.

The speakers, demonstrations and topics are currently being arranged. We are excited to announce that American farrier Chris Gregory will speak at Focus this year, alongside Dr Simon Curtis FWCF, HonAssoc RCVS, Mark Trussler FWCF and many others.

Dr Curtis is a farrier, author, lecturer and horse hoof-care expert with a PhD in Equine Physiology and Biomechanics (2017). In 50 years working as a farrier, he has lectured and demonstrated in more than 30 countries including the USA, Australia, India, Russia, and Brazil.

Mark Trussler FWCF spends most of his time working with performance horses that compete at the highest levels in dressage, showjumping and 3-day eventing. He also works on referral cases from vets and farriers. Although based in Scotland, he is a consultant farrier at a veterinary practice in the north of England.

Our exceptionally popular demonstrations are to be increased this year, with something for all farriers.

Put the dates in your diary now – it is a weekend not to be missed.



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- The Rise in Cases of Laminitis
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When



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BFBA SHOE BOARD PREPARATION CLINIC

Event date: **3 June 2023**, at **The Forge, Stoneleigh Park**, Kenilworth CV8 2LG

Time

9.30am registration for a 10am start

Cost Per Day

Members £150. Non-members £200. Apprentices £120

Course Overview

A one- or two-day optional clinic for candidates to hone their **Skills, Knowledge, and Behaviours**, towards the DipWCF (EPA Gateway Block 7) and AWCF shoe board preparation.

Course Tutor

D. Bennett AWCF CertEd & Wayne Preece FWCF



Aims & Learning Outcomes

- ▶ Understand the mandatory shoe board requirements.
- ▶ Understand the knowledge requirements of the shoes presented as part of the oral exam (professional discussion).
- ▶ Develop the necessary skills to produce shoes to the required standard.
- ▶ Learn advanced forging techniques necessary to produce some of the required shoe board variants.
- ▶ Assessment, feedback, and guidance of products presented.

BFBA HORSES FOR COURSES

Event date: **17 June 2023**, at **The Forge, Stoneleigh Park**, Kenilworth CV8 2LG

Time

9.30am registration for a 10am start

Cost Per Day

Members £150. Non-members £200. Apprentices £95

Course Overview

This clinic will give the Farrier insight in to specific disciplines they might have limited or no experience in. Although all farriers learn multiple farrier techniques in training, a lack of continual training may fall short with up-to-date protocols. This will give the attendee a wider scope and confidence to build a multi-disciplined business.

Course Tutor

Gavin Moody DipWCF (Racing), Nigel Brown AWCF (Endurance), Stephen Gowing AWCF (Heavy Horses) & Gareth Thomas DipWCF (Shoeing Show Ring)



Aims & Learning Outcomes

- ▶ Understand the sport of horseracing and its farriery requirements.
- ▶ Understand the sport of endurance and its farriery requirements.
- ▶ Understand the shoeing of heavy horses for work, pleasure and the showing.
- ▶ Understand the shoeing requirements for equines competing in the showing.

BFBA CONFORMATION V DEFORMATION: THE RIGHT SHOE FOR THE RIGHT JOB

Event date: **1 July 2023**, at **The Forge, Swalcliffe Park Equestrian**, Banbury OX15 5EX

Time

9.30am registration for a 10am start

Cost Per Day

Members £150. Non-members £200. Apprentices £95

Course Overview

With normal observation and the **use of 'Hoof Beat'**, the attendee will learn how **different designs of shoeing solutions** and how the shoeing package can be adapted to **optimise its performance** in relation to the equine's conformation.

Course Tutor

Jonathan Nunn FWCF & Ben Benson AWCF



Aims & Learning Outcomes

- ▶ Understanding and observing horse's static and dynamic conformation.
- ▶ Understand how surface interaction effects the equine.
- ▶ Observe and reflect on different standard shoe design.
- ▶ Understand the relevance of technology in farriery.
- ▶ Choose the adaptations and designs to optimise the equine's performance.



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Following a year that saw pet insurance company Agria UK launch the UK's only lifetime insurance for horses, it has announced it will focus on animal welfare for 2023 and beyond. With the cost-of-living crisis continuing to put pressure on pet and horse owners, the company says its focus will be to educate owners so that they can continue to protect and prioritise their animals' welfare.

Based upon the Animal Welfare Act 2006, as it relates to horses, the areas that focus on horses comprise behavioural interactions, nutrition, health, environment and mental state, providing a physical and mental framework for optimum horse welfare. And while the Act is there to protect animals from harm and mistreatment, Agria says its aim will be to highlight the things that typical horse owners can do to make their animals' lives as good as they can possibly be.

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ROBIN R. PAPE KILMORACK, BEAULY

Robin R. Pape of Lower Farley, Kilmorack, Beauly, died on 8 January 2023 aged 67 in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. He was a farrier, a crofter and former chairman of the Highland Group, Riding for the Disabled.

He passed away after a short battle with cancer leaving behind his partner Kay and her family, who he treated as his own, and his brother Johnathan and sister Stephanie, and their respective families. Also Sarah Logie and her husband Dan. Sarah credits him for setting her on the path to farriery, but he became a friend and father figure as well as her ATF and the 26 years she knew him were full of his joy and wisdom.

He was a true ambassador of the farriery profession, demonstrating kindness and generosity whilst earning respect. He gave time to those who wanted to learn from him and happily shared his wealth of knowledge with everyone, from small children and novice owners to anyone else who asked – client or not. A empathetic nature to 'man and beast' meant he has been referred to over and over as a thoroughly good human being.

As well as being a well-known farrier from the Scottish Highlands, Robin had an amazing and very varied life. His passion for horses started through riding as a young boy, as did his love of the working on the land and his exposure to both the farming and equine worlds developed his ethos of hard work.

At around 10 years old, he started riding lessons with Donald MacFarlane, who ran the Scottish Equestrian Centre in Greenloaning and he credited his time there with starting his lifelong passion of learning about horses.

At 15 he went into full-time agricultural education at Lawyers School of Agriculture. He loved it, and over the next year, gained his City and Guilds academic qualification, as the same time as soaking up like a sponge everything new that was put to him.

After Lawyers he began his working life on farms, starting as a junior shepherd with a Scottish Blackface sheep breeder in the Angus Glens and, although he enjoyed the role, 18 months he found he was missing the horses, so he returned to the MacFarlane's centre and was accepted as a working pupil at the age of 17.

In time, he moved to Inverness, initially hoping to get a job as stud groom at Knocknagael Highland Pony Stud, but the chap who was due to retire didn't, so Robin ended up as tractor man and stockman at Balrobert Farm. Having learnt to drive, he offered his services as an instructor at the Inverness Pony Club and began attending rallies at the weekends. Here, he was introduced to a huge number of people of all ages, stages and walks of life – many of whom were still part of his life until he died.

At the age of 20, Robin left Balrobert Farm and took on a job at Borlum Farm, well known to him because it was a venue used by the Pony Club. In the summer of 1976, he'd work with the horses most mornings, including teaching and taking out rides, then in the afternoons he'd attend to the cattle, sheep and busy himself with other farm-work.



One of Robin's duties was organising the farrier visits. He'd first met Pat Balfour many years before who'd shown him how to take horseshoes off safely, trim feet, and keep barefoot horses tidy and functional. This had ignited a real spark of interest for Robin, and when Dave Lenden, a farrier from Yorkshire moved north to work at Borlum, Robin would join him at every opportunity and began to learn the rudiments of forging, shoe-making and fitting, and he learned as much as he possibly could from Dave.

A few years later he took up the post of stockman at Kilmartin in Glenurquhart, in order to have a bit more time to dedicate to farriery.

Whilst holding down that job and building up his shoeing business, he managed with a loan from his parents to buy the land at Lower Farley where he started on his 25-year rolling plan!

Robin was determined to become a qualified registered farrier, which was not a requirement in the Scottish Highlands at the time.

He took time to travel up and down the country learning from those willing to teach and achieved his Diploma and always credits 'Uncle Brad' (Douglas Bradbury FWCF) with being a great mentor and friend. He also always repeated the calming words given to him by Jim Ferrie during his exam – Robin was chain-smoking and generally in a panic when Jim came over and said: 'Calm down, think how many times I've stood that side of the anvil, so that I can stand on this side', Robin said it made him see the examiner as another person and he started breathing again!

Robin began shoeing horses on a full-time basis in the early 1980s and was able to develop his business that extended right across the Highlands and Western Isles.

He worked extremely long hours and in the spare time he had, he built up the farm, his herd of cows and improved the land. He was also able to take on apprentices in the farrier business and trained seven full-time apprentices.

He set the example to never stop questioning and learning, and he would remind all pupils that 'no-one has a monopoly on knowledge'. Sarah said that every step of her farriery journey, Robin was stood behind her urging her to question and strive harder. He enjoyed learning as much as she had too, and he could still throw her a curve ball or add knowledge to whatever she was working on which forced her to stay sharp!

Well-known and recognised at farriery events across the country he was always keen to learn new ideas, try new

products and find ways to overcome the problems he saw. His massive hand would raise from the back of a lecture hall, and that unmistakable voice would ask the questions that needed to be answered (even if it did make the speaker squirm!). He had the skill of gathering knowledge in a way that he described as 'adding tools to the toolbox', so he never disregarded anything, but just logged it away for appropriate use later on.

'A happy, good, kind and successful man who will be missed by people far and wide'

During his time at Borlum, he'd seen the building of the first, purpose-built indoor riding school for the Riding for the Disabled Association. Borlum's owner, Mrs Haig had been instrumental in starting Highland Group RDA in the early 1970s and Robin became a long-standing supporter of the association and until very recently, when his health deteriorated, he was also Chairman of the Highland Group.

Robin was a tall, striking, and unmissable man and you could usually hear him (or smell the pipe) before you could see him. He was great company and could talk for hours with folk of all ages and backgrounds. He was also a great listener and took care to really understand what people said, people found him a safe confidante as he was a humble fair-minded person who didn't bear grudges, but he did not suffer fools gladly.

He was a happy, good, kind and successful man who will be missed by people far and wide. The horse world is a darker place without him. The word legend which has been repeated so often lately is a fitting description and his anvil tune will carry on through those he trained.



RICHARD 'DICK' SEAMAN

Richard 'Dick' Seaman died peacefully on 8 November 8, 2022, aged 93 years. He was a farrier, a teacher, a musician, a horseman and a smallholder.

Known as Dick to those close to him, he lived in Roydon for most of his life

and taught rural science at Diss Boys Secondary Modern for more than 25 years and was well known for regularly driving a horse and trap to work each day.

His son, Will, said: 'When I tell people he has died, that initial sadness always seems to be replaced by a

smile and an anecdote about his wit or mischief. He really did squeeze every drop out of his time on this planet.

The Diss Express published an obituary written by Craig Bradshaw, which can be found at <https://www.dissexpress.co.uk/news/rural-loving-teacher-fondly-remembered-9286050/>



**EXISTING TO REPRESENT,
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UK farrier judges first Indian horseshoeing competition

Newmarket farrier Gavin Moody DipWCF recently accepted an invitation from Swiss farrier Bernard Duvernay HonFWCF to visit the Flying Anvil Foundation (FAF) in India, a learning institute that promotes farriery knowledge worldwide. It focuses especially on countries where the everyday life is depending on working equids, but lacks infrastructure for providing education for farriers.

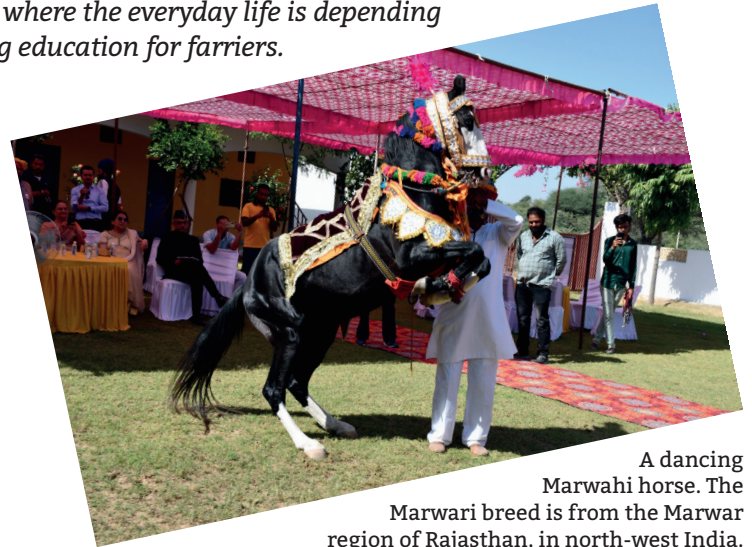
Bernard has been visiting India since 1990. Initially his visits were on a consultancy basis for one particular owner of a stud farm, carrying out only work for him at the stud and the racetrack. After a few years, Bernard became frustrated about being unable to work with other horses, trainers or farriers. By this time he had built up a good relationship with the owner of the stud and step-by-step, he was allowed to expand his teaching activities to many more farriers around the country and took the opportunity to visit remote areas.

He observed that the farriery was very poor everywhere he travelled and began to wonder why India had never opened a farrier school. It took many more years to realise his dream of creating the Farriery Institute but, over time what he has achieved is quite remarkable.

My journey to India began on 2 November 2022, for what would be a two-and-a-half-week trip to FAF, and would include judging my first farriery competition.

Leaving Heathrow, I took three flights before eventually landing in Jaipur. Bernard had arranged a driver to meet me and take me the further three-and-a-half hours to the Farriery Institute in a place called Dundlod.

The drive to the school was my first taste of the Indian highway code and it certainly kept me awake. Driving in India means



A dancing Marwahi horse. The Marwari breed is from the Marwar region of Rajasthan, in north-west India.



The Farriery Institute at Dundlod

constant beeping of horns on roads where mopeds – carrying up to four people each – whizz in between lorries and cars and random cows wander among the traffic.

I arrived safely at the school on 4 November after an eye-opening journey at 1 am local time (India is five-and-a-half hours ahead of the UK).

Bernard was there to greet me and, after a brief introduction, showed me to my room.

Gavin started his career in Farriery in September 1994, working as apprentice to Dr Simon Curtis FWCF and his brother Mark Curtis at O.A. Curtis & Sons in Newmarket – the home of horseracing.

He became a qualified farrier in 1999 and during his career he has built a reputation for quality of his workmanship and taking an innovative approach to shoeing horses, especially remedial shoeing. He has a special interest in the development and use of modern materials.

He has worked overseas, including Japan, France Bahrain and Dubai and has retained a network of contacts over the years. Many of the horses he has worked with have gone on to become distinguished stallions and mares

Gavin became an Approved Training Farrier in 2003. Many of his apprentices, once qualified, have gone on to run their own successful farriery businesses.



The competitors assess the horses they are to shoe in the competition

The first day the sound of a ringing bell signalled that breakfast was ready, having been prepared by the resident cook. Students past and present started arriving with welcoming smiles and introductions in readiness for the weekend's first Indian farriery competition.

The competitors were very friendly and there was a definite buzz around the school in anticipation for the next couple of days proceedings. Bernard asked me to assist with the competition, which involved each student assessing their individual Marwari horse statically and dynamically before undertaking the shoeing element of the competition. And completing the task in two-and-a-half hours.

This was my first experience of helping judge a competition. Although the thought of being responsible for the end result was daunting at first, once I had realised the concept of the competition was essentially shoeing a horse cold using machine-made shoes, I felt quite at home.

Competitors were awarded scores for their initial assessment of the horse and how they used that information in relation to the way they proceeded to shoe the horse.

Following on from that, the foot dressing, fit, nailing and finish all added



together for a final score. This first day involved the latest recruits to the institute. Although some of these students were fairly fresh in terms of experience, they worked hard and produced some good results.

The second day involved the last four competitors. These farriers had significantly more experience and expectations were high. Whilst the same format as the previous day unfolded, the garden area of the school was transformed ready for the presentation with a stage, tables and chairs. Local dignitaries, guests and media were invited to attend. A buffet of food and drinks were laid out. As expected, the level of workmanship by these farriers was a higher standard than the previous day as all four were former students and now assisted in teaching.

The results were tough to call with two farriers virtually neck and neck. Gaje Singh and Jung Singh both showed terrific understanding of conformation, the ability to put that knowledge into practice when shoeing and a good level of skill. As the results were being confirmed, the ceremony got underway for the students that had also used this competition as their end assessment and had now graduated.

Taking to the stage first was Colonel Utkarsh Singh Rathore, one of the directors of the school, who after a well-received speech, awarded the students their graduation certificates along with Bernard. This was followed by Pranjul Neyyar (owner of Optima nails) talking about the great steps the school had taken these past 10 years led by Bernard and the leading role he has single handedly taken in the country to improve the level of farriery and furthermore progress it across India.

The results now in the competitors were called to the stage starting with 3rd place Guman Singh. You could say he was rather unlucky with the horse he drew out of the hat, bilaterally club footed with poor quality hoof wall. In second was Jung Singh; this farrier is a real talent, showing enthusiasm and was a pleasure to talk to. I later learnt that he even makes all of his own tools. In first place was Gaje Singh. Gaje was one of Bernard's first students to qualify from the farriery institute. His experience showed across the board and helped him secure the win.

‘The results were tough to call, with two farriers virtually neck and neck’



Gaje Singh went on to win the competition; he is pictured with his trophy below



Jung Singh, a farrier with ‘real talent’ came second in the competition



The competitors with their mentor, Bernard, and their judge, Gavin



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NEWS

REDUCING CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM STEEL MAKING

Researchers from the University of Birmingham, have designed a novel adaptation for existing iron and steel furnaces that could reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the steelmaking industry.

The reduction is achieved through a 'closed loop' carbon recycling system, which could replace 90% of the coke typically used in current blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace systems and produces oxygen as a byproduct.

Devised by Professor Yulong Ding and Dr Harriet Kildahl from the School of Chemical Engineering, the system is detailed in a paper published in the Journal of Cleaner Production, which shows that if implemented in the UK alone, it could deliver cost savings of £1.28 billion in five years while reducing overall UK emissions by 2.9%.

The system captures the CO₂ from the top gas and reduces it to CO using a crystalline mineral lattice known as a 'perovskite' material. The material was chosen as the reactions take place within a range of temperatures (700-800°C) that can be powered by renewable energy sources and/or generated using heat exchangers connected to the blast furnaces. The new system can be retrofitted to existing furnaces, with the addition of an array of additional gas separators and heat exchangers required to support the perovskite splitter.

Iron and steelmaking is the biggest emitter of CO₂ of all foundation industrial sectors, accounting for 9% of global emissions. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), it must achieve a 90% reduction in emissions by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The University of Birmingham Enterprise has filed a patent application covering the system and its use in metal production.

Journal of Cleaner Production <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2023.135963>

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FARRIER RECOMMENDED #1 HOOF SUPPLEMENT

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Jason Wakefield qualified as a farrier in 1992 and started his own business a year later. For some years, he struggled to provide farriery services safely, because of dangerous and undisciplined horses. As a result, he has developed a way of calming horses and he wants to share his approach. (see opposite page for further information).

Fellow farriers,

I am sure you have also experienced working with dangerous or undisciplined horses. In my experience, it is often the farrier that gets the blame when it all goes wrong! I got fed up with this and sought out knowledge on how to solve our problem.

For years I listened to the wisdom of others, which ranged from quantum physicist to methods developed by the ancient druids and everything in between. Knowledge is great, but how do you apply it? It has taken me years, with plenty of blood sweat and tears, but slowly I started to achieve results understanding the hows and the whys of calming horses. My journey was also boosted by the odd eureka moment.

Fifteen years ago I really began to see clear results. Fewer fights, reduced struggling and more calm and quiet horses by the day. One customer used to say to me, 'I always know when you've been, Jason, because he's asleep!'

Over the past 10 years I feel I have mastered my knowledge to the point where at least 95% of the horses that previously were a problem are now passive, quiet and happy to be shod. At this point, you may be thinking 'what a load of bull****' but I can tell you that it works.

It has taken me years to achieve this and I can teach it to you in a day. Serious effort on your part is required initially, but don't worry – our wonderful customers and horses will offer plenty of opportunity to practice! It takes no extra time or money as it is something you do while you are shoeing, the choice is yours. And, of course, the training is an opportunity to earn CPD points.

For more information on how to book this course – which costs £250 and includes an information booklet and lunch – telephone 07712 159129 (and leave a message) or email lynjase@sky.com

Imprint: No Foot No Problem?

Event date: 24 March 2023. At Bellevue Equine Clinic, Millards Hill, Truddoxhill, Frome, Somerset BA11 5DW

This course is a full training day for a maximum of 10 people. Cost: £160 +VAT per person, £100 +VAT for 4th year apprentices and farriers who are in their first year of registration.

Lunch and refreshments are provided.

For more information or to book your place, contact Julia on 01666 822953

Quick Tips for Fitting Imprint Shoes

These tips provide helpful information and useful advice when preparing the foot and fitting the shoes.



Ensure maximum frog support.

Imprint Hoof Repair material can be added to the frog plate to provide extra supportive contact, we call this the frog cradle.

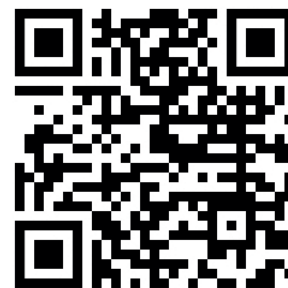


Check deep seating of shoe at the toe.

After fitting make sure there is sufficient clearance around the toe area, if not a warmed metal spatula can be used to melt out adequate clearance around the toe.

Do get in touch if you have any questions or find a Quick Tip useful.

Scan the QR code to follow us on Facebook.



www.facebook.com/ImprintEquineFootCare/

BFBA Eastern Counties Branch Shoemaking Clinic

Event date: 18 March 2023. At Suffolk Showground, Trinity Park, Ipswich IP3 8UH

Shoemaking Clinic with Ben Coy AWCF and Tom Farmer AWCF

8:30 am–4:30 pm. 12 places. £140 members, £160 non-members, £120 apprentices

4 CPD points

Contact Stephen on 07825 664808

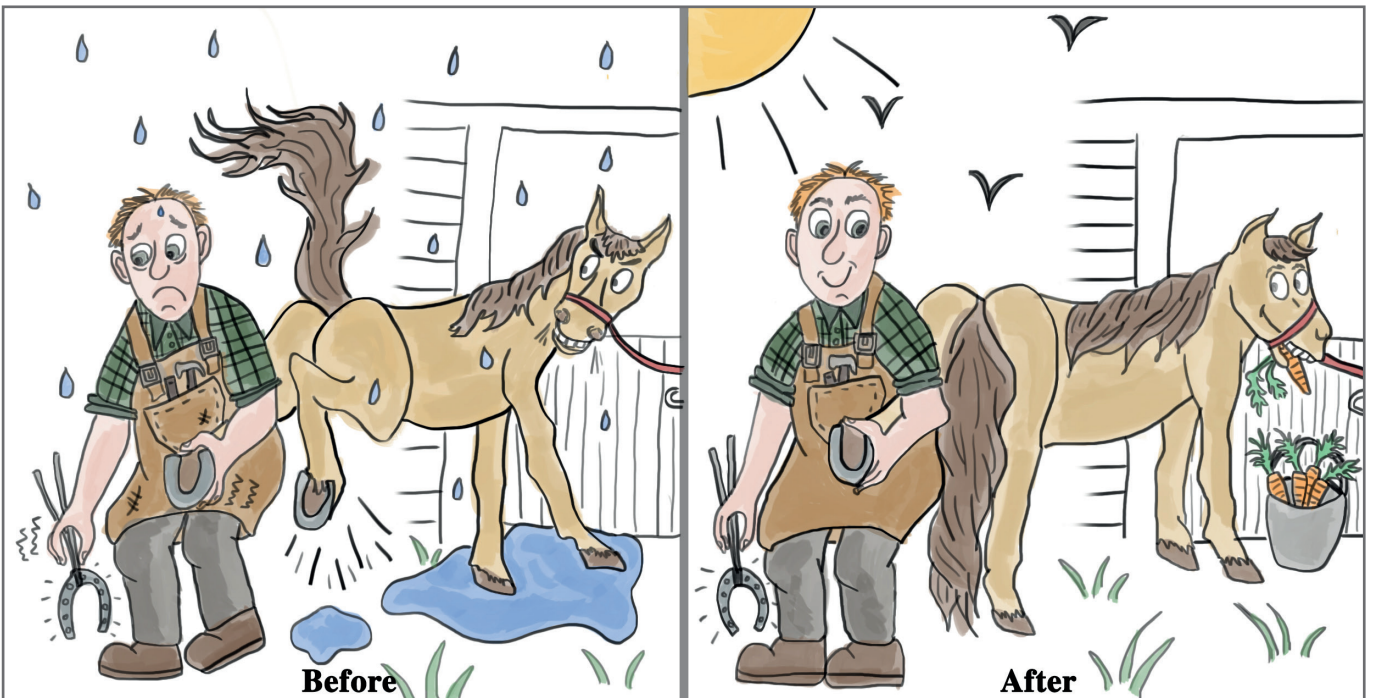
In the March issue of *Forge Knowledge*

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

As part of his studies towards his FWCF, **Nigel Fennell** examined whether different shoeing treatments affect heel movement under load. Under-run heels and how to best fit a shoe are key topics of conversation within the farrier and equine veterinary industry, as too is the study of the morphology/physiology of the palmar/caudal aspects of the hoof. There are numerous scientific papers considering hoof morphology and movement, assessed using many forms of technology under both in vitro and in vivo conditions. However, studies that have evaluated the effects of biomechanical forces on the equine foot do not make specific reference to forelimb palmar/caudal heel movement in the unshod or shod foot, or in feet that have been shod in combination with frog support pads (FSPs) or those to which only polyurethane (PU) material has been applied. Despite an extensive search of the published literature, there appear to be no peer-reviewed data available similar to those produced in this study, which investigates the relationship between these shoeing patterns and hoof heel morphology in a standardised and repeatable in vitro experiment via load using a force press.

In the second article, **Mark Aikens** describes a case in which he worked alongside a veterinary surgeon to treat quittor – a complication of infection of the collateral cartilages – and a detached bony fragment in the foot of a gelding.

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A CPD Day for the Farrier

How many times a week do you struggle with a horse's behaviour? Don't you just wish the bloody thing would stand still! Attend my course and you will go away with a unique skill set to ensure they are calm and well mannered. Benefit from my 25 years' experience of applying this unique knowledge.

13th May 2023, 9am start at The Forge, Avenue B, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG Lunch and information booklet included - £250 - Contact - Jason Wakefield on 07712159129 or email to Lynjase@sky.com

Social license to operate: ignore it at your peril

Claire Brown, a personal comment

Social license to operate (SLO) is not a new phrase, it has been used for decades. But what does it mean? It refers to the 'ongoing acceptance of a company or industry's standard business practices and operating procedures by its employees, stakeholders, and the general public'¹. Perhaps more concerning is that companies and industries often run into the concept only 'when it is too late'. SLO is a concept that has long been used in other industries including banking and mining. It may seem alarmist but those engaging in badger-baiting and cock-fighting probably never thought their hobby would be banned - in years to come will we be saying the same about equestrian activities?



Flickr/Julian Meehan

The equine industry, and the public perception of how we use horses is under scrutiny – more than it has ever been – and the proliferation of smartphones and electronic devices has never made it easier to capture and share negative moments with horses.

"20% of people do not support the continued involvement of horses in sport"

And, whether you agree or disagree, opinion is changing and change is happening. You don't need to look too hard to find evidence of this; from the hunting of foxes with hounds and the end of jump racing in south Australia, the hotly debated use of the whip in racing and protests at Grand Prix show jumping events, to the use of the double bridle in FEI competitions

and the change of wording in dressage tests for marks now being given for 'harmony' instead of 'submission'.

At a webinar organised by the Showing Council last year², Sally Iggulden, Beverley racecourse CEO, suggested that it was dangerous to assume that most people don't have views on whether horses should be ridden. Showing Council Chair Dr Jane Nixon described the scope and rate of change to have increased massively and it is vital that we have a clear picture of what the problem is.

Described as a 'wake-up call' for equestrianism, a YouGov survey commission by World Horse Welfare in May 2022 found that 20% of people do

not support the continued involvement of horses in sport. 60% felt that more safety and welfare measures should be in place³. Nearly a quarter of 4000 equestrians responding to a survey on Dr David Marlin's Facebook page agreed with the statement 'the welfare of sport horses is often compromised'⁴.

"60% felt that more safety and welfare measures should be in place"

Not taking the issue seriously yet? A recent petition by the Dutch Party for Animals has collected over 30,000 signatures to consider a ban on the use of bridles on horses. Due to the success of the petition, this will now be debated in the Dutch parliament!⁵



Unsplash

'When does use become abuse?' was the title of the 2022 World Horse Welfare Conference. It examined the 'visible debate' and explored what the equestrian industry may learn from other industries. What were once considered traditional practices are now posing new questions from an ethically evolving society.

The conference explored how equestrian sport could evolve to maintain the acceptance of the public and protect its social license to operate. The standards to which organisations are expected to behave is increasing with time.

Why should we be bothered? SLO does not depend on what we think. It is what society – both equestrian and the wider public – thinks. Their opinion – whether we like it or not – matters. It will influence equestrianism – the role of equines at work, in competition, breeding and at leisure. Our clients will be impacted (if they haven't been already).

"We have to be receptive to change – so others don't change things for us"

For farriers, a brief loss of temper or a knee-jerk reaction in a frustrating situation can have a devastating impact with the potential for sanctions to be imposed by the owner, a welfare group or perhaps the regulatory body.

It is a hotly debated topic within the farriery social media pages, but the Farriers Code of Conduct is there to protect the farriery profession – and its reputation – as a whole and to separate those upholding good professional standards from those who don't. But SLO goes beyond this.

Each and every one of us who has horses – for leisure and competition, pleasure and career – has a role to play. It is about doing the right thing, being seen to do the right thing – communication and education. In the words of Lee Cain at the World Horse Welfare conference, 'We have to be receptive to change – so others don't change things for us'. Will you be playing your role?

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'Livery School Links': the Livery Schools Career Day

Liveryman Doug Campbell FWCB

I had the pleasure of representing the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths at the Livery Showcase Schools Careers Day on Tuesday 28 June, alongside David Skinner, AWCB, Court Assistant Shravan Joshi and the Prime Warden, Jim Cook.

It was great to see so many Livery Companies in attendance: the Stone Masons, the Framework Knitters, the Coachmakers and the Spectacle Makers, to name just a few.

Although we were downstairs, we had a good flow of youngsters to the stand. I was very impressed with the way that the young people held themselves, directed and answered questions and the genuine interest that they showed in the craft. Once some of them realized that they could touch and inspect the trade samples provided by David for the day, they were pleasantly surprised by what can



The WCB Clerk Jill Moffatt, Liveryman Douglas Campbell FWCB and Liveryman David Skinner AWCB, represented the craft and the Company at the Livery School Links

actually be produced with steel under the skilled hands of a blacksmith.

For many, this was their first school outing since the pandemic began and they were clearly enjoying the experience. David was even interviewed for a school project! Thanks very much to our Learned Clerk, Jill Moffatt and to our Assistant Clerk, Jackie Monelle, without whom, we would have had no stand!

Royal Welsh Show 2022

By Adam Greenwell

With great anticipation the ornamental ironwork section at The Royal Welsh Show was brought back to life in 2022 after a three-year absence.

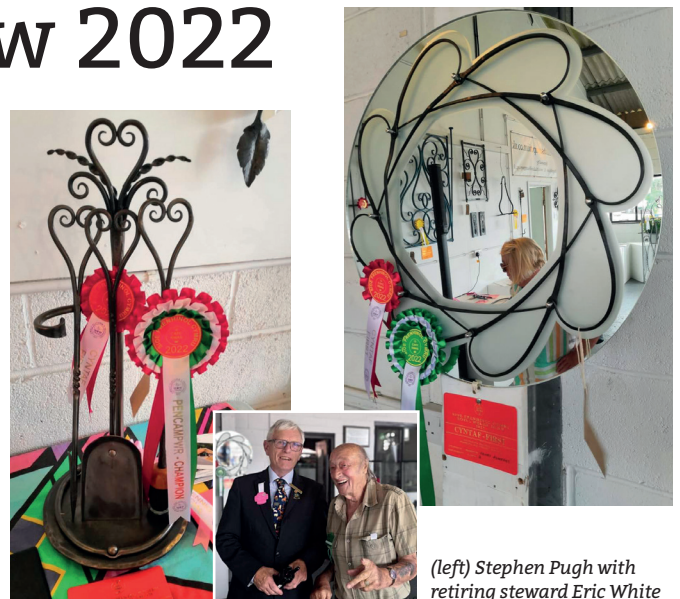
Students and professionals from around the country gathered to display their ironwork as part of the fifth qualifying round of the National Blacksmithing Competitions.

There was a great display of work ranging from candlestick holders, trivets, gates, sculptures and a cabaret of jewellery items. Judged by Di Price, the static Show Champion was announced as Simon Hall, with his companion set with a bottle-opening fork (pictured, right).

Reserve Show Champion was Henry Pomfret, with his sprung mirror (far right). It was great to see students from The National School of Blacksmithing having the confidence to enter their work in the professional class. Rebecca Hamilton a level 3 student won second prize for her Mandala in class 9 (any finished article of wrought ironwork £200 and over).

The live competitions on Thursday were tightly contested with high standards all round and the closest points gap between the seven competitors. Judged by Di Price, the Live Show Champion was announced as Simon Hall, who made a Bottle opening toasting fork. Dylan Lewis secured Reserve Live Show Champion also with his toasting fork.

It's always a pleasure to welcome a representative of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths to the show. This year we were delighted to have the company of Nigel and Marion Whitehead. Nigel and Marion always enjoy looking at the ironwork display, catching up with new and old friends, plus taking the opportunity to look around the Royal Welsh Show ground to see the vast array of Welsh agriculture and crafts at its best.



(left) Stephen Pugh with retiring steward Eric White

This year marked Eric and Margret White's last year as Senior Steward/Stewardess after 44 years of dedication and service to the show's blacksmith section. Eric reminisced about how the show was when he started: the work was displayed under a canvas tent, with only a handful of items on display. Over the years, they both have built it up to the fantastic show it is today, with a dedicated building that has six forges and a display area, which is always full of ironwork on display. I would like to thank Eric for his commitment and Margret for her understanding and support, not only for this but – and all their other contributions to blacksmithing.

- Adam Greenwell is taking over as Senior Steward. Eric and Margret will return as Stewards, allowing them to enjoy the show without any pressure. If you would like to visit, display your ironwork or compete in the 2023 Royal Welsh Show, please contact Adam Greenwell via email greenwellintheforge@hotmail.co.uk



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22nd & 23rd April 2023

CASE STUDY

Acute laminitic onset to athletic recovery in a 12-year-old Arab mare

By Andrew Poynton, FWCF, PFC,
andrew@poyntonfarrieryclinic.co.uk

This case is typical of many laminitic equines that suffer from laminitis. Whilst this study concentrates solely on the farriery treatment the mare was diagnosed with equine metabolic disease and is being treated for the condition. She was carrying some excess weight at the commencement of treatment but soon lost it. The approach to trimming and method of treatment are described, but radiographic interpretation and the cycle of events en-route to recovery are also addressed.

Materials

Imprint First and Plus shoes (low temperature mouldable shoes) Imprint Ultrafast Adhesive, refrigerant aerosol, Imprint Hoof Repair (synthetic horn substitute), surgical spirit, Keratex antibacterial wax putty.

Tools

Farriers hand tools, cordless drill 10 mm modified wood drill.

Treatment

The mare was diagnosed with acute laminitis. Lateromedial radiographs were taken of the front feet only. The fore feet were filled in the palmar hoof with soft impression material and both feet padded and bandaged. The mare showed no signs of pain relief at this stage. This was videoed for reference. I was contacted and asked to attend the same day to provide farriery treatment. The assistance of a veterinary surgeon was requested due to the distressed state of the mare. Whilst waiting, I was able to lift a foot for a short time, so I proceeded to trim the hoof referencing radiographs (see 'Hoof Trimming')



Right fore sole view. 05/09/22 sole prolapsed, lamellae draining

and fit the Imprint shoe (see shoe fitting, below). The mare remained calm and so the second foot was trimmed and the other shoe fitted.

Little trimming at this stage was necessary as the hooves were in moderate condition. The main objective was to swiftly apply a shoe that would support the frog without compression, as the frog and digital cushion are both compressible structures, so the material contacting the frog needed to arrest vertical displacement as much as possible.

Hoof Trimming

Taking reference from the new radiographs, standard (normal) hoof trimming relative to the position of P3 to achieve both dorso palmar (DP) and lateromedial (LM) balance was carried out. Any departure from this would be to bevel off the toe more than normal to shorten the point of breakover. The hind hooves were trimmed but no shoes were fitted.

Shoe Fitting

A shoe of the correct size was selected and fitted centrally to the foot. (For in-detail shoe fitting visit <https://www.imprintshoes.co.uk/resources/fitting-instructions/laminitis-shoe-fitting/>) It is often advantageous to add a roll of softened Imprint Hoof Repair onto the frog mating side of the frog plate and then when being offered up to fit the shoe, this material is then moulded three dimensionally to the frog, creating a 'frog cradle' to maximise central contact to inhibit frog displacement. No direct load on the sole is made, whilst the toe of the shoe is well rolled to keep point of breakover shortened. The shoe can be set under the toe, similar as to fitting a hunter hind shoe, but bridging the sole. Also the shoe can be rounded more to one side to enhance foot balance and point of breakover if it is not central. So the sole is completely free of contact and accessible for monitoring and keeping clean and dry.



1. 06/07/22 Observations: Good phalangeal alignment. Groove visible at coronary border. Sole flattened but not particularly thin. Depth of laminal layer is abnormally thick, in a healthy foot this would be noticeably thinner than the hoof wall, this is an indicator of P3 sinking. There is marginal toe flaring

Immediate Result

Once the shoes were in place, the mare was turned around and walked into her stable. Another short video clip was taken, there was an immediate marked visible improvement in the mare's mobility, enabling her to move around her box in less pain. No additional pain relief was administered at this point.

Subsequent Visits and Treatments

The mare was next treated six weeks later, she seemed to be holding her own. The procedure was repeated. Another four weeks elapsed – 10 weeks since commencement of treatment – the mare was in pain pointing her left fore. After removing the shoe and searching the foot, pus was released from the toe, along with partially congealed blood. The mare was able to bear weight on it and move about better. The foot was poulticed in the toe only and not on the sole, to keep it hard and dry.

The vet put the mare on a course of antibiotics. Ten days later the foot was reshod (the right was not shod at this time). At 12 weeks from commencement of treatment, the mare was able to walk out well, but sensitive when turned. The soles of both feet had been convex and crumbled away to reveal new soles, not fleshy but thin sole horn. Dry dressings were applied to both following shoeing. The owner was concerned about the mare's future.

At 18 weeks from the onset, the end of October, recovery of the hoof capsules was clearly evident but, ironically, the mare was still dogged with intermittent and significant pain due to localised foot infection. Soon after the left foot infection cleared up a similar occurrence happened to the right fore. This is not uncommon with such cases.

Towards the end of November, the front feet were X-rayed again revealing improved hoof integrity, with the bones high in the hoof although some recovery was still needed where there was still laminal separation at the distal 2 cm of the hoof. The feet were hard and dry.

Pre-shoeing

On evaluation the mare was walked up and trotted, dancing and prancing, but not 100% level. When the shoes were removed there was signs of bleeding in the laminae at the toe. The feet tend to grow faster on the lateral side, so trimming and shoeing was carried out to counter this warping of the hooves.



25/10/22 New sole developing, the hoof is harder and dryer albeit a small toe infection in laminae draining



25/11/22 Sole has regenerated



25/11/22 The distal hoof wall still has a little way to grow out



25/11/22 Progressed to Imprint plus shoe as the mare is now more mobile. Notice toe and lateral branch bevelled to ease footfall and improve mediolateral balance

In mid-December she was acutely lame in the left fore presenting as a foot infection, but frustratingly no pus was located. The foot was X-rayed and showed good hoof recovery, but still had small voids at the toe. The feet had grown out of balance, giving plenty to work on. The apparent infection grumbled on for a couple of weeks and then faded. The lameness seemed associated with the foot infections but not laminal instability. (She was last shod on 15 December 2022.)

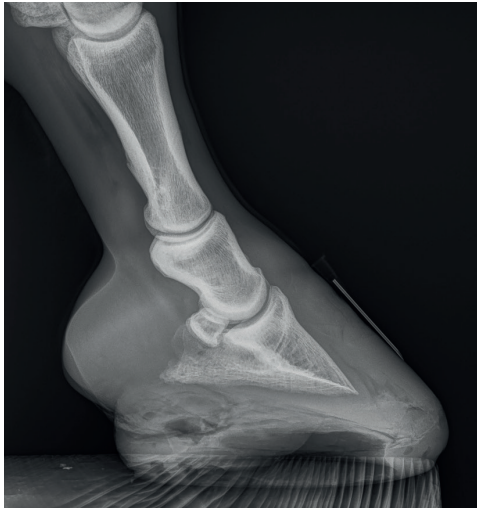
On 19 January 2023, I re-evaluated soundness and she was still intermittently cautious when turning. When trimming feet, a small pocket of pus was discovered in the medial heel quarter. There was plenty of hoof to trim, just part of the toe dorso-medially there was a deficit of horn. Before shoeing she was re-evaluated and to our delight moved well, so it was agreed that she would remain unshod and be monitored. To date she is doing well, behaving like a horse again.



2. 15/08/22 before re-shoeing, again note abnormal thickness of the laminal layer and distal hoof wall deviation. A lesion in the sole is visible. Notice the frog cradle extend well forward of the centre of articulation and blends with the frog. The mare was comfortable at this stage

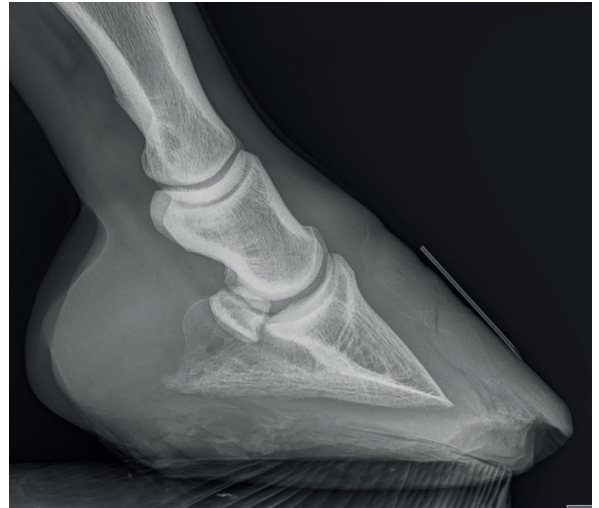


3. 15/09/22 Sole lesion and detaching distal hoof wall is obvious whilst restorative proximal hoof growth in closer union was returning. It is at this stage that unsurprisingly the patient is likely to go through a delicate stage due to the partial sloughing of the hoof. This cannot be prevented but can be managed well to navigate a safe course to full recovery



4. (left) 25/11/22 Six weeks growth before shoeing, at a glance may look similar to radiograph 2 but the main and significant difference is that the laminae are not inflamed and of less thickness than the hoof wall. Sole depth is good, regaining normal proportions.

5. (right) Hoof trimmed before fitting the shoe. The groove in the distal toe had been pared out to remove necrotic laminae, congealed blood and pus from the recent toe infection. It was partially filled with an anti-bacterial putty as it was close to sensitive tissue.



Discussion

The rationale for writing this piece was not to show an exemplary case that recovered without a hitch in record time, rather, a case that was similar in many ways to other laminitics, travelling through a sequence of predictable events, highs and lows, but treatable.

It is acknowledged that not all laminitics necessarily have to endure multiple foot infections and solear prolapse. That would depend on a number of factors, such as the size and weight of the patient, how soon restorative treatment is commenced and the overall management of the case. That said, once lamella breakdown has occurred within the hoof, that damaged structure has to grow out and, hopefully, the new horn growth proximal to it will have good vascular supply and given the right conditions will grow out as normal healthy hoof.

It is worth repeating that there are recognisable events during the laminitic journey to recovery, see <https://www.imprintshoes.co.uk/recognising-typical-crisis-points-during-laminitic-treatment/>

At the initial acute onset, 'the vascular crisis' is well recognised and documented where vet, owner and farrier work together to arrest and reverse the destructive forces at play, ideally as soon as possible, as this is a 'blue light' situation; no comments like 'give it time to stabilise' will do. Valuable time can be lost if the essential bone column support is not in place. If the frog is resting on compressible material or in suspension, the patient is in a precarious state.

If treatment is initiated swiftly, damage to the lamella union is likely to be reduced, ideally before any detachment, rotation or sinking occurs. Once P3 detachment begins, then the farrier is in the situation of trying to catch up. Assuming that there is radiographic evidence of P3 rotation or sinking, support shoeing is initiated, the patient responds favourably, six weeks later it is treated in a similar manner, all seems well. Another six weeks elapse but the patient becomes less mobile, awkward when turning, shifting weight, the feet are x-rayed again only to find that there has been further movement and detachment within the foot. As with this case, this was predictable, it is 'the mechanical crisis', the time in the process when the horn of the wall and sole begin to slough, a little like a finger nail that is clobbered with a hammer, there is an initial bleed, pain and bruising and then a month or two later the nail detaches. This analogy goes only so far, but hope fully makes the point. The finger and nail don't have to support the

weight of the creature above it or walk on it, the equine does!

All too often this stage is not understood and deemed a surprise, a downturn and failure of the treatment, euthanasia is discussed, and sometimes carried out. The magnitude will vary from case to case, but this pattern is something the author has witnessed over many years. If the farrier can leave a patient in a better place than on arrival with potential recovery, then there is every reason to persevere. As with this case the routine was repeated, with extra care directed at the juvenile sole.

Due to the continued support afforded to the feet, P3 decent was arrested whilst some sole and lower hoof wall detached. With as much fresh air to the new sole as possible, it hardened and thickened.

With this case, as the distal hoof wall had been depleted and the sole protruding, the rim of the Imprint shoe along with some Imprint Hoof Repair and adhesive was moulded into this void creating a synthetic lower hoof wall, providing improved hoof integrity, thereby enabling safe shoe fitting with sole clearance. The toe was rolled to eliminate upward force.

The reader will notice that the shoe fitted to the right fore foot is rolled at the toe and bevelled off all round the lateral branch. This is to achieve improved dorso-palmar balance (DP) which can be overlooked, to the detriment of the patient. Ideal foot balance on all planes is part of competent farriery, never more so when treating an unstable laminitic foot.

Conclusion

Although this 12-year-old mare had more than her share of foot infections, in little more than six months she was fly bucking around the ménage. With early intervention, skilled trimming and support shoeing of this type the farrier should expect a high degree of success when presented with similar cases. The materials used enable partial hoof restoration as and when needed, which can help maintain hoof integrity when the foot is at its most vulnerable state.

Being aware of the likely course of events and predicting what is likely to transpire with the owner and vet can help prepare everyone for what lies ahead and likely stay the course when the patients' recovery appears to waiver. The sequence of radiographs realistically record the foot changes, but can easily be misinterpreted as a failing case. If the reader is faced with this response, take heart, present this article or even get in touch for a second opinion.

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Sam Bailey, AWCB, BA(Hons): a profile

Sam Bailey is a blacksmith in Backwell, Bristol, North Somerset, and his workshop is in Easton in Gordano. He was awarded his AWCB in October 2018, which he feels honoured to have received. Sam writes –

Most of my work tends to be constructed using forged and fabricated techniques and made in my small workshop. These range from artistic gates and railings to sculptural items for public and private clients, as well as props for television and film.

I have recently been enjoying my involvement with prop making. It's a great feeling to make items and then be able to see them either viewed in the cinema or on TV knowing that they will be seen by many people all over the world. It's a very fast-paced industry. I have recently made props for Films and TV series including 'House of the Dragon', 'The Last Dual' 'Catherine Called Birdie' and 'Paddington 2'.

I have always had an interest in making and creating from a young age and pursued anything creative at school.

Around the age of 15 I learned to weld by doing night classes at a local college. This was mainly due to my interest in old cars and encountering their many rusty holes. From this newly learnt skill, I quickly realised the potential of bringing metalwork into my creative passion.

Fortunately for me, I found a local artist blacksmith who created some fantastic pieces. I was amazed with what he could do, being able to turn a material which is usually seen as being hard, cold and generally industrial, into work with such fluidity and organic form. Here, I helped out at weekends and in school holidays for a number of years.

After an Art foundation course at Bower Ashton in Bristol and finishing a 3D Crafts degree in Brighton, I really wanted to set up a small workshop with the intention of being self-employed.

Initially starting from a small setup at the bottom of my parents' garden, I moved to my current workshop in Easton in Gordano in the leafy outskirts of Bristol.



Curved meadow railings, Westerland Valley Country Park, Torbay, Devon: these railings were based on the local meadow grasses found near the site in Devon, designed by Stephanie Tudor. The work now sits within the community where it will be enjoyed for years to come



Organic balustrade: Constructed using forged and fabricated techniques and finished in bees' wax



'Sloblock Hall' gates: designed and made for a local customer who wanted a statement gate for their new property. Numbers hidden in the gate refer to the owner's history and involvement with mathematics

The 'Couple Candlestick' (right): this work combines male and female symbolic forms, pattern welded, using two metals fire welded together to become one. The shape of the ring refers to marriage, the womb, infinity or everlasting love. This is one of the pieces that secured Sam the title of Reserve Champion, which he won in 2016 and 2017



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Andrew Hall FWCB – Silver Medal
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Paul Ashmore LWCB – Licentiate
Rebecca Knott FWCB, Norman Rose FWCB, Simon Ashby FWCB & Nigel Stenning FWCB – Bronze medal
Oliver Bramston AWCB, James Deane AWCB & Jacob Hedge AWCB – Diploma of Merit
Brett Shanahan-Smith – The Camelia Botnar Foundation Cup
Andrew Harris, David James FWCB, Daniel Liggins FWCB & Rob Umney – National Heritage Ironwork Group Awards
Rebecca Hamilton – Stanley Allcard Cup
Emilia Orving – Frank Day Trophy
S Lt Matthew Rice – Naval Service Core Values Award
Craftsman Alex Wood – Blacksmith Army Cup
Chief Technician John Shaw – Royal Air Force Winged Thunderbolt Award

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In brief

Hampshire resident Angela Wybrow ALCM has shared some images of her gate, which has been stolen from her home. She wrote on Facebook:

'Our wrought iron front gate has been stolen from our house in Andover. It has great sentimental value, as my late Dad had it specially commissioned in the mid to late 1970s, and had a hand in helping to design it. If you have any information, please message me. Thank you.'



FARRIERY APPRENTICESHIP STEERING GROUP: NEW CHAIR APPOINTED

David Hall, BSc (Hons), DipWCF (Hons), has been appointed chair of the Farriery Apprenticeship Steering Group. He takes over the role at the beginning of May and will work alongside the current chair Cliff Barnes AWCF until then. Mr Barnes has led the group for the past 10 years.

Since his appointment in January, Mr Hall has been getting up to speed with the group's work. Speaking to Forge, he said he was looking forward to the challenge. 'I will take an open-minded approach to give the committee the opportunity to achieve the best outcome.'

British Horse Society partnership with BFBA FROM SHOD TO BAREFOOT

The online conversations 'From shod to barefoot' proved to be extremely popular. The presenters were professional and clear in putting their views across providing information on the law, the art and science of farriery, equine welfare, adaptation and modernising.

Thank you speakers!

Former flat jockey and Injured Jockeys Fund (IJF) beneficiary, Jordan Vaughan (pictured right), was awarded the top prize of 'The Jockey Club Achievement Award' at the 2022 JETS Awards, celebrating the achievements he has made since he stopped riding and decided to become a farrier.



He completed his farriery apprenticeship supported by JETS at Warwickshire College, alongside riding out for trainers to gain extra income. He is now fully qualified based in Newmarket.

Another IJF beneficiary and Former Amateur jockey, Ryan Withey, won the IJF Progress Award. After sustaining a serious foot injury, he pursued a new career as an equine dentist. He is currently working towards his qualifications with Equine Dental Services South West.

JETS is a charity that helps current and former professional jockeys plan and achieve a secure future with career advice, grants and training in new skills, in order to gain employment after race-riding. It is funded by jockeys' prize money contributions and The Injured Jockeys Fund.

JETS, 39b Kingfisher Court, Hambridge Road, Newbury RG14 5SJ. <http://www.jets-uk.org/>

PROPOSITION FOR THE BFBA AGM

Farrier Aaron Myall DipWCF has attended a number of BFBA Executive Committee meetings during the year and although he is not affiliated to a BFBA branch, he seeks permission to be nominated to become a member of the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting on 8 July 2023.

LONG-TERM MEMBERS GET FREE MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to announce that Bedfordshire-based farrier Michael Burgoyne DipWCF has been a member of the BFBA for more than 40 years, which means that he now qualifies for free BFBA membership.

Update: European Federation of Farrier Associations

By Chris Linssner AWCF, EFFA Registrar

The European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA) held its Annual General Meeting in November 2022, in town of Pilsen in the Czech Republic. EFFA has 23 member associations across 18 European countries and 16 associations run a Certified Euro-Farrier (CEF) programme. Its annual meeting had some interesting topics on the agenda.

European farriers' Hall of Fame

Last November, three well-known European farriers – Hans Castilijns, Denis Leveillard and Flemming Christensen – were the first group of farriers to be inducted into the European Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place during EFFA's Annual General Meeting, held in the beautiful, but cold, town of Pilsen in the Czech Republic.

The Hall of Fame had been the suggestion of the board member, John Dooley from Ireland, but because of the movement restrictions during Covid, it had taken three years to get from nomination to presentation at an AGM.

The nominations are open to any person who has been seen to promote farriery and horse welfare within the landmass of Europe and can be vets, farriers or even horse owners.

Accreditation Board Visitations

It was reported that the Accreditation Board had been getting back on track in 2022.



The Hall of Fame presentation to Hans Castilijns, Flemming Christensen and Denis Leveillard. They are flanked by EFFA President John Ravanelli on the left and Florian Haefner on the right

SPAIN: The visitation panel had been welcomed into Spain with a new school in Andalusia run by Valentin Castillo Martinez and his son Valentin Jnr. Their names might be familiar to some as they have both achieved the WCF Diploma exam and Valentin Senior gained a farriery degree through Myerscough college.

ITALY: Also new to EFFA was the Italian Euro-Farriers School near Milan, which is home to the famous European Carlo Montagna and his son (<https://scientifichorseshoeing.co.uk/carlo-montagna/>). The school at North Forge is like a museum with shoes, horse paraphernalia and more tools than I have ever seen.

The school course is run by Farrier/Vet Daniele Pietro Ferri and the inaugural course had eight successful candidates, now with the title of Certified Euro-Farrier – the first in Italy.

Continued on page 34/

Highlights of Pilsen

The AGM, held in Pilsen in November 2022 was the first in-person event since 2019. It should have been hosted by the UK, but because of the hold up from the restrictions, the Union of Farriers, Blacksmiths and Locksmiths of the Czech Republic asked if it could host event as the year marked the 10-year anniversary of its farriery school.



The town of Pilsen is of course famous for the Pilsner Urquhart brewery and no visit could be complete without a guided tour to see the beer being made. It was staggering to see how much is produced and the bottling capacity reaches 120,000 bottles per hour with 6,160,000 hectolitres being exported annually. For those who want to do the maths, one



Pavel Komarek with Kokatko (kitten)

hectolitre is 100 litres – that's an awful lot of beer.

While in Pilsen, my good friend Pavel Komarek of the Czech Union took me to visit his college where he works as an English teacher as well as a farrier.

The government-run college offers full-time courses in woodwork/joinery, mechanics and blacksmithing. The blacksmiths shop was, of course, my favourite and I saw the students making ornate door plates. The department has two teachers and as it was just before Christmas, one of them was making a small bell from a piece of steel plate to entertain a group from the local village school who were touring the facilities.



A blacksmith makes a crotal bell, also known as rumble bells, which were used on horse-drawn vehicles before motorised vehicles were common



The display of ironwork at the college in the Czech Republic

POLAND, SLOVENIA & PORTUGAL: This year Poland and Slovenia will seek EFFE accreditation.

Portugal will follow soon after. Nuno Bernardes, from the Associacao Portuguesa de Ferradore, presented details of a new CEF course being organised at the Lisbon Veterinary Faculty. He gave a clear presentation of the course and the facilities where he lectures as a vet.

None of these countries benefit from government assistance for farriery education and lots of great work is done by a few people to get courses recognised to EFFE standards, which will ultimately benefit horse welfare. I am constantly humbled by the self-sacrifice made by those who look towards the future for their profession. We are lucky to have government-funded education in the UK.

These fledgling associations again emphasised the need for the EFFE Accreditation Board to provide more initial support and encouraged them to run a mock exam with a member of the Accreditation Board present. A paper is being created for associations who have no government or educational support to help them to structure and run an exam.

The standards for the European Master Euro-Farrier (MEF) exam were produced by Miles Williamson-Noble some six plus years ago when he was EFFE Registrar, but they were never taken any further forward. With renewed interest in such an exam, EFFE has been asked by several associations who want to add this as a natural step on from the Certified Euro-Farrier (CEF) exam. Initially, the European schools will be asked to supply a syllabus that meet the standards, while highly-qualified Examiners will need to be found to cover the exams.

“
EFFA is looking for Examiners. Get in touch if you are interested

EFFA is producing a list of European

EFFA's Objectives

- To provide a forum for the spread of knowledge and best practice amongst farriers throughout Europe.
- To arrange educational events and farriery competitions in order to raise standards of farriery throughout Europe.
- To develop a common basic standard of competence in farriery.
- To encourage all European countries, whether members of the European Union or not, to adopt this common basic standard as a minimum and to accredit national qualifications against this common basic standard.
- To prevent and avoid suffering by and cruelty to horses arising from the trimming and shoeing of horses by unskilled persons.
- To develop and publicise a register of Certified Euro-Farriers.
- To encourage working farriers to undertake a programme of CPD/lifelong learning.
- To encourage close working between farriers and veterinary surgeons on the therapeutic treatment of horses' hooves.
- To assist member nations in developing common standards of regulatory legislation relating to the trimming and shoeing of horses.
- To encourage safe and healthy working practises.
- To encourage the education of the horse owning public in relation to the art and science of farriery.
- To provide representation on behalf of the members on matters concerning the farriery industry in Europe.



Some members of the board during the AGM

Examiners so associations can have a constant availability of higher qualified and respected examiners. The same for clinicians who will also be on the list. If you feel you want to put yourself forward as a European Examiner then drop me an email.

Cultural Exchange

The Cultural Exchange of farriers will be going ahead, taking student/farriers from the USA and sharing them through the interested EFFE associations. The exchange is reciprocal,

and apprentices/farriers can not only visit the USA but be exchanged throughout the European community. Damien Kondrat of Poland and Phoebe Colton of the BFBA have offered support. Alex Wursch from FarrierTec Suisse who has been instrumental in moving this project forward, has offered to make the contact for associations wanting to host the exchange.

European Horse Network

EFFA is a member of The European Horse Network (EHN). This organisation is for the betterment of horses across Europe and hold some very useful contacts within its membership. The EHN is very strong politically in getting their points heard within the EU and has a good association with the Euro-members in Brussels. EFFA has been asked to put a case forward to Brussels regarding the state of farriery and horse welfare in Europe. I will keep you posted as to how it went.

New association Secretary

EFFA has a new Secretary and we warmly welcomed Michael Knap from Sweden, who

has offered himself for the post. Following the resignation of Linda Quin, I have taken over as Registrar and have had to hit the ground running due to the number of associations that are scheduled for accreditation over the next couple of years.

Education event

This year EFFA's Education Event is being held in Poland in conjunction with an educational weekend for qualified farriers. The Education Event is run bi-annually in a different country and is a learning weekend for apprentices – four from each country. There are learning, practicing and competing elements

BFBA would like four apprentices, two first/second years and two third/fourth years to apply to represent the UK and the association in Poland. Some sponsorship may be found, but it is usual for their ATF to support them on this exciting learning event.

This year, for the second time in its existence, EFFA is coming to England, where it will hold its AGM alongside BFBA Focus and the International Team Horseshoeing Championships at Stoneleigh. Its going to be a busy time for all concerned, and we look forward to meeting you over Pilsner.

“

**EFFA's
Education
Event is an
opportunity for
UK apprentices**

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Beacon

I was asked to design and make the beacon for the villages of Churchill and Langford in North Somerset (the beacon is situated in Churchill), writes Sam Bailey AWCB.

A customer of mine in the village of Churchill insisted I should hide a number of small animals on the post of the beacon,

including mice, snails and caterpillars. Although there was only a small amount of forged work involved, it was still a great project to be involved in and to make.

I particularly enjoyed seeing people's reactions and their involvement during the lighting of the beacon in the evening.





(back row from left) Rickard Svard, Daniel Ahlberger, Henrik Jansson, Martin Bruks, Nicolai Refsahl, (front row from left) farrier educator and mentor Jay Tovey FWCF, Tom Smith FWCF chair of the FRC Council, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, Martin Russell, Ben Benson AWCF, BFBA President, and Niklas Petterson. Mr Petterson was presented with Garnam Trophy for achieving the highest marks in the AWCF examination during the year. The Swedish group are six of the seven successful farriers who passed the AWCF at their first attempt in March 2022 who were able to come to London and celebrate their achievement at Plaisterers Hall on 19 January. Jay Tovey's son, Sol, was presented with his Diploma certificate at the same event.

Worshipful Company of Farriers certificate presentation ceremony



Cotswold farrier Philip Martin GradDipELR, FWCF, receives his FWCF certificate



American farrier Heather Beauchemin CJF, TW, AWCF receives her AWCF certificate. Heather is based in Illinois and spent time in the UK on the Edward Martin Cultural Exchange



American farrier Jason Critton CJF, TE, AWCF receives his certificate. Jason is a farrier from Colorado where he runs a multifarrier practice

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If you would like to start your own business as a farrier, South Canterbury is the place to be. I can help you and your family find a house or accommodation and introduce you to some of the equestrian fraternity.

'The time is right for you to make the change'

**Contact Frances Hughes, email
nigelwhitman@slingshot.co.nz**

The Tour de Farrier Coast to Coast ride is FULL with 49 riders in training for this three-day event.

Day 1: St Bees to Hawes, 71.8 miles and 7658 feet elevation - the hardest and longest day when the cyclists will ride the Hardknott pass, followed by the Wrynose Pass.

Day 2: Hawes to Osmotherly, 58.6 miles and 5272 feet elevation. The day's highlight will be stopping at Tan Hill Inn, 17th century inn, the UK's highest pub.

Day 3: Osmotherly to Sandsend, Whitby, 39.1 miles and 3312 feet elevation. Today's highlight: a fish and chip lunch to end the tour.

This ride needs to raise much-needed funds for The Farrier Foundation, a fantastic charity that does so much for our industry.

Please support this worthwhile charity if you can.



The Farriers Foundation provides financial and practical support to farriers, and their families, in times of injury or illness. This dedicated, independent charity for farriers is run by farriers and ensures that money raised by fundraising activities remains within our industry and used where it is needed most.

eXcel ORIGINAL

All year-round perfection.

HELLER EXCEL ORIGINAL is just that – the original 50 mm wide rasp.

With 711 small and compact teeth, this rasp is a farrier's best friend in every season.

Steady and durable, the EXCEL ORIGINAL requires minimal effort when pushing the rasp while still performing with maximum efficiency over and over again.



PRO-FINISH

Perfect results every time.

HELLER PROFINISH is the ultimate tool for farrier who strives for perfection. Get that super polished finish with this 40 mm rasp.

Alt: Get show quality finish with the multiglide file side and even finer, super polished finish with the smooth glide side.



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With this rasp, you get 666 sharp teeth divided into 74 rows over the 50 mm wide surface.

The coarse side removes hoof instantly and is perfectly complemented by the fine multiglide side which gives a great, glass-like finish to the hoof.



LEGEND

Legendary sharpness.

HELLER LEGEND does everything you need. Its sharp teeth take off a lot of hoof in no time at all, and performs even better in wet conditions.

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



RED TANG

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.

