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*Forge* is the official magazine of BFBA

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

- **Could a modified shoe aid the recovery of collapsed heels?**  
*By Rob Rigby FdSc, BSc (Hons), DipWCF*

- **Research round up**



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[www.eurofarrier.org](http://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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Contributions in the form of articles, reports, letters and photographs are welcomed.



# President's address

Is it just me who feels the year has accelerated at a rate of knots? It doesn't feel that long ago it was March! Now, the International Team Horseshoeing Championship is just around the corner.

It seems to me that societal intolerance is rife on social media (and even increasing – you decide). Many farriers appear to share posts highlighting either that they or others in the industry are at breaking point, with posts highlighting injuries sustained from unruly or ill-mannered horses, to substantial outstanding debts owed to them.

How did we get here?

From the dawn of time there has always been bartering and dealing and accounts held in trading. So accounts have always been in place, but we now seem to be being squeezed by poor cash flow or slow paying clients. Does this go hand in hand with the attitude of some horse owners who don't seem to want to spend money on important things. We live in an age where we know how horses should be cared for and what is important for their long-term health, yet some appear to choose a riding lesson a week or a new saddle over having a sound and healthy horse that benefits from regular hoof care and teeth/vet care. One of my yards reported that a client said that they would rather have their two lessons a week as the horse was 'sound enough for now' and they would 'cross that bridge when they had to'.

It also seems to be harder than ever to combat the ignorance of some horse owners or the voices that preach misinformed ideology. Social media seems to give stupidity a soap box and then, in the spirit of inclusion, we end up respectfully and politely countering it. Unfortunately, some individuals won't respect our opinion (if it disagrees with theirs).

Julian Treasure said that 'listening creates understanding' as 'it is only possible if we actually understand each other's points of view and arguments, even if we disagree with them. Conscious listening always creates understanding.'

I feel this is true and, importantly, in our fast-paced world it feels society is pushing us all to deliver a ridiculous schedule of service for clients at the expense of other clients or ourselves!

We all need time out to gain perspective. Just like our knives and rasps that we stop to sharpen, we must see our health (both physical and mental) as needing time off to relax, refresh and reboot. Sometimes we need to put ourselves first and turn off the phone and enjoy our family, friends and what amazing things we have in our lives!

The association is picking up pace now on the countdown to **BFBA Focus**. We have had a major breakthrough and have confirmed dates for the next three year's events, so we can all pencil them in our diaries and take the time to stop and do something for ourselves – recharging our skill batteries and our knowledge banks.

Focus is a great social event too, offering an opportunity to pick up and look at new products on the market. This year our speakers are well-respected worldwide. We have both international and UK speakers on topics that we will all learn a great deal from that we can use in our own practices.

I was proud to be able to represent the BFBA at the Royal Welsh Show again this year in Builth Wells. It is an amazing show with a huge attendance, yet it remains a real agricultural



event, with all types of stock and horses shown during the week. The forge sits in a fabulous position, on a small hill overlooking the showground and its impressive main ring.

The farriery competition is well run Chief Steward Elgan Harries (having recently taken over from long-term head steward Terry Anthony).

The show was very well supported and the two-man competition really gave the event a special feel. I also managed to brush off the cobwebs and speak Welsh in the prizegiving! Being a Welshman living in England for the past 25 years has reduced my ability to speak the language. I was able to (hopefully) hold my head up and not let my fellow countrymen down – no-one seemed to cringe too much when I spoke, so I will take that as a good enough victory!

It was great to see Ryan McDonald win the national championship and to win again with Ross Johnstone in the pairs. Ross did his apprenticeship with me and Ryan is also part of my team, having worked with us for the past year, which made it a really special award ceremony (pictured above).

On BFBA matters, now we also have seen new members join the Executive Committee (EC). **Aaron Myall DipWCF** was voted onto the EC at the AGM, having been a co-opted member for six months, and he has also now taken on the role of BFBA Treasurer. Aaron is a real asset to the EC. In order to manage the ever-growing roles and work of the BFBA, we need to make sure that we have the best people on the team. **Huw Dyer AWCF** has done a great job as Treasurer and takes on the Vice Treasurer role as he continues to lead our application for charitable status.

The EC has co-opted two new members onto the board. **Charlie Dyson AWCF** from Dorset, and **Jason Sim AWCF** from Aberdeen, have been part of various committees already. This gives both sides a chance to 'get a feel' for each other and the role on the EC. Being co-opted gives them time to become a working member of the committee and, hopefully, they will put themselves forward for election as full members.

If you would like to be part of the EC or even be a part off the team then please either get your local Branch to put you forward or get in touch with the Head Office and start the conversation.

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

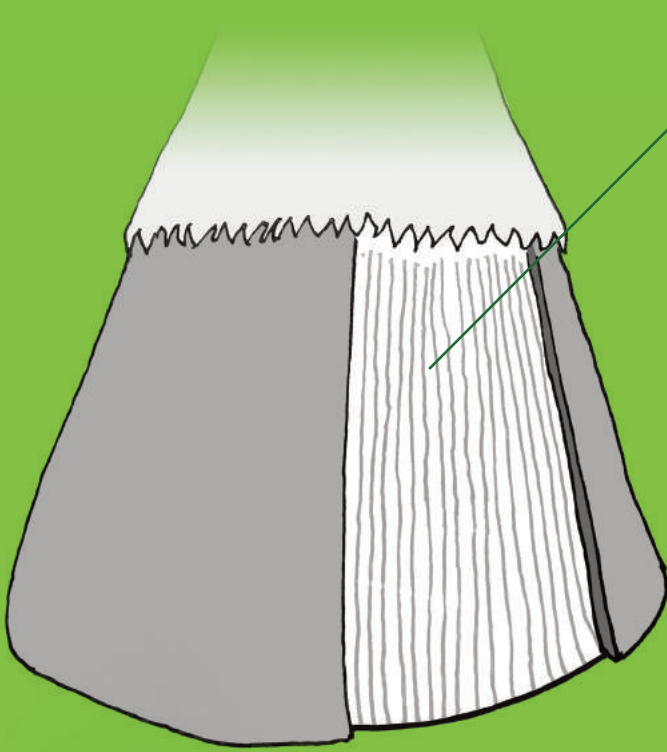


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# BFBA FOCUS 2023

*Updated*

## 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	▶ Flexural deformities: prevention and treatment
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	▶ MRI diagnosis and farriery treatment
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

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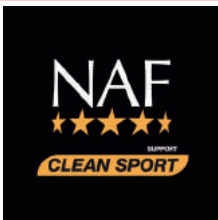
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Every penny we raise goes to those who need it and so far our charity has given over £60,000 in financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries. We continue to appeal for your help and support.

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**- SUPERB VENUE -**

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# In the September 2023 issue of *Forge Knowledge*

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

For his BSc in Farriery Science, Rob Rigby FdSc, BSc(Hons), DipWCF researched whether a modified shoe could aid the recovery of collapsed heels? After all, a long toe with under-run heels is a frequently encountered abnormal foot condition in horses, leading to issues such as navicular syndrome, chronic heel pain, bruising, coffin joint inflammation, quarter and heel cracks and interference problems. Rob looked at whether such a modified shoe could affect the forces exerted on the forefeet of horses with under-run heels over the course of the stance phase of a stride and be a potential panacea for this abnormal hoof conformation.

Research round up is an occasional section in *Forge Knowledge*, presenting summaries of some recently published research papers appearing in peer-reviewed journals from the UK and overseas.

In this issue, the papers summarised look at how changing dorsoplantar hoof balance affects a horse's stance and the frequency of facial and dental injuries incurred by farriers in the course of their work.



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# CASE STUDY: Traumatic hoof tear, treatment and restoration

By Andrew Poynton FWCF

A teenager's 15-year-old skewbald 15.2hh mare damaged her right hind foot; cause unknown. The solear tear extended from the toe to the heel quarter and had occurred 10 days before my first visit. It was thought that the mare may have had an excited gallop around her paddock and yard at night, possibly sliding and catching her foot under a stable door. The vet carried out first aid on the foot, cleaning, disinfecting and bandaging the bleeding lateral hoof wall and solear tear. The mare also had a vertical superficial quarter crack about two-thirds of the height of the wall.

The wound had been bound to prevent further tearing and was dressed, and kept clean and dry for 10 days in which time the soft tissue had scabbed over. The feet were also x-rayed to check for P3 fractures, but none were found. The mare had been on box rest since the injury.

## Materials

Imprint Original Hoof Repair (low melt temperature thermoplastic); Imprint Ultra-Fast Adhesive (methacrylate); Imprint Shoe Freezer (refrigerant aerosol); surgical spirit; Keratex Hoof Putty (antibacterial wax putty); latex gloves.

## Tools

Regular farriers hand tools, plus a 10 mm modified wood drill bit and a cordless drill.

## Treatment

At the first farrier visit in March, the veterinary surgeon attended to evaluate the wound and administer intravenous sedative to keep everyone safe while the treatment was carried out.

## Wound site preparation

All torn wall and sole was removed with hoof nippers and rasp. As the exposed laminae and solear corium were still palpably soft, extra care was taken while debriding the margins with a searcher. Surgical spirit was used to cleanse the site and then the 10 mm drilled dowel keying points about 4 mm deep were made along the margins of the compromised hoof wall to ensure a strong union and deflect any shear line when repaired.

Before filling the defect some Keratex putty was modelled over the softer vulnerable tissue to prevent direct bonding in that area. This provides clean and malleable protection that otherwise could have caused unwanted pressure, pain and even infection.

## Hoof repair

The surrounding horn, wall and sole had a thin layer of the Ultra-Fast Adhesive scribbled on and then some softened Original Imprint Hoof Repair plastic moulded onto the hoof, making up for the lost portion. The objective was to model as closely as possible the shape and thickness of the lost



Fig 1. Extent of the solear tear



Fig 2. Tear and vertical crack. Note the crack emanates from mid hoof



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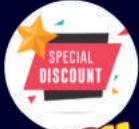
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*Fig 3. Partially debrided lesion revealing soft tissue healing well 10 days post insult*

parts, as the repair material closely assimilates the structure and function of the natural hoof. Once the desired shape was achieved, shoe freezer was slowly trickled on to cool and harden the repair. It is important to make sure that particularly the thicker parts are completely solidified before allowing the foot to bear weight, the repair should be white and cool to the touch. The adhesive should be hard in about 4 minutes, depending on the ambient temperature. The repair was checked for any voids and then a small bead of adhesive run around the margins of the repair and smoothed off. After a few minutes any rasping to tweak the finish can be done.



*Fig 4. Hoof debrided, wall keyed and Keratex putty covering the juvenile tissue*

The bonding on the sole mimicked the sole concavity with the outline having a bearing surface as the hoof wall. It extended under the hoof as far as the frog providing a good area of bonding. As at the heart of the repair there was putty, and therefore no direct bonding there, the surrounding material needed a strong union. The bonding onto the sole would last as long as the sole did not exfoliate, this would need attention at each trimming. The wall bonding can last until the material is cut or rasped out.



*Fig 5. Solear aspect of the repair mimics healthy hoof conformation*



*Fig 6. The completed repair*





Fig 7. The patient



Fig 8. Six weeks later, sole healing and hardening

## Result

A restored hoof that the mare was completely comfortable on. She was turned out in a small paddock.

## Second visit, 6 weeks

The mare had remained sound and the repair was in place. The sole part was lifting a little, due for attention. No further sedation was required.

## Treatment

The Plastic repair material was trimmed off and the Keratex

putty removed. The hoof was trimmed and debrided the area of the defect thoroughly. Surgical spirit was used after this. There was no further need for the putty as the laminal tissue had keratinised and was sound hard and insensitive, otherwise the procedure was repeated as at first visit. This would be that much stronger, having total bonding between hoof and repair.

## Result

The defect was growing out well, without complications. The mare was shod in front with steel and left unshod behind.



Fig 9. Foot prepped for repair, complete bonding is now possible as all tissue has firmed up



Fig 10. Completely bonded repair, healthy hoof growing down

### Third visit, June (12 weeks since first visit)

The repair was strong and mare sound. At this (the final visit) the hoof, along with the repair, was trimmed leaving just some small repair needed at sole level.

The mare was to be ridden lightly without hind shoes for the time being. Regular shoes could be fitted at any time during the time the hoof was growing out. Here, I have just one note of caution – don't place a hot shoe on the plastic.

The referring farrier continued with ongoing trimming as the defect was close to growing out with no problems, so there are no totally complete hoof photos to show.

This relatively simple procedure can be carried out by any competent farrier who wishes to do this type of work. As with all practical work, attention to detail is what makes the job. Where defects are repaired that only involve the hoof wall, it is likely that once the initial repair is complete, it will grow out as part of the hoof.



*Fig 11. Third and last visit at 12 weeks, hoof trimmed, repair remained in place*

## Share interesting or puzzling cases through *Forge*

Case reports are a valuable resource. Sharing details of unusual cases are a valuable source of new ideas and information that can benefit colleagues, their clients and the horses they work on. *Forge* is keen to include case reports as an open access resource for readers.

### FIRST STEPS

When coming across an interesting case, record the information by photographing the various stages and keep written or voice notes of details and dates. It may be that you want to seek the advice of another farrier on next steps. Record this too.

### GET CONSENT

Gain permission from your client if you want to use the case on social media or in print.

### GATHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Gather all the information in one place, preferably in date order.

### WRITING UP

Write up your case emphasising the interesting points, any veterinary investigations that were involved and the management of the condition. Include a prognosis if you can.

### GETTING THE TITLE RIGHT

The title provides a focus for your work. It should be concise and interesting and encourage people to read it.

### BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Research the condition you are dealing with and write a background paragraph or two. You might want to highlight the relevance of your own work. Farriery college libraries and HoofSearch can help with literature searches.

### WHY IS YOUR CASE DIFFERENT?

Many farriery case reports are focused on case management, so it can be helpful to readers to explore any difficulties you came across and include alternative options for treatment.

### CONCLUSION

Explain why your case report is important and highlight learning points.

### WRITING AN ABSTRACT

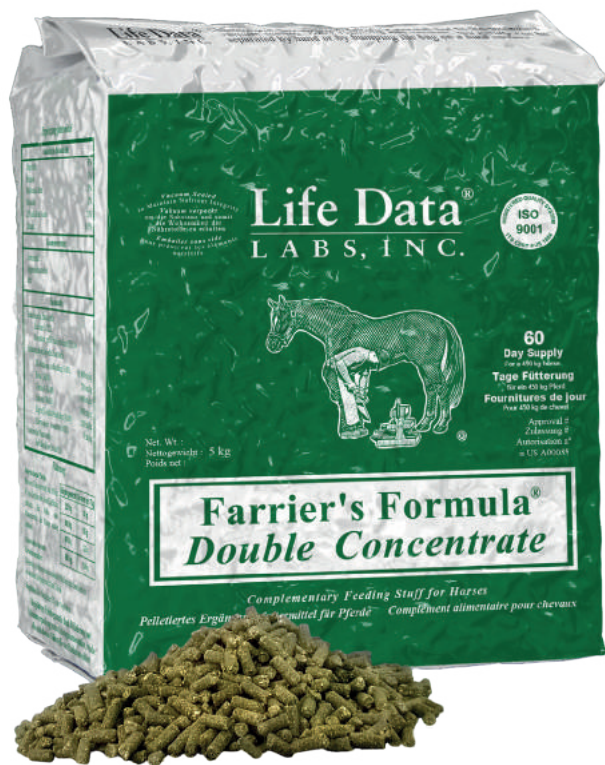
Write your abstract once you have completed the case report. Up to 200 words long, they should highlight the key points.

### WHAT ELSE?

You might want to share your report at a Branch meeting, for example. You could do this before or after submitting it for publication. Writing, recording and speaking about cases count as CPD. Record your CPD at [www.farrierycpd.org](http://www.farrierycpd.org)

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## QUICKFIRE

# Chris Gregory CJF FWCF

**Chris Gregory is an American farrier who will be speaking at this year's BFBA Focus (October 28–29).**

*Chris has been a professional horseshoer since 1987 and a farrier school operator since 1991; Chris and his wife Kelly opened the Heartland Horseshoeing School in 1995. Their graduates – more than 1000 – have gone on to shoe every discipline of horses and develop noteworthy practices. A much higher number of farriers have attended his clinics and lectures, and used and read his textbook, articles and guides.*

*Chris holds several academic degrees, including a master's degree in human resource development. He has been an American Farrier's Association (AFA) Certified Journeyman Farrier since 1991. The Association has awarded him the Jim Linzy Outstanding Clinician Award twice and Outstanding Farrier Educator Award three times.*

*As a farrier competitor, he has been a member of the American Farrier's Team, which represents the USA at the International Team Horseshoeing Competition at Stoneleigh. He has competed at the World Championships Blacksmith Competition in Calgary 18 times. 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 and became a Company Examiner.*

*He has shod horses and taught clinics on six continents, and presented numerous times at the American Farrier's Association Annual Convention and the International Hoof-Care Summit. In 2008, Chris was inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame.*

*Chris and Kelly are the proud parents of two children, Cody and Jacquelyn. In his free time, Chris enjoys spending time with his family, horseshoeing contests, writing, flying and running his farm outside Lamar, Missouri, USA.*



**If you weren't a farrier, you'd be...**A cattle rancher and a writer.

**What was your most memorable appointment with a client?** First time doing an outlaw horse for a customer in 1994 who also had another 20 that were not outlaws. Getting around the bad one resulted in a fantastic customer who I still shoe for today, 29 years later. The outlaw horse remained tough for his whole life, but we made our peace with each other. He went to his final reward, but I'm still shoeing.

**Biggest mistake you've learnt from?** Becoming close friends with customers is often a mistake and one that I have made more than once.

**Your secret weapon...**My wife. Kelly is a great farrier and a hardworking teacher who has been behind me in everything I have ever done.

**Best time saving tip...**Get good in the forge. Being able to clip, make and shape shoes efficiently is a place where a lot of farriers lose time.

**What advice would you give your younger self?** You don't have to shoe every horse in the country. Pace yourself and keep advancing your prices.

**What do you consider your Achilles heel?** My actual heel...and the rest of my ageing body. Rodeo, military, shoeing, and other risky activities have taken their toll. My body is cashing the checks that my younger self wrote.

**What is your most treasured possession?** The Bible. Taking in a little bit of the Word of God every day is something that helps me get through this world.

**What's your favourite place?** My corner office in my house. We live far enough from any of our fences that we can't see any neighbours, so I get to watch the sunrise come up every morning in a beautiful piece of the world.

**What keeps you sane?** Learning. I am always learning new things that I find interesting and fun.

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**Who's your biggest inspiration?** My dad. He grew up in the mines of Colorado and New Mexico and came from a very tough background to become extremely successful. He and my mom have been married for almost six decades and he still runs a ranch of several thousand acres in the New Mexico high desert.

**Who would you most like to thank and why?** The list is long, but I actually wrote a book to celebrate and thank the top 12 farriers who helped me to enjoy whatever bit of success I ever had. That book is called, 'For the Want of a Nail, the Shoe Was Lost', and it lists them in order of their time in my young career.

They are: Frank Turley, Mike Edwards, Danny Ward, Kevin Hatridge, Dave Showen, Jim Keith, Bob Marshall, Dusty Franklin, Sandy Beveridge, Derek Gardner, Paul Duddy and Mike Miller.

**Where are you happiest?** Home on my farm in Missouri, and I hope that all of you are happiest wherever you get to spend most of your time.



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Lateral view showing the hoof wall tear and vertical crack.



Solear view after, showing hoof sole repair completed.



Lateral view, after showing hoof wall rebuild complete.

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# WCF PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

## Apothecaries' Hall 22 June 2023

Before the presentation of certificates, the Worshipful Company of Farriers celebration began with a church service, which, on this occasion, was held at the Church of St Martin. After the service, the Beadle led the Master's procession to Apothecaries' Hall. A police horse escort was present to help to guide the guests.

At the event, nine Associateship certificates and 27 Diploma certificates were presented. The Diploma candidates

who achieved a distinction in any part of the examination held in Spring 2023 were presented with Bronze engraved medal and £50.

The ceremony was attended by Members of the WCF Court, the Farriers Registration Council, the Examinations Board, the BFBA, and college representatives. After the ceremony, refreshments were served in the courtyard of Apothecaries' Hall.



**DISTINCTION IN THE PRACTICAL**  
George Hayter DipWCF



**DISTINCTION IN THE ORAL** Ross  
Johnstone DipWCF



**DISTINCTION IN THE WRITTEN & ORAL** Harry Smith DipWCF



**DISTINCTION IN THE PRACTICAL**  
Henry Chitty DipWCF

Henry Chitty was presented with the Mike Seckington Prize, which is awarded for the best diploma practical performance. He scored 80% in the spring 2023 diploma exams. Henry attended Myerscough College. His ATF was Mr Steven Beane. He now works in the Dunstable area.



**DISTINCTION IN THE WRITTEN**  
Lewis Sutor DipWCF

Lewis Sutor was presented with the David Llewellyn Prize, which is awarded for the best diploma written paper. He gained 80% in the spring 2023 diploma exams. Lewis attended Warwickshire College. His ATF was Mr Paul Horner. He now works in the Radstock area.

**DISTINCTION IN THE PRACTICAL**  
Ian Harden DipWCF

**DISTINCTION IN THE ORAL**  
Jamie Morris DipWCF



**Cliff Barnes AWCF was awarded a WCF gold medal in recognition of his leadership of the Trailblazer Group. It was presented by Mark Watson FWCF, chair of the WCF Examinations Board, Cliff is a former BFBA president.**

*The photographs were taken by Gerald Sharp Photography. They can be view on the website <https://sharpphoto.co.uk/> in the Livery Company Gallery*





The new diplomates make their oath stating: 'I solemnly and sincerely declare that I will pursue the work of my Craft with diligence and integrity, maintain the established standards of the Farriery Profession, and accept the professional responsibilities now entrusted to me, and that my constant endeavour will be to ensure the welfare of horses committed to my care.'





# New book for those approaching the AWCF

Sarah Logie FWCF

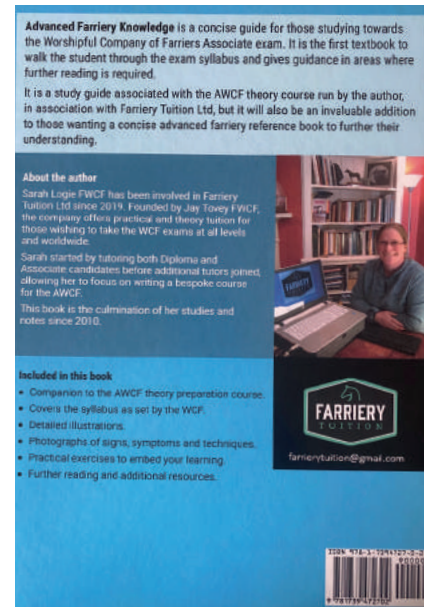
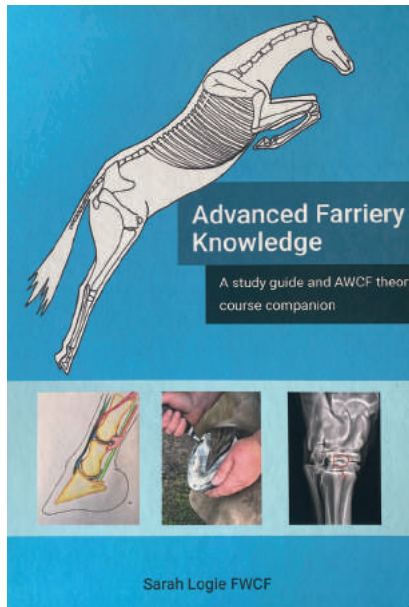
**Launched in August 'Advanced Farriery Knowledge: A study guide and AWCF theory course companion' is the first textbook of its kind. It is designed to walk AWCF students through the exam syllabus in a logical way and forms the basis of my AWCF theory course.**

When studying for the AWCF exam in 2010, I was frustrated by the lack of structured learning that was available, so I decided to create my own study notes using the syllabus and the entire reading list. Using these resources, I collated the information into revision cards.

Those cards became the start of the structure for my course which, in collaboration with Farriery Tuition, started with my first full pupil in 2021. In 2022, with an intake of eight pupils I realised that the information would be better presented in a textbook rather than PDF format and so the process of fine tuning and editing began.

The editing was aided by Jay Tovey FWCF and Cliff Barnes AWCF, resulting in the final copy being sent to Daisy Editorial in spring 2023. The brief was to ensure the layout made the book easy to read and key information highlighted so that it could be found at a glance.

The book has been praised for its accessibility and is not only a guide for those studying for the AWCF exam, but a great reference tool for those needing to put together lectures for the FWCF exam 'surprise' lecture preparation, and for vet students and practices.



ISBN 978-1-7394727-0-2

Published by Sarah Logie FWCF  
available from [www.sarahlogiefwcf.com](http://www.sarahlogiefwcf.com)  
£100 plus p&p

The book has sections for each chapter, which points readers in the direction of relevant additional resources, what diploma revision is relevant and what key notes should be taken.

Developing the course has led to additional content and 11 students from four different countries will start this year's intake in September.

## BLACKSMITHING. A GUIDE TO PRACTICAL METALWORKING, TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

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Skilled artisans at the heart of human civilisation since the Iron Age, blacksmiths gained the respect of their communities through the use of their creations, whether these were weapons, armour, farming tools, wagon axles or household items.

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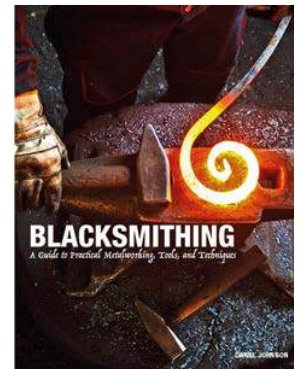
This book provides a photographic introduction to blacksmith practices, offering the novice and enthusiast an insight into this ancient craft.

'Blacksmithing' covers how to heat metal using a variety

of methods, including electric induction and traditional coal-fired forges. It also demonstrates the huge range of items that a metalworker can produce, including wrenches, shovels, door plates, bicycle stands and railings

Illustrated with 180 photographs 'Blacksmithing' is a pictorial celebration of craftspeople practising specialist metalworking techniques, such as upsetting, collaring, twisting, fullering and swaging; and understand how blacksmiths respect the environment by using old iron ore and scrap iron.

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# BFBA INTERNATIONAL TEAM HORSESHOEING COMPETITION 2023

## MEET OUR JUDGES



The senior overseas team judge is **Ben Mangan CJF**.

Ben has been a farrier for 26 years; he is based in Carthage, New York State. For the past 10 years, it has been a family-run business that he shares with his four kids.

He has been on the American Farriers Team three times and the World Blacksmiths Team once. He has won the American Farriers Association Convention Competition in 2013, 2017, 2020 and 2021 and was US National Champion. Ben won the World Classic in 2020 and the World Heavy Horse Contest in 2023.

He has been able to compete at Stoneleigh in past years and is humbled by the privilege to be asked to judge this year.

The senior team UK judge is **Andrew Casserly FWCF**

Andrew started his apprenticeship with Michael Cerullo RSS in 1974 and qualified four years later.

After 50 years in the profession, he has trained 18 apprentices, including his sons Ben and Jack, who now run the family business.

Andrew has been a keen competitor, a WCF Judge and Examiner, all of which he thoroughly enjoyed. He now has two beautiful grandchildren and another arriving in December, which he says is proving to be a wonderful new chapter of family life. He looks forward to (slightly) slowing down and spending more quality time with family.



The apprentice team judge is **Jim Hayter DipWCF Hons**.

Jim comes from a family of farriers and trained with his cousin Peter Marley. During his apprenticeship he handmade most of the shoes, which is something he has tried to keep in his business. He passed the WCF Diploma in 1994 with honours. Since then, he has trained many apprentices and enjoys teaching. Most recently, he trained his son, George.

Jim runs a busy business in East Sussex, shoeing mostly eventers hunters and some racehorses. He has always enjoyed competing at shoeing competitions as he believes they keep him sharp and his everyday standards high. He has been lucky enough to have won several Best Shods Awards, including at Badminton, Burghley and Aintree and enjoys shoeing that class of horse.



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# BFBA

## 119th Annual General Meeting



From left: Aaron Myall, Phoebe Colton, Daniel Harman AWCF GradDipELR, Abby Bunyard AWCF, Ben Benson AWCF (president), Huw Dyer AWCF (Treasurer), Sam Masters DipWCF, Craig D'Arcy FdSc AWCF (Past President), Claire Jones (National Secretary), Holly Flack (Membership Secretary)

*The AGM is an opportunity for the Association to highlight its activities over the past year.*

### President's report to the AGM

**Ben Benson:** Last year I said that I wanted to see the BFBA become even more relevant over the two years of my presidency.

With the help of the members and Executive Committee I have driven that forward. We have seen an increasing number of equine Associations and charities looking to align themselves with us. The National Equine Welfare Council, for example, worked with the BFBA in developing its cost of living survey, and we have been included in campaigns led by the British Horse Society (BHS) and equine welfare charities.

Claire Brown has done a sterling job positioning the Association so that we are the go to organisation the equine industry looks to when farriery is mentioned. I would like to thank her for her hard work in this regard.

I also wanted to get the BFBA to help educate horse owners on horse welfare issues.

There has been a huge push on social media for horses to be taken barefoot. Obviously, as more yards have surfaces to ride on (combined with a

cost of living crisis), we need to make sure that horse owners make informed and balanced choices as to how they manage their horses, not simply taking shoes off and thinking that is acceptable.

We worked with BHS Scotland to put together three webinars in February entitled 'Foot Forum', which featured farriers who were put forward by BFBA to offer advice to horse owners who were considering taking their horses barefoot and, importantly, the methodology and the limitations of it.

Over 3,000 people watched the videos and now they have been uploaded to the BHS YouTube channel, they have collectively had more than 6,000 views.

I have worked on building relationships with freelance journalists and editors of magazines such as *Horse & Hound*.

In May, I, Lucy Grieve (head of British Equine Veterinary Association education [BEVA]) and BEVA chief executive David Mountford were interviewed by *Horse & Hound* about a lack of qualifications of some barefoot trimmers practising in the UK. I was pleased to see a positive and supportive article written by the magazine as a result. It also offered a joined up message by BEVA and BFBA in which British farriery was wholeheartedly supported by BEVA. This article had a combined viewing of 45,000.

Some of our members are barefoot practitioners and I want to reiterate I am not at all against barefoot management of horses. I do, however, wish to see (for the welfare of the horse and horse owning public) that management is carried out by the best practitioners. Currently, in the UK, farriers are the only ones to have an academic qualification and industry-wide respect. I would encourage the barefoot community to become a regulated profession.

We have put on two free webinars for all farriers in the past 12 months.

One discussed the new standard of proof that the Farriers Registration Council was looking to introduce. A number of members had questions when the public consultation was launched and the webinar helped farriers to understand the issues involved.

We also held a social licence webinar presented by Roly Owers OBE of World Horse Welfare. We wanted to help farriers to understand the facts surrounding social licence.

We are pleased to see new faces coming forward for election to the Executive Committee (EC) this year. Aaron Myall joined us after helping the with Focus last year. Since then he has been involved in a number of projects over the past nine months.

Aaron becomes BFBA Treasurer and chairs the Finance Committee. Aaron has a keen eye for detail and



always gives a considered opinion. This is important, as we regularly check and challenge each other before decisions are made. I am always mindful that we are working with our member's money and goodwill.

The office team has worked hard this year, with Holly expanding Focus and helping to launch new Branches up and down the country. Claire has now got 12 months under her belt and probably feels slightly more prepared for her first morning each week as she now has a rough idea of what might turn up. We thank them for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

On the administrative side, we have started and finally agreed a heads of terms for our lease with Grandstand, which owns the site.

We wanted to secure the lease for 10 years so that we can invest in the building. For the past eight years, the landlord could have issued an immediate notice to vacate.

We also have begun the process of applying for charitable status. This will give us great security from many areas from business rates to VAT. We are going this year to move from an employers' association to become a charity and we have to have the right governance in place.

It has been a huge honour to represent this Association over the past 12 months and one that is not lost on me. Even at the end of a long day, being able to help and support members is a huge privilege and one that I do not take lightly. I will endeavour to keep pushing this Association's name and reputation to a higher level.

My wish would be to see more farriers find us relevant and join us to make our Association stronger.

## Vice President's address Abby Bunyard

Firstly, this has been my first year as Vice President, time has flown. Last year's Focus was a great success and the blade smithing competition was a massive hit. We have now secured a venue for the next three years Focus event and this is a huge weight off everyone's minds.

It's the UK's turn to host EFFA AGM. We will run this alongside Focus, bringing 40 extra people from Europe. We hope it will encourage them to come back in the future.

We will host a day of excursions followed by the AGM, a dinner and

an evening with a fun alongside the educational Focus event.

We have celebrated Farriers' Week – making people aware of expectations and the limitations of farriers.

Because our editor is leaving us, we asked our members about their magazine. It seems our profession treasures Forge magazine – and UK farriery is not ready to lose Forge just yet.

We have successfully delivered CPD events, such as the exam shoe preparation board. With a committee specially working on this, we have much to look forward.

We couldn't do without a brilliant team in the office and our volunteers. We have some new faces with fresh ideas. The Association is going from strength to strength. We encourage unity with other equine professionals and I hope you are all coming along for the journey.

## Annual accounts

The financial statements were included with the AGM pack. The annual accounts and auditors report were presented and adopted.

Likewise, the Members' Auditor's report was presented by Cliff Barnes AWCF. He confirmed that the Association's financial health was good.

## EC update

Members of the EC were invited to talk about what they had been involved in the past year and the year ahead.

**Craig D'Arcy** is now a Past-President on the EC to support Ben and the committee. Last year, he took on the role of heading the Farriery Department at Myerscough College, which had taken up a lot of time. Despite that, and some serious family illness, he remains fully supportive of the EC and has attended meetings and Focus.

**Sam Masters** had worked on the UK Fuels discount for members. Now that the forge has a lease on the forge, he will help with initiating maintenance so that the building can be improved.

**Huw Dyer** had hip surgery and back surgery during the year. Two major surgeries had given him the opportunity to work on the Association's application for charitable status.

He had also been organising the BFBA Edward Martin Cultural Exchange. The UK is hosting two American farrier

ambassadors this year – Cody Bogard and Tiffany Gardner.

He confirmed that host farriers needed to be a BFBA member but not an ATF as the farriers coming over are fully qualified and registered.

**Aaron Myall** was co-opted on to the EC in February. Since then he has been learning how the Association works and working with the team. He joined the CPD Committee and Finance Committee and sat in on Forge editorial meetings. He held zoom meetings on the topic of BFBA relevance with members from which emerged some great ideas.

**Phoebe Colton** serves on the CPD Committee and leads the members area at Focus. She attended the European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA) meeting in Prague and is looking forward to hosting the organisation as it holds its AGM in the UK during Focus.

**Daniel Harman** had spent his first full year on EC. It had been hard work and he had been amazed by the amount of decision-making involved. He recognised the hard work done by the office team and said it was great to have new faces on the EC.

His role for Focus had been to organise speakers and demonstrations. This year, the event will have a new improved lecture theatre.

He paid tribute to Danny Bennett who had done a great job setting up the CPD Committee and organising a number of good events.

As a BFBA appointee on the Farriers Registration Council (FRC) he had found it really interesting to see how the FRC works. As a profession, he believed farriers needed to be regulated even though farriers might not agree with all decisions made. His experience as a training and working farrier allowed him to put members' voices forward.

Chair of the Craft Committee **Jim Balfour** had held Zoom meetings during the year. Arrangements for this year's BFBA International Team Championship are well under way and the judges have been appointed for the National Championships. These will be held at Melton Mowbray in November. This would serve as an 'opening event' for the new forge at the Defence Animal Centre.

Editorial committee chair **Mark Aikens** was delighted to report that Forge magazine had been represented at the Hoofcare Summit.

He had grown the editorial panel to

12 with a more diverse membership and an increased number of female farriers. Younger people had also been invited to join to reflect working farriers.

The recent readership survey had resulted in a good response, finding that farriers liked their magazine. The committee would be looking at topics for content.

He reported that Forge and Forge Knowledge always welcome content for both magazines.

**CPD committee** Ben Benson AWCF explained that Danny Bennett was taking over the 'International' and had stepped down from the CPD committee.

The committee offered different types of learning, including a laminitis clog clinic; 'walk the talk', a two-day clinic to learn how to put a PowerPoint together. Learning how to lecture to your peers was amazing and the participants got feedback from each other. Such opportunities grow the family of professionals of future lecturers.

### Eastlake & Beachell insurance update

Cate Meakin, John Howe's (JH) daughter said she had worked at E&B since 2010 and explained that JH had stepped away from the day to day running of the business.

E&B had been with Hiscox for four years and the scheme was running well. In 2022, there had been 29 claims, one less than in 2021.

Most claims related to property and theft rather than injury to horse.

E&B staff Marie Beale and Cerys continue to visit the farriery training colleges to talk to apprentices about the insurances they might want to consider.

Premiums on motor insurance were increasing because the cost of claims. Sixty-three claims were made last year, two more than 2021.

E&B offers support and sponsorship where it can and provided travel insurance for students from the USA this year.

### Morrish Solicitors

Daniel Kindell explained that Morrish had acted as solicitors for the association and its members for many years. Members are entitled to half-an-hour free advice on any legal issues. He said that Morrish also deals with queries and provides representation at FRC disciplinary and licensing issues.

Morrish reported an increase in people willing to complain. Ninety per cent of matters involving FRC also involve element on annual returns, CPD and paperwork. Within a regulated industry, keeping up to date with paperwork was important, he said.

Public facing side of things is important in a regulated profession. A conviction, for example, has an impact on the industry. It is important to understand the code of conduct and comply with it. Balance of probability has come in, which means the FRC disciplinary process has abandoned the criminal burden of proof. Morrish also works with grooms and racing staff, and therefore understands equine issues.

## Equine Register enables researchers to track UK horse movements to mitigate the spread of infectious disease

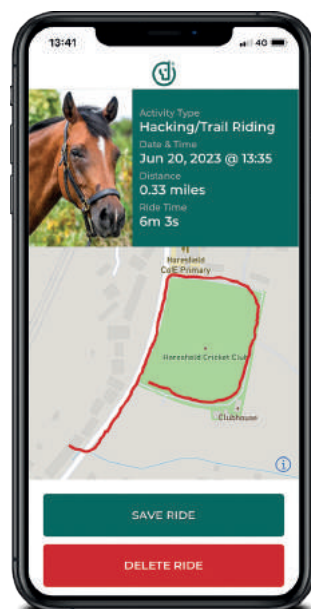
**The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is working with Equine Register to carry out a study that will help researchers understand infectious disease risks among horses.**

Data provided through new functions in the Digital Stable app will provide information about where horses travel and how they come into contact with each other.

Currently, it is challenging to understand the risks of infectious disease spread between different UK horse populations, particularly among leisure and competition horses, as there is limited information about where they travel.

Digital Stable is Equine Register's free flagship application that connects owners, riders, professionals, and those who enjoy horses and ponies for leisure with their digital records held on the Central Equine Database (CED).

The mobile app empowers individuals to manage their data, improving accuracy and biosecurity. A cornerstone of understanding the physical locations and interactions of horses and ponies in Britain is the new Record My Ride and Record My Journey functions, which allow riders to record the



routes and durations of their rides and any horse transport.

Record My Ride works similarly to exercise apps that track the performance and distance of runners, enabling riders to capture and share data while out on a horse, such as hacking on bridlepaths.

Record My Journey tracks the movement of horses and their riders when heading to an equestrian event, competition, riding school or other destination.

Using these data, the RVC team will be able to analyse anonymised movement data from the app to identify hot spots where risk of infection is highest. This will improve the understanding of how to manage risks, minimise the spread of infections, help prevent outbreaks and reduce disruption to the whole industry should an outbreak occur.

Tegan McGilvray, PhD student at the RVC, said: 'Outbreaks of equine infectious diseases impact horse health and welfare and are financially detrimental to all involved. Improving our understanding of the movement of all types of horses and ponies will allow for improvements in infectious disease mitigation and control.'

The work is funded by the Horse Trust.



# Tributes to a legend

**Tributes to a legend. Forge invited readers to send their memories of Alan Bailey AFCL and shares them here.**

**Andy Welch and family** Alan was a lovely man and a great farrier and he will be truly missed by everyone who knew him. I met Alan many years ago at Hereford College and I found him easy to get on with. When he realised you were willing to learn, he would go out of his way to help. I was shoeing a horse once with a long shaped foot when Alan came over and said: 'He's got a long foot lad, allow a bit more when you cut your steel.' He was right and I never forgot what he told me! RIP Alan – thank you for all you did for our profession.

**Steven J. Hardaker** It was with deep sadness that I read of the death of Alan Bailey AFCL. I attended Hereford Farriery College between 1981-1985 (5L) and was greatly influenced by his teaching both in the classroom and forge.

Whilst many will talk about his classroom skills one of my chief memories of him was in the forge when shoemaking. He didn't strike the steel he stroked it into shape with his hammer, never breaking sweat, a skill I never really mastered!

In our theory lessons he was able to put over in great detail the anatomy and workings of the equine limb whilst keeping us enthused with the subject.

At our graduation dinner in 1985, David Capper gave a speech thanking our lecturers one by one, highlighting each of their idiosyncrasies. On reaching AB he began: '...And on the distal extremity we have Alan Bailey', and then proceeded to describe AB's teaching using anatomical terminology, much to the amusement of all present. Educating us in the use of the correct terminology would be a fitting legacy.'

In 1989, Alan travelled north to attend when my wife and I got married. I was then, and remain, immensely proud and honoured that he took the trouble to share our day. I send my deep condolences to Alan's wife and wider family.

**Jerry Baker** Alan Bailey was a great asset to the farriery profession. People of his ilk were great role models for young farriers. He would have enjoyed the poem by William Henry Ogilvie, 'The hoofs of horses' (in this world and, perhaps, the next!).

**Alan Godson** Alan was my anatomy lecturer at Hereford. His passion for anatomy inspired me to look at horses in a whole new way. He was a very inspirational man and will be greatly missed by the farrier world.

**Graham Tully** For me one of the best and most useful things

I remember Alan saying years ago was that when looking at a forelimb lameness, especially in horses with collapsed heels, 'Start by looking at the hinds as usually there is an unnoticed issue there first and the animal has compensated by transferring weight to the fronts and thus overloading them.' I have never forgotten this, along with much more of his advice throughout my career.

Alan was an amazing man with a natural ability to pass on knowledge. He will be missed by all who knew him.

**Paul Whitmarsh** Alan Bailey was a true legend amongst us long-haired, fresh-face apprentices of 5L in the early 1980s.

He taught millimetre precision in shoemaking and foot balance, and had a knack of making it stick in the grey stuff.

I will never forget the boiling out and working on morbid limbs (it's a smell that never leaves you).

Thank you, Alan, I'm proud to be one of the elite who trained under you and set my path on a job I love to this day, I'm sure many many more feel the same. God bless.

**Bruce Taylor** Alan Bailey was an outstanding professional. When he first started at Hereford, I was lucky enough and privileged to be taught by him in my theory class.

He wasn't just a lovely man, but he had a passion and way of teaching that made us think. For example, having taught us about laminitis and, later, navicular, he asked us to think of problems that required shoeing in a particular way and then what we would do if there was a second condition to deal with, and how we would approach and shoe for it.

Thinking we were clever first-year students, Adrian Legge and I came up with a horse that had both navicular and laminitis. Mr Bailey, who was still probably feeling his way, did what I still consider the greatest thing that he or any professional could do in that last few minutes of the day's lessons, he said: 'Let me think about it and I'll tell you tomorrow.' And he did.

Why others, especially vets (no criticism intended, as I know they are taught to be positive and professional at all times, as we



## The hoofs of the horses William Henry Ogilvie 1869–1963

Oh! witching and sweet  
Is the music earth steals from the iron-shod feet;  
No whisper of lover, no trilling of bird  
Can stir me as hoofs of the horses have stirred.

They spurn disappointment and trample despair,  
And drown with their drum-beats the challenge of care;  
With scarlet and silk for their banners above,  
They are swifter than Fortune and sweeter than Love.

On the wings of the morning they gather and fly,  
In the hush of the night-time I hear them go by—  
The horses of memory thundering through  
With flashing white fetlocks all wet with the dew.

When you lay me to slumber no spot you can choose  
But will ring to the rhythm of galloping shoes,  
And under the daisies no grave be so deep  
But the hoofs of the horses shall sound in my sleep.

should, too) don't say I'm not sure at this moment, but I'll look into it or give me a moment to think about it and come up with the best result to solve the problem. It is what we should all do when something doesn't just drop into the 'ordinary treatment box'. We should think outside the box sometimes and the question ourselves and be questioned, just as Alan got us to do with him.

We knew nothing, but he set the seeds of making us think and question. Question and be honest and humble doing it .

For Blacksmithing I learnt from Mr Vic Humble, another truly lovely man and a forging genius who wore a three-piece tweed suit .

I was so lucky to have been at Hereford on block release at that time and to have been educated (not taught) farriery and blacksmithing by two truly inspiring, lovely men. Mr Humble unfortunately passed on in my last year at Hereford and Mr Bailey had moved on.

I can only thank them both, but especially Mr Bailey, for the skills they gave us, possibly not even being completely aware of what they had done. So, as long as I tell everyone of my experience with them – which I do all the time – a part of them will never be forgotten.

To his family, I say, talk about him all the time and eventually all those thoughts become little smiles .

It was a privilege and an honour to have met and have been shaped by such a memorable, lovely man.

**Anne Mann** Some 35 years ago, my late husband John and I became suppliers to the farriery trade and it was also our aim to provide further education for farriers in the south west region. At that time most courses were held at Stoneleigh, which was a fair hike from Devon and Cornwall, but who would be willing to sacrifice two days a week every fortnight for intensive training in Devon? Alan Bailey was!

We didn't know Alan well at that time, but he agreed to help and it was the beginning of a long association in which he shared his knowledge and expertise on a regular basis.

Horses' legs were kept at the ready in our freezer (a spare one!) for the next dissection and Alan was a regular judge at our farriery competitions, which he carried out with enthusiasm and professionalism, and culminated in our 24 hour 'shoe-a-thon' in aid of Children in Need.

I am sure that farriers, particularly in the south west, have a huge amount of respect and admiration for Alan whose ability to 'think outside the box' was a force to be reckoned with.

On a personal level, Alan was always supportive of us, only a small fish in a large pond, and was a good friend to us all, from Anne and Hannah.



Two superb farriery podcasters – and we are privileged to have them **BOTH** at **#bfbafocus23**

Brian and Danny will be recording in the run up to the weekend and **LIVE** during the weekend.

### NATIONAL MASTER & APPRENTICE COMPETITION

**7 October 2023**  
At Warwickshire College,  
Moreton Morrell CV35 9BP  
Chief Steward: Alex Mercer

**1st / 2nd Year Judge: Jim Hayter**

**45 minutes – Master to make 1 x 3/4 fullered bar shoe. Apprentice to make 1 x concave shoe**

**3rd/4th Year Judges:  
Will & Ed O'Shaughnessy**

**Master to make and shoe 3/4 fullered front.  
Apprentice to make and fit  
1 x concave hind**

**Kindly sponsored by Stromsholm**

[https://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/  
event/national-master-and-apprentice](https://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/event/national-master-and-apprentice)

**email  
alexmercerfarrier@btinternet.com**



# Blacksmiths and farriers forge friendships at Dorchester Show

The BFBA joined the Blacksmiths Guild at this year's Dorchester Show, Dorset, for a weekend at the anvil.

The smiths were competing in the National Blacksmiths Competition – this was the final of eight county shows that award points – leading to the crowning of the National Champion Blacksmith and the National Live Champion. A static class allows smiths to bring pre-made items to each show for judging, while the live competition requires them to make something on the showground to a specification. Overall champions and reserves are awarded at the awards lunch held by the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths in London.

The Guild also offered 'have-a-go' sessions for the public. There were stalls with forged items for sale and an opportunity for the public to vote for their favourite show item, with a chance to win a one-day introduction to blacksmithing course.

BFBA held a shoemaking demonstration and offered to stamp the shoes with visitors' initials for a small charge, which raised funds for the Guild. Our membership secretary Holly Flack talked to a number of would-be farriers and answered questions posed by show visitors. We would like to thank Merv Allen FWCB and the Guild for inviting us to be with them.



Artist blacksmith and technical lecturer (at Hereford College) Adam Greenwell gained second place for his candlestick with automated snuffer (left). He says he enjoys forging steel, manipulating it to change its form to create complex shapes that are unlike its original section



Smithing enthusiast Phil Taylor made a heavy horse shoe with the help of BFBA Vice President Abby Bunyard and her third-year apprentice Tom Faulkner (pictured far right)



Abby's second-year apprentice Maud Crow made horseshoes, demonstrating farriers' skills at the anvil, helping to raise money for the Guild



NBCC Judge Keith Mahoney AWCB's choice for the champion piece was this stunning table lamp on the left, which was made by Adam Greenwell



# Blue Cross urges struggling horse owners to ask for help sooner rather than later

**National pet charity Blue Cross is urging horse owners to ask for help sooner rather than later if they may need to give up their horse. Two horses recently taken in by the charity show the stark contrast between giving up a horse in good time and asking for help too late, when the situation had already turned into a welfare problem.**



In the first half of this year, the charity received 137 requests from people asking for help rehoming their horse or pony and 31% of these cited personal or financial circumstances.

Blue Cross rehomes horses from its centres in Burford, Oxfordshire and Rolleston, Staffordshire as well as through its Home Direct scheme.

Home Direct has proved to be highly effective, with 98 horses

helped since it was launched in 2015. Every horse is assessed and advertised on the charity's website. Once a potential new owner has been found, the charity will arrange and oversee initial visits. If it's a good match, the horse will then be rehomed directly from the old home to the new one.

Horse owners who need support, advice or guidance about giving up a horse may email: [helpmyhorse@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:helpmyhorse@bluecross.org.uk)

'We really hope that by sharing these stories we can encourage people to contact us earlier if they need help with their horse,' said Annabelle Taylor, Rehoming Coordinator at Blue Cross. 'A lot of people leave it far too late and the horse ends up suffering as a result. Subsequently, rehabilitation can be difficult and upsetting and usually takes much longer.'

One example the charity shared involved a pony called Comet. Comet's owner's husband was suffering from dementia, and she knew that as the disease progressed he would need more care and she would struggle to give Comet the time he required. She wanted to secure Comet's future before things got too difficult so she contacted Blue Cross for help. Comet arrived at the charity in good condition, with a new set of shoes and all his tack. He was clearly very well loved and was quickly found a perfect new home.

Billy's owners, however, had struggled with his 'aggressive' behaviour. He had been shut in his stable for 11 months without foot care. As a result, Billy's welfare was severely compromised and his feet needed urgent attention (as pictured). The social isolation means his rehabilitation will be a very slow process.

Blue Cross statistics suggest that increasing numbers of horse carers are struggling financially to keep their horses.



**James Darlington, a farrier from Merriott in Somerset, sadly passed away on 13 August. James' funeral took place on Saturday 9 September at 12noon at All Saint's Church in Merriott. The BFBA sends the family its deepest condolences.**

## Vote now for the NAF Five Star PROFEET 2023 Farrier of the Year

**Voting is open for this year's Horse & Hound 2023 Farrier of the Year Award, which recognises a farrier whose knowledge and effort has supported a horse or horses' performance and wellbeing.**

Nominate a farrier for the NAF Five Star PROFEET Farrier of the Year award.

Nominations are open (they close at 5 pm on 21 September), and can be submitted using the link <https://www.hhwardsuk.com/nominations>

Previous winners of this prestigious award include the late **Brendan Murray, Chris Bailey, Jim Balfour, Paul Woodall and Daniel Bennett.**



**About the Horse & Hound Awards 2023**

The Horse & Hound Awards are back for the eighth year in a row, running again in partnership with NAF.

These awards are nominated and

voted for by equestrians. They seek to recognise the big names who have made 2023 special and the unsung heroes who make it possible for everyone who wants to enjoy equestrian sport and being around horses, at whatever level.



*Register for Focus now!*

## **BFBA Focus** 28 & 29 October 2023 Hall 2, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LH

Focus is the UK's largest farriery event offering you the chance to watch, listen and learn, with two full days of lectures and presentations from world-class clinicians. Browse and shop at the trade show from our leading manufacturers and suppliers with new products, discounts and demonstrations.

Watch the BFBA International Team Horseshoeing Championship – the world's most talented farriers working under pressure against the clock!

BFBA International Bladesmithing Competition on Sunday 29 October

BFBA Team Blacksmithing Competition

[www.bfba.co.uk](http://www.bfba.co.uk)

*Registration  
live NOW!*

**Saturday, 28 October 2023, 08.15 – 17.00**

**Sunday, 29th October 2023, 08.15 – 16.00**

**BFBA members registration 1 September - 18 October - £25 single day / £37.50 both days**

*(Pre-registration closes 18 October)*

**BFBA members registration on the day - £35 single day / £52.50 both days**

**BFBA non-members registration 1 September - 18 October - £55 single day / £82.50 both days**

*(Pre-registration closes 18 October)*

**BFBA non-members registration <https://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/>**

**<https://webcollect.org.uk/bfba/event/bfba-focus-2023>**



Training the next generation of smiths. Ratho Byres Forge welcomes its newest member of the team. Murray Holmes is a Historic Scotland Craft Fellow for the next year. Supported by Historic Scotland, he will work as part of the team, gaining invaluable skills as an artist blacksmith.

#rathobyresforge #artistblacksmith  
#historicscotland #craftfellow #blacksmith  
#scottishblacksmith #skillstraining

### WCF AWARDS

*Congratulations to the successful farriers*

**Royal Windsor Horse Show, 14 May:**  
**Service Team Jumping Class: Best Shod Award**  
**Farrier Oliver Arnold DipWCF**  
**Judge Robin May AWCf**  
**Horse Chaicorrie Verdi (RAF team B)**  
**Owner Corporal Nicole Thackray**

**Devon County Farriery Competition, 18–20 May:**  
**Judge Steven Beane FWCF**  
**Silver medal Matthew Randles DipWCF**  
**Apprentice bronze medals**  
**1st/2nd Year Freddie Ravenscroft**  
**2rd/4th Year Alex Willis**

**Northumberland County Show, 27 May:**  
**Best Shod Horse Award**  
**Farrier Daniel Lowson DipWCF**  
**Judge Graeme Moran DipWCF**  
**Horse Jack of Hearts (open hunter class)**  
**Owner Kate Gofton**

**Hopetoun Driving Trials, 28 May: Best Shod Award**  
**Farriers Paul Robinson AWCf & David Varini AWCf**  
**Judge Kevin Balfour DipWCF**  
**Horse Felix and Bobby (open pony pairs class)**  
**Owner Ian & Ann Gilbert**

**Suffolk Show 31 May–1 June: Best Shod Award**  
**Farrier Elliot Ticquet DipWCF**  
**Judge Danny Mallender AWCf**  
**Horse Thames Oak Delilah (heavy horse section)**  
**Owner Natasha Ingram**

**Suffolk Show: Best Shod Award**  
**Farrier Will Taylor DipWCF**  
**Judge Steve Arnold AWCf**  
**Horse Goosey Gander (ridden hunter)**  
**Owner Mrs Shervington**

## NEW BLOOD TEST TO IDENTIFY DRIVER FATIGUE

A new blood test that can identify if drivers are tired is being trialled by Australia's Office of Road Safety, a governmental organisation, and could be introduced in the UK.

According to the road safety charity, Brake, police statistics show that fatigue contributes to about 4% of fatal road crashes and 2% of all collisions in Britain. However, it says it is likely that the true figures are far higher because fatigue is hard to spot and, unlike alcohol and drugs, police can't currently test for tiredness. Worldwide, it is estimated that between 10% and 20% of all road crashes are fatigue-related.

Most sleep-related crashes happen on motorways and dual-carriageways, probably because of the monotonous road environment and lack of driver stimulation, it adds.

Research suggests driving when tired can be as dangerous as drink-driving. The new blood test could help to prosecute tired drivers and means that drivers who are taken to a police station or hospital after a crash could be tested for sleep deprivation as well as driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

Currently, it's difficult to find out if an accident was caused by driver fatigue. It relies on the driver to admit they were tired, although the police can use evidence from the scene of the accident. For example, the type of impact can indicate tiredness, as drivers who have fallen asleep at the wheel were often travelling at high speed and don't brake.

The police would also look at how long the driver was driving for, their lifestyle, as well as speaking to eye witnesses.

## Suffolk Show: Medal Winners

*Judge* Chris McCabe AWCF

*Silver medal* Sam Rust DipWCF & Harvey Andrews DipWCF, Ben Coy AWCF and Tom Farmer AWCF

*Bronze medal* James Povey DipWCF

## British Driving, 25 June: Best Shod Award

*Farrier* Joe Smith Nicols DipWCF

*Judge* Robin May AWCF

*Horse* Trixies Duchess (coster class)

*Owner* F. Moore and S. Watts

## Kent County Show, 7–9 July: Farriery Competition

*Farrier* Gavin Golby AWCF

*Silver medal* Andrew Casserly FWCF

*Bronze medal* Andrew Casserly FWCF

## Mid Devon Show, 22 July: Best Shod Horse Award

*Farrier* Dan Rabin DipWCF

*Judge* Nigel Perrot DipWCF

*Horse* Thorpe Hill Surprise (heavy horse)

*Owner* Chris and Lisa Horler

## Royal International Horse Show, 26–30 July: Best Shod Horse Award

*Farrier* Ben & Andrew Elkington DipWCFs

*Judge* Adrian Devereux AWCF

*Horse* Bowland Jasper (hunter weight class)

*Owner* Kay Sinclair-James

## Essex Heavy Horse Show, 6 August: Best Shod Horse Award

*Farrier* Ryan Evans DipWCF

*Judge* Phil Dunmall FWCF

*Horse* Cumeragh House Condor

*Owner* Billy Young



An amazing welded metal sculpture of a horse by John Lopez, posted on Facebook by Horse Photography



Lifeboat Horse stands in the sea at Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, a tribute to the horses that once pulled the town's 33ft (10m) lifeboat more than two miles from the quay to Holkham Gap. It was created by Rachael Long from steel bars and old whisky barrels, and was bought by the town in 2019. It is located in the harbour sand so that it was fully visible at low tide and becomes submerged as the tide comes in.

[www.rachaellongsculpture.com/](http://www.rachaellongsculpture.com/)



deTOUR  
FARRIER  
2023



Coast to Coast (from St Bees to Robin Hoods Bay) this year's charity ride for the Farriers Foundation was completed by farriers and friends in August.

They made it – coast to coast – what a fantastic effort by everyone involved, especially the organisations who sponsored and supported this epic adventure. As Jonathan Nunn said: 'All the riders – you are amazing and thanks for all your efforts. Please donate and support us if you can.'

ALL sponsorship went to the charity meaning the £16,000 raised so far will help farriers and their families in need

<https://www.justgiving.com/farriersfoundation>

### IDEAL FOR FARRIERS AND APPRENTICES

Long-tail cotton singlets, heavy duty long-tail hoodies, short-sleeve sweatshirts, shearing/work trousers and half zip over jackets in 100% British wool.

### ALL MADE IN ENGLAND

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