



# FOCUS

ON

»» **FORGING** ««

## **2024 International Bladesmithing Competition**

### **CHOPPER CHALLENGE**

Competition  
specification  
and rules



# OBJECTIVE:

To forge a chopper style blade which will be hardened, tempered and hafted in 4 hours. This will be split between two 2 hour sessions. The blade should be of Brute de forge finish above the grind line. Blade shape and design will be of competitors choice.

The blade must be of full tang construction with at least 1 pin and include a lanyard tube. The cutting edge should be between 9 & 10 inches (measured from tip to front of ricasso). Depth of the blade to be a minimum 50mm (blades required to have ricasso area). Maximum blade length 17".

# HEAT TREATMENT:

All blades to be heated for hardening from the forge. The temperature range for heat treatment is 760c to 815c and no hold time is required for this steel. The oil provided will be rye 50 quench oil. The blades must be fully hardened by the end of the first 2 hours to then go into a 2 hour heat treatment cycle before the second 2 hour segment of the competition begins. It is also recommended that the blade be back tempered but this is at the competitors discretion. Failure to achieve a fully hardened blade by the end of the first segment of the competition, may lead to elimination from testing.

# SCHEDULE:

There will be a maximum of 16 competitors split into 2 groups.

Start time 8am for 1st group, 10am for 2nd group.

## 1st two hours:

Forging

Pre-heat treatment grind

Hardening

2 hour temper - in heat treatment oven. This will be set at 215°C

## 2nd 2 hours:

Final grind

Hafting (with pin and lanyard tube)

Sharpening

# TESTING:

4.30pm-5pm

There will be 3 tests.

1st test - 5 strikes into block of wood

2nd test - 5 strikes into copper tube

3rd test - sharpness test - TBC

# TEST CRITERIA:

To be marked out of 100 points.

50 points testing performance

10 points edge retention

10 points design for purpose

10 points build and finish quality

10 points accuracy to parameters

10 points aesthetics

# MATERIALS:

Materials provided -

12" x 2" x 4.9mm EN42J (1080 UK equivalent)

6mm brass pins and lanyard tube

Range of handle scales

Glue, acetone and relevant gluing materials

# EQUIPMENT:

Equipment provided -

Forge, anvil, leg vices

2"x48" belt grinder for each competitor with a range of belts

Pillar drill with 6mm drill bits

Map gas and propane torches

Quench tanks & Quench oil

## ***EQUIPMENT NOT PROVIDED -***

***Forging and hand tools such as files, tongs, clamps, hammers, woodworking tools, PPE etc will not be provided, it will be up to each competitor to provide their own.***

## **HEALTH & SAFETY:**

Steel toe cap boots to be worn for the duration of the competition.

Safety glasses to be worn throughout all sessions.

BFBA guidelines will be followed throughout the competition in line with health and safety regulations.

