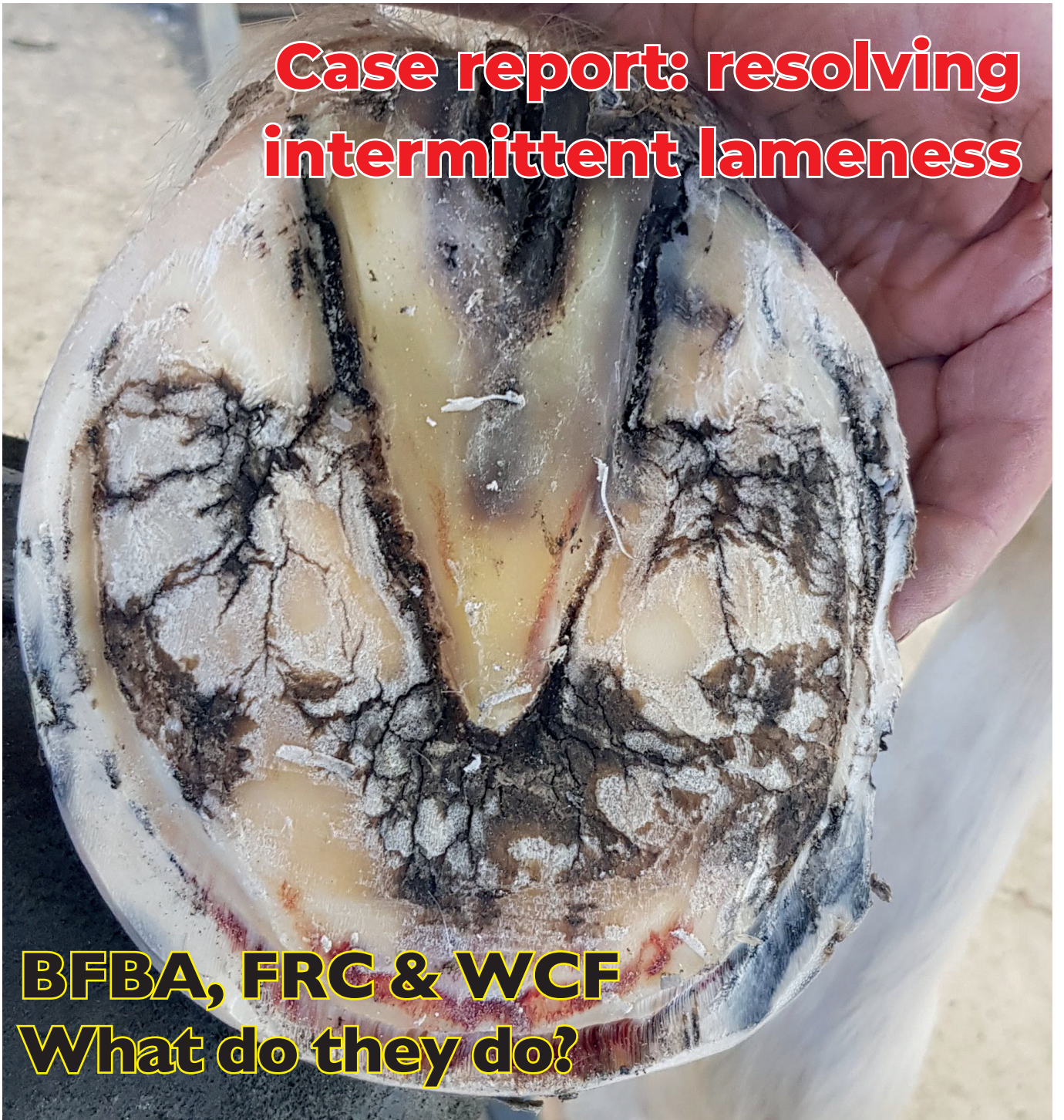




FORGE

FORGE IS THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

**Case report: resolving
intermittent lameness**



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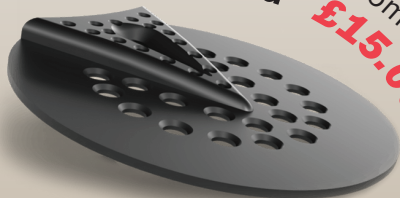


Front Half Mesh Pad

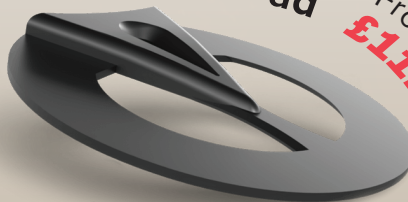
PHOTO BY DEAN DIBSDALL

Type / Size of Pad	Suitable for Classic size
Flat Pad & 3° Pad - 1	3x0 Hind, 4x0 Hind
Flat Pad & 3° Pad - 2	2x0 Hind
Flat Pad & 3° Pad - 3	1 Hind, 0 Hind
Flat Pad & 3° Pad - 4	3 Hind, 2 Hind
Flat Pad & 3° Pad - 5	4 Hind, 5 Hind - Coming Soon
Flat Pad & 3° Pad - 6	6 Hind, 7 Hind - Coming Soon

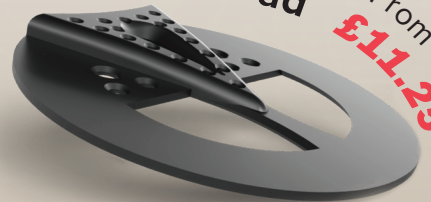
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Ed Eclipse Pad From **£11.25**



Half Mesh Pad From **£11.25**



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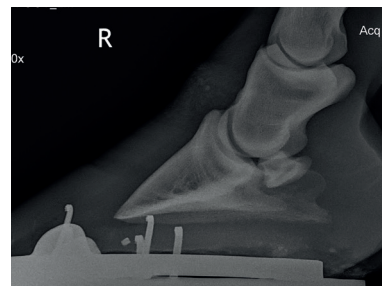
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The July 2023 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains two articles:

● Does abnormal shoe wear reflect conformational variations in the equine forelimb?

by Lee Edwards FdSc DipWCF

● Thermal imaging as a diagnostic tool

by Danielle Flood BSc(Hons), MSC



Worshipful Company of Farriers

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Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

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Registrar, Chris Linssner AWCF

Secretary, Michael Knap (SHV Sweden)

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

Daniel Harman AWCF GradDipELR

WCF farrier on FRC Council

Robin P. May AWCF

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Forge does not endorse any advertising material included in this publication.

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

President's address

This spring brought the usual and expected madness that comes every year when the weather changes and the days get longer. Grass is now growing at 15-25 degrees and, with intermittent rain, it is literally exploding from the ground – and as the sun bakes the soil we also see a number of horses with sore or jarred-up feet. The annual lecture 'don't let your horse get any fatter' seems to have typically been missed and now we have to try hard not to say 'I did say that would happen'.

With the start of summer it is a busy time for all of us as we see the polo horses going full tilt. We shoe all sport horse disciplines (show jumping, eventing and dressage) that are now campaigning round the UK and Europe for qualifications and different championships. The racing world is full tilt too, with Ascot and its epic battles with racehorses from all over the world fighting for prestigious fame and glory. We even probably see some of the hunters starting to come back in again to start walking work and getting fit for the autumn. June and July are probably one of the few times that we have all the disciplines all going at the same time! It's all go!!

I had the honour to be invited by the Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF) Master Martin Russell to attend the latest DipWCF presentation ceremony in London. It was a truly spectacular day with the WCF now in a new and permanent address in the city of London with its new office in Apothecaries Hall. A church service was held in St Martins of Ludgate and we enjoyed a police horse escort from the church to Apothecaries Hall a few streets away. It was a special and heartwarming day with candidates gaining their DipWCF and AWCF certificates.

We saw a number of graduates come from Sweden to collect their Diploma certificate and it never ceases to amaze me that so many overseas farriers make huge efforts to sit and pass this exam, which for most is not even in their own language. To sit any test, let alone one where the anatomical descriptions are in another language, is true dedication and I really take my hat off to them!

My own apprentice gained his DipWCF. As an ATF it is always an amazing opportunity to spend the day with them and their family to see and understand the gravity of the profession they are entering. It's also a day that we should enjoy and after four years of selfless teaching they can obviously buy the first round of drinks to celebrate!

Roly Owers OBE of World Horse Welfare presented a webinar for all UK Farriers on 19 June. Roly talked us through the concept of social license - the public's acceptance of an activity - and the impact it is having on horse sport and equestrianism. Society is changing; we understand more and the public care more. Any activity that involves animals is having to look at how those animals are treated. From an equestrian viewpoint, anything where injury and stress may be involved is under the microscope. It is simply not tolerated to be aggressive towards animals - we are

seeing an increased number of complaints and farriers being prosecuted for hitting or abusing horses.

Roly also talked about twitching and how this should be approached. In truth it needs to be approached very carefully! As

Farriers, we are often expected to teach client's horses manners and if they are nervous or poorly mannered we are expected to just 'hold on'. Our Professional Code of Conduct quite clearly states that 'Farriers are advised not to commence or continue working with an animal if it is felt that the present temperament of the horse, or the conditions the horse is kept in, are unfavourable to a successful outcome and/or that the health and safety of the farrier or others, including the horse, may be compromised by proceeding'. I personally would not want to twitch a horse without a competent groom or yard manager present as the risk of horse or lay person getting hurt or the damage and risk to my reputation is huge. I know we all worry about losing work but this is where solidarity and communication are key for us. We need to turn it from 'I cant or won't' into 'to shoe this horse I need ...'. The truth is that we need to have that conversation about 15 or 20 minutes earlier than we often do. That way there is a clear line in the sand of what you won't do, rather than getting to a point where the owner is forced to face a stressed or angry horse and even more stressed or angry farrier!

The AGM sees us having new members joining the Executive Committee and we also have had new branches and committees formed to help the association to work even better. Sadly Gill Harris – our editor of Forge for 22 years – has decided to retire at the end of this year so we are now looking to recruit a new editor. We are all hugely grateful to her for her persistence and hard work in producing this magazine and giving the BFBA the voice and presence it has in the industry for the past two decades.

I was so sorry to hear about the huge loss to farriery of Alan Bailey. Alan was a huge influence during my apprenticeship and farriery career – as with so many farriers - he had a huge part to play. Our thoughts are with his wife Christine and his family at this incredibly sad time.



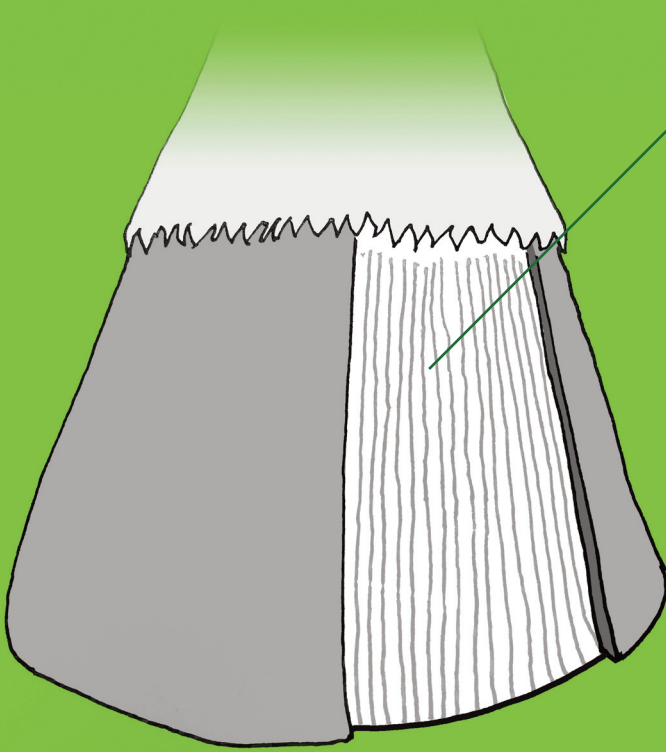
**Ben Benson, AWCF, Master Farrier, ATF
BFBA President**

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Social license and farriery – friend or foe?

The BFBA held a webinar on the topic of social licensing, with World Horse Welfare CEO, Roly Owers.

Nearly 200 farriers registered to listen to the social licensing webinar with Roly Owers, over 90 watched live on 19 June – thank you to everyone that has so far taken part.

Social license is gaining momentum and it is not 'woke nonsense' as it is referred to by some on social media. Society is changing and our 'social license to operate' (SLO) – the ongoing acceptance of an activity in society – is not about the law, or indeed the FRC, WCF or BFBA.

Farriers have a real opportunity to play a crucial role in both the continued use of equines in sport, and their own continued acceptance as essential hoofcare providers. Farriers are an 'influential profession' who see horses more often than any other equine healthcare professional.

This webinar provides an overview of SLO and what it means for the equestrian industry Roly discusses what impact



Scanning this QR code will enable you to view the webinar on social licensing

it could have on farriery and explores the opportunities it provides for farriery.

The seminar posed a number of questions, such as:

- **Is disciplining the horse appropriate?**
- **Can you recognise the difference between misbehaviour and pain in horses?**
- **Can you support owners by signposting them to other professionals for training and healthcare concerns?**
- **Can you communicate better to facilitate owner education?**
- **What role can you play to support the promotion of good welfare practices?**

BFBA members are strongly encouraged to watch the recording via the BFBA members area of the website.

Your thoughts on this subject are important. If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch with Claire Brown on 07747 602978, claire@forgepr.co.uk

Roly Owers awarded OBE for services to equine welfare

Roly Owers has been awarded an OBE for 'Services to equine welfare'. The award for the Chief Executive of World Horse Welfare was announced in the King's Birthday Honours List.

Roly has been the charity's Chief Executive since 2008 and its mission is to work with horses, horse owners, communities, organisations and governments to help improve welfare standards and stamp out suffering in the UK and worldwide.

Roly leads World Horse Welfare's efforts to improve welfare by strengthening the relationship between horses and people, including the charity's work with governments and institutions in the UK, the European Union, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He also advises

the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) and the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) on horse welfare.

Roly said: 'It is a true privilege to be entrusted with leading the work of World Horse Welfare, and I am hugely thankful to my team and my family as this is as much for them as for me. What I find inspiring is that recognition at this level demonstrates the continued relevance of horses to society and the part we all play in protecting their welfare for future generations.'

Roly is a veterinary surgeon; he graduated from Cambridge University in 1992 and acquired his Masters degree



in nutrition from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1997. His previous veterinary roles included working for the Blue Cross and with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

He is currently Chair of the International Coalition for Animal

Welfare, Treasurer of World Federation for Animals, a Board member of the European Horse Network and Vice Chair of Eurogroup for Animals' equine working group.

In the UK, he is Chair of the Equine Disease Coalition, a Director of both British Equestrian and the British Horse Council and Treasurer of BEVA.



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FORGE & FORGE KNOWLEDGE Survey results

A huge thank you to the 261 of you who took the time to complete the recent Forge magazine survey. It was heartening to read that so many of you value receiving our magazine in hard copy, in the post – in fact two-thirds of you prefer to read in print!

Your feedback really is important to us. It is essential that we continue to produce a magazine that is both wanted and delivers content that you need – we are working our way through the many comments and suggestions you took the time to make.

It is the intention of the BFBA to continue to produce *Forge*, in print, as long as it is wanted and it is financially viable to do so. While some noted that they would prefer to see less product advertisements, the proportion of advertisement copy to educational content in *Forge* is in line with industry standards – without our loyal advertisers we simply could not afford to produce and deliver this magazine. (And with reference to the anonymous response asking why *Forge Knowledge* was not included in the £420 retention fee – this is because *Forge* is published by the BFBA and the retention fee is set by the Farriers Registration Council – they are two completely different organisations with separate financial entities).

The 'letters' (or emails) page has not gone away – we simply don't receive them! If you would like to address a particular issue or comment on something please do forward your thoughts to headoffice@bfba.co.uk.

Similarly, we are always on the hunt for new articles – these do not need to be huge pieces of research (although they are welcome too). If you have a case study, interesting scenario or are willing to share 'hints and tips' with your fellow readers we would love to hear from you.

More than half (59%) of BFBA members did not know that articles featured in *Forge Knowledge* (the educational supplement to *Forge* magazine) were available to view in the members' area of the BFBA website – and they are searchable by author and topic!



If you are a BFBA member and do not know how to access this area of the website please get in touch with the office.

Gill Harris

After more than 20 years as editor of *Forge* magazine, Gill Harris will be stepping down. Gill's commitment to this publication has been incredible and we will be very sad to see her step down. We are indebted to Gill for her time, patience, expertise and support.

The BFBA will shortly be recruiting for a new Editor – keep an eye out for the advert. If you (or someone you know) may be interested in this role please get in touch.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FARRIER ASSOCIATIONS AGM TO BE HELD IN THE UK

The annual general meeting of the European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA) is being held in the UK during BFBA Focus this year.

The BFBA is delighted to have the opportunity to welcome the EFFA – our European partners – to Focus this year,

giving them the opportunity to enjoy our flagship event.

The EFFA delegates will arrive at Stoneleigh on 25 October, ready for the AGM the following day. On the Friday, the farriers will have the opportunity to visit local landmarks with their partners, with a dinner in their honour being held in the evening.

They will then be free to enjoy all

that Focus and the International Team Horseshoeing Competition has to offer.

We very much hope that they will also join us for the prizegiving dinner and make it a truly international event.

- BFBA supports EFFA's mission, which is to improve the welfare of the horse by encouraging the highest standards of trimming and shoeing.

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What do they do?

There are three major organisations involved in farriery. The oldest is the **Worshipful Company of Farriers**, which dates from 1356. The **British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association** (previously NAFBAE) was set up in 1904 and the youngest body is the statutory body, the **Farriers Registration Council**, set up under The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975.



BFBA MEMBERSHIP BODY

The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association was established in 1904. It represents and is the voice of farriers, supporting its farrier and blacksmith members throughout their career. It:

- ▶ Provides essential craft representation and balance to the farriery regulatory bodies.
- ▶ Encourages education and facilitates the development of its members skills.
- ▶ Supports members throughout their career.
- ▶ Runs the largest UK farriery event, BFBA Focus, which is for blacksmiths too.
- ▶ Organises prestigious competitions, including the International Team Horseshoeing Championship, the National Championship and the Home International, for qualified farriers and apprentices.
- ▶ Holds CPD events for farriers at all stages of their career.
- ▶ Organises the Edward Martin Cultural Exchange, giving young farriers the opportunity to travel in the USA and learn from its best farriers, with a reciprocal agreement for American farriers.
- ▶ Initiated the BFBA International Bladesmithing Competition and supports blacksmithing competitions.
- ▶ Ensures UK farriers are represented in Europe within the European Federation of Farrier Associations.
- ▶ Hosts a website to support the farriery profession, which includes a member-only section where CPD material is available. Its website calendar has details of events for farriers and blacksmiths and is free to view.
- ▶ The website hosts competition results from across the UK.
- ▶ Publishes *Forge* magazine and *Forge Knowledge* (members only).
- ▶ Works with the industry on member-only benefits in the form of special offers and discounts.



FRC NATIONAL REGULATOR FOR FARRIERY

The Farriers Registration Council (FRC) was established by Act of Parliament in 1975, the Act has been amended twice since then in 1977 and 2017. The FRC is responsible for the following statutory matters. It:

- ▶ Registration of British Farriers seeking to practise farriery in Great Britain; the FRC sets the conditions for registration and sets fees for registration, retention and restoration.
- ▶ Registration of Overseas Farriers seeking to practise farriery in GB; overseas farriers must meet the standard for registration in the opinion of the FRC.
- ▶ Approval of courses, qualifications and institutions pertaining to the practice of farriery in GB; in practise this means the Council is required to approve the WCF who, as the end-point assessment organisation, deliver the end-point assessment, and the colleges that deliver farriery training.
- ▶ Supervision of approved institutions and examinations/assessments pertaining to the practise of farriery in GB.
- ▶ Preliminary investigation of cases where a person is liable to have his or her name erased from the register.
- ▶ Consideration and determination of disciplinary cases.

In addition, the FRC operates the following as policies of choice:

- ▶ The ATF system: the FRC prescribes the conditions to be an ATF; an ATF is a registered farrier who meets those conditions and may employ and train apprentice farriers. Details are set out in the ATF guide.
- ▶ The CPD system: Registered Farriers are required to maintain their professional knowledge, skills and behaviours throughout their careers. Details are set out in the CPD guide.

In common with other registered professionals, Registered Farriers are required to comply with the Farrier, Approved Training Farrier and Apprentice Code of Conduct, which sets out standards of conduct required of registrants.



WCF HEAD OF PROFESSION FOR FARRIERY

In 1356 the Mayor of London set up a City Guild to improve farriery in London. The Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF) became a Livery Company in 1692.

In 1975, under the Farriers Registration Act, the WCF was given the task of ensuring adequate standards of competence and conduct among farriers. It:

- ▶ The Company took a lead in the process that led to the 1975 Farriers Registration Act which created the Farriers Registration Council. It was also involved in subsequent amendments to that Act.
- ▶ Since its formation, the Company has been involved in the training of farriers. It continues to set the standard and conduct the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) as the End-Point Assessment registered with the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education (IfATE).
- ▶ The Company is unique for its approach to safeguarding the standards of farriery.

As well as the assessments and qualifications above, the Company:

- ▶ Promotes Continual Professional Development (CPD).
- ▶ Promotes relations with the veterinary profession by running the Equine Veterinary Studies Award each year, where student vets spend a week being tutored by experienced farriers.
- ▶ Maintains the WCF Charitable Trust 1994, which makes funds available to registered farriers and their dependants who need financial and emotional support.
- ▶ Promotes the excellence of farriery by judging and awarding prizes at farriery competitions.
- ▶ Awards Best Shod Horse (BSH) prizes at horse shows.
- ▶ Promotes excellence in farriery to horse owners and the general public.

The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (BFBA) exists to represent, and be the voice of, the professional farrier whilst supporting and enabling our farriery and blacksmithing members throughout their career.

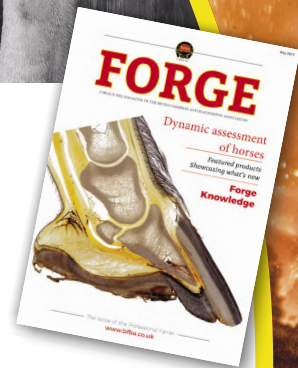


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WILL HARLAND DIPWCF IS ON THE BFBA EDWARD MARTIN CULTURAL EXCHANGE



New skills and experiences in the USA



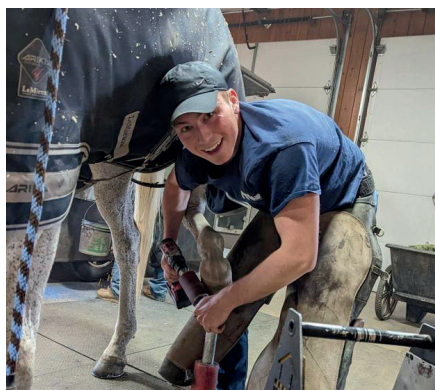
I've been to two AWCFC clinics in the USA – a 2-day clinic with Jason Critton and a half-day clinic with Tim Shannon. I have also been shoeing top level showjumpers in Florida, and here in Colorado at the Parker horseshow with Jason. I've had a go at Western-style riding, tried my hand at team roping and working cattle, along with some fun tractor driving.



I visited Brian Buckner who entertained me over the weekends, spending time at the sand dunes driving quad bikes and target shooting. From there, I was able to work with a range of farriers enabling me to shoe a variety of horses from ranch horses to dressage horses. Brian put me in touch with a good young farrier called Juan Berumen who allowed me to work with him followed by an evening of shoe making and knife making. He also put me in contact with Jake Maestas who took me trail riding in the mountains, where we stumbled upon an abandoned cobalt mine.



I spent a week in Montana with a top competition farrier called Tom Peterson with whom I made a fuller and a lot of shoes. We also shared some good downtime at the local bars and restaurants along with his apprentice Aaron. We finished the week with a cave tour in the mountains and we took his ATV into the mountains and rallied around for a day. I am enjoying so many new experiences thanks to the BFBA Cultural Exchange.





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Diploma Exam Achievement Pass List. May 2023

Many congratulations to those who have passed the Worshipful Company of Farriers Diploma (DipWCF) examination in May.

Herefordshire and Ludlow College

Mr Callun Townsend DipWCF (ATF Mr Rob Reeve DipWCF)
Mr Cameron Brady DipWCF (ATF Mr Chris Powell FWCF)
Mr Jonathan Holgate DipWCF (ATF Mr Marc Jones DipWCF)

Myerscough College

Mr Edward Beeston DipWCF (ATF Mr David Howell DipWCF)
Mr Jake Downs DipWCF (ATF Mr Mike Kiernan DipWCF)
Mr Rory Goodridge DipWCF (ATF Mr Adam Davenhill DipWCF)
Mr Oliver Gilchrist DipWCF (ATF Mr Karn Herbert DipWCF)

Warwickshire College

Mr Reuben Bicknell DipWCF (ATF Mr Dean Dibsall AWCF)

End-Point-Assessment for Farrier Apprenticeship Standard ST0172 DipWCF Examinations Achievement Pass List. May 2023

DISTINCTIONS

Myerscough College

Mr Harry Smith DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr Paul Smith DipWCF (Distinction in Written Test & Professional Discussion)
Mr Henry Chitty DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr Steven Beane FWCF (Distinction in Practical Shoeing Test)

Warwickshire College

Mr George Hayter DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr James Hayter DipWCF (Hons) (Distinction in Practical Shoeing Test)
Mr Lewis Sutor DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr Paul Horner BSc (Hons) FWCF (Distinction in Written Test)
Mr Jamie Morris DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr Nigel Crothers AWCF (Distinction in Professional Discussion)
Mr Ian Harden DipWCF (Distinction in **Practical** Unshod Trim)

Hereford and Ludlow

Mr Joseph Buckley DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr Matthew Rees DipWCF (Distinction in Professional Discussion)

PASS

Myerscough College

Mr Angus Rowe DipWCF, whose ATF is Ms Rebecca Lowe AWCF
Mr Joshua Ramessur-Marsden DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr Andrew Marsden DipWCF
Mr Jack Knight DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr Gavin Moody AWCF

Warwickshire College

Mr Kyle Williams DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr John Benfield DipWCF

Herefordshire and Ludlow College

Mr Ross Johnstone DipWCF, whose ATF is Mr Ben Benson AWCF



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The future of farriery. *What do you think?* What does it mean for the profession and equine welfare?

By Steven Butler DipWCF

Using data from a variety of sources, including the Farriers Registration Council (FRC), the four apprenticeship colleges and some private individuals, Steve Butler has produced this incredible piece of work. In it, he presents his own opinions, which in no way reflects those of the FRC. BFBA is grateful to him for sharing his view of an issue that needs discussion.

The figures compiled in my article range from 1978 to 2023. They should be taken with a degree of caution in that they are simply a snapshot in time. Farriers come and go from the register for many reasons. And, at date of publication, although these figures are correct to be best of my knowledge, they may vary +/- 10%. It is also worth noting with the inception of the farriers' register in 1974, there were many farriers who did not initially register, making these figures somewhat vague. Also, in Scotland, farriers were not required to join the register until 2007, which makes early figures difficult to compare.

In this article, I have concentrated on the past 20 or so years and used them as my comparable data stream. These figures equate to the whole of mainland UK (Northern Ireland still being exempt from registration), and include apprenticeship numbers.

Here again, the annual apprenticeship numbers only document the numbers of apprentices who started their training, not those who completed it and went on to qualify. A percentage of apprentices do not complete their training.

What these figures provide is an understanding of interest in the profession from those wishing to join it. In my opinion, the numbers are shocking, even given a degree of inaccuracy.

I have included data (2023) and the ages of all registered farriers, bracketed into 10-year age ranges. Farrier registrations 'peaked' in 2018, when there were 2927 registered farriers, compared with a 'trough' in 2000 when registrations stood at 2317.

In 2023, the number of farriers on the register stands at 2703 (see graph below). There has been a steady increase of registrations up to and including the 2018 peak.

The graph on page 16 (Fig 2) provides apprenticeship intake figures. A steady increase through the 1990s to 2010 can be seen, although major anomaly of note was the drop and then peak between 2012-2014. This is accounted for by the temporary closure and reorganisation of the apprenticeship system, which artificially increased the numbers for the 'new' intake. Numbers of apprentices have steadily decreased since 2010.

It is also important to understand that there has been a decline in the number of horses in the UK. In 2008, it was estimated there were somewhere between 1.3 and 1.6 million horses. Today, the British Equestrian Trade Organisation puts the British equid population at about 800,000.

Fig 1 (below) shows a gradual increase of the number of farriers from 1978 to its peak in 2018. Although registration has been mandatory for all farriers in mainland UK since 2007, this hasn't always been the case. There has been a steady increase of farriers throughout the past 50 years, although this might simply be in registrations rather than actual working farriers.

What is to be taken from this table is the decline in farriery numbers since their peak in 2018 (2929) to the current 2023 number (2907), showing a loss 224 of registered farriers despite having a world-recognised training system in place.

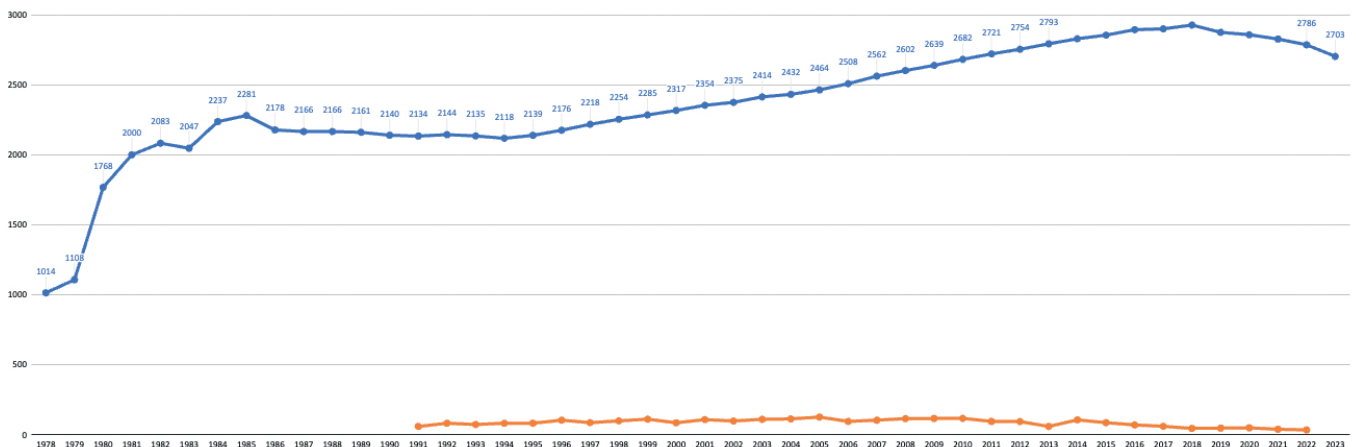


Fig 1. Farrier registrations from 1978 to 2023. Farrier number appear in blue and apprentice number appear in orange.

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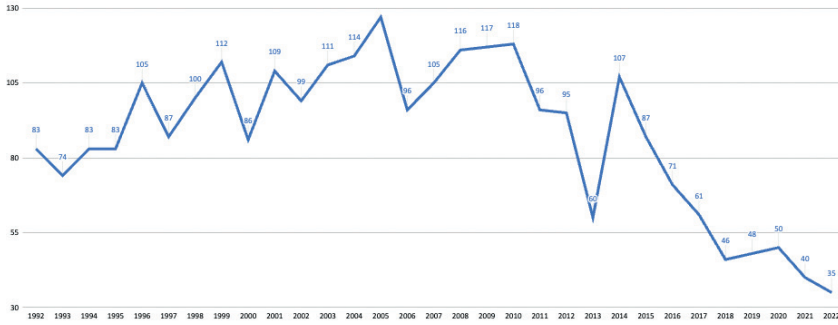


Fig 2. Apprentice numbers, 1992 to 2022

Fig 2 shows that as far as apprenticeship uptake is concerned, since 1992 numbers generally increased year-on-year until 2010.

A phenomenon can be seen in the 2012–2013 figures, demonstrated above by a significant drop and then a spike in numbers. This was the year the apprenticeship system was put on hold until it was deemed fit for purpose. It is assumed that those wishing to enrol waited a year to join the next intake, thereby causing a spike in numbers. We are now in a period (2016-2023) where we have consistently seen reductions in apprenticeship enrolment.

Turning to Fig 3, below, the table shows the ages of currently registered farriers (2907). The majority of farriers within a single group are those aged between 30–39. This, I believe, correlates well with the numbers who trained between the 10-year period 2005–2015. This period statistically had a high apprenticeship uptake.

The same correlation can be seen in the numbers and ages of farriers now 20–29 years of age. These farriers started their apprenticeship within the falling years of apprenticeship numbers.

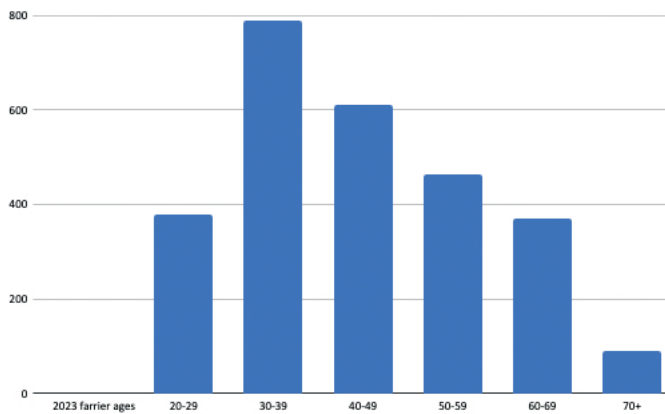


Fig 3. Farrier ages in 10-year groupings

year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
actual	2754	2793	2829	2855	2894	2900	2927	2875	2858	2827	2786	2703				
apprentice start date	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
apprentice numbers	105	116	117	118	96	95	60	107	87	71	61	46	48	40	40	35
estimate		2859	2909	2946	2973	2990	2995	2987	2982	2945	2898	2847				
negative discrepancy		66	80	91	79	90	68	112	124	118	112	144	0			

Fig 4. Comparison data. Farrier numbers compared to the apprentice start dates +5 years to first registration. Predictions of numbers where none leave the profession compared to those actually recorded to have done so. The discrepancy is those that (majority) left the profession with the exception of 2015. To work out future numbers, we have to estimate - using averages - how many farriers we have lost of the past 10 years

What is important to note is the number of registered farriers aged 50+, compared with the number of farriers aged 29 and younger. Approximately one-third of farriers are in the age bracket of those who may well consider retirement within 10 years. When we compare this figure with the number of young farriers and those that are currently joining the profession, we can predict with some degree of accuracy there is likely to be a substantial reduction in farriers over the next 10 years.

In Fig 4, I aligned the data initially in date order. Row 1 shows which year the data correlates to. Row 2 is the number of registered farriers for that date. Row 3 is the apprenticeship start date, in which apprentices would have needed to start year 1 to be first registered 5 years later. Row 4 is the calculation estimate of farrier numbers in that year, plus the number of apprentices who started five years earlier. Row 6 shows the negative discrepancy of these figures. Essentially, it shows how many farriers do not register that year, after taking into account the new farrier registrations from the apprenticeship data.

For example, in 2019 there were 2875 registrations. The 87 apprentices who joined the register in the year 2020 were from the 2015 intake. $2875+87=$ (estimate) 2982. However, we know only that 2858 farriers registered in 2020, meaning 124 farriers left the register between 2019-2020, giving a deficit number.

Using the workings within the example above, I applied this formula to all the data, giving year-on-year deficits. I took this data and extrapolated the average loss of registrations over the past 10 years, which gave me an annual average loss of registration of 99 farriers (rounded up).

In Fig 5 (above right) the data and formula are carried forward using all available data. The only unpredictable figure is the apprentice intake. However, using the trend already shown in Fig 2, intake numbers are dropping. Despite that, I have chosen to keep the predictive figure at 35 (the 2023 intake) a decision made on the basis that nothing has changed to increase apprenticeship numbers in recent years.

Formula for predictions

- This year's (2023) registration figure was 2703, with 46 apprentices joining, but 99 farriers leaving, giving a registration estimate for 2024 of 2650.
- We currently have apprenticeship figures going forward until 2028 (for apprentices who started between 2019–2023).
- Using these figures we know there cannot be many more farriers registering up to 2028, except for those who choose to rejoin, or who are not included due to temporary removal.

		Fig 5. Predictions table											
		PREDICTIONS USING AVERAGE LOSS AND AVERAGE GAIN											
79	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2033
80		2703											
88	App start	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
112	App number	46	48	40	40	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
118	Predicted		2650	2591	2532	2468	2404	2340	2276	2212	2148	2084	2020
144													
Total		1084											
Divide by	198.545454												
To get													
Average loss		99											

Fig 5. Predictions table

However its believed these exceptions are less than 1% of possible figures.

When we take an ageing farriery population into account (Fig 3) it is reasonable to assume that the figure of 99 farriers leaving the profession per year might increase. There was a peak in discrepancy of 144 farriers not registering in 2023, and there has been a general increase in those choosing to register since 2019. Using my formulas, I estimate that if nothing changes to increase enrolment of apprentices or farriery registrations, by 2033 there will be fewer than 2020 registered farriers in the UK.

Why has there been a gradual decline in farriery numbers?

There are many reasons why numbers are decreasing.

- There are fewer horses in the UK now compared with 2008, with an estimated drop of 600,000 horses.
- Competition has stagnated prices and profits, making the profession less attractive.
- Approved Training Farrier (ATF) costs. Taking on an apprentice is no longer cost effective for sole trader businesses.
- Fewer people are involved with horses now than ever before so there are fewer people likely to choose a farriery career.
- Alternative options for clients, such as barefoot trimmers etc. While not a direct competitor to farriers in real terms, barefoot trimmers have taken a proportion of equines away from farriers.

Challenges

- Costs will rise.
- Owners may take the decision to remove shoes.
- Owners might struggle to retain a farrier.
- Competition will mean increased prices and costs.

Background

When I qualified in 2007, farrier numbers were growing fast. In fact, the fastest growth of apprenticeship numbers was in 2005 with an intake of 127 apprentices (in 2023 there are 35).

Many farriers believe that during the peak registrations, more should have been done to regulate apprentice numbers to prevent the trade from become saturated. Some believe we are still in a peak, demonstrated by the way some farriers undercut others in order to gain new clients.

I believe we can directly attribute the low cost to owners for a set of horseshoes on the high numbers of farriers and the persistent downgrading of prices through discounts and undercutting. The rules of supply and demand show that when products (farriers) are in high number prices tend to fall. Hence, in our industry we have been in a fight to the bottom of the pricing table for shoes, where farriers compete (often by being £5 cheaper than their rivals). Even where this is not deliberate, owners often select a farrier based on price.

The future of farriery

Farrier numbers are dropping and will continue to drop for at least a decade, unless significant changes are made to the apprenticeship system.

There is a lack of apprentices wanting to become a farrier and I believe the reasons are multifactorial:

- There are fewer horse owners, which directly affects how many people come into contact with farriers and see farriery as a potential career.
- There are fewer ATFs willing to take on an apprentice due to the costs involved. It currently costs £22,000 in wages for a 3rd-year apprentice doing 50 hours per week, this figure rises to £28,000 in 2024 (based on the national minimum wages for a 21-year-old).
- ATFs must also supply personal protective equipment, forge time, electrical certifications (HSE), a van, insurance, tools and stock to be able to have the apprentice shoemaking or shoeing, as well as gas, coke and electrical costs, which have all have spiralled. When factoring in what it costs to take on an apprentice, we must also look at how many extra horses are needed to afford to do so. We can work out that a £75,000 turnover provides in the region of a £45,000 pre-tax profit. So, when approximately £35,000 is being spent on an apprentice, a sole trader under the VAT threshold simply cannot afford one. The ATF must find double, or triple the work, simply to cover the increased costs of shoeing extra horses to afford one apprentice. In such a scenario, obviously business costs will increase, more shoes, gas etc, but also more tax must be paid,

and VAT becomes applicable. Prices then rise and clients may move to a farrier who charges less. Only firms with multiple apprentices, shoeing in polo or racing yards, tend to be able to take these costs and measures into account.

■ Fewer people want jobs that involve manual labour such as farriery, equine veterinary work, yard staff, grooms, building, plumbing, etc. It seems that schools teach children that university courses are the only way forward, social media and the Instagram generation don't appear to want to do anything that involves being outdoors. The effect of Covid-19 shouldn't be ignored either. Some might argue that employees have control over employers, demanding the opportunity to work from home, having to travel, attend meetings and so on, wanting more time off and higher wages in line with the cost of living. The thought of getting under a horse in the rain wouldn't even be entertained by many in the current generation.

The numbers show we will be losing farriers at the rate of approximately 150 a year, one-third of farriers are over 50 years old, meaning in 10 years time that generation will not be shoeing the numbers they are today, if at all.

What does this mean for farriers and our business?

Farriers may soon be able to charge much more per horse, because of a lack of farriers and have the opportunity to pick and choose how many horses they shoe, who they shoe for and what they charge, essentially knowing that owners have little choice to go elsewhere.

This might in turn encourage new blood into the profession when they see incomes rise, potentially to match our American colleagues who charge about £300 a set. However there is a limiting factor to this.

How many horses will be shod? Or will need to be? Many horses today in 2023 are shod almost for no reason, many don't do road work and many never wear out their shoes.

In the future, I believe the younger generations who work with horses will feel differently about shoeing, (especially if prices rise markedly) encouraging a barefoot option or the use of hoof boots. In this instance, many farriers have a direct competitor in the barefoot trimmer – a body of workers who already outperform farriers on price and marketing.

The apprentice system may need to change

ATFs cannot afford to take on apprentices within the current pay structures required by government. Having spoken to three colleges recently (Myerscough, Warwick and Hereford) I asked: 'How long until farriery is not a viable financial contributor to the college', the general consensus was that the numbers are concerning and that farriery might need to rethink its training system.

What might need to change to in the future is uncertain, but how long will it be before that change takes place? By then, we may have a distinct lack of farriers.

What does this mean for owners and equine welfare?

Simply put, if nothing changes soon and we lose registered farriers as I have outlined, it will mean price increases for owners. However, I believe farriers who offer advice – not just shoeing but nutrition, body scoring, etc (essentially farriers communicating better in the way that vets and trimmers do) – record keeping (invoicing, data gathering, client record-keeping and providing feedback, etc) and have a good website will be able to demand a higher price and clients will better understand what they are paying for.

As for equine welfare, there really could become a nationwide problem where many owners can neither afford, nor book an available farrier.

Do you agree?

Let's get a conversation going.

You could start by writing a letter for publication
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developing an athletic hoof

In the July 2023 issue of *Forge Knowledge*

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

For his BSc in Farriery Science, Lee Edwards FdSc DipWCF studied whether abnormal shoe wear reflects conformational variations in the equine forelimb? If so, he pondered, is it possible to predict the type of conformational abnormality from the pattern of shoe wear seen?

In the second article, Danielle Flood BSc(Hons), MSc, describes how thermal imaging was originally used in the metalwork and engineering sectors, but it is now used in a range of different industries, including as a cost-effective diagnostic tool in human and veterinary medicine. It has proved extremely useful for horse owners in preventing and monitoring injuries. The technology provides a measurement of surface temperature variations and, as the author explains, it can be useful in the early detection of inflammation in a variety of areas within the body.



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BLACKSMITHS GUILD MEMBERS' FORGING WEEKEND



The Blacksmiths Guild held its Members Forge Weekend recently. Blacksmith Doug Campbell said: "[It was] A fantastic first day, with a really good turn out for the Guild's Members Forge Weekend. We have had tool making, a wood working chisel, a blacksmiths helper, bolster plates and rivet snaps. Gate furniture, a pub sign using repoussé techniques from the demonstrations by Colm Gallagher, leaf blanks and more.' On the second day Don Mallett AWCB demonstrated heat treating.

An evening get together was held at the Convivial Rabbit micropub, where members enjoyed good food, music and conversation.



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Flying Anvil Foundation meets other farriery worlds: souk farriers in Morocco

Bernard Duvernay shares his experience in Morocco.

The Souk are small seasonal markets outside the villages, primarily selling livestock and agricultural products. Most of them are named from the day of the week on which they are held – every day in a different place. It's an important spot for farriers to be present, as they care for the feet of equines while their owners trade their wares.

It was an interesting and enriching experience for me to work with these modest colleagues. Mostly illiterate, they have learned their work empirically. Based on very little knowledge, the work of the souk farrier is carried out with little regard for the needs of the animal.

I was immediately struck by the lack of even very basic knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the foot. With my vet friend Mohammed, we brought the farriers into a classroom for a little while and, using simple words and my teaching materials (anatomical specimens of the foot plus Power Point pictures and some well-chosen images), we gradually created some awareness of the importance of this knowledge to progress through the successive stages of our work: straightforward steps, based on observation and rebalancing of the feet.

This is done during hoof trimming, and it can only be done properly if the basic principles of hoof anatomy and physiology are well understood and accepted.

With this in mind, we used projected images and work on the horses to develop their ability to observe before getting out their tools and undertaking work on the feet.

We then started the practical work on both horses and donkeys, it is there that I discovered the traditional techniques, and in particular their use of the gadoume. This cutting tool, handled very skilfully by the farriers, has the disadvantage of lacking any precision. This can lead to trimming errors and a lack of rigour in the preparation of the hooves before shoeing.

I suggested they use a toeing knife with a mallet, enabling them to trim the hard and thick hooves with much more precision and less risk. This tool was very well received by most trainees who do not see a big change in their way of working and even recognize the clear advantage of precision of the cut.

This toeing knife is not unknown to farriers, since they already use a similar blade to clear the sole and the frog before using their traditional tool. The novelty lies mainly in the new techniques of tool use and in the correction of gestures.

After a few days' work, I saw some students abandon the gadoume for good, others continuing to do the primary work with it and the finish with the toeing knife. The only tool we introduced was the rasp. This instrument is essential and I find it difficult to understand that it was never introduced into the profession, even in an archaic form. The rasp is used for finishing surfaces and also for remodelling the hoof, which has undergone deformation.

I hesitated to introduce the use of rasps, because they are either impossible to find or very overpriced. The going rate in the souk for shoeing is 20 to 40 dh (£1.50–£3) to shoe four hooves while the imported rasps are sold 220 dh (£17)!

Rasps would be easy to acquire if they were not taxed so highly on import and sale.



On the way to the souk



the horse park





The gadoume



Beautifully balanced driving hammer

During discussions with the trainees, we were told that they would be prepared to invest in a tool of this type in view of the improvements it brings to their work.

I noticed that it was relatively easy to see great progress after only a few days of supervision as we continuously guided the trainees in their work. The preparation phase of the feet before shoeing is relatively easy when knowledge of limb balance and axes of the foot have been assimilated.

This phase depends solely on the know-how and common sense of the farrier. The fact that the group was made up of people with many years of experience allowed us to work more quickly on understanding and assimilating gestures.

Then we discussed the topic of shoeing from a theoretical standpoint, explaining the purpose of this protection, its role and its disadvantages when it is badly applied. Here again, a great deal of effort was required to make the students accept to work with more precision, while respecting the shape and dimensions of the feet to adjust the fitting of the shoe.

During my observations on the horses encountered in the souks, I observed that too many feet were fitted to the shoes!

The shoes that I found in the souks made by the farrier themselves or by blacksmiths were totally devoid of shape. The quality of rebar metal used for their manufacture makes them difficult to work cold when adapting to the feet.

The shoes produced mechanically are a great advantage for the correct fitting, but their price make them much more expensive than hand-forged shoes.

This price difference is enough to convince the farriers to opt for the cheapest as this is mainly where their profit margin is at stake.



Traditional cheap shoeing

For sure, the trainees made a considerable effort to progress by accepting our teaching. They saw the benefits of the course for the horses and their customers. However, follow-up will be necessary to consolidate this progress and to encourage the farriers keep learning. I hope the new generation will also benefit from these innovations.



Blacksmiths at work at the souk; the handmade shoes are shown below



A farrier at work



Traditional shoe fitting



Traditional shoeing for mountain donkeys

CASE STUDY: From lameness to winning performance

By Andrew Poynton FWCF

This case study involves an 18-year-old, 17hh skewbald dressage horse.

Condition poor foot balance, s, intermittent lameness

Symptoms This case, like many others, did not initially have a clear diagnosis at the time of lameness onset. The horse's performance was inconsistent and varying degrees of lameness blighted him. He was carrying some excess weight. Some lost shoes did not help matters.

This was a veterinary referral, the feet were x-rayed and AP was invited to investigate; what he found was conformation predisposing poor mediolateral foot balance. The horse was low medially with flat feet and with visible chronic laminitic changes in the feet. The x-rays were revealing and invaluable. Subsequently, the horse was diagnosed with equine metabolic syndrome (EMS). As he had not displayed full blown acute laminitic symptoms and had other contributory issues to his inconsistent performance, it was much less obvious until the evidence and magnitude became visible in the hooves.

Notably, the soles of the front feet were flat to bulging, with visible sole bruising. It would have been legitimate to treat the horse for flat feet had not the additional laminal white line stretching been evident in the fore and hind feet and, of course, on the x-ray images. The stoic nature of the horse masked the severity of the condition, tempting one to allow more exercise than was healthy. Many other horses in the same condition would have displayed much greater signs of lameness.

In the author's experience, fitting pads to these feet can restore a level of soundness for a time, but the feet can become even more dependent on them as the soles tend to soften due to the condensation accumulation between pad and sole. Even more pertinently, in this case, being laminitic,



The stoic nature of this horse masked the severity of his condition



Fig 1. Left front lateromedial image

the horse required a greater level of mechanical support than a pad would afford and the sole definitely would not benefit from softening!

If a horse is treated for laminitis but is misdiagnosed and is not suffering from this condition, then no harm comes from the treatment, but if the horse is laminitic and the notion is dismissed or overlooked, and no early support treatment initiated, then much harm can ensue. If in doubt, check it out.

Materials Imprint First front shoes (low temperature melt thermoplastic first aid shoes) Imprint Ultra-Fast Adhesive MMA, Imprint Shoe Freezer, Imprint Hoof Repair (low temperature melt thermoplastic with similar flex as hoof) Imprint Sport front shoes (composite mould on work shoes) steel hind shoes, No 6 nails. Surgical spirit.

X-rays All feet were x-rayed prior to AP's first visit. Both lateromedial (LM) and dorsopalmer (DP) perspectives were taken. Only the LM images are illustrated here as the DP images added little to the narrative, although they were useful for trimming reference.

The LF LM radiograph (Fig 1) revealed no phalangeal rotation but did show capsular flaring and laminal stretching towards the distal border of the hoof. The sole was flat with the pedal bone (P3) low in the foot. In effect, this was vertical displacement, although relatively mild, likely to be so due to the shallow conformation of the feet. Provided the horse was provided with something firm beneath his feet, further sinking was likely to be limited. Bearing in mind that this horse is 17hh, this may have been his saving grace. As is usually the case, in the early stages of laminitis, external evidence of laminal trauma was minimal other than some historical staining of



Fig 2. Right front (RF) lateromedial image

the sole and wall, but the level of lameness was at its height. At a later date, the magnitude of the condition would be graphically displayed.

Clinically the foot appeared to be out of balance on all planes; the lateral toe flaring while the medial wall was low and crumbling on the quarter. The toe was dumped and squared off. The hooves being non-pigmented revealed bruising to the quarters on all feet. The RF foot was in a similar condition

The RF radiograph (Fig 2) was clinically similar to the LF. So, when it came to treatment there was no priority as to which foot needed attention first. As always, points of reference were marked on the sole prior to any trimming, marking how far to trim. The x-ray defines bony tissue and horn, but does not highlight vascularity, so when trimming such cases, it is astute to trim with caution as the mark is approached. Gut feelings – experience – should be taken notice of. The integrity of the lower hoof needs to be respected in the early stages of laminitis; it is a fine line to walk, but heeding this may save the patient from unnecessary suffering. Comfort takes priority in these cases.

Radiographs of all four feet showed the left hind (LH) was in the best condition (Fig 3), there was no rotation or sinking of P3 only excess toe both vertically and horizontally, with a mediolateral discrepancy. The feet were due for re-shoeing, so all this foot needed was a decent trim, taking more off the toe and setting the shoe back under the toe to resolve the broken back hoof pastern axis (HPA) and restore more ideal functionality.

Right hind (RH) radiograph (Fig 4). This foot had really run away, an over long toe, divergent laminal wedge and broken back HPA were creating multiple unwanted forces, leverage at the toe and serious overload at the heels as well as increased flexor tension, which in turn creates unhelpful pressure in the navicular region. Drop a line from the centre of articulation of the distal interphalangeal articulation and see the great disparity of ground bearing surface forward of that point relative to what was behind it.

In the vast majority of cases, in an attempt to treat most pathologies, farriers aim to trim the hoof around the orientation of P3 as much as is practically possible, to attain ideal foot balance on all planes, centralised ground bearing and a straight HPA. This is such a case that could get complicated due to the imbalance and complication of laminitis. There will always be exceptions, but the KIS – keep

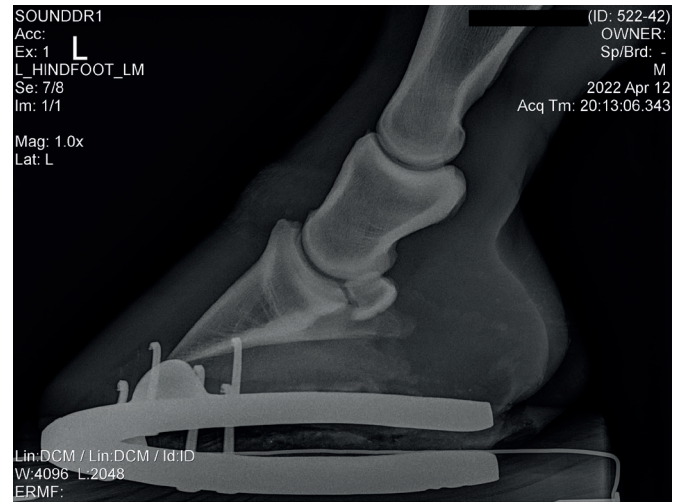


Fig 3. Left hind (LH) lateromedial image

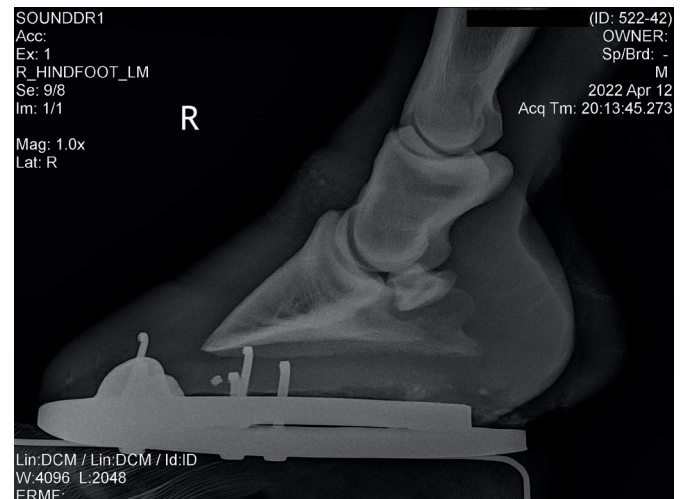


Fig 4. Right hind (RH) lateromedial image

it simple – principle is operative here and proved to be true in this case. The use of reference points such as nails and clips are helpful when deciding how far to trim. The stretched white line at the toe externally was a further indicator of excess needing removal. As with the LH, the RH needed similar treatment only more radical trimming to achieve the same end.

Farriery treatment

The main focus in this case study was the feet, their trimming balancing and recovery, patient management and the materials used to achieve this. Hopefully the reader will find this refreshingly straightforward and simple.

Only once the x-rays were taken was laminitis confirmed. The horse was immediately confined to box rest.

First visit, 13 April 2022

Front feet The front shoes had been removed the day before for x-ray purposes. The horse was tender on his feet but stood relatively normally. He was apprehensive and a little sharp, so he was sedated for everyone's wellbeing.

- The front feet were trimmed and shod taking reference from the x-rays as described above. In addition to the Imprint First Shoe, Imprint Hoof Repair plastic was added to the

medial hoof walls to make up for the deficit of natural hoof thereby re-attaining lateromedial foot balance.

- The all-important frogplate was augmented extended more toward the apex of the frog, well past the centre of articulation, three-dimensionally moulded to create a 'frog cradle'.
- The point of breakover was reduced via the rolled toe and the web of the shoe bridging the sole, protecting it from direct impact.
- The shoe can be set under the toe as far as is required, which is apparently a welcome surprise to a number of farriers and vets.
- By maintaining open and clear access to the sole helps keep it dry and hard. In cases where the sole has prolapsed and there is an open wound then access for treatment is there. A snap fit hospital plate can quickly be made if required.
- The Imprint First (Aid) shoe is the hospital shoe specifically designed for this purpose, completely adaptable, but not for work, the Imprint Sport shoe, which is durable can and did follow the First shoe as the patient was allowed more freedom.



As is often the case, once a shoe was fitted, then the horse began to relax finding comfort and relief from sole elevation and frog support. So the second shoe is usually easier to fit in such situations. Both feet were treated similarly, bearing the subtleties of trimming relative to the x-rays.

Hind feet As the patient was to be confined to box rest until next visit six weeks later and he had good healthy frogs, the hind shoes were removed and the feet trimmed with reference to the x-rays. Much excess toe can safely be removed, provided there is adequate horn to stand on in the toe quarters.

Initial result

As the patient had been sedated for the treatment he was still partially under the influence of the drugs but coming out enough to be happy to take a walk about; he was surprisingly mobile even when turning in a tight circle, certainly a marked initial improvement. Being a 17hh horse in this condition one would expect a much more fragile patient. Stoic or a high pain threshold, who knows?

When advising owners of aftercare, the author often describes the feet as being delicate like cracked eggs in an attempt to impress on them the fragility of the situation. Unfortunately, many people only take notice of external visual signs until the horse takes a turn for the worse.

Second visit

The patient was moving well and looked comfortable in the Imprint First shoes. In fact, as he looked so well, the owner wanted to get on and begin some light work to help him burn some calories. The front feet were shod with the Imprint Sport shoes and steel hind shoes were nailed on.

Third visit (27 June 2022)

The horse was going so well that on the third visit the possibility of entering a dressage competition was discussed.

The previous laminal trauma and sole bruising had then reached the surface in the fore feet appearing quite graphic along with somewhat bulging soles. With this in view the competition aspirations were reined back. The horse was reshod as before and, despite the delicate condition of his feet, he remained completely comfortable.

Fourth visit (25 July 2022)

Shoeing went well, until 6 August when the horse showed lameness in the RF. This was monitored, work eased off and lameness faded out.

Subsequent shoeings went fine while the horse was in light work. In January 2023, he was intermittently lame on the RF when turning, although level in a straight line. In February evidence of an historical small infection in the medial heel of the RF was found. Lameness evaporated. As the feet were naturally low medially, to counter this the Imprint sport shoes were rasped around the lateral branch, similar as to a sidebone shoe to compliment footfall and balance. In the earlier days' extra material was added to the medial branch but as the feet improved it seemed good to reduce the lateral side instead.

Conclusion

As it takes approximately a year to grow a new hoof, to bring the case up to date, the horse was shod last on 9 May 2023 and has entered two dressage competitions and one combined training, in which he won all three! Patience has paid off.

This is clearly good news for a horse of this size and age who has navigated a tricky path and emerged a winning athlete. In the experience of the author this is not an isolated instance. As with many horses dogged by lameness there are commonly a number of issues that need addressing to effect a complete remedy.



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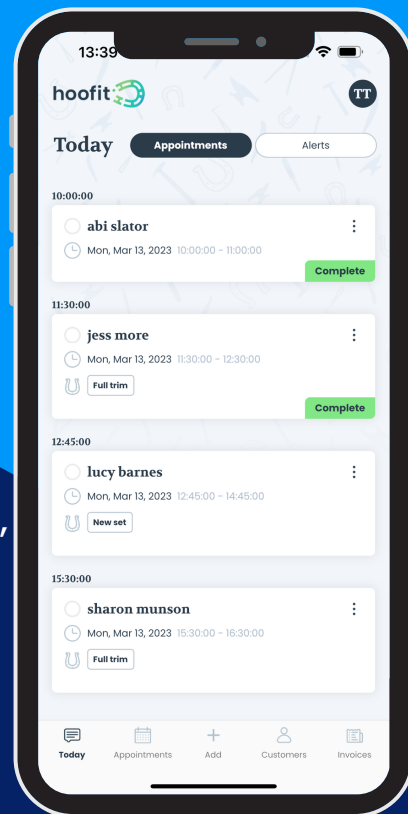
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For more information on how you can get involved with this fantastic scheme, get in touch with the team at Stromsholm via 01908 233909 or sales@stromsholm.co.uk

For more information on nutrition and applications for healthy hooves, please contact NAF's FREE Nutritional Advice Line on 0800 373 106 or email info@naf-uk.com

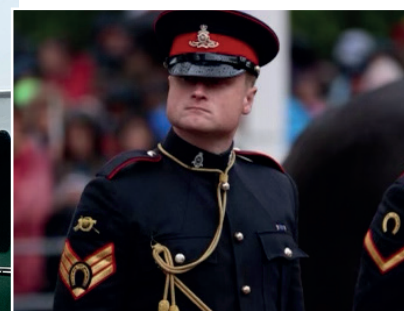
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Farriers at the coronation

Liveryman Sergeant Stuart Wyss, AWCF, (right) took part in the Coronation and provided this photograph of the horses in their temporary accommodation at Regent's Park barracks



The coronation of Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort on 6 May was the largest military ceremonial operation for 70 years, according to forces.net

Every element of the military was represented in two processions that accompanied King Charles III and Queen Camilla to and from Westminster Abbey where the Coronation service took place; an RAF flypast concluded official events.

Horses had a key role and the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment had to exercise the horses at the crack of

dawn 'to get rid of any over-exuberance'. Around 250 military working horses were involved in processions throughout the day: 171 from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and 78 from The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.

The Diamond Jubilee State Coach, pulled by six horses, carried their Majesties to Westminster Abbey; however, eight horses – Icon,

Shadow, Milford Haven, Newark, Echo, Knightsbridge, Meg and Tyrone – were required for the return trip to the palace, pulling the heavier Gold State Coach.

On the return trip, Past Master The Princess Royal rode behind the King and Queen, performing the role of Gold Stick in Waiting, a symbolic bodyguard for the royal couple.

Appleby Horse Fair welfare awards

The annual Gypsy Roma and Traveller gathering Appleby Horse Fair took place in June. Nine animal charities – members of the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) – sent staff to the fair to support the protection and wellbeing of horses, and to present awards that recognise the very best welfare at the event.

Andie McPherson, co-ordinator of Appleby Horse Fair Equine Welfare Project, said: 'The award winners were chosen either by our longstanding, committed vets at the fair or one of our invited experts. This year we were supported again by leading farrier and educator Dean Bland who found our Best Hoof Health and Best in Harness winners.'

'The most prestigious awards were announced on Sunday, after all the vets agreed on an overall Vet's Choice Champion and the Best at Appleby social media votes were counted for the People's Choice Champion. The awards give us the chance to put focus on the passionate horsemanship and high welfare standards at the Fair which often get overshadowed by the relatively few welfare cases.'

The Vets' Choice Award went to Lemon, owned by Craig and Sophie (pictured right), while the People's Choice Award went to Sundance Kid, owned by Liam and family, whose post had over 500 likes and a reach of over 17,000 across the Best at Appleby Facebook and Instagram pages. A TikTok account that was created for the competition for the first time this year had almost 45,000 views in one week.



How ageing may contribute to tendon injuries

New research from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) has identified the different cell populations in horses' tendons and established which cells are most affected by ageing. These findings will help develop a better understanding of why older horses (and people) are more prone to tendon injuries and inform future treatments.

Tendons connect muscle to bone and are essential for skeletal movement. However, tendons are prone to injury, both in people and horses, and the risk of injury increases with ageing. The cells within tendons are responsible for maintaining tendon structure by repairing any damage within the tendon. The main type of cells in tendons are called tenocytes, which are well-researched yet, little is known about other types of cells present and how they are affected by ageing.

Lead researcher, Dr Chavaunne Thorpe, Lecturer in Basic Sciences at the RVC and her post-doctoral research associate Dr Danae Zamboulis, alongside Professor Peter Clegg at the University of Liverpool, Professor Hazel Screen at Queen Mary University of London and Professor Helen Birch at University College London, set out to identify the different cell populations in horses' superficial digital flexor tendon, similar in function to the human Achilles tendon, and discover which are most affected by ageing. They used a technique called single cell RNA sequencing to identify the different cell types in superficial digital flexor tendons from both young and old horses.

In total, the research team identified 11 different types of cells. This included several different populations of tenocytes as well as cells associated with blood vessels and the immune system. Findings concluded that one tenocyte population, and one blood vessel-associated population were particularly affected by ageing, with an altered ability to maintain tendon structure and respond to injury in these cell types.

Identifying and characterising the different cell populations and establishing their function in healthy tendons is the first step to understanding how altered cell function contributes to age-related tendon injury. This work will allow the



development of treatments for tendon injury targeted at those cells affected most by ageing.

Reference

Danae E. Zamboulis , Neil Marr , Luca Lenzi , Helen L. Birch, Hazel R. C. Screen , Peter D. Clegg , Chavaunne T. Thorpe. The Interfascicular Matrix of Energy Storing Tendons Houses Heterogenous Cell Populations Disproportionately Affected by Ageing. *Aging and disease*. 2023 <https://doi.org/10.14336/AD.2023.0425-1>

The full paper is available here: <http://www.aginganddisease.org/EN/10.14336/AD.2023.0425-1>

RESULTS OF SURVEY INTO IMPACT OF COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS REVEALED

The results of a cost of living survey conducted by a group of equine welfare charities and organisations were revealed at the end of June. More than 8000 responses were received, showing that almost 20% of horse owners said they are having to consider difficult decisions such as selling their horse, sharing their horse or, sadly, having to euthanase their horse because of rising costs.

The data suggested that many owners are prioritising caring for their horses over caring for themselves. Just under 20% of respondents said they had cut expenditure on horse care, while almost 50% said they had cut expenditure in other areas of their life to help pay for their horses' care.

A second survey, conducted by World Horse Welfare on behalf of NEWC, asked equine welfare establishments about their experiences. Almost half (50%) of the 36 centres that completed the survey report that they will minimise the number of equines they take in and implement stricter selection criteria for these equines, with just under 25% saying that they will stop taking in new equines altogether.

- Both reports can be found at <https://newc.co.uk/equine-col-surveys/>
- Advice for horse owners on Cutting Costs Not Care can be downloaded for free from the NEWC website.

OBITUARY

Alan Bailey AFCL

‘The UK and worldwide farriery has lost a true legend’

Mark Caldwell FWCF PhD said on Facebook: ‘Alan Bailey AFCL sadly passed away after a short illness. Alan leaves behind his beloved wife Christine with whom he had retired to Spain just a few short years ago.

He also leaves a legacy of training, mentorship, friendship and inspiration with all of those who had the privilege of knowing him in any capacity. A whole generation of great UK farriers were inspired by his passion for farriery and more so for teaching. Alan was the creator of modern farriery curriculum during his time at Hereford and, later, Warwick colleges. He will be sadly missed.

Jonathan Nunn added: Alan Bailey (in the middle of the photo on the right) was a farrier tutor at Hereford College and Warwickshire College. He had worked in Staffordshire in his early years at EJA Frost in Eccleshall and his uncle, Vic Bailey, was also a well known Staffordshire farrier. This photo was taken around 1989 by me of my group



Kelvin Lymer posted this photograph of Alan saying: ‘[he was among] the best farriery lecturers who influenced a generation [as someone] who introduced a way of teaching by dissection, which was ahead of the time and made not only me but a generation of farriers to always ask why, and he became a great friend’



10L and we were taught by Alan. He was a great man who gave a lot to farriery.

- Forge is keen to publish an obituary, marking Alan’s contribution to farriery. Please email your memories to forge.bfba@gmail.com

HOOFSEARCH

THE INDEX OF NEW PEER-REVIEWED EQUINE RESEARCH

HoofSearch was a double finalist in the recent American Horse Media Awards.

Fran Jurga said she was honoured to announce the news and excited to be included among a prestigious list of professionals.

The awards recognise publications, websites, journalists, book publishers, media producers, and others for achievements in the previous year.

She explained: ‘The art and photos on HoofSearch covers are a way to soften up the science and research content inside the reports. While the content is usually related to hooves, sometimes a bit of horse art sneaks its way onto the cover.

The awards were announced at the American Horse Publications annual awards ceremony held in Tempe, Arizona, as part of the group’s annual conference. ‘One of the Family’ (top right) was awarded second place in the Self-Supported Equine Media Cover Award.

The image, by Frederick George Cotman, was used courtesy of the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. The gallery originally purchased the painting as a display for the people from the city who visited the museum. Fran says: ‘Little did the

museum know how beloved this piece would become all over the world; it has been praised as a symbol of kindness to animals. (Notice the dog at the dinner table as well as the horse poking his head through the door.)’

‘Trust’ was painted by Canadian wildlife artist Michael Dumas Artist. Michael came in from the wilds to paint this scene at a ploughing match, showing a draft horse seeming to intentionally refrain from putting his very heavy hoof down on top of some sparrows who are probably foraging bits of grain that fell from his lips. I found this image completely by accident on Facebook and must thank whichever of my friends originally shared it, and also thank Michael for his generosity and for being such a pleasant collaborator.’

‘Thank you to everyone who supports, likes, follows, and shares the mission of HoofSearch to curate the monthly index of newly published hoof-related lameness research and related equine lameness studies. It is a pleasure to be friends and work with all of you, and be a small part of the work you do for horses.’



‘ONE OF THE FAMILY’ BY FREDERICK GEORGE COTMAN, FROM THE WALKER ART GALLERY, LIVERPOOL, (UK)



‘TRUST’ BY CANADIAN WILDLIFE ARTIST MICHAEL DUMAS, FOUND ON FACEBOOK AND LOVED AT FIRST SIGHT.

SHOW STATEMENT**SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY INTRODUCES FOOT INSPECTIONS AT 2023 AFFILIATED SHOWS**

To protect the welfare of Shire horses, the Shire Horse Society operates shoeing standards, which are set out in a document titled, 'Minimum Acceptable Shoeing Standards for Shire Horses'.

The Standards describe the importance of a well-balanced foot and set out minimum acceptable shoeing practices for the welfare of the Shire horse. The document also includes illustrations of incorrect shoeing that could be harmful to the horse and makes clear that 'anything deemed to compromise the welfare of the animal is not negotiable'.

The Standards have been in place for many years and were reviewed and updated in 2017, in co-operation with the WCF, the FRC, the RSPCA, the Society's Honorary Farrier, Stephen Gowing AWCF and the Society's Honorary Veterinary Surgeon, Ben Ryder-Davies BSc, BVM&S, MRCVS.

Also for many years, the Society has carried out foot inspection at its own National Show, held in March each year, to check compliance with the Standards. Inspection takes place before horses enter the ring, and horses that do not comply are not permitted to be exhibited. The Society's Honorary Farrier, or another highly qualified and experienced farrier, carry out the inspection. This is separate to and different from judging for Best Shod in classes; judging for this takes place in the ring under a different farrier.

From 2023, by agreement of the Society's Council, foot inspections are also taking place at selected Affiliated Shows, at which horses can qualify for the Society's annual Championship, which is held at the Horse of the Year Show.

The inspections are for in-hand entries at a selection of Affiliated Shows. They began in May with the Staffordshire County Show and the Suffolk Show.

At the Staffordshire County Show, Grant Moon FWCF, acting as foot inspector on behalf of the Society, found several horses in the in-hand classes that did not meet the minimum criteria in the Shoeing Standards. For example, he found large medial and lateral toe flares on front feet and large lateral flares on hind feet, potentially leading to laminal stretching and stresses upon the limbs. These horses were barred from being exhibited. At the Suffolk Show, Stephen Hill FWCF, also acting for the Society, found that all in-hand entries met the Standards.

There are more foot inspections to come at Affiliated Shows this season. Because these are spot checks, the Society is not announcing in advance how many or which shows will be involved.

- The full document 'Minimum Acceptable Shoeing Standards for Shire Horses' is available to download from the Shire Horse Society's website: www.shire-horse.org.uk/forms/ (scroll down the page to find the document).



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QEST scholarship for harness maker

Kieran Forsyth, a harness and collar maker from Ross-shire in Scotland, has been awarded a 2023 QEST Scholarship to help him to learn more about his craft.

Kieran is a Master Saddler and Qualified Saddle Fitter registered with the Society of Master Saddlers. He served 25 years in the British Army as a musician in both the Irish Guards and Blues and Royals, and began his training a saddler while in the Blues and Royals. He left the regulars in 2013 and began his civil career as a saddler in the Highlands of Scotland. He continues his service in the Army Reserve and serves as the Master Saddler and Trumpet Major for the Scottish and Northern Irish Yeomanry. Kieran is one of the last two people who make the traditional Highland pony deer saddles, the other person being his partner Jocelyn Danby, and together they are helping to keep



this particular part of Scottish traditional saddlery alive.

With his 2023 QEST Scholarship Kieran will receive training in harness making and collar making from two highly respected Master Harnessmakers, Mark Romain MBE and John MacDonald, who will help him develop his existing saddlery skills and increase the types of saddlery he can offer to the equestrian community of Scotland. There is a shortage of harness makers in Scotland, and there are no collar makers, which limits the options for driving enthusiasts who have to rely on old and scarce harnesses and must travel far down south to find a collar maker.

- The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) offers Scholarships of up to £18,000 for the training and education of talented craftspeople. Its aim is to support vital skills

in traditional and contemporary crafts and contribute to excellence in the British craft industry. <https://www.qest.org.uk/>

Fatal risks of hay contamination by sycamore

By the British Equine Veterinary Association

The British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), has been warning farmers of the danger of cutting hay from pastures contaminated with sycamore seedlings and saplings. An explosion in the growth of the seedlings this spring caused a rise in cases of the potentially fatal equine disease atypical myopathy.

Seeds ('masts' or 'helicopters') and saplings of the common sycamore tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) produce a toxin called Hypoglycin A, which can remain present in high concentrations in seedlings. When horses eat these, either by accident or because they are lacking other forage options, some individuals will develop severe and often fatal muscle damage, called atypical myopathy.

Horses are most commonly affected in the autumn, when inadvertently eating the seeds on sparse pastures. However, last autumn bumper quantities of toxin-laden sycamore seeds were produced. These are now sprouting in numerous places, including on equine pastures and hay fields, causing an alarming second rise in cases of atypical myopathy.

BEVA has been urging farmers who are cutting grass for hay to identify pastures at risk; while these will largely be those with sycamore trees in, or bordering the fields, the fruits can travel hundreds of metres, thus could also be impacting fields further away. While herbicides can be effective in preventing further growth, the toxin will remain in dead saplings unless removed. Farmers are strongly advised to avoid selling hay cut from affected pastures to horse owners.



BEVA President David Rendle said: 'By raising awareness of the risks of contaminated hay being fed to horses BEVA is hoping farmers will be able to identify any sycamore saplings within the crop while the grass length enables them to be seen. Sheep and cattle can also be affected by the toxin at very high levels but ruminants are more resistant to the toxin than horses. We are urging farmers to check their fields now and to discuss the risks from sycamores with their local equine veterinary practice if they need any further advice.'

For further information download the Royal Veterinary College's fact sheet on Atypical myopathy: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/Comparative%20Neuromuscular%20Diseases%20Laboratory/Atypical%20Myopathy%20fact%20file%20updated%202022.pdf>

For further information visit www.beva.org.uk.

WORLD-RENOWNED LEADER IN LAMINITIS RESEARCH, CHRIS POLLITT TO FEATURE AT 2023 SARATOGA VET & FARRIER CONFERENCE

Professor Chris Pollitt is making his final North American speaking engagement at the Saratoga Vet & Farrier Conference, which will be held in Saratoga Springs, New York, from September 27 to 30.

Professor Pollitt has dedicated his life's work to furthering scientific research and education on the equine foot with a special focus on laminitis. He is the author of two reference books on the equine foot, including 'The Color Atlas of the Horse's Foot' (1995) and 'The Illustrated Horse's Foot' (2015), both published by Elsevier.

Professor Pollitt is the founder of the Australian Equine Laminitis Research Unit at the University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science, which has been a world leader in equine laminitis research since the mid-1990s.

On Saturday, September 30, conference-goers will be able to sign up for a very special wet lab led by Dr Pollitt and Dr Andrew van Eps, who will be working side-by-side to



bring conference attendees an exclusive opportunity. Spaces for the wet lab will be limited.

Professor Pollitt said: 'I am so excited to be speaking at the 2023 NAEP Saratoga Vet & Farrier Conference. This is particularly poignant as it may be the last time I am able to visit old friends and new in the USA. I am especially looking forward to the wet lab with my Aussie colleague Dr van Eps; we have lots of new and interesting discoveries to share with you. See you in September.'

Among the conference speakers, Professor Renate Weller will discuss what mechanical options are available to practitioners? She will explore what can and can't be changed when it comes to equine locomotion, forces and their distribution on the different structures in the equine leg?

In an interactive session, she will demonstrate how to evaluate the validity of claims made in relation to podiatry products and what research tells us about biomechanical shoeing.

- The conference organiser – the Northeast Association of Equine Practitioners (NAEP) – is offering early bird registration until 1 August. **Register online at <https://thenaep.com/event/saratoga2023>**. For more information, email info@thenaep.com

In brief



Proud boss Ben Benson said: 'There aren't many days where we get to celebrate our personal accomplishments and achievements...seeing my apprentice become Ross Johnstone DipWCF gaining not only his qualification but a distinction in his oral examination was amazing.'



'WW1 Army Service Corps Farrier'. Jarvis Browning RSS is pictured at the 'Horses in Harness' event, which was held on 10 and 11 June at Beamish, the world famous open air museum that brings the history of North East England to life. Jarvis raised £452 for the Wagoner's Special Reserve museum. His next display is at the Royal Logistic Corps museum at Worthy Down, near Winchester, between the 11-13 August. Why not stop by for a chat or give him a hand!

NEW STUDY INTO THE EFFECTS OF CUSHING'S DISEASE IN HORSES AND PONIES



A study that will explore the effects of pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID), commonly known as equine Cushing's disease, in adult and older horses and ponies in the UK, has been launched by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), in partnership with CVS Group.

The study aims to better understand the impact of the disease on horses' and ponies' quality of life and is hoped to improve monitoring and decision-making regarding treatment of the disease.

PPID is a common hormone disease, usually experienced by older equines. Affecting approximately 25% of horses and ponies over the age of 15 years, it has several associated clinical symptoms that can impact quality of life, including the painful hoof condition laminitis, as well as weight loss and lethargy.

Due to the nature of these symptoms, owners may mistake some of these clinical signs as being associated with ageing. Additionally, when diagnosed, owners are often required to provide increased physical care and greater cost, both of which can carry an emotional burden for them.

The study seeks to develop a validated equine quality of life tool to objectively assess the impact of the condition on an individual horse's quality of life. This will help support decision-making related to treatment and/or euthanasia options for horses and ponies diagnosed with PPID.

The research team, which will be led by Aline Bouquet, supported by Professors Nicola Menzies-Gow and Christine Nicol, is asking horse and pony owners to complete an online survey, providing much-needed data for the initial development of the tool.

Once developed, the tool will be used in a study involving more than 100 horses recently diagnosed with PPID and will follow these horses over a two-year period, observing the impact of the disease and its treatment on their quality of life.

Participants can have horses and ponies with PPID as well as those without the condition and must be older than 10 years of age. The survey will take no longer than 15 minutes to complete, providing an assessment of the animal's quality of life, clinical signs associated with PPID and any additional veterinary-related problems.

Owners who wish to participate can sign up for the study at: <https://rvc.uk.com/PPID-survey-2023-stage1>

More information about the study can be found at: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/projects/objective-assessment-of-the-quality-of-life-of-equines-with-pituitary-pars-intermedia-dysfunction>

WCF AWARDS

Congratulations to the successful farriers

Rutland County Show: Best Shod Award

Farrier Andrew Bagnall DipWCF

Judge Russell Jones DipWCF

Horse Bromford Lady Isabelle (heavy horse section)

Owner R G Rawlins

Royal Cornwall Show: Best Shod Award

Farrier Clint Rowe DipWCF

Judge Nigel Perrott DipWCFHons

Horse Yeoman of the Guard (heavyweight hunter)

Owner Julie Warne

Staffordshire County Show: Farriery Awards

Judge Billy Crothers AWCF

Silver Medals were awarded to Toby Pedley AWCF and Charles Hughes AWCF

Apprentice Bronze Medals were awarded to

1st/2nd Year Charlie Pimblott

3rd/4th Year Oscar Wood



Philip Grob, a blacksmith from Wiltshire has installed these new handrails at Farley Hospital, a beautiful 17th century aims house, which is being bought back to life. On Facebook, he explained that the job was stones throw from home and he even got his wife to help with the fitting, 'the lucky girl'! <https://farleyhospital.org/about/>



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