



FORGE

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The May 2023 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains one articles:

- Can 3D imaging help quantify morphology of the equine hoof?

by Tom Smith FWCF



Worshipful Company of Farriers

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European Federation of Farriers Associations

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Vice-President, Peter Kristiansen (DMFA Denmark)
Secretary, Chris Linssner AWCF
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

This time three years ago we were in a Covid-19 lockdown – the biggest global lockdown the world had ever seen. The Prime Minister asked us to stay at home for our own safety and that of our families, saying we should not go out or socialise. This meant that many had to stop working. We saw our friends and families online, enjoyed the weather and having time out. Then many worried about work (and money), how they were going to pay the bills?

The lockdown months gave us time to rethink our lives and careers, some people decided that they hated their hamster wheel jobs and felt the money they were compelled to earn didn't actually make them happy. As farriers, we felt the same emotions as our friends, with one exception, we all had more than just our wellbeing on our shoulders, we had that of our clients and, importantly, their horses.

The outpouring of uncertainty that we saw on social media from BFBA members (and non-members) who contacted the association was considerable. Farriers were not sure how they could legally go to work and keep themselves and their families safe when going onto yards. We also saw farriers forced to shelter at home with health reasons, worrying that in protecting their health they were sacrificing their businesses as their clients became increasingly worried and leave them to find other solutions (and sometimes other farriers) to keep their horses' sound and able to stay in low-level work.

The BFBA stepped up quickly, working with leading equestrian charities to look to find a safe way that we could work making sure that horses were not being neglected and at the same time keeping ourselves, our families and our clients as safe as we could. We devised a RAG (Red Amber Green) traffic light system that helped us to categorise our clients and also importantly show that we were being safe, professional, considerate and ethical in maintaining the welfare of the horse at all times as our first consideration. This farrier traffic light system was an instant hit, being seen on social media by 125,000 people within 48 hours. It was used by a number of international farrier associations and also was picked up and used by other equine industries. We also supplied temporary client forms to farrier members as some farriers who were helping horse owners in their areas were worried that farriers who had had to withdraw their services would be upset if another farrier helped the horse and client. It was a very turbulent time with everyone desperate for help and guidance. The association was the go-to for information and was very much looked to by farriers to help make sense of it all and support those who were struggling. The association showed how it was there to support the farriery industry and that we were still relevant after 105 years.

Slowly we all got back out and the lights turned back on. That walking pace soon became a jog, and now we are all back to a flat out sprint. The only monster that seemingly is still hanging over our heads post-covid (and growing stronger) is



the cost of living and materials. We have recently incurred some of the biggest price increases we have seen in the past decade. In the last month alone, one of the biggest global manufacturers increased prices (by as much as 25%). We have seen forge coke increase from £450 a tonne to £950 per tonne and concave steel now costs £3,600 plus VAT. This, with the steady decline of horse numbers over the past few years, meant that we now have a perfect storm on the horizon.

As an industry, we need to embrace change and restructure how we operate our businesses.

The positives are again being led by the BFBA. A number of new branches are springing up across the country (and with the challenge of required CPD) putting on talks and day courses to help farriers, but also to start now bringing what has

become a very isolated and fractured industry back together. With mobile phones and social media, we have seen farriers become increasingly solitary and disconnected with the industry and each other. Phones and Facebook meant it was possible to 'be connected' without actually seeing anyone.

Over the past 15 years, we have resorted to a wave, either as we enter or leave a yard, or make the odd call about a client's horse. Getting back together in the same place allows us all to not just enjoy the learning but, more importantly, to rebuild friendships and, to some extent, trust in each other. Over the past 10 or so years, everyone has become worried about putting prices up, risking clients leaving us for someone cheaper. We now see more farriers talking and sharing not just tips but details of their business costs. This is how we all help the industry to step forward and not be frightened to charge a fair and decent price for the increasingly high standard of work we provide. The new BFBA Branches give us all the ability to start reconnecting with each other to make it better for all.

It seems that when the UK farriery industry is in dire need of its help or direction, the BFBA becomes increasingly relevant. We need those of you who have let your membership lapse or have sat on the fence to step forward and help BFBA to provide more for our industry. We have limited finance, but more members and your support could catapult the association forward to help you. Be that help to work smarter not harder or to actually bring in a higher and more deserved income for you and your family to reflect the years of dedication and hard physical work the job entails.

Joining online can be done easily on your phone at any time of day or night. Simply go online to BFBA.co.uk – it can be done in the time it takes to make a cup of tea or coffee! Alternatively, give the office a call on 024 7669 6595. Help to make things easier and better for everyone. Safe shoeing.

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

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BFBA FOCUS 2023

SPEAKER PROGRAMME

Saturday

TIME	SPEAKER(S)	TITLE
09.30-10.30	Jay and Sol Tovey	▶ Procedures, timings and standards for a successful practical exam
10.45-11.45	Chris Gregory	▶ Tendon injuries
12.00-13.00	Simon Curtis	▶ Effects on the equine hoof that affect hoof shape
13.00-13.30		LUNCH BREAK
13.30-14.30	Aksel Vibe	▶ Managing the unshod performance horse: a farrier's perspective
14.45-15.45	Mark Trussler	▶ Mediolateral imbalance – cause, effect, treatment
16.00-17.00	Round table discussion	▶ Where will farriery be in 10 years? ▶ How can we charge more for our services?

Sunday

TIME	SPEAKER(S)	TITLE
09.30-10.30	Chris Gregory	▶ Demonstration of a Pattern bar shoe
10.45-11.45	Simon Curtis	▶ Farriery techniques to change hoof shape
12.00-13.00	Aksel Vibe	▶ Practical solutions to common ailments
13.00-13.30		LUNCH BREAK
13.30-14.30	Jay and Sol Tovey	▶ Fail to prepare, prepare to fail. A methodical system for successful results
14.45-15.45	Mark Trussler FWCF	▶ Anteroposterior imbalance – cause, effect, treatment

BFBA FOCUS 2023

Speaker's biographies
start on page 6/



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BFBA FOCUS 2023

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

SIMON CURTIS FWCF, BSC (HONS), PHD, HONASSOC(RCVS)

Simon John Curtis (born 15 May 1956) is a farrier, author, lecturer and horse hoof-care expert with a PhD in Equine Physiology and Biomechanics (2017). He is a 4th generation farrier; his family have been farriers and blacksmiths in the Newmarket area for at least 150 years. 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.

Curtis is internationally renowned in the hoof-care world for his remedial farriery textbooks and lectures. Among other roles, is a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, was made a member of the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame in 2005 and is the only farrier to have been awarded an Honorary Associateship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. His contribution to the equine world was recognised by receiving the Sir Colin Spedding Award from the Princess Royal in 2019.



CHRIS GREGORY CJF, ASF, FWCF

Chris has been professional horseshoer since 1987 and operates from his farm outside Lamar, Missouri, USA. Chris has been an American Farrier's Association Certified Journeyman Farrier since 1991 and holds several academic degrees, including a master's degree in human resource development, two bachelor's degrees (with a minor) and an associate's degree.

Chris started competing in 1988, and has been in contests all over the world. Competing as a member of the American Farrier's Team, which represents the US at the Internationals in Stoneleigh. He has also competed at the World Championships Blacksmith Competition in Calgary 18 times and been in the Top Ten at that contest. He has also judged the contest at the Calgary Stampede

Chris earned the title of Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (FWCF) at the age of 30 being one of five Americans to currently hold this distinction. In 2010, the Company named Chris an examiner, becoming the first American to work as an examiner for a WCF exam.

As an educator, clinician and lecturer, Chris has appeared at farrier and equine footcare events across the United States and around the globe. He has shod horses and presented at clinics on 6 continents, as well as lecturing numerous times at the American Farrier's Association Annual Convention and the International Hoof-Care Summit

Chris' writings have appeared in American Farriers Journal, Anvil Magazine, Rural Heritage, Loose Shoe, and Western Horseman, to name a few. In 2011, he published Gregory's Textbook of Farriery, a 696-page book with over 3400 pictures and drawings on the art of the farrier. It has become the textbook for most of the top schools teaching the craft, and is helping farriers and horses all over the world.

In 2008 at the age of 39, Chris was inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame, joining nearly 120 accomplished members.

Chris and his wife Kelly opened the Heartland Horseshoeing School in 1995 and now run the school alongside their son Cody. Their graduates have gone on to shoe every discipline of horses and develop noteworthy practices.





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MARK TRUSSLER FWCF

Mark started his training in 1997 in Newmarket with Dr Simon Curtis FWCF passing the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) in 2001. During his apprenticeship he spent the majority of his time shoeing and trimming racehorses in training and both young stock and brood mares on stud farms. Following his apprenticeship Mark moved to Lincolnshire and developed his business there over the next 20 years. In January 2022 Mark, with his family, relocated to Scotland to be closer to the great outdoors.

The majority of his work in the earlier years ranged from general riding horses to competition horses. It was shoeing these horses which gained him the experience needed to move onto further training and higher qualifications within farriery. During this period he was mentored by Martin Deacon FWCF who he regularly observed working at a Veterinary hospital. In 2013 Mark passed the AssociateWCF (AWCF) examination and in 2016 went on to achieve the highest qualification available in farriery the FellowshipWCF (FWCF). Mark is an examiner for the Worshipful Company of Farriers, an experienced clinician and lecturer not only in the UK but Europe and the USA. He has regularly been a clinician on the Worshipful Company of Farriers Foot Balance course and has recently written a review on foot balance methods for the WCF Examination board.

The importance of assessing and evaluating the horses conformation and foot balance has become the priority when working with all horses. Increasingly over the last few years the majority of his work has been on performance horses competing at the highest levels in dressage, showjumping and three-day eventing primarily but also with referral cases from vets and farriers. He is a consultant farrier at a veterinary practice in the north of England, travelling south for their farriery clinic every six weeks.



JAY TOVEY FWCF

Jay qualified in 1996 and has been competing in farriery competitions since he was an apprentice. He represented his country as an apprentice during the 90s and continued to compete successfully at many national and international competitions over the years.

He became a Worshipful Company of Farriers judge in 2008 and has had the great honour of judging the Home International and the International shoeing competition at Stoneleigh. He was also on the farriery team at the London Olympics 2012. He passed the AWCF in 2013 and then went on to pass the highest exam possible, the FWCF in 2017. In 2018 he was also appointed as a WCF examiner and in 2020 became part of the team of 4 farriers and 3 vets on the EEG (Executive Examiners Group).

Jay is passionate about farriery education and runs his own farriery tuition business where he tries to pass on his own knowledge and encourage others to pass on theirs. With an ever growing number of tutors specialising in many different aspects of farriery they have helped farriers in furthering their knowledge in the UK and all over the world.

Recently a group of nine farriers from Sweden, Norway and Denmark who hadn't previously taken the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers were tutored by Jay and his team to pass their AWCF exams, the group had a 100% pass rate.

Jay has spoken, demonstrated and judged all over the world at many farriery events and conferences and continues to enjoy the passing on farriery knowledge travelling regularly as a farriery clinician.

He runs his farriery business from his home in Bedfordshire shoeing all types of horses. He has just successfully trained his son who is very successful in his own right and has represented England on the farriery apprentice team.

Jay was a rugby coach from 2004-2018. He likes to ski whenever possible with friends and also spend time with his wife Emma, three grown up children and two grandsons.





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SOL TOVEY DIPWCF

Sol qualified in November 2022, achieving the highest grade on the theory paper for that year.

Among his academic achievements, he competed on the England apprentice team, winning best specimen at the International Team Horseshoeing and Home International competitions, helping the team to victory in both competitions.

He continues to develop his work by regularly working for internationally recognised farriers around the country.

**AKSEL VIBE, AWCF HOVSLAGER M/FAGBREV**

Aksel started his apprenticeship in 1994 at the Norwegian Veterinarian college, where he served 2 ½ years under Master Farrier M Delebekk and Prof. R Birkeland. After working with various farriers in Sweden and Denmark, Aksel started his own business in Norway in 1999.

Following this, in 2007 Aksel started a farrier/vet clinic where he currently trains apprentices and carries out remedial shoeing and consulting. In 2016 Aksel successfully passed the AWCF and was awarded the Varnham trophy for best practical exam.

As well as competing internationally Aksel has also judged many shoeing competitions and is currently the only non British WCF company Judge. He has presented at many clinics for farriers, vets and other horse professionals in numerous countries over the world. Aksel's farriery practice predominately consists of sport horses, dressage and show jumpers with some of his clients being Olympic and World Champion medal winners.



As well as shoeing and lecturing Aksel is currently a consultant for BHoof, Agria and Mustad Hoofcare.

BFBA BLADESMITHING COMPETITION 2023

Sunday October 29

Following the success of the Bladesmithing competition at last year's Focus, we are looking forward to this year's event. Entries are open for the

INDIVIDUAL BLADESMITHING COMPETITION

Competitors will have 2 hours to make a Kiriksuke knife with a Wa handle from San Mai steel, which will be judged and subjected to a chop test.

Further details on these events will be published in the July issue of Forge magazine.



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Forge magazine. We would like your opinion

At BFBA Head Office we are consistently reviewing our procedures and the service we provide. It has been a while since we asked your opinions on Forge magazine. As a recipient of Forge (and, for BFBA members, Forge Knowledge) we want to know how much you value your magazine, delivered in the post. It should take just 3 minutes to answer this short survey; it is your magazine, your opinions are important. Please respond by 19 May.

This short survey has been put together to gather your opinions.

Please respond - you can remain anonymous if you choose - your thoughts and comments are important to us in planning future publications!

1. Name (leave blank if you wish)

2. Which applies to you?

- Farrier
- Apprentice farrier
- Blacksmith
- Equine trimmer
- Other (please specify)

3. Do you read Forge magazine?

- Yes, completely from cover to cover
- Yes, I flick through and scan to see what is of interest
- No



Scanning this QR code will take you to the survey online or log on to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7VLQ7DN>

4. On a scale of 0-5 (0 being not at all and 5 being very much), how much do you value receiving Forge magazine in the post?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5

5. If Forge was available online and not in print, how likely are you to access and read it?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

6. If Forge was no longer available, would you appreciate a regular e-newsletter with links to news and articles on the BFBA website?

- Absolutely, that's a great idea
- Yes, that could be beneficial
- Yes and no, I may read it from time to time
- No, I would be unlikely to read it
- Absolutely not, reading online doesn't interest me

Additional comments

The following questions are for BFBA MEMBERS only who receive Forge Knowledge,

the educational supplement distributed alongside Forge magazine.

7. On a scale of 0-5 (0 being not at all and 5 being very much), how much do you value receiving Forge Knowledge in the post?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5

8. Did you know Forge Knowledge articles are all available in the BFBA members area of the website?

- Yes
- No

9. Have you accessed Forge Knowledge articles in the BFBA members area of the website?

- Yes
- No

10. If Forge Knowledge was no longer available in print, would you access the articles in the BFBA members area of the website?

(Don't forget, reading articles count towards your yearly CPD activities!)

- Yes
- No

11. We value any further comments you may have. Please provide further detail or call the office on 024 7669 6595 to chat further.



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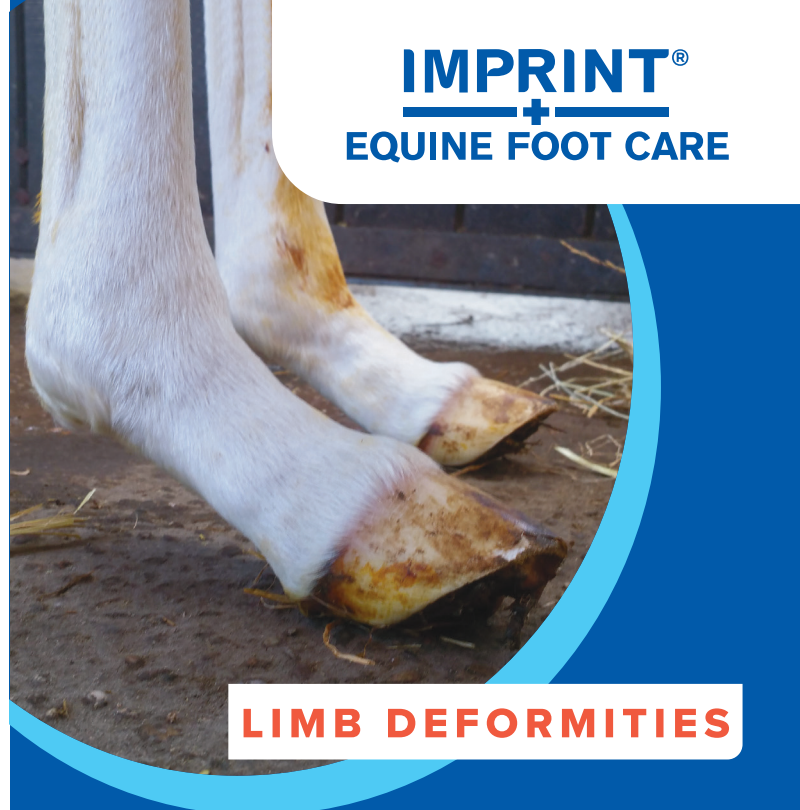
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The BFBA Derbyshire branch is holding a CPD event with Ian Gajczak on Saturday May 20 at Duckmanton, Chesterfield

Ian will cover the following subjects:

- ▶ Fitting pads ~ Do's and Don't's
- ▶ Principals of shoeing to X-rays (Discussion ~ how it can determine the shoeing plan action)
- ▶ Ian's personal theory of everyday shoeing



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Farrier Apprenticeship Working Group (FAWG): an update

By Cliff Barnes AWCF, FAWG chair

In 2012, the farriery apprenticeship started to make the move from the old NVQ/QCF system over to the government's new Trailblazer Apprenticeship. During the following 11 years, the Farrier Apprenticeship Working Group (FAWG) secured the new apprenticeship with the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE).

Writing the standard was a challenge. It was developed using the information gathered from a questionnaire that went out to farriers, their clients, paraprofessionals and all interested parties. The standard is the document used by potential apprentices to understand what they can expect from their apprenticeship, but also what is expected from them during their apprenticeship.

While the group thought the standard was a challenge, the next phase was to produce the End Point Assessment (EPA) document. This document took a huge amount of work with multiple versions being put forward to the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE). In the end, though, it took a day to finalise, which was achieved by two of the committee members and two relationship managers who came up with the document that was used by the colleges to produce the course our apprentices are now following. It has also been used by the Worshipful Company of Farriers to write the EPA (DipWCF).

I have had the privilege of chairing this committee from its

inception in 2012. I will be standing down from the committee in May 2023 and am pleased that David Hall is taking over as chairman of the committee.

The next stage of the process is to see the first cohort take their exam, which they will do this month. With information taken from these results and probably the next two or three exams, I know the working group will be looking to see if changes are needed and you can expect to see another questionnaire at some point in the not too distant future.

A lot of new ATFs put themselves forward for the committee after the advert at the end of last year, thank you to those who are prepared to work on our behalf for the future.

I cannot sign off for the last time without thanking all of the committee members who have worked tirelessly to produce the paperwork that has kept us moving forward with our apprenticeship, and for your individual support when it seemed like an impossible task!

Finally, I also need to thank the other organisations that have been involved from the start – our three farriery training colleges who not only offered up their lecturers, but also other members of their staff with more in-depth knowledge to help with the EPA; the FRC for contacts and advice when needed; the WCF Executive Exam Board members for their input from an examination point of view, and the WCF Court for their continued support and encouragement to keep persevering; and, finally, the BFBA for allowing us to use the President's room for the majority of our meetings, and their Zoom account when we were unable to meet in person.

WCF examination results

The following eight farriers passed the Associateship of the Worshipful Company of Farriers in April 2023.

Thomas Arris AWCF of Leicester
 Richard Matthews AWCF of Staffordshire
 Bradley Greenham AWCF of Devon
 Christopher Johnson AWCF of Leicestershire
 Henry Middleton AWCF of Leicestershire
 Gavin Moody AWCF of Lincolnshire
 Liam O'Hara AWCF of Bedfordshire
 Ross Wardle AWCF of Devon



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Beside the fire... with Vern Powell

Vern Powell, CJF (TE), has been a farrier for 22 years and is the owner of MVP's Farrier Service, which is based in Harvard, Illinois, USA. He is the chairman of the American Farrier's Association Cultural Exchange Programme and director of the AFA's Region 3. Vern is highly respected globally and his skills as an international Farrier are widely recognised. He has gained considerable respect as a prominent ambassador for the American farriery industry.



Q. WHO INFLUENCED YOU AND HOW?

A. My dad would have been my first big influence. He is a retired farrier and a qualified Certified Journeyman Farrier (CJF) who worked primarily on standardbred racing horses first and then transitioned to some Arab show horses and sport horses when the market fell out of standardbred racing in the Chicago area. The tax laws changed and closed many of the loopholes a certain Italian organisation used to 'invest' a lot of money in the horse racing industry. Dad did a lot of ornamental blacksmithing on the side and I grew up with the smell of a coal forge. He is a lifelong member of the American Farriers Association (AFA) so being involved in that came naturally.

Craig Trnka was the second president who was in charge of the AFA when I started being a full-time farrier and that was a great time to be part of the AFA, and it still is now. Obviously the World Champion Blacksmiths organisation has done amazing things for the American farriers. He has always talked about being a steward of the trade and that has made a huge impression on me.

Les Armstrong was my next big influence my real introduction to NAFBAE (now BFBA). Les impressed upon me the tradition of our craft and the importance of maintaining a strong relationship between the AFA and BFBA, not only through the cultural exchange, but also as an ambassador for our organisations. I probably would never have met Les or gone on the exchange if it hadn't been for my good friend John Stedelin, who was on the exchange in 04' and was a huge early influence in my introduction to competing and certification. He sadly passed a few years ago.

Q. TELL US ABOUT A TYPICAL DAY'S WORK

A. Typical work days for us start around 8am leaving the house after making sure the truck is stocked for the day. Days might involve multiple back yard happy hacker stops or sport horse barns, where we might be there all day. Heather Beauchemin, CJF, TE, AWCF is my right hand gal and we typically have an apprentice out of a farrier school for a 1 year commitment.

Q. TELL US ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS INTERESTS

A. Apart from running the most efficient farrier business we can I also have a ranch in Colorado that dad and some friends manage while I stay near Chicago to make sure the monthly mortgage is paid.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR MOST DIFFICULT, CHALLENGING OR PUZZLING WORK EXPERIENCE?

A. By far the journey to pass the AWCF exam. The folks that have helped in that journey to overcome my condition, that scientifically could be known as a rectal-cranial wedging, should be listed as huge influences but the exam journey really has been my biggest challenge.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT?

A. Attending the AWCF ceremony this past January and seeing my former apprentice and business partner, Heather Beauchemin, receive her AWCF certificate.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR SECRET TO A PERFECT FIRE WELD?

A. Get it hot and hit it.

Q. WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO ACHIEVE?

A. There are still a lot of goals I want to accomplish with the cultural exchange, get the ranch paid off, and pass the AWCF exam!

Q. OF ALL THE BLACKSMITHS DEAD OR ALIVE, WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH AND WHY?

A. Edward Martin. I was able to meet him briefly in the elevator the last time he came to the AFA convention but as the cultural exchange program was his idea and vision, I would have liked to talk with him more about it, as well as just have the honor to spend time with him at home and in

the forge. I'd like to hear all the stories I've heard told by him rather than second hand. I hope he would be proud of what the exchange has become for so many people.

Q. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

A. I wish I'd have taken more advantage of taking opportunities to spend time with my dad when I was young and I'd be a lot farther along if I hadn't wasted so much time

pursuing the fairer sex, but it's been a good life thus far!

Q. WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING, WHAT DO YOU LIKE DOING?

A. Are we ever not working on something related to shoeing or our industry?? However, I greatly cherish the time I get to spend on my ranch with my friends who are truly great horsemen and cowboys.

BEVA Congress focus on horse behaviour

Two plenary lectures will be presented at BEVA Congress (13-16 September 2023 at the ICC Birmingham) this year, and both will address aspects of behaviour to help optimise horse and human interactions.

The first plenary lecture on Thursday, 14 September, will be presented by vet Dr Gemma Pearson. As the Director of Equine Behaviour for the Horse Trust, she will talk about the interaction between horse and vet in the John Hickman Memorial Lecture entitled 'Equine Behaviour, the good, the bad and the downright dangerous'.

In the second plenary lecture, which marks the second Peter Rosedale Memorial lecture, Sarah Freeman, Professor of Veterinary Surgery, School of Veterinary Medicine and Science at the University of Nottingham, will discuss the nuances of human behaviour change.

Human behaviour change has been a key theme of David Rendle's presidential year and the congress will include several practical human and equine behavioural highlights to enjoy within the main congress programme. He said: 'In order to

change behaviour, we first need to understand that behaviour and endeavour to understand the attitudes and values which contribute to the behaviour being performed, as well as the social and environmental factors which make the behaviour easier or more difficult to carry out;

There will be sessions on how human behaviour change can maximise equine welfare, how to have more effective conversations with clients and build stronger relationships and how to change the way things are done to optimise owner perception of the industry.

As well as providing a scientific programme of 90 hours of live and on-demand CPD, BEVA Congress also has a full social programme.

Super early bird tickets for BEVA Congress are available until 31 May. Tickets provide access to lecture exhibition halls as well as full access to the virtual congress hub. Delegates will have access to all Congress content for six months after the event via the hub.

► To find out more and to book your tickets visit <http://www.bevacongress.org/>

BFBA BLACKSMITHING COMPETITION 2023

Following the success of the Blacksmiths Guild display at last year's Focus, the Guild is delighted to invite blacksmiths to compete in the

TEAM BLACKSMITHING COMPETITION



The competition will involve making a swingle tree (similar to that in the image) to be manufactured in 2 hours by a two-man/women team, from steel supplied.

A drawing with the relevant measurements and specifications can be obtained by emailing: rereme39@outlook.com

Knife made using guitar strings

To celebrate International Women's Day, London's Cockpit Arts, shared the story of two extraordinary craftspeople, luthier Daisy Tempest and bladesmith Holly Loftus. They collaborated to create a one-of-a-kind knife, with a blade made from guitar strings.

Guitar-maker Daisy Tempest and knife-maker Holly Loftus both joined Cockpit on the Newby Trust Award. Now extremely successful in their own fields, the pair worked together to raise funds for a new funded space at Cockpit, to help a future craftsperson benefit from the same opportunity they have had (including access to a free studio space in London and in-house business training and coaching).

Daisy said: 'The opportunity we received was massive, it meant that I could completely focus on my business, which is literally twice what it would be without winning that award. And I want to pay it forward, because it was so significant for me.'

The pair decided to name the new award after each of their female mentors, both of whom had a significant influence on their early careers. Holly's first blacksmithing teacher, Juliet Grant of SRUC, and Daisy's mentor and the only other self-employed female luthier in the UK, Rosie Heindrych of Turnstone, together inspire The Grant-Turnstone Award.

In the words of Cockpit CEO Annie Warburton: 'I can't think of two more inspiring women than Daisy Tempest and Holly Loftus. Both are consummate makers at the top of their games, not to mention astute entrepreneurs. They each deftly balance the challenges of running a creative business with grace and skill. And now they've taken it a step further.'

'I love everything about this project. The pair's curiosity and inventiveness: Is it really possible to forge a knife from guitar strings? The extraordinary skill that has gone into the making of this one-off knife. The respect Daisy and Holly have for their extraordinary female mentors. And, of course, their huge generosity of spirit and vision to raise funds to give future makers the same opportunities that they've enjoyed at the start of their careers. Brava both!'

The 'Damascus' blade features pattern-welded steel blade made from nickel guitar strings welded under the weight of the equivalent of three adult elephants. The handle is made by guitar-maker Daisy using Koa wood from the Acacia tree, favoured by guitarists for its resonant sound. She has also included a detail of laminated ebony and maple, which is an intricate nod to 'perfling' in guitar-making.

Tempest guitars take many months to make, cost up to £28,000 and are incredibly sought-after, with a current



Daisy Tempest and Holly Loftus

waiting list of seven years. Loftus knives are equally in demand, with limited batches selling out in as little as six minutes. The blades are typically forged by hand, but for this project they enlisted specialist equipment at Holly's old workplace, Blenheim Forge.

Using the heat of the forge (1200°C) and the pressure of the hammer (20 tonnes/the weight of three adult elephants) they successfully created their guitar string Damascus steel. The temperature had to be just right, so the metals would fuse together but not melt, in which case the visible lines of the guitar strings would be lost. In the finished blade you can clearly recognise the guitar strings, like lines in a thousand-year-old fossil.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DaisyTempest>

The knife was raffled to raise money for a 'pay it forward' bursary at Cockpit Arts. The new Grant-Turnstone Award, named after Daisy and Holly's respective female mentors raised an incredible £10,000.



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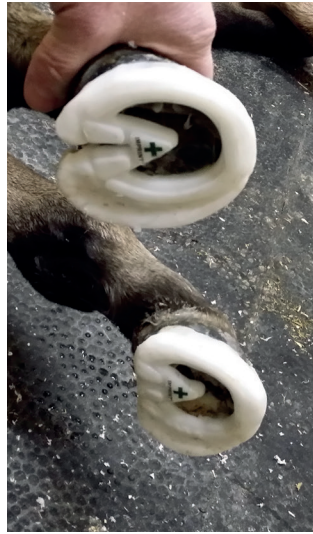
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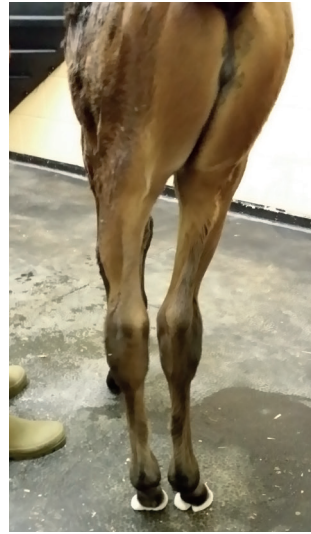
Imprint: The windswept foal



Windswept before treatment, at approximately 3 weeks old



Sedated, recumbent for safety. Imprint shoes with lateral and medial extensions fitted



Standing with extensions just fitted



Three months later, limbs look good

An angular Limb deformity (ALD) is usually only found in hind limbs where the foal has been in a less than ideal position for a prolonged period in the womb. So, say the left hind has a varal deviation making the limb bow outward and the other limb bows inward, a valgus deviation. While mild cases are likely to straighten up in time unaided, more pronounced examples benefit from farriery intervention. In a week post-parturition, or at most two, it should be obvious if a foal needs help.

In this case, a lateral extension was required on the left hind to inhibit the outward bow and rolling of the hoof and, conversely, the opposite – a medial extension – was required for the right hind.

Complete correction of this condition can take longer to effect ideal anatomical conformation than when treating flexural limb deformity (FLD). Repeating the process should ideally take place after around three weeks and, as the foal's feet are growing exponentially, care must be taken to preserve the foot too. It is astute too, if the process is needed, to be repeated more than once, to leave the shoes/extensions off for a couple of weeks to allow for the feet to have freedom to expand so that no lasting injury occurs, and then resume treatment if required.

In this example, Imprint Foal shoes were fitted with a lateral extension on the left foot and a medial extension prefabricated from Imprint Hoof Repair on the right foot. This case took 3 months to correct.

Quick tips

- If while the extension/shoe is in place, more material is needed on the extension, then some additional Imprint Hoof Repair can be heated and welded to the existing extension by lightly flaming the surface so that it is tacky and then moulding the two together.
- If the foal is to be walked on hard surfaces, then tungsten pin nails can be embedded in the material to aid grip.
- At any time, the extension and shoe can be rasped to counter the growing hoof.
- Extensions can be modelled with Imprint hoof Repair and Imprint Ultrafast Adhesive in some instances.

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In the May 2023 issue of *Forge Knowledge*

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

The March issue contains the FWCF thesis of Tom Smith, entitled 'Can 3D imaging help quantify morphology of the equine hoof?' Assessing the morphology of equine feet currently tends to use anecdotal descriptions, sometimes enhanced by linear measurements. Farriers and vets often rely on memory and unquantifiable descriptions when comparing feet at different time points. As part of his studies towards his Fellowship, Tom Smith set out to see if a 3D imaging system might ultimately allow farriers to quantifiably, accurately and repeatedly measure foot morphology in the field.

The aim of his study was to explore if a mobile three-dimensional (3D) structured light imaging system could be used to observe and document foot morphology accurately and repeatedly. It was hypothesised that the 3D imaging system would result in an accuracy and repeatability similar to computed tomography (CT).

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DAVID ROBIN CHESCOE FWCB LWCB
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Memories of a blacksmithing 'legend'

By Simon Grant-Jones FWCB, LWCB, CertEd

On Monday, 20 February, Chez's family, acquaintances and blacksmiths gathered at Park Crematorium in Aldershot to celebrate the life of one of blacksmithing's great personalities and craftsmen.

Chez was a familiar face at blacksmithing events for many years, assisting with displays at County Shows and supporting other events in the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths calendar, such as the Cheapside Fair.

Chez was a Fellow and Licentiate of the WCB having given over 60 years' service to the craft.

His lengthy involvement in Company affairs has prompted me to write this piece, by way of expressing my gratitude for all he achieved.

My first knowledge of the legend Davie 'Chez' Chescoe came when I was a civilian running the REME machine shop at the Gunnery School at Lulworth in Dorset in 1987. I was fortunate enough to work with an Army metal smith, Corporal Terry Penn, who was trained as a blacksmith by Chez.

Over the two years I worked there, I heard many first-hand tales of the extraordinary man who could 'hold a near red hot piece of iron with his bare hands', who 'wouldn't take any nonsense by was the best blacksmith instructor in the British Army'. Terry also showed me some of the blacksmithing skills that he had learned from Chez. I felt that I knew Chez well and already held great respect for him, although I had never met him.

I had to wait until the summer of 2001 when I bumped into a very friendly smith at the New Forest Show, who worked as a civilian instructor the Army at Borden and was supporting the blacksmiths' stand at the show. After a few minutes of chat, I knew this was the legendary Chez Chescoe and we remain first friends throughout his life.

Chez joined the Army in 1951 as an Apprentice Tradesman, Royal Engineers. Subsequently, he joined his brother in REME where he trained as a blacksmith. After 25 years' service in uniform and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, he was posted in 1976 to the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Borden where he remained working as a Civil Servant at Vosper Thornycroft which subsequently became Babcock International. During that time, he was responsible for all the blacksmith training, basic metalsmith training as well as armourer, vehicle mechanic, artificer and undertaking the training of overseas students. His depth of knowledge was second to none, and most of that was due to his considerable experience working in such diverse places at Christmas Island, Laos, Vietnam, Germany and Northern Ireland. While at Borden, he made several artistic ironwork pieces for the town and garrison including the Jubilee gates at the bottom of Chalet Hill and the sign and cross for the Garrison Church. He was involved in the complete rewiring of the blacksmith premises in a clear and concise style.



According to his former Commanding Officer, Chez developed a style of teaching that could only be described as unconventional. The normal train of thought that many of us would follow was disregarded when under his tutelage. Chez had an amazing ability to be almost cryptic in his delivery of theory and practical lessons until succeeding, like a light bulb being switched on, everything became comprehensible and more importantly understood by the students. Chez actively imparted his vast experience my students at Kingston Maurward College by donating course material and his book collection, often coming to the college to give lectures.

Don Mallet AWCB, LWCB, writes – It is with great sadness that we have lost a true blacksmithing Legend Chez Chescoe AWCB, FWCB, LWCB, (REME). Who passed away peacefully after a long illness.

Chez taught and passed on his vast skills and knowledge teaching at Borden for the REME as a Military instructor for many years. When he was due to retire, it was a great honour for me to have him as my mentor before taking over from him and carrying on his legacy there, and even to the present day at MoD Lyneham.

One thing I wanted to do was have him Judge the Army Challenge Cup, which he did at the Newbury Show (as pictured on the right). Rest in peace, Chez.



NATIONAL HERITAGE IRONWORK AWARD: HERITAGE METALWORK CONSERVATION

The NHIG Award for Heritage Metalwork Conservation seeks to recognise and celebrate excellence in ironwork conservation as an inspiration to all. Submitted work must have been carried out in the past five years in accordance with current conservation philosophy.

- ◆ Appropriateness of materials and techniques used
- ◆ Extent to which loss of original fabric was minimised
- ◆ Quality of craftsmanship

To enter you need to:

- ◆ Provide a brief description of the ironwork
- ◆ Outline the work carried out
- ◆ Explain what approach was taken and why
- ◆ Send images (minimum 3, maximum 6) separately by file transfer



A panel of experienced judges drawn from members of the NHIG Council and the WCB Craft Committee will assess the entries. The judging panel will visit short-listed projects so please ensure that access to the site is possible.

The NHIG will publicise competition entries and outcomes as examples of good practice to inspire others. Please ensure that all permissions have been sought prior to entry and that images have been cleared for use.

Who Can Enter?

Entries can be submitted by anyone closely connected with a project, although the award will be presented to the practitioner who carried out the work. Members of the judging panel are not eligible to enter. A maximum of three submissions can be made per person/team. Entries can be submitted at <https://nhig.org.uk/nhig-award>. The submission window for this round closes on 31 May 2023.

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To shoe or not to shoe – putting equine welfare first

Claire Brown posted this on her Forge PR page in response to John Whitaker's opinion piece in Horse & Hound on 12 April, in which he announced he was 'giving barefoot a go'.

I groaned outwardly when I read the attention grabbing title of John Whitaker's opinion article in Horse & Hound last week, 'I'm giving barefoot a go – that it's cheaper appeals as a Yorkshireman'. John's accomplishments in showjumping are incredible and he is a role model for so many riders (his poster with Milton certainly featured on my bedroom wall when I was younger). But his words carry weight and influence far beyond click-bait titles. On balance, the article did look a little deeper than the removal of shoes for cost advantages but in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, when many owners and riders are looking at ways in which the cost of equine care may be reduced, is going without shoes the answer?

In the interest of being transparent I ought to say I am married to a farrier. I am also in the privileged position of being friends with some of the UK's best farriers. They are an awesome bunch, doing a job they care passionately about. I have also worked on a freelance basis within the farrier industry for the past 17 years in addition to owning horses – both with and without shoes – for the last 30 plus years.

The barefoot 'debate' is not new. However, with a number of elite performance horses now competing at the highest levels without shoes, the subject has once more come to the fore. Any horse owner using social media is likely to have come across some lively debates on the various horsey pages, but those in the know also understand that there is far more to a story than an attention-grabbing headline. It is too easy for those on either side of the debate to share examples of poor work – we could all do that within any profession at any time – and, at times, the opposing views are polarised. The argument to shoe or not to shoe is rarely black and white and, at times when it is, is unethical. Equine welfare should always come first.

In February the BHS, in conjunction with the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (I was acting on their behalf), ran a series of 'Foot Focus' webinars examining the growing interest in barefoot care. These webinars covered, in depth, the individual decision making processes involved in equine hoofcare, farriery regulation, alternatives to nailed on steel shoes, the rules of competing without shoes, the options that can be explored when and if a horse needs further intervention, the physical demands placed on the elite horses and the impact different riding surfaces may have. Norwegian farrier, Aksel Vibe, farrier to Olympic team gold and individual silver medallist, Peder Fedricson, gave insight into the work that he has been doing with Peder's horses. (Peder's horses hit the headlines for successfully competing unshod at the Tokyo Olympics). Aksel described a four-week trimming regimen, with additional hoofcare support throughout the trimming period from the grooms and regular x-rays to monitor the internal structures within the hoof. Hoof boots are also used to protect the horses' feet walking from the stables to warm up arenas (no matter how smooth the tarmac!) For Peder's horses, being unshod is definitely not cheaper

and the management is greater. Alongside Team GB farrier, Ben Benson, the importance of correct confirmation was also highlighted. Limbs requiring a redistribution of weight, enhanced breakover or additional support will be limited by trimming hooves alone.

The farriery trim has always been at the forefront of the farriery apprenticeship, whether it be for the subsequent application of a shoe or not. It is, quite literally, the absolute foundation of hoofcare. If a shoe is applied it is there to protect the trim and provide additional grip and support – to the limb not just the foot – if required. The Worshipful Company of Farriers Diploma (the pre-requisite to becoming a legally registered farrier in the UK) follows an apprenticeship of nearly four years practical and theoretical robust training. For farriers who compete at shows across the UK, individual awards for the 'Best Dressed (trimmed) Foot' are highly regarded and fiercely sought after. The precision of the trim (and balance of the foot) is an art in itself, and the reason why your farrier is not so keen when your horse paws during hoofcare appointments!

Like any other sector, farriers have recently incurred huge increases in the costs of fuel, shoes, nails and steel. Depending on individual pricing structures, for some, it is more profitable (with less wear and tear on the human body) to trim a horse than it is to shoe it. I do not know one farrier who will apply shoes to a horse for the sake of it.

As an addition, it is without question that nutrition plays a key role in the development and growth of healthy hooves. It is a further irk of mine that we consistently see nutritional advice being given by those not qualified to do so. There are approximately 12 to 15 Registered Nutritionists specialising in the equine in the UK. There is no point in adding supplements (and a complete waste of money) if the rest of the diet is unbalanced or inadequate.

The bottom line is what is right for your horse and you. Your horse's welfare should be your primary consideration; inappropriate hoofcare will cost you (and your horse) far more in the long run. Everyone manages their horses differently, has different facilities and different expectations. Whether your horse or pony is shod or not, the bottomline is that whoever is undertaking that care should be appropriately qualified and a registered, regulated professional. Talk to them, and listen to their opinion; they do their job because they care about your horse.

Post script - marrying a farrier has indeed reduced my hoofcare costs, but beware - you are generally last on the list!

<https://www.horseandhound.co.uk/plus/opinion/john-whitaker-barefoot-appeals-821481>

The BHS Foot Focus webinars are available to listen on YouTube –

- ▶ From Shod To Barefoot With David Greenwood, Sarah Logie & Mark Trussler, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWooELA-Ods>
- ▶ Keeping Feet in Great Shape with Sarah Brown & Mark Johnson, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woEUEZGxPvA>
- ▶ Surfaces and Competing with Ben Benson & Aksel Vibe, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ot8W66DxV5o>



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The use of synthetic materials in hoof repair

By Mark Humphrey AWCF

These days most farriers are aware of the vast array of synthetic materials available to repair damaged hooves (Fig 1). However, there are still farriers who avoid using glues, as they believe that synthetic materials cause a multitude of problems or have wide-ranging side effects.

Materials

'I tried them once, and they didn't work', or 'I don't use them because it did....' These are common excuses.

'I have never been to shoe a horse that couldn't be fixed with steel and nails' or 'if you are skilled enough, you shouldn't need to use synthetics', are often used as justification for lack of use.

So, is this correct? Is it more likely that although skilled practitioners, synthetic materials are out of their comfort zone, therefore have not spent the time and effort to train these skills as one would apply themselves to shoemaking, for instance?

Is it more likely that the bad experiences that they had or the failure of application was due to an incorrect choice of product, which has the wrong properties for the task for which it was used? A lack of knowledge surrounding the correct usage and application techniques could also be a cause of failure.

Below I will discuss the commonly used materials, accompanied by a brief description of the usage and application method.

Commonly used synthetic materials

There are many brands of synthetic glues (Curtis 2002). Most used in farriery, fall into two different families, although there

i Methyl methacrylate adhesives are acrylic adhesives that are made of resin and hardener. Most MMAs also contain rubber and additional strengthening agents. MMAs cure quickly at room temperature and have full bond strength soon after application. The adhesive is resistant to shear, peel, and impact stress. Looking at the bonding process more technically, these adhesives work by creating an exothermic polymerization reaction. Polymerization is the process of reacting monomer molecules together, in a chemical reaction, to form polymer chains. What this means is that the adhesives create a strong bond while still being flexible. These adhesives can form bonds between dissimilar materials with different flexibility, like metal and plastic.



Fig 1. A selection of synthetic materials used in hoof repair

are several others worthy of note. The two most used are methyl methacrylateⁱ (MMA) (Gluegun.com 2022) and polyurethaneⁱⁱ (PU).

Polyurethanes

PU glues are most known for the popularity of the Vettec¹ range, although many other brands are offering similar products. PU glues have a wide range of properties from soft and flexible to hard and fast setting (Fig 2). Each different type is premixed in

two parts to provide a product with consistent properties, and each has a specific job and must be folded together using the correct nozzle for application.

- Superfast or equivalent is a fast setting and hard material, mostly used for making temporary shoes and extensions for



Fig 2. A selection of synthetic materials used in hoof repair

ii Polyurethane, often abbreviated to PU or PUR, is an organic polymer that features many organic units linked via urethane molecules. Most polyurethanes do not melt upon heating and can, therefore, be classified as thermosetting polymers. However, it can be noted that some specific types of polyurethanes exhibit thermoplastic properties and can be melted and remoulded via the application of heat.

Traditional methods of preparing polyurethanes involve chemical reactions between polyols and di- or tri-isocyanates. Polyurethanes can be regarded as alternating copolymers since they feature two kinds of monomers that undergo polymerization one after the other. It can also be noted that both the polyols and the isocyanates that are used as monomers for the production of polyurethanes usually contain at least two functional groups in every molecule.

Fig 3. Examples of MMA glues



foals. The heat generated when curing is quite intense so care must be taken not to use next to sensitive structures and must be layered slowly when used on foals. Cure time is 60 seconds, although actual times vary according to atmospheric temperature.

- Adhere is a slower curing and a more flexible PU used for attaching glue shoes and general hoof wall repair. Primarily designed to be used to attach a pedal or cuff type glue shoes to feet unable to accept a nailed shoe, either by damage or because of the inadequate quality hoof wall.
- Sole Guard is softer than Adhere and is used on broodmares or horses to protect the sole. It is the firmest of the sole packs offered by Vettec. Sole guard adheres directly to exfoliated, heat-dried soles.

Methyl methacrylate

- Methyl methacrylate (MMA) glues are best known as either Shoe Glu² or Pro Glu³, which offers two different MMA types of glue (Fig 3).
- MMA glues are more versatile and can be used for hoof wall rebuilds, glueing aluminium and PU shoes to the foot, and can be used to protect the sole. The properties and curing times can be changed by the user's hand mixing and adding different materials for diverse purposes.

Mixing MMAs

A shoe of the correct size was selected and fitted centrally. The MMA can be expelled directly onto a mixing palette without using a mixing tip to prevent curing, additional material is added to the part with the greater volume. It is then mixed using a tongue depressor. When thoroughly mixed with the additional material, the second part is mixed in. Curing will now begin.

iii Aramid fibres, short for aromatic polyamide, are a class of heat-resistant and strong synthetic fibres. They are used in aerospace and military applications, for ballistic-rated body armour fabric and ballistic composites, in marine cordage, marine hull reinforcement, and as an asbestos substitute.[1]

The chain molecules in the fibres are highly oriented along the fibre axis. As a result, a higher proportion of the chemical bond contributes more to fibre strength than in many other synthetic fibres. Aramids have a very high melting point (>500 °C).

Common aramid brand names include Kevlar, Nomex, and Twaron.



Fig 4. (above) Short fibre chop.

Fig 5. (right) fine rubber crumb

Fig 6. (below right) Fibre bandage



Additional materials that can be added, include:

- Short fibre chop is mixed into one part to create a stronger more flexible repair (Fig 4).
- Fine rubber crumb, mixed into one part to increase the flexibility by up to 50%. This is ideal for softer sole protection (Fig 5).
- You can also premix MMA glue and fold it into layers of Aramidⁱⁱⁱ (unknown, 2020) (Kevlar) fibre bandage (Fig 6) to create a strong flexible crack patch that will adhere straight to the prepared hoof wall. This patch is useful to bridge large cracks, which cannot be filled or applied around the buttress of a heel and blended into the bar, to give extra structure to an ailing or collapsed heel.

Other common synthetics

There are two other types of materials that farriers commonly use for hoof repair – thermoplastics (Imprint^{iv}) (Fig 7) and resin-impregnated mesh fabric (Hoof Casts^v)(Fig 8).



Fig 7. Imprint



Fig 8. Hoofcast

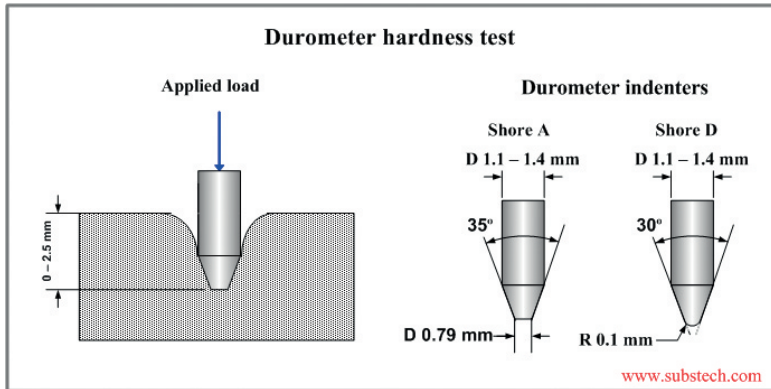


Fig 9. Dental impression material is available in three shore values. A shore durometer is used to rate the hardness of the material, which depends on the depth of the indenter after it has been applied for 15 seconds

Hardness	Application
30 Shore A	Art gum erasers
35 Shore A	Rubber bands
40 Shore A	Can tester pads
50 Shore A	Rubber stamps
55 Shore A	Pencil erasers
60 Shore A	Screen wiper blades
65 Shore A	Automotive tires

- Thermoplastic granules are used in conjunction with a specialised type of MMA, used as an adhesive that is tolerant to moisture. They are ideal to use in cracks or lesions in the hoof, either close to sensitive structures or where there is a concern that the curing temperatures of MMA or PU glues may cause pain or discomfort.

- Hoof casts are flexible fibre bandages that require moisture to cure. They are used to increase the structural strength of a hoof capsule after either surgery or resection and on weak feet requiring increased structural strength as part of the farriery plan. They can be used as a stand-alone product or have a shoe nailed to the finished cast. Hoof casts can be attached using an MMA adhesive or without. Casts that have a glue attachment can be trimmed to an open-heeled variant as they are bonded to the hoof wall, also reducing the possible complication of capsular contraction from the lack of expansion in the hoof.

Equine dental impression material

Dental impression material^{vi} (DIM), although not strictly a repair product, is a versatile support medium. DIM is available in three shore values (Fig 9) soft, medium and firm.

iv Imprint® is the patented equine foot care system for treating a wide range of painful and debilitating hoof conditions including laminitis and limb deformities in foals. Developed over 20 years by farriers working in association with veterinary surgeons, Imprint is a well-proven nail-free solution. The Imprint system uses a unique thermoplastic that allows shoes and Hoof Repair compound to be moulded to any hoof, creating a perfect fit. Imprint assimilates perfectly to retain the integrity of the hoof – the moulded fit minimises trauma and maximises support, without compromising the functions of the foot.

v Hoof Cast Bandage Tape Rolls: The HOOFCAST TAPE SYSTEM is a method of reinforcing badly damaged or degraded hooves by creating a new (prosthetic) hoof wall and bearing surface so that horses can then be shod reliably or are supported barefoot when they might otherwise be on box rest. Uses a ballistic grade polyester binding tape impregnated with a powerful "self-setting" polyurethane cement to bind the hoof and within minutes create a hard resilient "shell" or "cuff" which acts as a secondary (prosthetic) hoof wall.

This then acts as if it were part of the hoof wall and becomes the anchor for nails in conventional shoeing or as a secure foundation for "glue on" shoes.

The range comprises specialist products for the farrier and two versions designed as emergency packs for the normal rider to help with situations such as a loose shoe when a farrier isn't readily available.

DIM is possibly the most used synthetic material. It is commonly used as a caudal support medium, in conjunction with a remedial support shoe or underneath a pad. It is used to transfer and support weight evenly to the frog, bars and sole to improve blood flow and help overcome contracted and underrun heels (TFP, n.d.).

Common reasons for material failure

There are two main reasons for failure when using any synthetic materials:

1. Incorrect choice of product for the job at hand.
2. Incorrect hoof preparation.

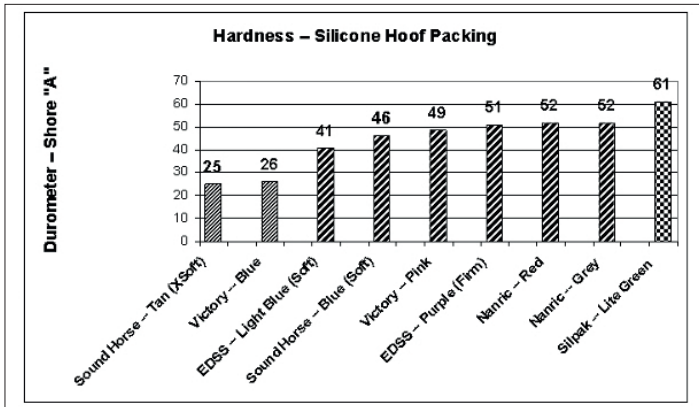
We have discussed the properties of the synthetic materials above and given examples of usage, but a big reason for failure is foot preparation. Below is a list of tools for the correct application of adhesives and the preparation of the damaged area to receive the adhesive.

Tool list

- Chefs type blow torch or electric heat gun, (I prefer the gas due to the ease of use and lack of cable), but I do have both in the van as the heat gun is better for colder conditions or windy days.
- Moisture metre is used to tell you the moisture content on the external hoof wall or sole, most models also tell you the temperature which lets you calculate curing times.
- Rotary cutter, Dremel , or suchlike, with a choice of burs. You can use a knife to do this but using one of these is more efficient and allows you to easily debride damaged areas and undercut the edges of a cavity, to key adhesives better to the surface.

vi Silicone Packing — aka: 'dental impression material' a term that is an artifact of development work done more than 20 years ago. The SoundHorse 2-part silicone packing is specifically designed for the rigors of hoof packing application and is gas permeable. This unique property allows treatment materials mixed with the silicone (copper sulfate) to slowly pass thru the cured silicone as a treatment.

There are a variety of hoof packings offered from suppliers to the equine podiatry market segment. Farriers, Veterinarians and Clinicians have to choose between urethanes and silicones, each of which has unique performance properties. This paper will address Silicone Hoof Packing only.



- Sharp abscess knife, small as possible.
- Half-round Nippers, useful for removing larger areas of the horn.
- Sanding blocks or finishing system.
- Paper cups, for mixing, I use espresso-sized cups.
- Wooden tongue depressors, used for mixing.
- Mouldable antiseptic medium (artimud , or keratex hoof putty) used for creating voids in adhesive repairs.
- Cling film wrap and handle.
- Applicator straws from WD40 or Imprint Shoe Freezer , when coated with Vaseline, can be set into a repair and then removed after curing to create a drain.
- Applicator guns for each type of adhesive.
- Nozzles to accompany the specific adhesive, although I tend to cut the threaded part from the tube next to the tap on MMA cartridges, as you get far less wastage, little or no blockages and I recommend always hand mixing.

Looking at the list above; it may appear overly expensive, but most of these items are readily available for less than £20. Using the moisture meter and chef's torch will reduce the failure rate of your repairs by ensuring the best possible environment to apply adhesives.

The abscess knife, half-round nippers, and rotary cutters are tools that most people already own and all three are not necessary, but do make the job far easier.

Rotary cutters are not expensive to buy, but the more expensive models tend to have better battery life and more power.

Hoof preparation

The correct assessment of conformation before foot dressing is essential to alleviate detrimental forces acting upon the damaged area of the horn. Horses should be assessed statically and dynamically, from all planes of reference and make use of the long axis, hoof pastern axis and short axis to select the best trimming protocol.

- The area of the horn that requires repair should be clean and dry.
- The area requiring debriding must be trimmed back to clean horn.

	Company	Product Name	Supplier "Descriptor"	Color	Shore "A" Durometer (lower = softer)
1	Sound Horse	EquiFlex - Pak	XSoft	Brown-Tan	24-26
2	Victory	Ortho-Pak Putty	n/a	Blue	25-27
3	EDSS	Sole Support Impression Material	Soft	Light Blue	39-42
4	Sound Horse	EquiFlex - Pak	Soft	Blue	45-50
5	Victory	Ortho-Pak Putty	Firm	Pink	47-50
6	EDSS	Sole Support Impression Material	Firm (Batch 121988)	Purple	50-52
7	Nanric	Advanced Cushion Support	None	Red	50-53
8	Nanric	Advanced Cushion Support	None	Grey	50-53
9	Silpack, Inc	Silputty [Batch 15825 Pt Kit]	None	Light Green	60-62

- The lesion is keyed in around the area to be repaired or the edges of the site are undercut to aid patch retention and increase structural integrity.
- The hoof wall is rasped lightly to remove any hoof varnish.
- The area is dried with either a blow torch or heat gun and degreasing should be with alcohol wipes and not acetone.
- The moisture level checked with a moisture meter; it should be 0.0%. By checking the ambient temperature, working times (time before curing occurs) can be calculated.

Adhesive preparation and application

- For PU, apply the nozzle and pump out the first mixed part onto the scrap card, before applying it to the hoof. (Bear in mind that superfast sets in around 30 seconds in warm weather and will set in the nozzle.)
- Apply to the hoof in layers, bearing in mind that 6 mm is needed for successful curing. If Superfast is used on foals, multiple applications should be used to build the required bulk, taking care to let each layer cool before adding more.
- The heat generated by curing can damage the sensitive structures with the hoof capsule in young stock 'cooking the foot'.
- Adhere can be applied to a shoe or cuff first or used directly onto the hoof wall. Apply cling wrap over the site to aid in curing. (Fig 10)
- For MMA, pump the required amount into a paper cup and mix thoroughly. If you are adding substrate to the mix, pump onto the card in separate piles and mix substrate into the darker half before combining them.
- If using MMA to apply a cuff or shoe, spread onto the surface attachment area of the shoe/cuff first then lightly press the shoe/cuff into place, spacers can be used to prevent sole pressure and to keep glue thickness.
- If using MMA to repair the hoof wall or to fill a crack mix well and apply once the curing process begins (you can feel the product heat up and stiffen slightly).
- Apply with a tongue depressor.
- Try to add in a way that prevents air pockets from forming.
- Use a tongue depressor to obtain a smooth finish with good coverage to either side of the repair to allow for rasping.



Fig 10. (left)
Adhere can be applied to a shoe or cuff first or used directly onto the hoof wall. Apply cling wrap over the site to aid in curing



Fig 11. (right).
If you have used a hoof cast or MMA glue, you can nail through these materials at this stage should you wish to do so

- When the MMA becomes firmer apply cling wrap to repair, a tight sheet of wrap will give an excellent finish to your repair whilst protecting the site until curing has completed.
- Allow adhesives to cure before rasping or sanding. The first stage of curing normally is complete when the material cools down. The repair can now be rasped.
- If you have used a hoof cast or MMA glue, you can nail through these materials at this stage should you wish to do so. (Fig 11).

Summary

I have covered the types of materials commonly used, how to apply them and simple reasons for synthetic material failure. I believe greater exposure to training in the properties and correct use of the materials listed would be of great benefit to farriers.

When fluent in the use of synthetic materials, one can easily achieve quick and easy structural and cosmetic repairs, that are cost-effective and aesthetically pleasing, or can perform acts of farriery to seriously compromised hooves with no additional trauma to the capsule.

The uses of synthetics are many and varied so, in my opinion, should not be ignored by any farrier, as this limits what one can achieve in farriery.

Although these are commonly used materials, relatively small amounts of farriery-specific literature is available on the use and material properties of equestrian hoof adhesives. If anyone would like further information on any of the products listed in this article, ask your supplier for the relevant product information leaflets or sign up for a 'Let's get Glueing!' clinic and gain some CPD points along the way.

With thanks to M. Elliott, J. Newnham and Stromsholm for their help in producing this article.

Manufacturers' addresses

Jameg Shoe Glue, Anglo House The Airfield, Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray LE13 0BL

Pro-Glu, Mill Cottage, Mill Cottage, Oare Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 7TJ

Poynton Ltd (Imprint), Town Forge, High Street, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9AT

Vettec, Stromsholm United Kingdom, Wood Court, Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 1NE

Red Horse Oak Farm, Harpsden Bottom, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 4HY

Keratex, 25 Fairwood Road, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3SN

DuPont (UK) Ltd (Kevlar), 118 Kilburn, Ednaston Park, Painters Lane, Ednaston DE6 3FA

WD-40, PO Box 440, WD-40 Company, Milton Keynes MK11 3LF

Robert Bosch UK (Dremel), PO Box 1092, Broadwater Park, North Orbital Road, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 9UX.

Glue-U Adhesives

Droogdokkeneiland 8, 5026 SR Tilburg, The Netherlands

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Our last batch of trainees, April 2023

Flying Anvil Foundation meets other farriery worlds: India and Egypt

Bernard Duvernay reports on the most recent batch of trainees.

Months have flown by with the development of new projects, and FAF's Institute in Rajasthan has benefited from a full house of students from all over India.

The Indian army still owns a large number of horses, and at present it sends us its farriery instructors for them to update their knowledge. A number of European farriers still volunteer their services and some of them have even come to India on two separate occasions as teacher volunteers.

We now have a manager, Sandeep Shelar, at school. He is present at our courses to assist with translation and teaching, so as to assure our students receive an optimal understanding of the course content, since they, the students, do not always have good mastery of the English language.

The evenings in the dormitory are often the place when course content can be gone over and consolidated, students work in small groups so as to get their course notes straight, and here also our vets are in great demand.



Our two Indian teachers Gaje Singh, Sandeep Shelar and Francis Dufresne-Cyr from Quebec Canada

Gaje Singh, who was one of our first students in the 2013 batch, has become a very good farrier, he is now our ground roots ambassador for the school; he has a regular teaching role on the course.

Our resident cook is always very talented to make sure we all enjoy varied, deliciously nutritious meals. He also tends to the garden, trees and flowers and to the maintenance of the premises.

Thus, our Indian institute is doing really well, our students benefit from the best of teachers. Every year, we strive hard to introduce better course content. It is pretty rare to see schools that can deliver courses with by a varied group of experienced and talented farriers, with such knowledge and experience to transmit to the students. At the moment we have Francis Dufresne-Cyr from Canada, he's a teacher at the Quebec farriery school.

I take this opportunity to invite farrier colleagues to contact us. In particular farriers who have prior experience in teaching/ giving workshops, and who may perhaps be tempted by a farrier-volunteer experience - in our exotic setting! You would be very welcome to join the volunteer team.



Novice trainees exercising rasping on the wooden feet device





Not easy to train our students to be a little more organised



Special blade used as a nipper

Our Institute is not FAF's only activity at the present time, we are also involved in a teaching programme in Egypt. There, we have been training a small group of farriers for the past three years now, our goal being to bring them up to a level sufficient for them to train other young novice farriers and to spread their knowledge around their country. Frank Barboni, a French farrier, is part of FAF volunteer teachers who have supported us this year.

As you can see, FAF is not short of projects, progressively FAF is extending its range of activities with a search for results and an evaluation of their efficacy, so that its missions offer

maximum benefit to the farriery profession as a whole, to equines and their owners.

2023 promises to be a very interesting year. We are working to create a twinning between FAF Farriery Institute Dundlod and Hereford College. We are working on this objective in partnership with Daniel Bennett and Dean Bland and I hope to be able to give you more information about it in the next magazine.

- Many thanks again to all our volunteers and to all those who help us implement our projects.

Recognition for providing aid to Ukrainian equestrians

Charlotte Thornycroft won the National Equine Forum's Sir Colin Spedding Award, for which she received a standing ovation.

Charlie Thornycroft was announced as the winner of the Sir Colin Spedding Award at the National Equine Forum (NEF) in March. She also received a standing ovation for her talk about her experiences providing vital aid to Ukraine's equestrian sector with the British Equestrians for Ukraine Fund.

The award recognised her dedication and support for the British Equestrians for Ukraine Fund during 2022. Her citation read: 'Initially setting up and then becoming the linchpin of the Polish supply hub, Charlie worked selflessly in challenging and extraordinarily stressful situations to ensure that aid got to where it was needed most, while managing the care and evacuation of horses from war-torn areas. She continued to coordinate the delivery of relief supplies on her return to the UK and without doubt helped maximise the impact of the fund and saved the lives of very many horses.'

Before being announced as winner, Charlie described some of the horrors of working in a war zone and how she took on practical tasks when no alternative solutions were available; for example, included single-handedly unloading 40-tonne lorries containing aid, securing the kindest possible deaths for



Charlie Thornycroft receives the Sir Colin Spedding award from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

catastrophically injured horses and providing a safe place of refuge for struggling people as well as their horses.

She also helped to evacuate horses and their families from Ukraine to Poland, where they ran a temporary hub, finding them safe passage and homes across Europe, America and even Dubai. All her work was facilitated via the British Equestrians for Ukraine Fund.

To make a donation visit <https://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/support-us/appeals/british-equestrians-for-ukraine-fund>



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The Master and Apprentice Competition 2023 at Hereford

By Daniel Bennett, AWCF, CertEd, Chief Steward

This year's competition took place on 4 of March at the School of Farriery Holme Lacy Campus of Herefordshire Ludlow and North Shropshire College. As normal, the competition was well attended in both the shoemaking and shoeing classes.

This year's Judges were Mark Watson FWCF and Elgan Harries AWCF, who both were kept busy throughout the day. We always make sure that the apprentice shoeing judge is also an examiner, past or present, to hopefully give the apprentice vital feedback towards their EPA (Diploma) practical preparations. Mark did an outstanding job and explained to all how his marks reflected in comparison to grades.

Our event sponsors were Handmade Shoes UK and we were also sponsored by Central Forge and Ryan McDonald provided a beautiful handmade hoof knife, which was awarded to the Apprentice with the best dressed foot. I would personally like to thank all our sponsors as without them competitions would not happen. Also I would like to thank the college staff, Jane May, Chris Johnson and Alan Woodyatt for all the help running a successful event.

In the afternoon we were joined by our guest of honour who also presented the prizes. Slim Symons FWCF who started the Master and Apprentice competition when he was the Head of Farriery at Hereford and has been involved with training more farriers than any other living person. He is a legend within the industry and we would like to thank him for giving up his time to support and inspire us. In his



speech at prize giving he explained the fundamental roots of why he created the concept of the master and apprentice competition, which has been used at many other events since. Slim said it was to get the apprentice, their ATF and Tutor in a room together so they could communicate as, at the time, they were only allowed to communicate via the National Farrier Training Agency.



RESULTS

1st/2nd Year Master & Apprentice Shoemaking

1. J. Hayter & C. Bush
2. S. Griffin & M. Sole
3. G. Thomas & L. Pezzata
4. S. Taylor & O. Roberts
5. J. Whitehead & O. Dobb
6. M. Reece & C. Thomas
7. J. Cottam & J. Bullock

Best Specimen: C. Bush

3rd/4th Year Master & Apprentice Shoeing

1. J. Hayter & G. Hayter
2. C. Welsford & J. Holgate
3. R. McDonald & R. Johnstone
4. M. Randles & H. Chitty
5. A. Mercer & S. Al Ameri
6. G. Thomas & Z. Jones
7. M. Kiernian & J. Downs

Best Dressed Foot: G Hayter



In brief

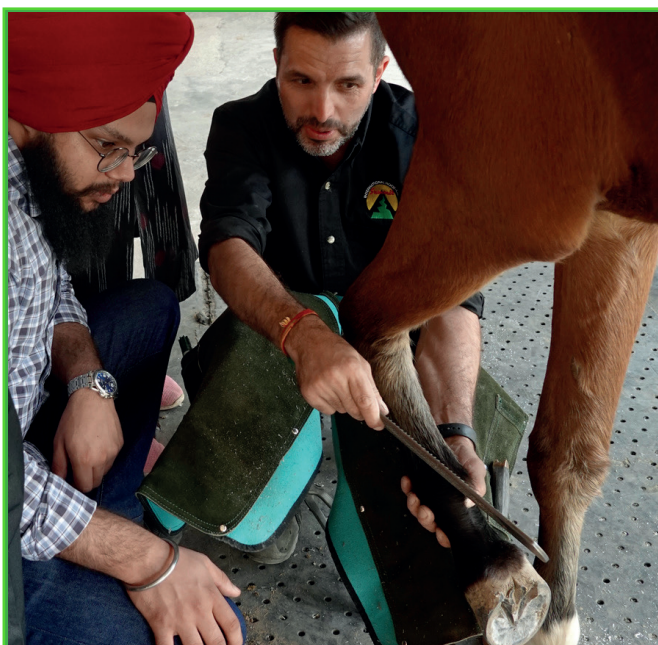
As a long-term member of BFBA Dave Udall now qualifies for free life membership. He has always been an association supporter, especially Staffordshire branch. For many years he supported the Stafford County Show and, among others, he trained Jonathan Nunn FWCF.



CORRECTION

In the March issue of Forge magazine, we announced that Michael Burgoyne had been a BFBA member for more than 40 years; however, it is his father Robert, who is the longstanding member and his now entitled to free life membership.

We apologise for the error.



Gavin Moody teaching in Dundlod, Rajasthan, India.

FAF extends sincere congratulations to one of its volunteer members, Gavin Moody from Newmarket, who successfully passed the AWCF exams. What a great achievement! FAF is so proud to have such a quality of great teachers.

WCF BEST SHOD AWARDS

Farrier **Michael Cooper DipWCF** won the Best Shod Award in the Grand Military Race at Sandown in March. The winning horse was Roc D'Apsis, owned by Mrs V. Sollit and the trainer was Billy Worthington. The Worshipful Company of Farriers judge was Robin May AWCF.

Sarah Mary Brown FWCF judged the Best Shod Awards at the Randox Grand National three-day meeting, which took place in April

The award is judged in three races – The Randox Health Foxhunters (Thursday), the Randox Health Topham Chase (Friday) and the Randox Health Grand National Chase (Saturday). The winning owner of the best shod horse in the Grand National receives the Le Reve Trophy and the owner and the farrier of the best shod horse receive a memento.

The winners were:

Randox Foxhunters' Open Hunters' Chase

Farrier: **John Benfield**

Horse: Ami Desbois

Jockey: Tom Broughton

Trainer: Fergal O'Brien

Owner: L. Gill and Reserved Judgement Partnership

Randox Supports Race Against Dementia Topham Handicap Chase (Premier Handicap) (GBB Race) (National Course)

Farrier: **John Benfield**

Horse: Fantastikas

Jockey: Jordan Nailor

Trainer: Nigel Twiston-Davies

Owner: Imperial Racing Partnership

The Randox Grand National Steeplechase

Farrier: **Matthew Rees**

Horse: Our Power

Jockey: Sam Twiston-Davies

Trainer: S. Thomas

Owner: Dai Walters. Walters Plant Hire and Potter Group.



Sarah Mary Brown walks the Aintree course with Liveryman Trevor Clarke who conceived the Best Shod Award

END POINT ASSESSMENT

Good luck to all apprentices taking their WCF Diploma this month.

Oliver J Mitchell BSc (Hons) FdSc DipWCF has joined the editorial panel that advises *Forge* and *Forge Knowledge*.

Oliver attended the pre farriery course at Herefordshire College for 2 months before he was offered his apprenticeship from which he graduated in 2008. Oliver grew up with ponies and had previously been in the pony club for 16 years and currently works with horses competing at all levels. Oliver graduated from Myerscough College in May 2013 with a Foundation Degree in Farriery Science and was presented with the 'Outstanding Practical Skills Award' and in May 2016 graduated with a Bachelor of Farrier Science Degree (Hons) with a First Class Award. Oliver has a keen interest in expanding his farrier knowledge across all areas of farriery.



SEEN ON FACEBOOK: GATE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Sculptor Deb Pearse Mitchell designed these beautiful gates. She said: 'My first large scale 3D hand pounded steel gates. Modelled after the client's gypsy vanner stallions. Located near Alpharetta Georgia USA. Gates measure just over 9 feet tall, powdercoated clear.'

CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to BFBA Vice President, Abby Bunyard, and Stephen Britten AWCF, who recently passed the Practical exam of the FWCF qualification after completing the BFBA course. Well done Abby and Stephen!

Congratulations to **Chris Johnson, Ross Wardle, Henry Middleton, Brad Greenham** and **Tom Arris** who recently passed the AWCF examination.

Chris, Ross and Henry were supported in both the knowledge and practical elements by attending the BFBA AWCF Course. Brad passed his practical element and Tom passed his knowledge element with support from the BFBA.

Congratulations also to **Fred Cox** who recently passed the knowledge element of his AWCF with support from the BFBA.

This is a fantastic 86% pass rate for the BFBA AWCF Course, which is delivered by Dean Bland and Danny Bennett.

For more information on the course, please contact headoffice@bfba.co.uk

#bfba #awcf #farriereducation #awcfqualification #farrierexams

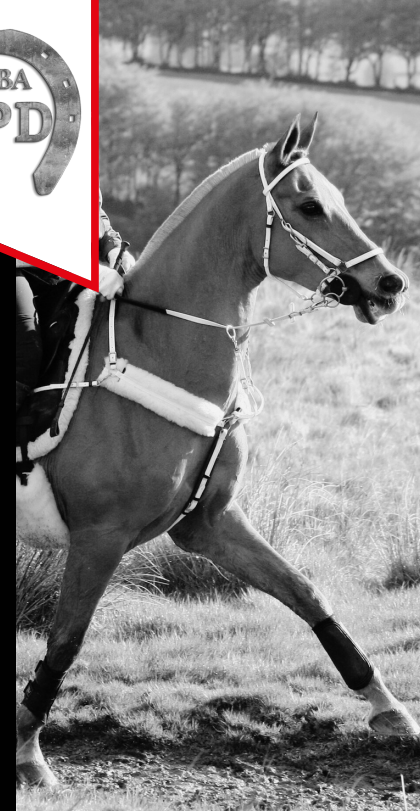


The Blacksmiths Guild
is running the Dorset show round of
the National Blacksmiths Competition
alongside its own classes at this year's
Dorset County Show
2 & 3 SEPTEMBER

Competition schedules for both are available at www.blacksmithsguild.com and Facebook – Blacksmiths Guild, www.dorsetshow.co.uk

or contact

Guild Master
Merv Allen FWCB,
email metalwizard@btinternet.com
mobile 07979 597431
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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.

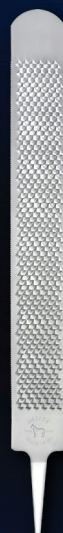


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HELLER RED TANG provides reliability with its close teeth structure over a 40 mm surface.

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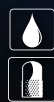


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