



FORGE

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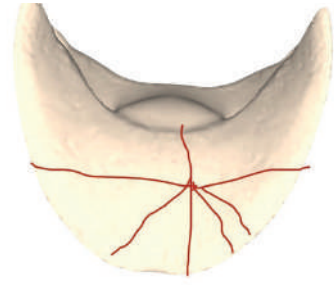
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ISSN No 0955 5293

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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

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

● **Assessing approaches to diagnosing and treating proximal suspensory desmitis**
By Connor Parsons DipWCF DipHE

● **Research round up** In this issue the summaries look at what immediate effects trimming has on hoof morphology and joint angles in horses and whether shoeing changes the gait of previously barefoot horses?



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

President's address

Each year, the BFBA team and I have planned a bigger and better BFBA Focus event, and this year was our biggest to date. It was absolutely amazing, thanks to everyone involved. I am still on a high.

My Executive Committee, the Craft Committee and BFBA's part-time staff Holly Flack and Claire Whitehouse have been fully committed to making each year's Focus and the 'Internationals' the best that they can be. Last year, 860 people attended the event over the two days. The Saturday was the highest day with 600 attendees.

'This year a total of 1600 people attended Focus.'

Small associations, like the BFBA, rely heavily on volunteers who run all of its activities and what can be achieved depends on them. This makes me especially proud to head the Association at this time.

The first Focus was run alongside the International Team Horseshoeing Championship as it continues to be. This prestigious and much-loved competition is generously supported by the American Farrier's Association, which makes running the championship possible. We thank the AFA's Executive Committee and its President Hank Chisholm for their support.

I would like to sincerely thank Mustad for supplying the nails; Les Armstrong Blacksmiths for the steel that is then skillfully crafted into world-class horseshoes; Calor for the propane gas that runs the gas forges; Chuck Milne of Texas Farrier Supply for our very own Stoneleigh anvils and Staffordshire Farriers who also provided anvils.

'Thanks too, to the competitors for making the effort to practice and come together to represent your nation. We are all so proud of you.'



BFBA Focus
28 & 29
September
2024

BFBA thanks the American Farrier's Association for its generous support of the BFBA International Team Horseshoeing Championship



Our judges this year were Andrew Casserly FWCF, Ben Mangan CJF and Jim Hayter DipWCF Hons. We thank them for their skill in judging the work presented to them.

Although we missed Mark Watson FWCF as Chief Steward, we were so pleased when Daniel Bennett AWCF put up his hand to take on this key role. He did an amazing job, despite being under a lot of pressure leading up to it. He and Chris Johnson (Chief Steward of the gas forging) made its running seem smooth and organised as ever. The dedicated Purple Army team of volunteers support every aspect of the competition as the foundation that makes it happen, and our vet Kirsty MacGregor oversees the welfare of the horses.

We were privileged to host the European Federation of Farriers Associations (EFFA) Annual General Meeting, too. This provided an opportunity to show them our local highlights, including Warwick Castle, the Lord Leycester Hospital and Stratford-upon-Avon.

EFFA's President John Ravanelli recognised two founders of the Association – David Gulley FWCF and Miles Williamson Noble by inducting them to EFFA's Hall of Fame. There are not many events in my professional career that will stick with me like being part of David's induction. He has always been such a huge part of the BFBA and British farriery. Training a huge number of apprentices, competing in and overseeing International and National Championships, being both our representative on EFFA and, importantly, a past-president of the Association, this was a great tribute to a great ambassador.

We were proud to welcome the blacksmiths and bladesmiths at Focus, with competitions for both. It is good to have them at the heart of our Association and we look forward to welcoming them back in 2024.

Finally, we thank all the companies who took a trade stand. With over 47 companies, we had a bigger and better show than ever. We have already had enquiries from new and interested companies from overseas about next year.

The queues to get in were also bigger than ever. Those with pre-booked tickets collected their badges from the registration desk and were able to get in within minutes. We saw a huge increase in the number of walk-in tickets and unfortunately this meant queuing. We are sorry to those who had to wait and plans are in hand to avoid this scenario next year; however, it's fair to say that if you book, entry will always be quicker!

We have secured dates for the next two year's Focus events, which will be held in the same place as this year – Hall 2 at the NAEC, Stoneleigh. Early bird registration will be available in the New Year.

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

BFBA STATEMENT ON THE END POINT ASSESSMENT 23/10/23

We have been asked to help our members (registered farriers, ATFs and, importantly, apprentices of 44S), to understand what has happened as regards the EPA and why. We provided an opportunity for the Worshipful Company of Farriers, the Examinations Board, the Farriers Registration Council and others to discuss this at Focus. See page 12.



Scan the QR code to read the BFBA's update

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AWCF Master Farrier

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BVetMed MRCVS, Clinical Director

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BVSc CertAVP (Equine Lameness) MRCVS

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Focus 2023 & the International Team Horseshoeing Championships

2024 event

28 & 29 September



Once again Holly Flack was helped with packing hundreds of goody bags for Focus by her partner Chris, family friend Lauren and boyfriend Alex (above), who also welcomed the event's delegates on the registration stand

Every year, BFBA announces that its Focus event was the biggest and best so far. 2023 was no exception, in fact it was a record breaker.

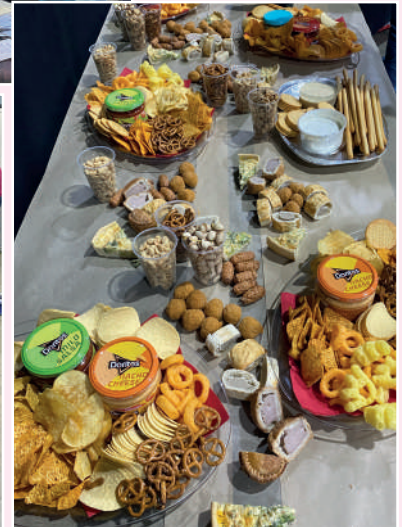
The total attendance at Focus 2023 was 1600.

Taking place in the event's new home in Hall 2 of the NAEC at Stoneleigh Park, BFBA Focus was delighted to welcome top UK and international speakers, in an event that was supported by the most exhibitors to date. We encouraged farriers to preregister with a special early bird rate and 700 took up our offer. All they had to do was collect their badge from the welcome desk and go straight in. Many others chose to turn up on the day and pay at the door.



Most exhibitors offer discount incentives and farriers could easily save the cost of the weekend through the top deals to be had.

CPD has to be completed in a range of ways and Focus is the perfect place to achieve this. Attending talks and learning something that you can apply in your day-to-day work is an obvious piece of recordable CPD. Attending demonstrations, learning about new products (and perhaps booking a training day), trying out new business technology, talking over a puzzling case with a colleague, and even getting a top tip at the anvil from a competitor in the International Team Horseshoeing Championship ... these are learning opportunities that can boost your CPD record and keep you at the top of your game. Now is the perfect time to record your CPD.



This year's PURPLE ARMY:

- Daniel Bennett AWCF Class 1 (Chief Steward)
- Chris Johnson AWCF (Gas Forging Chief Steward)
- Jed Hallam DipWCF (Scorer)
- Nick Cooper Class 1
- Che Broadley DipWCF
- Mark Humphrey AWCF
- Adam Bradley DipWCF
- Steve White AWCF
- James Todd RSS
- Brian Saunders AWCF
- Ellie-May Buckland DipWCF
- Siobhan Dillon
- Graeme Fleet DipWCF
- Steve Griffin AWCF
- Matt Sole
- Byron Bennett
- John Bolton RSS

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INTERNATIONAL TEAM HORSESHOEING CHAMPIONSHIP

Competitors

British Army



Adam Cooper (Manager)

Daniel Martin
Josh Chew
Nathan Healey-Potter
Jhon O'Neill
Paul Jones (reserve)

Canada



Iain Ritchie (Manager)

Jack Ketel
Russell Floyd
Tom Barnett
Maxim Poirier
Alexandre Cyr (reserve)

England



Danny Elliott (Manager)

Matt Randles
Steven Beane
George Rogerson
Liam Collins
Toby Pedley (reserve)

France



Stéphane Bréhin (Manager)

Jean-Francois Denis
Julien Crepin
Adrien Guthux
Philippe Charloto

Ireland



Alwyn McKeown (Manager)

Paul Robinson
Rodney Ross
Will O'Shaughnessy,
Edward O'Shaughnessy
David Lynch (reserve)

Netherlands



Maarein Abbink (Manager)

Maarten Abbink
Douwe Dokter
Sandra de Wilde

Joshua Biersteker

Nick Koning (reserve)

Norway



Tom Leistad-Jonas
(Manager)

Lars Nilson
Stig Haga
Sverre Smervik
Tom Leistad-Jonas

Sweden



Martin Bruks (Manager)

Per Nilsson
Tobias Nilsson
Martin Bruks
Johannes Sandsten
Sigridur Johannsdotter
(reserve)

Scotland



Jim Balfour (Manager)

Lewis Balfour
David Varini
Grant Watt
Andrew Dryburgh
Sarah Brown (reserve)

Switzerland



Alex Würsch (Manager)

Hans Meier
David Frei
Alex Würsch
Laurin Bärtschi
Lena Guggisberg (reserve)

USA



Travis Smith (Manager)

Tom Petersen CJF
Chris Madrid CJF
Bodie Trnka CJF
Daniel Jones CJF
Sawyer Spradling CJF
(reserve)

Wales



Joe Whitehead (Manager)

Gareth Thomas
Joe Whitehead
Ryan McDonald
Elgan Harries
Tom Anderson (reserve)

APPRENTICE COMPETITION

British Army



Adam Cooper (Manager)

Daniel Veness, Jacob Reuter, Abbi Wyss, Jake Trathen.

England



Danny Elliott (Manager)

Billy Makin, Rosy Dobson, Lidia Dey, Theo Williams, Elliott Ticquet (reserve).

France



Stéphane Bréhin (Manager),

Gauthier Berthelem, Léo Hermet, Hugo Chanedeau, Tom Tessier, Antoine Marcilloux Darses (reserve).

Ireland



Alwyn McKeown (Manager),

Chris Hayward, Oisín Quill, Thomas McFall, Viktor Mester.

Scotland



Ally Smith (Manager),

Matt Bradley, Ben McCredie, James Sutton, PJ Williams.

Sweden



Martin Bruks (Manager)

Hilda Tedefalk Nygren, Lasse Backman, Sanna Moller, Klara Hagglund.

USA



Travis Smith (Manager)

Wesley Auker, Shamus Mangan, Ty Zehms, Justin Daley.

Wales



Joe Whitehead (Manager)

Connor Thomas, Connor Stephens, Zak Jones, Gerraint Edwards, Ryan Davies (reserve)



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INTERNATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP



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International
Competition**



There would be no competition without the scores and the man doing this great job is Jed Hallam. Thanks Jed

This year's Chief Steward was Daniel Bennett. He invited all the teams and their managers to attend a meeting on the eve of the competition – it was quite a room full.



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INTERNATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP



The England team were victorious again. The prizes were presented by the American Farriers Association President Hank Chisholm CJF, and BFBA President Ben Benson AWCf



Apart from celebrating his birthday, Liam Collins won a number of other awards including best dressed foot, best individual, best specimen shoe and two best shod awards

The Apprentice Individual Championship was won by Shamus Mangan from the USA



Results

Class 1. International team gas shoemaking, (Friday), 1.5 hours

Best Specimen Shoe Tom Petersen, USA

- 1 Team USA
- 2 Team Ireland
- 3 Team England
- 4 Team Scotland
- 5 Team Wales

Class 2. Team shoeing (Friday), 2 hours

Best Specimen Shoe, Steven Beane & Liam Collins

Best Shod Foot Matthew Randles, England

Best Individual Liam Collins

Best Dressed Foot Will O'Shaughnessy (Ireland), Matthew Randles & George Rogerson (England)

- 1 Team England
- 2 Team Scotland
- 3 Team USA
- 4 Team Ireland
- 5 Team Wales

Class 3. Team shoeing (Saturday), 1.5 hours

Best Specimen Shoe, Tom Petersen, USA

Best Shod Foot Grant Watt, Scotland

Best Individual Grant Watt

Best Dressed Foot Daniel Jones, USA

- 1 Team Ireland
- 2 Team England
- 3 Team USA
- 4 Team Scotland
- 5 Team Wales

Class 4. Reserve Team Member Champion

- 1 Sawyer Spradling, USA
- 2 David Lynch, Ireland
- 3 Alexandre Cyr, Canada
- 4 Lena Guggisberg, Switzerland
- 5 Tom Anderson, Wales

Class 6. Apprentice Individual

- 1 Shamus Mangan, USA
- 2 Billy Makin, England
- 3 Ben McCredie, Scotland
- 4 Theo Williams, England
- 5 Wesley Auker, USA

Best Overall Team Shoeing, Classes 2&3

Best Shod Foot Liam Collins

BFBA INTERNATIONAL TEAM HORSESHOEING CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

Best dressed foot Liam Collins, England & Daniel Jones, USA

Best shod foot Liam Collins, England

- 1 Team England
- 2 Team USA
- 3 Team Ireland
- 4 Team Scotland
- 5 Team Wales

APPRENTICE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Best Specimen Shoe Ty Zehms, USA

- 1 Team England
- 2 Team Scotland
- 3 Team USA
- 4 Team Wales
- 5 Team Sweden

- 1 Team England
- 2 Team Scotland
- 3 Team USA
- 4 Team Ireland
- 5 Team Wales

Overall Individual Championship (Classes 1, 2 & 3)

- 1 Tom Petersen, USA
- 2 Lewis Balfour, Scotland
- 3 David Varini, Scotland
- 4 Paul Robinson, Ireland, and Steven Beane, England

Class 1. Team Gas Shoemaking (Friday)

1.5 hours for 4 team members to make a different specimen each using only one anvil and gas fire.

Class 2. Team Horse Shoeing (Friday)

2 hours per round for 2 team members to make and fit a 3/4 fullered shoe to the horse and make a specimen each.

Class 3. Team Horse Shoeing (Saturday)

2 hours per round for 2 team members to make and fit a plain stamp shoe to the horse and make a specimen each.

Class 4. Reserve Open Team Members (Friday)

1 hour for 1 reserve team member per country to make two specimen shoes from the team gas shoes.

Class 5. Apprentice Team Gas Shoemaking (Saturday)

Same as Class 1, but for apprentices.

Class 6. Apprentice Individual Gas Shoemaking

45 minutes for individual apprentices from each team and a reserve member to make a pair of specimen shoes.





INTERNATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP



WCB World Champion Matt Randles won Best Shod Foot and Best Dressed Foot awards



Best Dressed Foot - team championship - won jointly by Liam Collins (England) and Daniel Jones (USA)



Scotland was second place for Best Overall Team Shoeing in Classes 2&3



Overall Individual Champion was Tom Petersen, USA



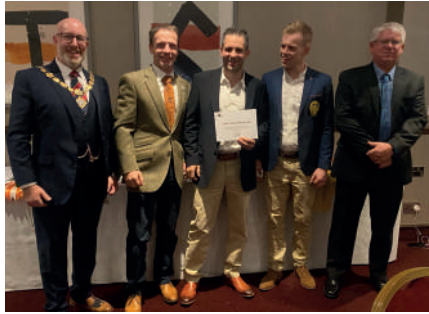
Reserve Team Member Champion was Sawyer Spradling, USA



Best Specimen Shoe in Class 5, Ty Zehms, USA



Best Specimen Shoe in Class 1, Tom Petersen USA



A tri-break for Best Dressed Foot in Class 2, Will O'Shaughnessy, Matt Randles and George Rogerson



Scotland's Grant Watt won Best Individual and Best Shod Foot in Class 3



Switzerland's Lena Guggisberg was 4th in the Reserve Team Gas Shoemaking



David Lynch from Ireland was 2nd in the Reserve Team Gas Shoemaking



Individual Reserve Champion was Lewis Balfour, Scotland



Sweden was 5th in the Apprentice Team Championship



Shamus Mangan, USA, won the Individual Apprentice Class



Reserve Champions of the International Team Shoeing was the USA

Knowledge Zone



Aksel Vibe discussed his experience of barefoot trimming. He also gave a demonstration of everyday problems encountered by farriers and his solutions for resolving them.

Chris Gregory FWCF enjoyed a full house for his talk on tendon injuries and demonstrated the making of a pattern bar shoe on Sunday. Dr Simon Curtis FWCF HonAssoc(RCVS) PhD discussed flexural deformities, causes and farriery treatment, sharing new information with the audience. On Sunday, he described how the use of MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is used by vet practices to diagnose hoof issues. For this reason, he said, farriers need to understand how to read the images better. Mark Trussler FWCF discussed mediolateral balance on Saturday and anteroposterior balance on the Sunday. Both talks followed a similar process looking at the hoof capsules, how they grow and signs of distortion. He followed up with trimming protocols, shoe types, shoeing options and finished up by discussing a number of case studies.

THE PRESENTATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS TO VIEW ON THE BFBA'S WEBSITE



Jay Tovey FWCF described the procedures, timings and standards for success in the practical sections of farrier exams, with demonstrations provided by his recently qualified son, Sol Tovey DipWCF. He also covered a methodical system for successful exam results

Demonstration Zone



THE HOOF BOOT SHOP
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The Hoof Boot Shop did a live hoof boot fitting; Equigate covered (profit, protection and productivity) showing how tech can earn farriers more money, safeguard their business and save them time; Hoof & Care covered hoof oils for hoof dysfunctions, while Jim Blurton and Derek Poupard highlighted the uses of modern materials as another option for farriers. Scoot Boots (pictured) – designed by a farrier for barefoot horses – are perfect for all riding disciplines and a dependable rehab and transition boot, the company says.



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Half Mesh Pad





End-point assessment



A round table event held during BFBA Focus provided an opportunity for an update on the situation regarding the end-point assessment for farriery.

What is the current position?

- The Farriers Registration Council (FRC) has withdrawn approval granted to the Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF) to administer the end-point assessment (EPA) in farriery. As a result, IfATE removed the WCF as the approved organisation (EPAO) to deliver the EPA.
- The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) (an operating division of the Department for Education) is in the process of putting special measures in place to make sure every apprentice can complete the EPA to industry standards.
- As soon as IfATE has decided the way forward the information will be shared.
- The WCF and the Examinations Board (the Examiners) are seeking to achieve re-approval with IfATE and are exploring every avenue for resolution.
- The BFBA is monitoring the situation for members and apprentices, and encouraging those involved to work together to get the EPA reinstated.

How did the situation arise?

- It was triggered by a number of factors, including problems concerning the WCF's IT system data protection and cyber security relating to the examination software. Furthermore, the WCF had not fully resolved matters outstanding from its last Farriers Registration Council (FRC) approval visit in November 2021. These related to health and safety responsibilities at WCF examinations and assessments; reasonable adjustments for those with special educational needs at examinations and assessments and access to information for candidates. It is working hard to address this.

What has been done so far?

- The FRC placed a statement on its website and advised the training colleges, the IfATE and OFQUAL of its



Those present at the roundtable event for questions on the EPA were: David Greenwood, Registrar FRC; Tom Smith FWCF, working farrier and Chairman FRC; John Chilman AFCL, working farrier, member of the WCF; Tom Burch MBE RSS, retired farrier and chairman of the WCB Craft Committee; Ben Benson AWCF, working farrier and BFBA President and Jay Tovey FWCF, WCF Examiner representing the EEG. The event was chaired by Stephen Britten AWCF

withdrawal of approval. As information is released, it will be shared with all stakeholders.

- IfATE is working to find a solution to allow the examinations to take place. This may include allowing apprentices to continue the apprenticeship under their ATF and extending funding to the colleges.
- Once meaningful information is available, it will be shared. In the meantime, organisations cannot offer assumptions or presumptions, as these would add to the anxiety faced by apprentices and their ATFs.

At the round table

Dr Mark Caldwell FWCF, asked: 'Was consideration made on the impact to these learners and was there a contingency plan? What was the reason for the decision? Can the WCF explain how they got into this position?'

Tom Smith, chairman of the FRC Council, responded saying: 'The Council's first consideration – in all discussions – involved what impact any decision made by the council would have on learners.'

He explained that it was legislation that dictates what the FRC does. The Farriers Registration Act (Section 11 [S11]) requires the FRC to approve courses for the apprenticeship and the test that allows farriers to enter the register. Under S11, the FRC must ensure the reliability, fairness and accuracy of the exams. To do this, the FRC visits examination establishments regularly.

He added that the Approvals Committee had assessed the examination in November 2021, which

highlighted several issues that it required to be addressed. The WCF had said these would be dealt with. Later, when further issues arose concerning health and safety, the Approvals Committee realised that some of these had not yet been rectified.

The FRC chairman said: 'To meet its statutory obligations, the regulator must be sure examinations are being administered correctly. The ongoing issues surrounding the EPA meant the FRC had to decide whether to continue to approve it or not. The decision to withdraw approval was made collectively by the Council, not by the staff or the Registrar'. He added: 'Short-term pain will allow us to ensure that our exams are the envy of the world. We need to assure ourselves they are being done to gold standard.'

Dr Caldwell said that his concern was about the way the news had been released to the public, which he felt downgraded the opinion of farriery standards within equestrian communities.

Haydn Price asked how many apprentices were involved?

John Chilman of the WCF said 22 candidates were waiting to take the EPA and 2 retaking the Diploma.

Up to date information can be found at

IfATE <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/farrier-v1-0>

FRC <https://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk/>

BFBA <https://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/>



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Time for a new editor

After almost 22 years editing Forge magazine, it is time for me to hand over this wonderful magazine to a new editor. I am delighted that Sarah Shephard will take over the reins from the January issue. Your magazine will be in excellent hands. Please support her.



I am indebted to members of the BFBA's Executive Committee – there have been many over the years. And I must especially thank Holly Flack, Claire Whitehouse (and their predecessors) and Claire Brown. They are dedicated to the profession and their support has been essential and much valued. Mark Aikens, as head of the editorial panel, has built a strong team who willingly share their knowledge and ideas for content. Thank you all.

The BFBA is phenomenal. Like so many small organisations, the members of the Executive Committee, the Craft Committee and others are volunteers who give their time to support and represent farriers and blacksmiths.

Finally, thank you to anyone who has written for the magazine or shared their ideas for content or answered my questions. Forge is your magazine and I have appreciated your support.

Gill Harris

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Exhibitors



'Taking up the generous offers at Focus easily saves the cost of the weekend'



Seb Neal took delivery of more than 400 tools that were dropped off by 125 farriers at Trinity Farrier Services for rebuilding.

FOCUS 2024
28 & 29
September



Quality buckets were popular at Focus this year. Mustad gave away 400, while 500 of NAF's high-quality orange buckets also found new homes



Exhibitors

Best stand winner

FOCUS 2024

28 & 29 September



The winner of the best stand award at BFBA Focus 2023 was **Hippocrates Blacksmith** a fully cloud-based administration service for farriers. Developed in Sweden, the service can be used from any device, anytime, anywhere with data that is backed up every day, the company says. Compatible with both Android and IOS, the company promises it to be a farrier's best friend.

The company says that it's possible to get started with the service in just a few minutes. Using the calendar-driven workflow, farriers can get a quick overview of assignments, customer contacts and sales. All the necessary documentation is created with just a few clicks on a smart phone and customers will have their invoice by email the moment you leave the stable!

The runner up was Mustad.



Glue-U's range of products enjoyed lots of interest from farriers – so much so that Mark Aikens FdSc, BSC(Hons), DipWCF will run a series of hands-on clinics on their use next year. Details will be posted on Facebook and the BFBA website.



Londonderry Forge celebrated 30 years in business by placing a scratchcard in every goody bag. The prizes up for grabs included bars of chocolate and Greggs Vouchers, online discounts and premium hoodies, plus one star prize – a complete tool maintenance kit. If you picked up a goody bag, find your card and get scratching.





Farrier Ryan Murphy has a bash at Mustad's power test



Canadian farrier Brian Mullins CJF is a well known podcaster <https://mullinsfarrierpodcast.libsyn.com>, based in Hockley Valley, Ontario, Canada, about an hour north west of Toronto; he has a sport horse farrier practice in Toronto and Florida.

Brian came to the UK for a week around the Focus event and helped his good friend Danny Bennett and the Purple Army prepare for and set up the International Team Farrier Competition. He also managed to record many folks involved in the set-up and competition. Then, once it was up and running, he did around 12 sit down interviews over the three days, including one with Derek Poupard (pictured above). He carries his own recording equipment says he always wonders how his journey through airport security will go with all the cables and gear!

Brian says what he really enjoys about podcasting, is that despite most of his guests insisting they don't really have anything great to share and that their story is boring, they all end up being stand outs. You can listen to the podcast on all provider platforms: Spotify, Apple Podcasts, etc. They are all free. Donations for production costs are always welcome and he is seeks support from sponsors.

Brian said: 'Focus was incredible. It was very cool to witness its growth even over a period of two years. Definitely a world-class event!'

EFFA AGM



EFFA'S MISSION

To improve the welfare of the horse by encouraging the highest standards of trimming and shoeing.

The BFBA was proud to host the annual general meeting of the European Federation of Farriers Associations. Alongside the AGM, delegates had the opportunity to enjoy guided tours of local places of interest including Warwick Castle, Stratford-Upon-Avon and the Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick.



BFBA President Ben Benson, new inductees to the European Hall of Fame, David Gulley and Miles William Noble, and EFFA President John Ravanelli

President, John Ravanelli; Vice President, Peter Kristiansen; Board Members, Pavel Komárek and John Dooley; Secretary, Michael Knap; Registrar, Chris Linssner and Treasurer, Marianne Gullbrand

DAVID GULLEY INDUCTED INTO THE EFFA HALL OF FAME

David Gulley was among the founding fathers of EFFA and apart from being UK representative, he was President from 2008 to 2010. He retired from the EFFA board in 2011 at the annual general meeting in Barcelona. His citation was read by the current President John Ravanelli, who said:

There is hardly a person in farriery across Europe or internationally who has not heard the name David Gulley. There is hardly a European competition he hasn't entered and there is many a trophy with his name on it. His farriery training began in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and he then set up a forge in Thorpe Satchville, Leicestershire. He has trained 24 apprentices – an impressive list that includes Gary Darlow, Joe Bryan, Cecil Swan and his son, Michael. They are all farriers who have gone on to be respected in their own right. In 1977, he achieved the FWCF and has examined and judged to high standard. He has been a longstanding member of BFBA and was President in 1981. His passion was carriage driving in which he competed four in hand. He has given many clinics and lectures in the USA and was inducted into the AFA International Hall of Fame.

In 2016 he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by The Farriers Foundation. He has been a large part of European farriery teacher examiner competitor judge and friend. Now into his 80s he still gets around the anvil to move some iron and is respected by all who know him.

Another founder member – Miles Williamson Noble – was also inducted into the EFFA Hall of Fame.





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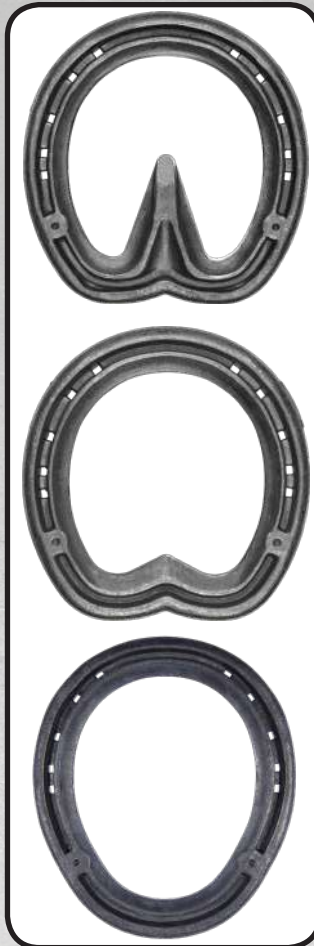
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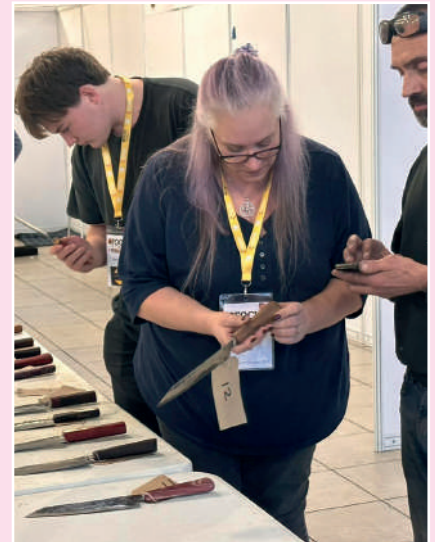
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BFBA was delighted to welcome the bladesmiths back to Focus this year and they presented some amazing work.

We were also honoured to have Tiffers, the event director from the #sharpshow, to judge our competitors' work (pictured, right).

The competition

The bladesmiths had 3 hours to forge a Kiritsuke blade, hardened, back tempered, Shinogi ground with a kuro-uchi finish above the shinogi line, hafted and sharpened. Knives were judged for blade quality, cutting edge, aesthetics and performance.

BFBA International Bladesmithing Competition 2023: RESULTS

- 1st: Leon Bentham
- 2nd: Daniel Bidirel - Bucovina Forge
- 3rd: AJ - Sweetshop Forge

Best Handle Fit and Finish
 Kirk Dexter - KD Knives

Sharpest and Best Performing Knife
 AJ - Sweetshop Forge

Thank you to the the bladesmithing team for their hard work:

- Kirk Dexter (Chief Steward) • Jonathan Nunn • Jon Woodward • Mike Randles
- Richard Airey • Jamie Hughes • Sam Masters • Stephen Britten • Alex Prentice •



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Blacksmithing

FOCUS 2024
28 & 29
September



The Blacksmiths Guild has strongly supported BFBA in bringing blacksmithing back into the heart of the Association, particularly supported by Merv Allen FWCB and Doug Campbell AWCB.

We were really proud to see blacksmith's running a competition as part of our Focus weekend.

The competition, which was organised by Don Mallet AWCB invited two-man teams to forge a swingletree in two hours, from scratch. It was quite a challenge, but the team from Hereford College were victorious.



BFBA International Team Blacksmithing Competition 2023

RESULTS

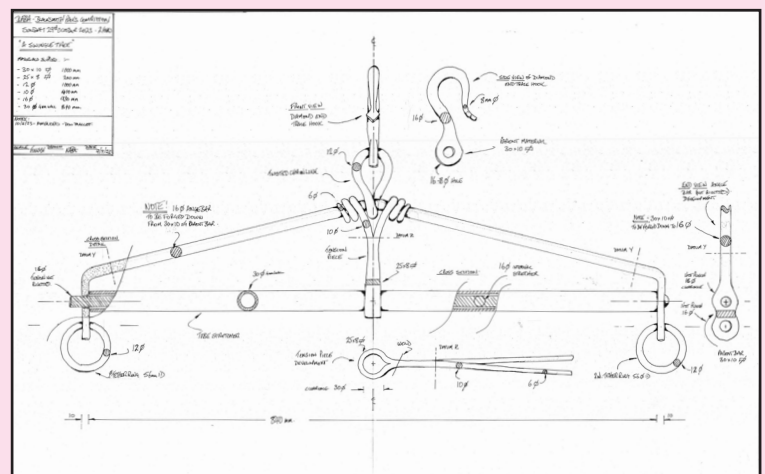
1st: Adam Greenwell and Josh James Masey (pictured left)

2nd: Merv Allen and Doug Campbell

3rd: Alex Würsch and David Frei

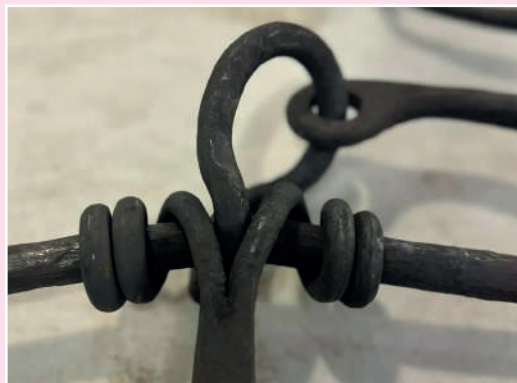


Judge Adrian Legge FWCB presents the trophy to Adam Greenwell and Josh James Masey, alongside BFBA President Ben Benson



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National Heritage Ironwork Group

The National Heritage Ironwork Group (NHIG) has released its latest newsletter with news of its activities.

Early in November it held a CPD event entitled 'Conservation of Architectural Ironwork', a two-day course that was held in York.

Aimed at craft practitioners and consultative professionals, this course was an introduction to the conservation of ironwork, covering historical context, metallurgy of wrought iron and steels, traditional tools, techniques, materials, design and manufacture. The course provided a comprehensive overview of the processes of restoration, surface preparation and treatments, specification and standards for heritage ironwork contracts, including a procurement and pricing exercise. The NHIG aims to equip those wishing to commission work on listed ironwork with information they will find essential in the writing of specifications. Lectures were complemented by a site visit to survey historic ironwork and develop a strategy for its conservation.

Lecturers Geoff Wallis and Bethan Griffiths have extensive experience in the field of historic ironwork conservation. They shared their own practical experiences and were happy to discuss delegates' own projects where appropriate.

2023 AGM

Our 2023 annual general meeting, which members are welcome to join, is scheduled for Monday 20 November, 4pm, online. Meeting link to be sent out the week before.

Awards

NHIG Award for Heritage Metalwork Conservation 2023

The NHIG was delighted to announce the 2023 winner of the NHIG Award for Heritage Metalwork Conservation. From a fascinating and varied shortlist, first place was awarded to the Tijou screen in the Privy Garden at Hampton Court Palace, which was a collaborative project, with blacksmiths Paul Allen of Motcombe Forge and David James of George James and Sons, working alongside project manager Rob Umney of Historic Royal Palaces and architect Andrew Harris.

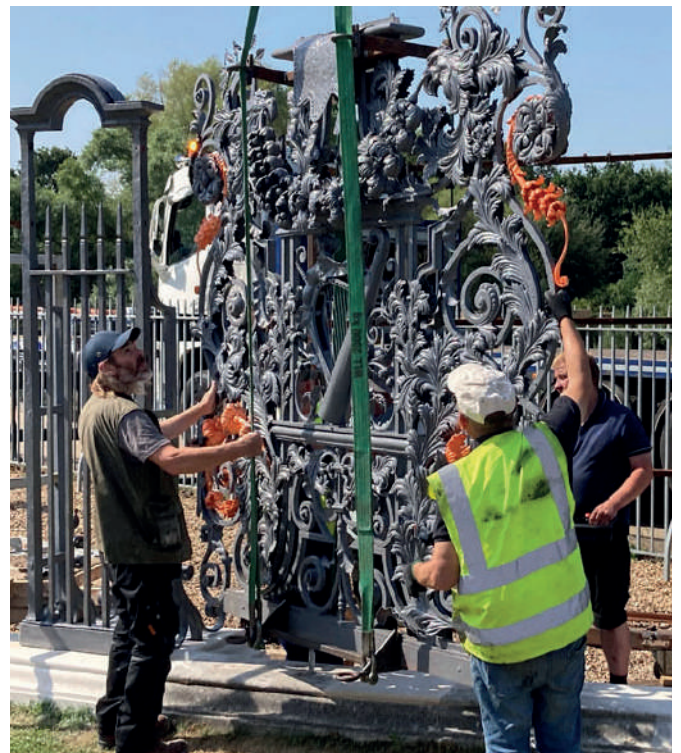


Originally constructed of Swedish charcoal iron between 1689 and 1692, the panel (one of 12) has been subject to several interventions over the years. This restoration project aimed to take it back to its original state as closely as possible.

The judges were particularly impressed by the meticulous



NHIG Conservation Award winners working on the Tijou screen for the Privy Garden at Hampton Court Palace



The Tijou screen being re-installed at Hampton Court Palace

attention to detail throughout the conservation of the panel, from the initial condition report and painstaking research through to the very high-quality execution of the practical elements, commenting 'it is an exemplar of best practice within ironwork conservation'. Architect Andrew Harris responded to the win by saying: 'It's a big responsibility to be working on such an iconic object and a huge help to have this endorsement from NHIG.'



Highly Commended Awards for Heritage Metalwork Conservation

Two 'Highly Commended' awards were also made, one to Peter Crownshaw for his work on an Italianate gate in a baroque style for a private client in Shropshire (pictured above), and the other to Peter Palmer of Cast Iron Welding Services for his work on the restoration of a cast iron weighbridge building dating from the 1880s at the Black Country Living Museum (pictured below).

In all cases, the judges said they were struck by the care and attention to detail with which work had been carried out, demonstrating a genuine desire to honour the original makers and preserve the spirit of their work.



Marie Palmer at the Black Country Living Museum

The 2024 NHIG Award for Heritage Metalwork Conservation will open for entries early in the new year

NHIG Essay Prizewinner

Alexandra Dziegiel has won the first NHIG essay prize for her 'impressive, comprehensive research work' entitled 'Using examples, define the problems of decay in historic wrought and cast iron, to explore methods of conservation and repair.'

Alexandra is studying for a conservation of the historic environment masters degree at Birmingham City University, under the tutelage of Katriona Byrne. She wins two years of membership in NHIG and copies of the group's books.

This year the essay prize was aimed at students on Katriona's course, but from next year applications will be widened to include other postgraduate courses covering metalwork conservation.

Alexandra's study can be downloaded from the NHIG's website <https://nhig.org.uk/category/articles/>

Other news

Film Project

NHIG council member Rowan Taylor has posted the first 12 of the group's series of videos on traditional forging projects. These have already received hundreds of views.

They cover wrought iron, making a welded eye, upsetting, swaging, set downs, handle welds, drawing out, forging to a section, cleft welds, cast iron, T-welds and structural T-welds. They are typically four- to seven-minutes long, beautifully condensed and packed with information.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUifQB37T6Nojy9RhC50Ylg>



SUPPORT NHIG BECOME A MEMBER

<https://nhig.org.uk/become-a-member/>

The NHIG invites interested readers to support the charity by becoming a member.

NHIG says it is the first organisation worldwide focused solely on historic ironwork. Members' support is vital to enable to group to become the organisation for historic ironwork care and a hub for research and advice, to create a secure future for heritage ironwork.

World Championship Blacksmiths, Spruce Meadows



After a break of almost 10 years, the World Championship Blacksmith (WCB) Competition took place in September at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, Canada.

Not only did the event have a first-class venue, but it also secured two of the best judges – Spud Allison from England and Austin Edens from the USA. Up for grabs was \$100,000 prize money.

The WCB described its judges as 'great all-round farriers', recognising them as fierce competitors with 'an eye for detail' who would be well aware of the challenges faced by competitors.

An early winner, making a caulk and wedge shoe was the UK's George Rogerson. It was Sergio Perez Prieto who won the first class of the 2023 Blacksmith World Championships with Matt Randles a very close second, followed by Steven Beane in third place. Stan Mullen won the day's speed forging.

Matthew Randles picked up a great win with his hammer finished deep seated bar shoe! However, on 9 September it was Steven Beane's day for a big win with a beautifully shod foot. Close behind him in second place was Spain's David Ibanez Marti and Sergio Perez Prieto in a very, very tight race.

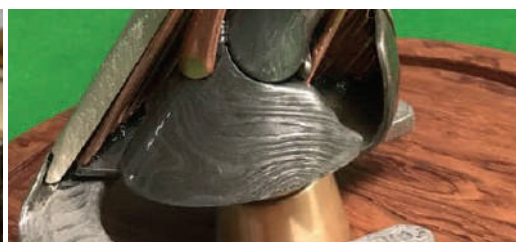
The competitors from 12 countries did not make it an easy job for the judges, but they powered through it, being completely consistent and thorough, the organisers said.

The next day was the pool of shoes class, with two shoes chosen from the pool of six shoes. What the shoes were and who was first to make them was announced 30 minutes before the beginning of the class, which began at 8am. The next go was announced with 10 minutes left in the class, with a 20-minute turn around. No practising of the shoes was allowed by competitors in the later rounds. The goal was to have a level playing field, so everyone had the same start as those who went first in the round.

On 10 September, the USA's Tom Petersen won the Dutch Winter Shoe Class. Next, Bodie Trnka, also from the USA, won the Italian hind class.



Mike described the trophy as being as an anatomically correct version of a horse's lower leg and shod hoof complete with copper tendons, bronze and aluminium ligaments, Damascus steel hoof capsule and a stainless steel shoe



(far left) Mike Randles with the outstanding perpetual trophy he made for the 2023 World Champion Blacksmith Competition. (left) WCB judges Spud Allison and Austin Edens

On the final day, 10 farriers began the final phase of the World Championship journey – five being from the UK. They were Matthew Randles, Steven Beane, Jack Casserly and George Rogerson from England and Grant Watt of Scotland, alongside Chris Madrid, Dillon Crane, Bodie Trnka and Tom Petersen of the USA and Stan Mullen of New Zealand.

Sixty-two competitors had begun the WCB journey, but there can only be one champion. **Matthew Randles** amassed the winning 660 points over five days of competition and was so far ahead that he would have been crowned world champion without competing in the final.

The USA's **Dillon Crane was Reserve Champion**, third was **Steven Beane**, fourth was **Grant Watt**, fifth was **Chris Madrid**, sixth was **George Rogerson**, seventh was **Stan Mullen**, eighth was **Jack Casserly**, ninth was **Bodie Trnka**, and **Tom Petersen** was tenth.

Forge magazine is delighted that Mike Randles is going to share the making of this magnificent trophy through our pages, and we will be honoured to publish it.

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BFBA EDWARD MARTIN CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The BFBA Edward Martin Cultural Exchange is organised by the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association and the American Farrier's Association and offers graduate farriers the opportunity to represent their respective Associations on an educational three-month trip to the USA/UK, allowing them to travel and expand their farriery knowledge and skills while working with some of the most highly regarded farriers.



Cody Borgard CJF TE DipWCF arrived in the UK in July. His first experience was with Huw Dyer AWCF in North Yorkshire before going to Dorset with Abby Bunyard AWCF who travelled with him to the Royal Welsh Show. He said: 'It was a fun few days with three days of shoe making and shoeing and meeting farriers from around the area.'



He left with one of the two judges, Russell Jones to visit the Leek area. 'I had a great couple days shoeing and working in the forge with Russell and his apprentice Molly. At the Leek & District Show I was delighted to meet farrier legend Gary Darlow and watch him compete. Leon Bentham was also at the contest and it was good to see the way he led by example, striking for others in several rounds before his own run.'

Week 6 was spent with Derek Gardner AWCF in Cumbria: 'the opportunity to discuss trimming as well as practice with Derek's critique was fantastic.'

'We were able to watch the Tour de Farrier in aid of the Farriers Foundation and see the front runners climb the enormous hill at Hardknott Pass.

'Scotland, with Jason Cunningham AWCF and his partner Shona, was full of good conversations and a nice mix of work along with getting to see parts of Scotland and learning more about the history, and enjoying a great breakfast (see below). We attended the Defender Blair Castle International Horse Trials. And I got to meet Sarah Logie FWCF who had just published a new book.



'It was a privilege to visit Balmoral Castle and estate working on both stalking ponies and broodmares and stallions that belong to the King. I spent the rest of the week with Cliff Barnes AWCF – another extremely insightful host. We had lots of great conversations including advice on preparing for the AWCF. There were a few interesting cases to see as well, such as a wire cut that took off a chunk of a horse's heel after getting caught in a fence.

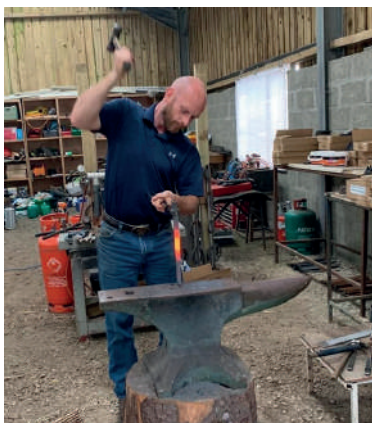
'Neil Chalmers DipWCF – in the Perth and Kinross area – had some excellent insights to share on most aspects of trimming and shoeing. He was able to arrange for me to spend a day with Lewis Thomson DipWCF shoeing polo ponies. I enjoyed a great day with Jim Ferrie FWCF, too.

'In my last week, I was able to spend a day each with Gary Darlow, Sam Johnson, and Leon Bentham out shoeing plus a final day of sightseeing with Gary topped off with a nice dinner out with Gary and Edwina Darlow, Russell Jones and Kate Jones, Sam Johnson,



Leon Bentham, and Phoebe Colton. A fantastic end to this part of the journey.

'The benefits of this trip are invaluable. Lessons learned in trimming and foot prep, anatomy, pathologies, shoemaking, tool making and maintenance, business, client relations, exam prep, competition prep, education strategies and more will be of benefit to myself, my clients, and most importantly the horses I serve for years to come.'



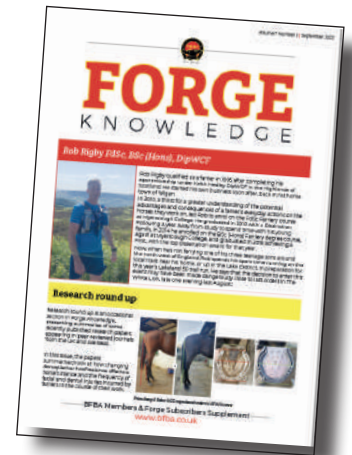
In the November 2023 issue of *Forge Knowledge*

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

While studying for the DipHE Farriery at Myerscough College, Connor Parsons, DipWCF, DipHE, researched damage to the suspensory ligament. Although this can occur in horses of all breeds, types and ages, it is most common in competition horses.

As part of his studies, Connor reviewed a series of cases of proximal suspensory desmitis to evaluate whether there is an ideal procedure for diagnosing, treating and formulating a prognosis for injured horses.

Also in *Forge Knowledge* are summaries of research, which aims to support evidence-based farriery by summarising relevant research published in scientific journals from the UK and worldwide. In this issue the summaries look at what immediate effects trimming has on hoof morphology and joint angles in horses and whether shoeing changes the gait of previously barefoot horses?



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Prestige project for Paul

Master Blacksmith Paul Gilbert FWCB recently completed these beautiful gates for a client in Surrey, which are now in use in a private estate in Weybridge. The gates took six months to make, and Paul said that the parts are screwed together, and drilled and tapped. Very little welding was used on this project, which make the gates special, he notes. Galvanized and painted, the gold is 24ct gold leaf on the four birds, the balls and some of the leaf work. Paul is based in Crediton, Devon.



Work began on the gates in November 2022. They are 3 metres tall in the middle as this was the maximum height allowed by the estate. The tops were removable for galvanising and transport.

They are traditionally made and held together with 10 mm , 8 mm and 6 mm screws and ball nuts.

The steel size used was 40 mm x 40 mm square bar, 16 mm round bar , 40 mm x 12 mm flat bar, 20 mm x 6 mm flat bar and 13 mm x 5 mm flat bar.

These have been the most expensive gates I have made in my 32 years as a blacksmith and I am very proud of them.

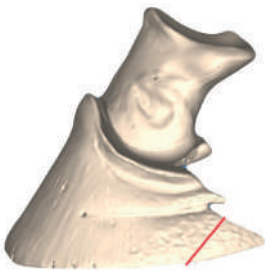
'It isn't every day you get the chance to work on such a big and expensive project...the architect and the client were fantastic – putting their trust in me to create them using my skills and experience.'

Pedal bone fractures

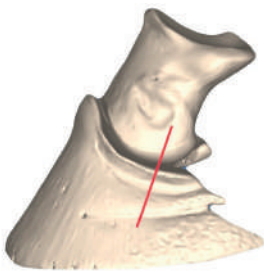
By Marc Jerram BSc(Hons), GradDipELR, CJF, AWCF

Definition

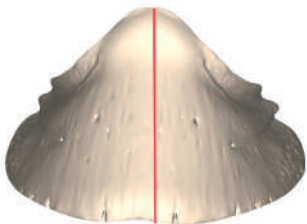
A pedal bone fracture is defined as a break or crack in the bone. These fractures can vary in severity, ranging from small cracks to complete bone displacement. There are several classifications of fracture in relation to the location, these are:



Type 1 (Wing fracture) – This is when a piece of the pedal bone is broken away at either the medial or lateral aspect.



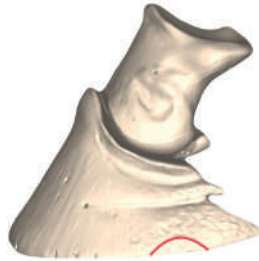
Type 2 (Articular fracture) – This is when the fracture extends and involves the joint surfaces of the coffin joint



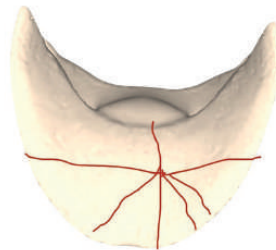
Type 3 (Mid sagittal) – This is when the fracture occurs at the front of the pedal bone at the centre, creating an equal division



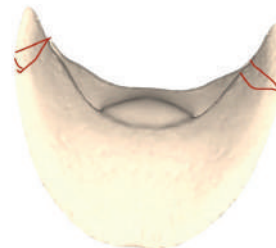
Type 4 (Extensor process fracture) – a small fracture at the top of the pedal bone leaving a piece of floating bone just above the coffin joint, this is sometimes referred to as pyramidal disease



Type 5 (chip fracture) – A chip fracture of the base of the pedal bone



Type 6 (commuted fracture) – A series of minor fractures along the base of the coffin bone leading to demineralisation of the coffin bone



Type 7 (foal fracture) – Similar to type 6 fractures although they occur to the rear of the pedal bone and are specific to foals

Clinical signs

Pedal bone fractures often result in severe lameness, as they disrupt the normal functioning of the hoof and its surrounding structures. Horses may exhibit signs of discomfort, such as unilateral lameness, reluctance to bear weight on the affected limb, lower limb swelling, increased heat and digital pulse as well as an increased heart rate.

It is crucial to keep the horse on box rest and seek immediate veterinary assistance.

Additional structures affected

A pedal bone fracture in horses can have significant implications for various

soft tissue structures in the hoof and lower limb. These should also be taken into account when formulating a rehabilitation plan. The most common affected structures include:

Deep digital flexor tendon (DDFT)

The DDFT is a crucial soft tissue structure that runs down the palmar/plantar aspect of the limb and attaches to the semi lunar crescent of the pedal bone. When a pedal bone fracture occurs, it can cause tearing of the DDFT fibres, leading to pain, inflammation, and lameness. The integrity of the DDFT is essential for proper hoof function and stability.

Suspensory ligament

A pedal bone fracture can put stress on the suspensory ligament, leading to strain or tears especially on the contra lateral limb. This can further contribute to lameness and affect the horse's ability to bear weight on the affected limb.

Lateral cartilages

The lateral cartilages are thin, fibrous structures located on either side of the pedal bone, extending from the back of the hoof towards the pastern region. They provide support and stability to the back of the hoof. In the case of a pedal bone fracture, the lateral cartilages can be indirectly affected due to the associated trauma and inflammation. Prolonged inflammation or instability can lead to degenerative changes or abnormalities.

Collateral ligaments

A fracture in the pedal bone can damage the distal collateral ligaments, causing instability and affecting the alignment of the bones. This can further contribute to lameness and decrease the horse's ability to bear weight on the affected limb.

Blood vessels and nerves

Pedal bone fractures can cause damage to the blood vessels and nerves in

the hoof. The fracture itself or the subsequent inflammation can lead to compromised blood flow and nerve function. This can result in reduced healing capacity, increased pain, and potential complications such as infection or ischemia.

Synovial structures

The joints and synovial structures surrounding the pedal bone can also be affected by a fracture. Disruption of the joint capsule or synovial membrane can lead to inflammation, reduced joint mobility and potential joint infection.

Hoof wall and laminae

A pedal bone fracture can also impact the integrity of the hoof wall and laminae. When a pedal bone fracture occurs, it can cause disruption and separation of the laminae, leading to laminitis or founder. The overloading of the contra lateral limb also serves as a risk factor of the potential of supporting limb laminitis.

Soft tissue swelling and oedema

Following a pedal bone fracture, there is often significant soft tissue swelling and oedema in the affected limb. The trauma and inflammation associated with the fracture can cause fluid accumulation, leading to swelling and increased pressure within the tissues. This swelling can further contribute to lameness and discomfort, as well as impede the healing process.

Subsequent complications

A pedal bone fracture can also lead to secondary complications such as infections, abscesses, or septic arthritis. The break in the bone can provide an entry point for bacteria, increasing the risk of infection. This can cause further damage to surrounding tissues and joints, leading to more severe lameness and potential long-term consequences.

Causes

One of the primary causes of pedal bone fractures is direct trauma to the hoof. This can occur from incidents such as a horse kicking a hard surface, getting entangled in fencing, or stumbling and landing heavily on a solid object. The impact force can result in fractures within the delicate pedal bone.

Prolonged and excessive stress on

the hoof can weaken the pedal bone over time, making it more prone to fractures. This stress can be caused by various factors, including long-distance or high-intensity activities like racing, jumping, or endurance riding. Repeated pounding on hard surfaces without adequate rest intervals can also contribute to the development of stress fractures.

Certain pre-existing conditions can increase the risk of pedal bone fractures. For instance, horses with conditions like laminitis have compromised blood flow and weakened laminal interdigitation within the hoof. This can lead to pedal bone displacement or fractures, especially if the horse experiences sudden weight-bearing or excessive force on the hoof. Factors related to age and breed can also influence the likelihood of pedal bone fractures. Young, growing horses with insufficient bone density may be more susceptible to fractures. Additionally, certain breeds, such as Thoroughbreds or horses with fine, delicate bone structures, may be at higher risk due to inherent genetic factors.

Diagnosis

The diagnosis of pedal bone fractures in horses by a vet typically involves a combination of clinical examination and imaging techniques. Firstly, a thorough clinical examination of the horse takes place, evaluating the horse's gait and observing if lameness is present. Followed by assessment of the horse's stance, hoof sensitivity, and other signs of pain or distress. In some cases, diagnostic anaesthesia may be performed to localise the source of lameness. The use of an abaxial sesamoid or palmar digital nerve block can make it possible to observe changes in the horse's gait.

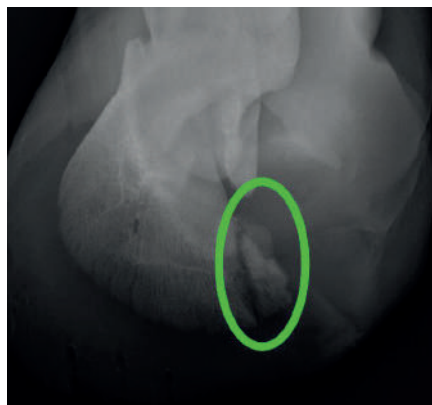


Fig 1. A wing fracture (Type 1) of the pedal bone highlighted in the green circle

Following this, radiography is often then used to diagnose and evaluate pedal bone fractures. The most common projections include lateromedial, dorsopalmar, dorsoproximal-palmarodistal oblique and palmaroproximal-palmarodistal oblique. However, some cases may require further views to diagnose the fracture (Fig. 1).

In more complex cases or when further detail is required, advanced imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or computed tomography (CT) scans may be used. These imaging methods provide highly detailed cross-sectional images, allowing for a more comprehensive evaluation of the fracture and its surrounding structures (Heer et al 2020). Nuclear scintigraphy, also known as a bone scan, is occasionally used to diagnose pedal bone fractures when other diagnostic methods are inconclusive. This procedure involves injecting a small amount of radioactive material into the horse's bloodstream, which is then absorbed by the bones. A specialised camera detects the radioactive emissions and creates images that highlight areas of increased bone activity, indicating potential fractures.

Treatment

The treatment of pedal bone fractures in horses can vary depending on the severity and location of the fracture. The variation of treatment includes:

Conservative management

In some cases, if the fracture is stable and non-displaced, and the horse is comfortable, conservative management may be recommended. This involves strict stall rest or limited turnout to minimise weight-bearing on the affected limb. Pain management medications, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), may also be prescribed to alleviate discomfort. Regular monitoring and radiographic evaluations are necessary to ensure the fracture remains stable and is healing properly.

Corrective farriery

Farriery plays a vital role in the treatment and management of pedal bone fractures. Specific shoeing techniques can be used to provide support, reduce stress on the injured area, and promote healing.



Fig 2. A bar shoe with multiple clips for a pedal bone wing fracture



Fig 3. A glue on Imprint shoe with its continuous cuff could be used for some pedal bone fractures



Fig 4. A hoof cast applied to a hoof with a mid-sagittal fractured pedal bone

Farriery treatment can involve the use of a bar shoe with multiple clips to completely stabilise the hoof, but care must be taken to apply as few nails as possible during the early stages of recovery (Kidd 2011).

Glue on shoes with a large cuff could also be considered if nailing is an issue along with pads and packing (Fig 3.)

The use of a hoof cast is what the author considers to be the most effective for stabilising the hoof with a simple and efficient application that requires no nailing (Fig. 4). This should be kept on for 6 weeks before a fresh set of radiographs is taken to monitor the progress of recovery.

Surgical intervention

In some cases, surgical intervention may be necessary to treat certain types of pedal bone fractures. This can involve procedures such as:

a. Internal fixation: Internal fixation involves the use of screws, plates, wires, or other implants to stabilize the fractured bone. This technique allows for precise alignment and immobilization of the fractured segments, promoting proper healing.

b. Arthrodesis: Arthrodesis is a surgical procedure where the joint near the fracture site is fused, immobilising the joint and promoting stability. This can be performed when the fracture extends into a joint or when conservative management fails.

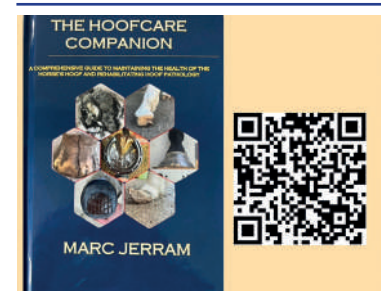
Prognosis

After the initial treatment, a structured rehabilitation programme may be recommended to gradually increase activity levels and promote the horse's return to normal function. This can include controlled exercise, physical

therapy, and regular re-evaluations to monitor healing progress and make any necessary adjustments to the treatment plan. The prognosis for most fractures is good, with many horses returning to full work with little evidence of the injury.

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Marc Jerram is the author of 'The Hoofcare Companion' featuring a wide variety of case studies, modern approaches to hoofcare and the effects of nutrition on the hoof. Copies are available from www.thefarrier.co.uk

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARRIERS Higher Examinations



The following farrier achieved a pass in Associateship of the Worshipful Company of Farriers

David Blake AWCF of Norfolk
Travis Vernon Powell AWCF, USA

The following farrier achieved a pass in the Fellowship of the Worshipful Company of Farriers

Henrik Jansson FWCF of Sweden

Getting a unique perspective on Mauritania

Bernard Duvernay HonFWCF gives an update on the work of the Flying Anvil Foundation in West Africa. Having been lucky to be welcomed by a leader of the Berber community, he was given a unique perspective on what had been, to him, a previously unknown world.



My host Babaha in his desert camp

The population of Mauritania mostly live in desert regions – they are a people of camel sheep and goat breeders, and occasionally of cattle, but in very small numbers. Some owners manage to feed their animals thanks to crops in the green areas along the Senegal River. The spectacle of the wadis among the sand dunes is a breathtaking experience, side-by-side the bright yellow sand and the unlikely greenery of its small valley beds.



Despite the hard work of these donkeys, their feet require regular trimming



The dune and the greenery mixing in the landscape of the wadi

There is only a small horse population in Mauritania, some that have been retired from racing in Morocco end their career here, under the saddle of beach tourists. There are a few owners who appear unconcerned by the real care that horses require. I also ran across a few horses in the Rosso region, they were harnessed to carts and transported people or goods. They weren't even shod, but their feet didn't seem to suffer.

What particularly fascinated me was the population of donkeys in the capital, Nouakchott, and in the small villages nearby.



A farrier from the Spana team at work



A donkey traveling through the city to deliver its load

Here, donkeys carry out all kinds of transport, but their most important activity is the distribution of water to the houses of the city or the villages. They have their rounds – their neighbourhoods. They leave the supply centre with a load of two barrels, which corresponds to 400 litres, sometimes brought by a tanker truck, a well or a pipeline from the Senegal River.

This work is not lucrative, but the four to five trips per day still allow a family to survive. It is surprising



A water filling station



It is also the donkeys that bring up the water from the well

to see that the donkeys appear well fed, and do not seem to suffer from nutritional deficiencies. The donkeys are not shod and work mainly on sandy roads, farriers are relatively scarce.

I met a group of farriers and veterinarians from SPANA who have a dispensary in the city.

These professionals do an admirable job of caring for the donkeys for free. Thus, the farriers at this centre trim a large number of the city's donkeys. They are estimated at 100,000 in the region of the Nouakchott itself.



It is not uncommon to see them hitched in threes



The carts are rudimentary, the harnesses are not always very comfortable and can even cause injuries and pressure

I was impressed by the psychological and physical stamina of these donkeys, for whom I have enormous admiration.

Indeed, wherever life is difficult for animals and for people, worldwide, donkeys are omnipresent, on the most challenging routes and paths. Their 'difficult' character is only the case found in countries where they have forgotten the work of their ancestors, where excess food and a lack of education make them similar to capricious children.



Sheep or camel shepherds, have fantastic knowledge of the desert

And since we are approaching Christmas, let us not forget that the donkey was there all those years ago close to the manger, to keep new born baby Jesus warm.



In the most remote places donkeys are seen pulling their water carts

NAF Five Star PROFEET 2023 Farrier of the Year

Horse & Hound has revealed in shortlist for the 2023 Farrier of the Year Award, which recognises a farrier whose knowledge and effort has supported a horse or horses' performance and wellbeing.

The four farriers who have made the shortlist for the NAF Five Star PROFEET Farrier of the Year 2023 are:

Dale Greenwood of Walsall, West Midlands

This is the second year that Dale has made this shortlist. At 16, he started helping a local farrier who was part of the Welsh world champion shoeing team.

'I was lucky to get that training and it set me up well for the future,' says Dale, who has now been qualified for 16 years. 'I shoe a wide range of horses and enjoy making a difference to how they move. Many horses come to me with poor feet and I work hard to improve them, but I also enjoy the wide variety of people I meet and hearing their stories.'

A satisfied client says: 'Dale has been our farrier for 15 years and has never let us down. One of our mares has white line disease and lost shoes frequently, but she's never lost one with Dale! He's so caring with all our horses, and even turns them out after.'

James Greig of Chelmsford, Essex

James first saw a farrier working at a riding school where he spent the weekends with his sister. Completely fascinated, he decided farriery was the career for him.

'I never swayed on this decision throughout my teenage years and my passion for horses spurred me on every day,' says James, who has now been a farrier for more than 20 years. 'I've worked with so many different horses, but I always approach them the same, with respect, kindness and patience. I have many loyal customers who've known me since I was an apprentice and I feel truly touched to be nominated.'

A satisfied client says: 'James worked with me to help a pony with canker after two years of no progress with a different farrier. With his expertise, the pony has made a fantastic recovery. James now works with all the horses on the yard and is so kind with them all.'

Nathan Salter of Bourne, Lincs

Nathan grew up as a member of the Burghley branch of the Pony Club.

'Watching the farrier shoe our ponies was the moment I knew I was hooked. I'd always loved horses, but it was at that point I realised I could combine my



passion and my career,' recalls Nathan. 'It is truly one of the most rewarding professions and I count myself extremely lucky to be able to get up every day and genuinely love going to work!'

A satisfied client says: 'I've never come across a farrier who takes such pride and genuine care in his work. He deals with naughty foals, dramatic mares, flamboyant stallions and everything in between, all with a smile and good humour. He takes great pride in his work, never rushes and you can tell he wants nothing but the best for your horses. There aren't enough words for me to express how much I appreciate him.'

Matt Strawson of Louth, Lincolnshire

A farrier for 13 years, Matt has been around horses his whole life but found the work of a farrier fascinating.

'There is no better feeling than helping a lame horse, solving and fixing a problem, and creating comfort. I shoe a lot of competition horses and seeing them do well gives me ultimate job satisfaction,' says Matt, who says there is always more to learn.

A satisfied client says: 'Matt is a fantastic farrier. His skills are second to none and people always ask who my farrier is when they see my horse's feet. He is a perfectionist with the horses' comfort at the forefront of his mind. His work ethic is beyond the norm – nothing is too much trouble and he will move heaven and earth to be there if a horse needs him. He's never let us down and the difference he makes to my horses is fantastic.'

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

As Forge goes to press, we await the results.

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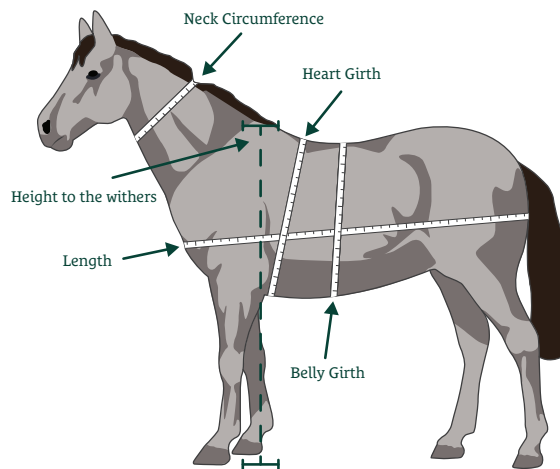
Body condition tool launched by Spillers

SPILLERS has developed a new Body Condition Index (BCI) tool. The easy-to-use tool can help owners to assess fat accumulation in horses and ponies more objectively than previous systems, Spillers says.

The researchers believe the new BCI may be easier and more sensitive than body condition scoring (BCS) for tracking changes in condition. It has been developed primarily to help identify horses and ponies that are likely to be overweight or obese, thus providing horse owners with a more objective monitoring method to help prevent obesity and its associated risks, the company says.

Obesity, which may be as high as 70% in some populations of ponies, is a major welfare issue, not only because of the direct weight-associated effects, but also due to its association with equine metabolic syndrome and an increased risk of laminitis.

Accurate assessment of fat deposits can help identify levels of obesity and assist with the monitoring of weight loss. Body condition scoring (BCS) is a popular method of practically assessing the horse or pony's level of fat covering across several areas of the body where fat is normally laid down. The assessment is made by eye and by touch using a numerical grading system, but it is subjective and can be imprecise, especially when used by more inexperienced assessors.



The new BCI is easy to use: all horse owners need to do is enter five measurements into the calculator on the SPILLERS website. Horses or ponies scoring 18-22 are likely to be overweight, whereas horses scoring more than 22 are likely to be obese.

'During validation studies, using body condition scoring by experienced assessors as a comparison, the BCI correlated well with adiposity in both horses and ponies,' said Product Manager Sarah Nelson. 'However, further work needs to be carried out in relation to accuracy for Shetlands, miniatures and large draft breeds.'

'Encouragingly it was more consistent and repeatable when used by inexperienced assessors, and it may be more sensitive than condition scoring for tracking weight gain or weight loss in individual animals.'

'This study is part of our ongoing work to provide evidence-based knowledge and practical support for horse owners to help with the management of obesity and related health risks. The new BCI should be helpful for those who prefer using measurements rather than the more subjective descriptions used for body condition scoring.'

The new BCI is available in the weight management tools section of the new SPILLERS website. The site is said to be quick and easy to navigate and contains a vast library of essential nutrition information, as well as details of all the products in the company's range. www.spillers-feeds.com.

Hose celebrates 50th year

BFBA Leicestershire branch ran its 50th competition at the Spence family forge. After the competition, Richard Spence said: 'I would like to thank all who came and supported us. We always do our best to put on a good competition, thanks to the loyal competitors that return every year. The feedback we hear is that it's one of the toughest open classes in the competition year and, as for the apprentice class, that works great being a two-person team. Well done to you all, the standard was fantastic and the judges had a hard job.'

The competition was recorded by photographer Penny Fillingham who said: 'I had a fantastic day today at the 2023 Hose 50th Farrier Competition, which was held at a family run forge, worked over the years by three generations of farriers.'



The workmanship, talent, technique and pure strength that goes into creating and fitting custom made footwear for equines is quite astounding. I've watched horses being shod countless times, but here I really got the feeling of the millennia of knowledge passed down and held up in that one item. From a deep understanding of working metal to a complex knowledge of the biology and physiology of the hoof and its attached horse, we're very lucky to have our dedicated farriers working hard to keep hooves happy.'

The images can be viewed and purchased at <https://pennyfillingham.zenfolio.com/p318678970>

HOSE 50TH COMPETITION

Judge – Gary Darlow AFCL

Silver Medal awarded to – **Matthew Randles DipWCF**
 1st/2nd Year Apprentice winner – **Ethan Rolfe**
 3rd/4th Year Apprentice – **Rosie Dobson**

Seedy toe – credit where it's due

In mid October, Farrier Harry Spinks DipWCF shared on Facebook the progress on a case of seedy toe, following a resection carried out a few weeks earlier. He said: 'An Imprint shoe and patch with copper sulphate was used to support the resected area and stop any infection from getting in.'

'Thanks Sarah Logie FWCF for the past advice on dealing with cases like this one.'



Farrier Richard Spence AWCF was honoured to judge the 2023 at Best Shod Award at the Horse of the Year Show at the NEC in October. He said all the shoeing work was very well presented and the winners all had handmade shoes.

The winner was farrier Daniel Garlick DipWCF, who shod the horse Alfie Connor (a middleweight hunter); the owner was Lyssa Sheppard.

'It was a pleasure working with a great team of stewards and judges and representing the Worshipful Company of Farriers.'



BFBA Executive Committee member Daniel Harman says he a great day at the British Equine Veterinary Association Congress in September, representing the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association on its stand. He also managed to attend some lectures.

WCF EQUINE VETERINARY STUDIES AWARD

Congratulations



Vet student Becky Storer is delighted to have been selected as the Winner of the Equine Veterinary Studies Award 2024 for Nottingham University, sponsored by The Worshipful Company of Farriers: 'This awards means I will be able to attend a placement with one of the best farriers in the country in 2024. Many thanks to University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science and the Worshipful Company of Farriers for this fantastic opportunity.'



Artist Rachel Robinson entered this piece, entitled 'In Good Hands' in the Horse in Art competition through the The Society of Equestrian Artists. The piece was selected to be a part of an exhibition in Yorkshire.

Rachel said: 'Graphite is such a beautiful medium and it truly complemented this piece so well, I want those who look at it to hear the sizzling sound and smell of the burning hoof. I love that I was able to highlight the tremendous work of a farrier as without them our horses would have no feet.' The image is drawn using graphite pencil on her favourite brand of paper Daler Rowney Bristol board smooth.

Danielle K Photography allowed her to use her reference image.



The Urban Countryman, who logs his own personal account of the countryside (especially across Surrey, Kent and Sussex) posted this interesting find on Facebook recently.

He said: 'For years I have been passing this horseshoe, wedged between the twin stems of a young beech tree beside a woodland path.

'When or why it was placed there remains a mystery. However, every year it is further absorbed with the expanding stems. When I first saw it most of it was visible, now one half is completely hidden, while the other half is on the way to joining it.

'Eventually the day will come when it is no longer visible and no one passing in the years ahead will ever know it is there.'



Farrier Thomas Burch MBE RSS recently spent two weeks in Pakistan working with the Brooke equine charity. He said: 'It was great working with Leon Bentham and Brooke Pakistan staff, but especially the Farriers. Despite 40° heat and high humidity they showed enthusiasm and a willingness to learn that impressed us both. This was proved in the way their work steadily improved over the two weeks. I look forward to going back next year. Well done everyone!'



The Farriers Foundation

Please support us

The Farriers Foundation was at Focus, raising funds to help farriers' families who need support.



'This anvil and hand crank forge were donated to our charity by Julian Seal. Josh Nunn refurbished it and suggested raffling the items, which raised £900 at Focus and was won by Ed Beeston. The forge was won by Andrew Bailey.'



Congratulations to Andrew Bowyer who was awarded the The Farriers Foundation trophy for his fundraising efforts this year for our charity. Andrew has raised over £1000 each year he has participated in the Tour de Farrier and helped the charity in many ways. Tour de farrier collectively raised over £17,000 this year.

The Farriers Foundation trustees are Jonathan Nunn FWCF, Sara Nunn, Chris J. Carrel AWCF, Mick Handley RSS, Grant Moon FWCF, Clive Watton, Mike Randles AFCL and Mark Trussler FWCF



Having been given this nice Heller Bros Co hammer by Julian Seal (along with some other tools he donated to The Farriers Foundation), Jonathan Nunn decided to use it to raise money for the charity through a speed nailing challenge at Focus.

Kindly sponsored by Mustad, the Speed Nail Challenge cost £5 a go for a cash prize, a goody bag and a nice trophy. The overall winner over the two days was Brad Greenham AWCF (pictured, right) with an unbelievable time of 8.33 seconds to nail six nails.

'The challenge raised over £900 for our charity and was a lot of fun for all taking part. A few thumbs got hit, but there was but no lasting damage!'



Tiffany Gardner DipWCF CJF is a North American farrier currently on the Edward Martin Cultural Exchange, a strong supporter of The Foundation. In the UK, she spent some time with Daniel Bennett at Hereford College where they recorded a podcast for the Lockdown Farriery Podcast



Newly qualified farrier George Hayter takes on the nailing challenge



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