



FORGE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION



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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

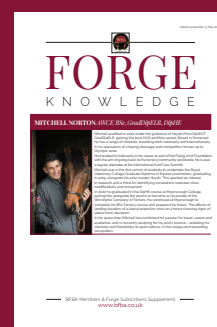
Jason Sim AWCF
Daniel Harman AWCF GradDipELR

WCF farrier on FRC Council

Robin P. May AWCF

The May 2025 issue of
Forge Knowledge contains
the articles:

- **Effect of a lateral extension shoe on landing duration in a horse with lateral hock deviation**
By Mitchell Norton AWCF, BSc, GradDipELR, DipHE
- **Research round-up**



CPD Committee

Chris Linssner (Chair), Ben Benson, Abby Bunyard, Aaron Myall, Phoebe Colton, Daniel Harman, Alex Mercer, Stephen Britten, Jamie Hughes, Dan Stern, Iain Nixon, Jason Brown, Merv Allen and Doug Campbell.

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

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

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Well, it's nearly AGM time, which means I'm almost at the end of my first year as President. I genuinely have no idea where the time has gone, but I can honestly say—it's been epic. The Executive Committee have been peddling faster than ever (without stabilisers, I might add). The Craft Committee, CPD Committee, and Editorial Panel have all been fantastic in pulling ideas together and making things happen.

National Equine Show – NEC Birmingham

Holly took the lead setting up, and was later joined by Aaron Myall, Charlie Dyson, Jack Barnes, Jamie Painter and Phoebe Colton. Together, we educated the public on two key fronts: how to remove a shoe in an emergency (we were six deep at one point!) and how to get into farriery as a career. The response was overwhelming—so much so, we've already signed up to exhibit again in 2026. Consider it the ultimate first aid to avoid the dreaded 5pm Friday emergency call.

National Equine Forum

Aaron attended and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Talks ranged from grass sickness to a parent's view on the transformative power of equine-assisted learning. The lectures are free to watch on YouTube—a huge knowledge bank and easy CPD points just waiting for you. Another string to our educational bow.

Hereford ATF Day

Danny Bennett asked if I'd speak on apprentice employment contracts—what followed was the first ATF day where everyone really talked. No animosity, no anger, just a room full of people asking, "How can we move forward?" Vicky Bushell, Director of Personnel at HLNSC, gave a cracking talk and hit home with: "If it's not written in policy, you've no grounds to expect it from your employees." A fair point. We're now building something from the BFBA office to support this: a policy document to sit alongside the existing employer contract—a one-stop shop for ATFs.

EFA Educational Weekend – Stoneleigh

This was a belter of a weekend. Thirty farriers from across Europe and a UK team came together. Friday saw Stephen Hill doing live dissections all day—everyone got to dissect their own limb (not their own limb, mind you...). Education was well and truly the word of the day. Saturday shifted gears with Danny Bennett's classroom sessions and forge demos, focusing on clean, basic shoemaking. Thank you to both Danny and Stephen for making it an unforgettable weekend.

EPA Day

This became a valuable reset—an opportunity to assess each apprentice and tailor support. It's set us up stronger for the next EPA day, with a clear focus on helping every apprentice reach their full potential. Massive thanks to Stephen Hill FWCF, Rob Shave FWCF and Alex Mercer AWCF for creating a truly bespoke and eye-opening educational experience. Watch out for the next one - it's not to be missed.

Werkman Spring Games

Jason Sims and Holly Flack represented the BFBA at this incredible event, and we were welcomed with open arms. After a six-year break, it was brilliant to see it back in action—and in Jason's words: "A busy weekend where we gained insight into how the UK farrier scene is perceived internationally. And, as always, it's great to be reminded how strong and progressive our farrier community is."



Welding Training – Basics & Advanced

A huge thank you to Mark and Bradley White and Don Mallett for running the two-day basics/advanced welding course. It was a huge success - great value, well attended, and everyone left having learned loads. It'll be back in the autumn - don't miss it!

Hoof Boot Day

Fully booked six weeks before the event - we had to shut down ticket sales! It was a full-on whirlwind of a day and such a success that the next one is already in the diary for July. Thanks to Rachel Watkin for putting together such an educational and current event.

CPD Planning Meetings

These are absolutely on fire right now. Huge thanks to Chris Linssner and the committee - there's loads kicking off soon:

- Social Licence Webinar with Danny Bennett – 8th May
- Blacksmith Experience Day with Don Mallett – 18th May
- Posture & Biomechanical Connections with Gillian Higgins – 13th June
- Hoof Boot Fitting Workshop (Back by popular demand!) – 19th July
- Apprentice Foot Balance Clinic with Chris Johnson, Stephen Hill and Rob Shave

It's a smorgasbord of educational brilliance - get involved.

New EC Member

Delighted to welcome Chris Murden-Wade to the EC as a co-opted member. He's already hit the ground running, digging into policies and procedures that are key in today's world. He's going to be a real asset to the team.

BFBA Edward Martin Cultural Exchange

Kathleen Beaman and Edward Beeston have flown to the USA on the Cultural Exchange Programme, doing a sterling job representing us across the pond. Watching their journey has made me feel... well, just a little envious, to be honest!

If you'd told me this time last year I'd be writing this, I probably would've laughed... but here we are, still standing, still forging ahead (pun very much intended). Thank you for all the support.

**Abby Bunyard FWCF,
BFBA President**



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CONGRATULATIONS TO ABBY BUNYARD FWCF

BFBA President Abby Bunyard has achieved her Fellowship of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (FWCF).

As well as being the first female President of the BFBA, Abby is only the third female farrier to attain this top WCF qualification.



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FOCUS 2025 – THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

We're counting down the days until this year's Focus event – it's the must-visit event of the farriery calendar, so make sure you've got Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September in your diary if you haven't already!

Here's a reminder of what you can expect from the UK's largest farriery and blacksmithing event.

A huge farriery and blacksmithing trade fair

Our fantastic trade fair with exhibitors showcasing the best products from across the industry will be returning to Focus once again. The trade fair seems to get better and better every year, with some exceptional stands bringing a real buzz to the Hall at Stoneleigh Park.

Lectures from world-class clinicians

We've announced the line-up of our fantastic speakers for this year's event, and we can promise some extremely interesting and educational talks! Check out the confirmed speakers on the right of this page.

Live demonstrations

We also have live demonstrations happening on site throughout the weekend. In previous years these have included live shoeing demonstrations, how to use and apply particular products and exam preparation.

The BFBA International Bladesmithing Competition and BFBA International Team Blacksmithing Competition

We're delighted to be bringing you two of the world's most competitive Blacksmithing and Bladesmithing events, happening at Focus over the weekend. You'll be able to have a front row seat to witness some of the best competitors on the circuit in action.

Focus is a highlight in the farriery and blacksmithing calendar with the event being valued and enjoyed by blacksmiths and equine professionals including vets, physiotherapists, nutritionists and barefoot trimmers. Don't miss it!



CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

DOMENICO CELLARO

Domenico is a third-generation professional Italian farrier who is regularly involved in helping horses with pathologies and lameness. He is also a developer of new educational methods which are useful for the daily farrier and veterinary approach.

ROBBIE MILLER AWCF CJF

A professional farrier for over 35 years, Robbie was the first African ever to be inducted to the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame. He owns and manages a very successful multi-farrier practice in Cape Town, South Africa.

ANDREW BOWYER FWCF GradDipELR

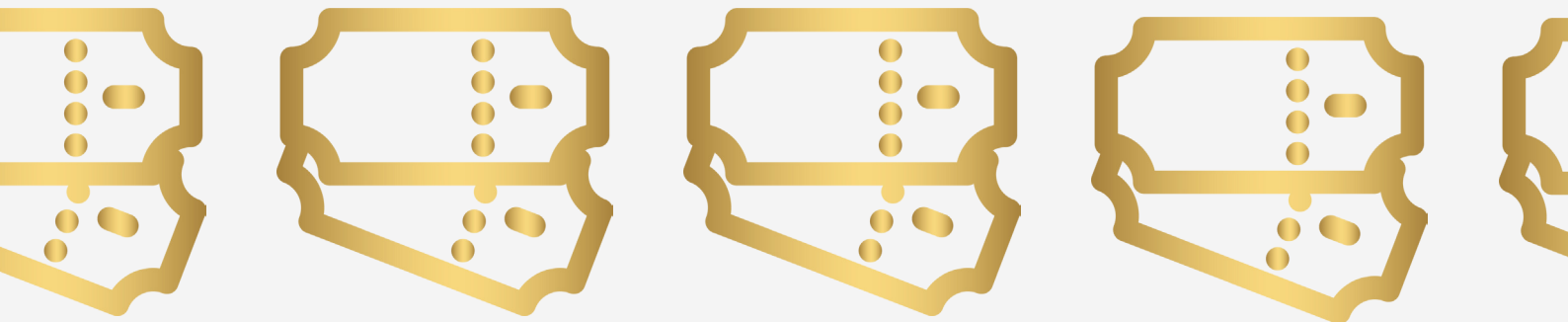
Andrew runs a mixed shoeing practice in Devon, and has also worked for British Equestrian as Team GB farrier for Dressage and Jumping, covering two World Games (the Tokyo and Paris Olympics) as well as four European Championships.

PAUL HORNER DipWCF AWCF BSc (HONS) FWCF

Paul is a training farrier who to date has had seven apprentices. Paul runs a successful business in Somerset, with a particular interest in the veterinary aspects of farriery as resident farrier at the University of Bristol and working at two Olympic Games.

DR JENNY HAGEN DVM PHD CF

Jenny is a veterinarian specialising in equine orthopaedics, rehabilitation and training as well as being a certified farrier. She and her group have examined several topics focused on biomechanics and the equine gait, as well as being a regular professional speaker.



FOCUS 2025



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UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

SOUTH OF ENGLAND 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH JUNE 2025

6th June

Open Pony: Competitors to shoe a foot with concave riding style and make a specimen of the judge's specification

60 minutes - £40

7th June

Open Roadster: Competitors to shoe a foot with a three quarter fullered riding style and make a specimen of the judge's specification

60 minutes - £40

8th June

Open Hunter: Competitors to shoe a foot with a concave hunter style and to complete a specimen to the judge's specification

60 minutes - £40

Open Shoemaking (to be run over all three days)

Competitors to make two shoes to judge's specification

60 minutes - £30

Apprentice Classes (to be run on the 7th and 8th)

Apprentice Shoemaking - to make two shoes to the judge's specifications (45 minutes)

Apprentice Therapeutic - to make two shoes to the judge's specifications (45 minutes)

All years will make the same shoes but will be judged separately, 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th year.

£20 per class or £35 for both

Judged by Johannes Sandsten Atlason

Prize giving for all classes will be held on the 8th after the final class.

MORE INFORMATION OR ENTRIES VIA WHATSAPP TO
GEORGE HAYTER ON 07731396813

BFBA BEDS YFC SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025

Class One: Open Shoemaking (to include apprentices)
Two shoes made to the judge's specification
45 minutes

Class Two: 1st and 2nd year Shoemaking
Two shoes made to the judge's specification
45 minutes

Class Three: 3rd and 4th year Shoemaking
Two shoes made to the judge's specification
45 minutes

Class Four: Speed Forging (Open and Apprentices)
Competitors have 15 minutes to make any shoe of their choice. You must supply your own steel for this class.
The best shoe in the time will win (split open and best apprentice)

Judge: Ricky Hilton DipWCF (Hons)

Steward: Chris Gates
Mike Burgoyne

Venue:
New Manor Farm,
Harlington
LU5 6LA

Entries via email to bfbabedfordbranch@outlook.com.

DORSET COUNTY SHOW 6TH AND 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

The National Blacksmith's Competition

Round 9

Blacksmiths Stand Management
Merv Allen FWCB and Doug Campbell

NBCC Judge - Kevin Boys FWCB

Chief Steward - Don Mallett LWCB AWCB

Health & Safety Officer - Martin Feeney

Static Classes

Class One: An Indoor or Outdoor Item of Ironwork based on a 'Maritime Theme'

Prizes: 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10

Class Two: An Indoor or Outdoor Item matching the description 'Bring Me Light'

Prizes: 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10

Class Three: An item suitable for display in a 'Gallery of Modern Art'

Any construction method may be used

Prizes: 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10

The first prize winner will be awarded the Eldridge Pope Trophy

Live Classes

Class Four: A Saleable Item produced to the competitor's design using their own materials

Time allowed: 30 minutes

Prizes: 1st £25, 2nd £15, 3rd £10

Class Five: An Organic Creature from the Natural or Mythical World

Time allowed: 90 minutes

Prizes: 1st £40, 2nd £20, 3rd £10

WCB certificates will be awarded to the Static and Live Show Champions and Runners Up together with £240 for the Static and Live Show Champions and £120 for the Runners Up

Entry fee: £6 per item per class - see the National Blacksmithing Competition Entry Form

**MORE INFORMATION VIA
CHAMPIONBLACKSMITHS.CO.UK**



Other Blacksmithing events over the weekend include:

- 60 Minute 'Have-a-Go at Blacksmithing'. One to One Sessions with a Skilled Smith Bookings on the day
- Demonstrations of Blacksmithing and Metalworking Techniques
- Horseshoe Forging by The British Farriers and Blacksmiths' Association
- Stalls of Forged and Related Craft Items for Sale
- Public Vote for a Show Forged Item on Display

The Frank Day Memorial Trophy

There will be a Frank Day Trophy competition for a static forged item at shows supported by the National Blacksmith Competition Committee. This is in addition to a call for entries to be judged at the Dorset County Show.

The overall winner will be invited to receive the trophy at the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Michaelmas Court and Awards Luncheon held in the City of London during October. The award consists of the Frank Day Trophy Award and a cash prize of £250.

The winner's name and year of award will be engraved on the Trophy and displayed at selected venues to promote the Blacksmiths' craft.

This unique trophy was designed and created by the late Robert Hobbs FWCB. Bob was a Master of the Guild, a Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Liveryman, NBCC Champion Blacksmith and holder of the WCB's coveted Gold Medal.

The Guild can arrange for the winner to have publicity photos taken with the Trophy for inclusion in their portfolio.



HEAR FROM THE BFBA CULTURAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS



KATHLEEN BEAMAN

13th - 19th April Update:

"Another week has gone by - this time I was staying with Tim McPhee back in New Hampshire! It was a great week discussing trim balance and spending time in the forge, even the sun started coming out bringing us to 60°F!

I spent a couple of days working with Logan Thomas, and on one day we shod western horses with sliding plates. It was great to have separate experiences whilst on the same leg of the trip and see different aspects of the job.

Tim also took me out golfing for the first time where I managed to skip the ball on the water and over to safety; to the seaside where we had lobster and stayed dry from the rain, and we also shot a selection of different guns. At the end of my stay, Sarah (Tim's wife) and the kids took me to the Boston Harry Potter experience, where we all had a nerdy few hours

It was such a lovely time staying with the family and working with Tim, I hope to see you again!"

See the full update on the BFBA Facebook page.

EDWARD BEESTON

"A stunning week in Tri cities and Walla Walla with Zach Uding showing me around the area and treating me to some draft horse shoeing then flying around in his plane in and around walla Walla and over tri cities thank you for all the time spent with you and your family over Easter.

As well as spending a couple of days with Matt Magan within the tri cities and doing Barrell racers and checking out his artwork at a local golf business."

See the full update on the BFBA Facebook page.



MORE ABOUT THE 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 unique opportunity to represent their respective Associations on an educational three month trip to the USA and the UK, allowing them to travel and expand their farriery knowledge and skills whilst working with some of the most highly regarded farriers.

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THE FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL GUIDE TO DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

BFBA is pleased to publish the FRC leaflet "Your Disciplinary Hearing - A Guide to Assist Registered Farriers with Preparation for a Disciplinary Hearing", December 2023 edition. The most up-to-date version of the leaflet is available as a free download from the FRC website under the professional conduct tab, and related documents. The leaflet is automatically sent to registrants referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

Introduction

This short guide sets out what to expect when a complaint against you has been referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the Council (the Committee). The purpose of the guide is to assist you in preparing for your hearing, and provides information about the disciplinary process: please note that the Farriers Registration Council (the Council) cannot provide you with legal advice, and you are strongly advised to seek professional legal advice at the earliest opportunity, and certainly before your hearing.

When will my hearing take place?

You, or your legal representative if you have appointed one, will be contacted by solicitors representing the Council about potential dates for the hearing. Dates will be confirmed as soon as it is practicable to do so.

At least 28 days in advance of your hearing you will receive a Notice of Inquiry which will be sent to your registered address. This notice will: (1) confirm the details of the allegations against you (referred to as 'the charges'); (2) provide the contact details of the Council's solicitor; (3) confirm the date, time and location of the hearing; (4) confirm your right to be present and to be represented at the hearing to answer the charges; (5) confirm that the hearing may proceed in your absence, and that the Committee may hear and make a decision on the charges, including imposing a sanction in your absence; and confirm the process for applying for a postponement. Copies of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 (as amended) and the Farriers Registration Council Disciplinary Committee (Procedure) Rules 1976 will be enclosed with the Notice of Inquiry for your information.

Do I have to attend my hearing?

You are not obliged to attend the hearing but it is in your interest to participate fully in order to have your say in respect of the allegations made against you. If the Committee is satisfied that you are aware of the proceedings and have chosen not to participate in the process, it has the power to hear and decide upon the allegations in your absence, and this may include imposing a sanction, which could include directing that your name be removed or suspended from the Register.

How can I prepare for my hearing?

You should start preparations for your hearing at the earliest opportunity, and you are advised to seek professional legal advice. In advance of the hearing you will be asked by the Council's solicitor whether you agree with or wish to admit to any or all of the alleged facts. Any admissions you may make in advance of the

hearing will be taken into account by the Committee, and could mean the length of the hearing may be reduced as less time may be needed to consider this evidence at Stage One of the hearing.

You or your legal representative will receive a copy of the Council's Inquiry Bundle, which contains the material which the Council proposes to use at the hearing, and the Unused Material Bundle, which contains other documents that the Council does not propose to use. Where the Council has produced statements from witnesses you will be asked whether you agree with those statements, or whether you require the witnesses to appear at the hearing; you or your legal representative will have an opportunity to put questions to witnesses, as will the Council's solicitor and members of the Committee.

The Council's solicitor will request that you or your legal representative provide copies of any statements or other evidence that you propose to use at the hearing in response to the allegations. You should also provide statements from any witnesses if you wish to rely on their evidence; and you should make arrangements for those witnesses to attend, as they may be required to do so by the Council and/or the Committee.

Hearings will usually start promptly at 9.30am in person at the FRC Offices in Peterborough and this will be confirmed in the Notice of Inquiry. You should plan to arrive 30 minutes in advance of the start time so that you can prepare yourself before the proceedings begin, and ask any preliminary questions you or your legal representative may have.



Do I have to be legally represented?

You do not have to be legally represented; you may represent yourself if you wish to do so. The Rules state that you may be represented by Counsel or Solicitor or, if you wish, any officer or member of any organisation of which you are a member or by any member of your family.

It may also be that you will be allowed to choose someone else to assist you during your case, known as a 'McKenzie friend'. You should ask the Committee (preferably in writing in advance) if you wish to do so. A McKenzie friend may not be legally qualified, but can offer moral support, take notes and assist you with your paperwork during the hearing, and quietly offer advice to you. A McKenzie friend cannot usually speak or answer questions on your behalf at the hearing, or examine witnesses. There may be drawbacks to appointing a McKenzie friend and you should take time to research what a McKenzie friend may and may not do on your behalf.

What happens at the hearing?

Your hearing consists of three successive stages. However, what the Committee decides at each stage will determine whether the hearing needs to progress to the next stage.

Stage One

Stage One is when the facts (the charges) alleged are considered. The Council's solicitor will present the charges and you or your legal representative will have an opportunity to respond as to whether any or all of the charges are admitted. If all of the charges are admitted, the Committee will decide whether to accept the admission and move to the second stage of the hearing, otherwise the Council's solicitor will present the Council's case for the allegations which are not agreed.

Witnesses may be called by the Council and by you, and you or your legal representative will have an opportunity to put questions to those witnesses, as will members of the Committee. All witnesses (including yourself if you choose to give evidence) will be asked to take an oath or affirmation to tell the truth.

You or your legal representative will have an opportunity to present your case, and you may choose to give evidence presenting your view of the facts alleged. You may have witnesses to support your view; the Council's solicitor and the Committee will have an opportunity to put questions to any witness you present.

It is the Council's task to satisfy the Committee that the alleged facts are proved to the civil standard, that is, on the balance of probabilities.

The Legal Assessor overseeing the proceedings may offer legal and procedural advice to the hearing, and the Committee will retire to decide in private whether the Council has proved the facts in question. When a decision is reached the Committee will return and announce its findings. If none of the facts are proved the hearing will end, otherwise the hearing will proceed to the second stage.

Conviction cases

Where it is alleged that you have a conviction for an offence involving cruelty to animals, Stage One will determine whether you have such a conviction, and if this is established the Committee will go straight to Stage Three.



Stage Two

If Stage Two is reached the Committee must decide whether the facts now proved or admitted at Stage One amount to serious misconduct in a professional respect. You or your legal representative will have an opportunity to admit whether the facts proved or admitted amount to serious misconduct.

The Council may make submissions on the matter of serious misconduct. You or your legal representative may also make submissions.

It is a matter for the judgment of the Committee whether any or all of the facts proved amount to serious misconduct in a professional respect.

The Legal Assessor overseeing the proceedings may offer legal advice to the hearing, and the Committee will retire to decide in private whether the facts proved or admitted at Stage One amount to serious misconduct in a professional respect. When a decision is reached the Committee will return and announce its decision. If the Committee finds that none of the facts amount to serious misconduct the hearing will end, otherwise the hearing will proceed to the third stage.

Stage Three

If Stage Three of the hearing is reached the Committee will decide what sanction, if any, should be imposed.

The Council may make submissions on any previous findings against you, and will provide a short summary of your regulatory history to the Committee; this may include the date you were first registered, whether you are an Approved Training Farrier, and whether you have been compliant with Council policies such as those in respect of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and submission of an Annual Return (AR).

It is not Council policy to recommend or seek a particular sanction in any case, the Council takes the view that such decisions are for the judgement of the Committee. However, the Council may draw the attention of the Committee to any aggravating features of the case.

You or your legal representative may make submissions in mitigation, which may include submitting character witnesses or references. If you choose to speak to the Committee at this point, members of the Committee may also choose to ask questions of you.

The Committee will retire to decide in private whether or not to impose a sanction. The sanctions available to the Committee include to:

- Make no direction
- Postpone judgment until a later date set by the Committee
- Issue a reprimand for your actions, or a warning as to your future conduct
- Suspend your registration for a specified period of time
- Direct that the Registrar should remove your name from the Register.

The Committee will consider each of the sanctions in turn, beginning with the least restrictive, in order to determine the appropriate and proportionate sanction in all the circumstances. The purpose of any sanction is not to punish you but to protect the welfare of horses, members of the public, and the reputation of, and/or public confidence in, the farriery profession and the FRC as a regulator.

When a decision is reached the Committee will return and announce its decision along with reasons for its decision. The disciplinary hearing will then close.

What happens after the hearing?

In the days following the hearing you will receive a written Notice of Determination from the Council's solicitor, which will formally confirm the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

If a suspension or removal from the Register has been directed this will not take effect until after the period for the submission of any appeal has closed. Appeals must be lodged with the High Court or, in the case of farriers resident in Scotland, with the Court of Session within 28 days of being notified of the decision. The judgment will not take effect until the appeal period has expired or, if an appeal has been lodged, until the outcome of that appeal has been determined.

Will the outcome of the hearing be published?

Yes. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee must be delivered in open session for the benefit of the public. In addition the Council will publish the determination and decision of the Committee on the Council website, in the Council journal (the Bulletin) and may issue a press release.

If you have given evidence that may be considered sensitive, such as in respect of minors, a medical condition or other personal circumstances you may apply to the Committee for those elements not to be heard in public (and therefore not published). Where you enter such evidence you should be prepared to do so in writing including supporting documents, such as a letter from a doctor or other professional person.



Who will be present at the hearing?

Disciplinary hearings are open to the public and to the media (unless the Committee has directed that any part of it is heard in private), and the following will be present:

- You and any legal representative you have instructed
- The Council's solicitor and/or barrister, who will present the FRC's case
- The Disciplinary Committee panel. The Committee operates independently of the Council and at least five people will sit on the panel to hear the case, of which at least one will be a Registered Farrier
- The Legal Assessor, who will offer legal and procedural advice to the hearing. Although the Legal Assessor will sit with the Committee during its private deliberations, they are not decision-makers and as such will not take part in any decision-making process undertaken by the panel members
- Witnesses for either your case or that of the Council
- A stenographer or shorthand writer, who will take a verbatim record of the hearing
- Council staff, who will facilitate the practical aspects of running the hearing

Members of the public, which may include members of the press, who may observe the hearing, but cannot participate in any way.

What should I do now?

You are strongly advised to begin your preparations as soon as possible, and this should include seeking professional legal advice. If you do not currently have a solicitor you may wish to contact your professional insurer, a professional association such as the British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association (BFBA) or Citizens Advice. Please note that while support organisations may offer you advice they have no authority to intervene in the conduct of the case, nor should they attempt to approach Council witnesses, members of the Council or the Disciplinary Committee.

You should prepare to correspond with the Council's solicitor, or ask your legal representative to do so. Contact details are provided in the letter notifying you of the decision of the Investigating Committee to refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee, or you can contact the FRC office for details.

FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL

14 SWAN COURT, FORDER WAY,
PETERBOROUGH PE7 8GX

TELEPHONE: 01733 319911

E-MAIL: FRC@FARRIER-REG.GOV.UK



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HOOF SOLE
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BESIDE THE FIRE

WITH ALEX COLLIER DWCF

Growing up in Stafford riding horses, Alex Collier realised early on that the university route was not going to be for him and that he never wanted to work in an office.

At thirteen years old, he watched a farrier working and decided from then on that he didn't want to be anything else.

Alex started his apprenticeship in May 2008 with "the man, the myth, the legend" Gary Darlow, having had to complete a six month probation period before he started.

He got his first taste for competing at Peover Show, run by Gary Darlow. Alex then qualified in 2012, eventually moving from Stafford to Dorset and setting up his business.

Alex continued his competing, managing to get on the England farrier team in 2018, and has now been a regular competitor on the team for six years.

He has competed and judged in multiple countries, last year coming 5th at the World Championships at Spruce Meadows and finishing 4th in the Europeans.



Q+A WITH ALEX

If you hadn't become a farrier, what would you be doing instead?

I'd be a chef!

What was your proudest moment?

Getting on the England team and winning back the trophy after the Scots had won it for the three years previous! Also getting to be on the team with people I had looked up to, and winning best individual.

What was your most embarrassing moment?

When I was competing at ferries, I had a brand new save edge rasp. I went to rasp my caulk and wedge shoe and caught my thumb on the caulk and split my thumb open - there was blood everywhere!

What other interests do you have outside of shoeing?

Family and working the dog.

What has been your most challenging case?

I had a warmblood dressage horse that was a tiny little thing, with massive movement that kept going

intermittently lame. I managed to get on top of it with shoeing, and she's still competing now to a high level.

What do you still want to achieve?

I want to win the World Championship at Spruce Meadows!

Of all the farriers (dead or alive) who would you wish to spend an hour (working, talking or drinking) with?

Always Darlow. If I could bring someone back from the grave it would be Alan Calvert, but early on in the drink session - up to four pints!

What is your top tip for shoeing a horse?

Keep it simple, heels in the centre of stock and nail into the white line.

If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?

World peace!

BFBA Membership benefits

*Do you know the benefits of being a member of the BFBA?
Visit forgeandfarrier.co.uk/membership for more details and to sign up.*

- **FREE discount fuel card** from UK Fuels, guarantees a 3p per litre saving off the pump price for standard diesel at selected forecourts across the UK. Call UK Fuels on 0330 311 2962 or visit ukfuels.co.uk/bfba
- **Members' Rate *Early Bird Pre-Registration*** Entry to BFBA Focus, International Team Horseshoeing Championship, International Bladesmithing Competition and International Blacksmithing Competition
- **FREE Delivery** on all BFBA merchandise
- **Discounted Members' Rate (on average 25%)** for all BFBA courses eg, AWCF/FWCF courses and all CPD courses
- **Bi-monthly Forge magazine**, keeping you up to date with the industry, and farrier science **Forge Knowledge**, bringing you educational content with technical articles, research articles and case studies, enabling you to gain CPD points
- Online access to American Farriers Association's **No Foot, No Horse magazine**
- **Access to the Members' Area** on our website which is rich in educational videos and articles, including past Focus lectures
- **AFA Members' Rate** to attend the American Farriers Association Annual Convention
- **12.5% OFF** Eastlake and Beachell Forge insurance, plus preferential rates on Pensions and Healthcare plans
- **25% OFF** retail at Red Horse Products Ltd plus email them to receive a FREE Farriers Sample Pack
- **10% OFF** Silverback Chaps with FREE embroidery (single name) plus a FREE Silverback T-shirt
- **10% OFF** Stromsholm Gibbins aprons with FREE embroidery (single name)
- **10% OFF** Handmade Shoes (UK) Ltd. HMS exclusive tools only to include: Beanie Tools, Ridolfo Tools and Kingery (Tosakay Forge) Tools
- **5% OFF** Londonderry Forge tool maintenance and knife sharpening kit and consumables, eg, buffing compound, expander wheels and belts etc.
- **FREE DELIVERY** at The Shoeing Lab on Werkman Ortho kit 1.0 and 2.0
- **BFBA EXCLUSIVE Embroidered Farrier Pack** from Giraffe Graphics for only £99.99 plus VAT
- **FREE** half-hour legal advice over the phone on any issue with Morrish Solicitors plus preferential rates on their other services
- **FREE initial consultation** with Scottish legal firm Balfour and Manson with a 12% discount on any chargeable work
- **The Edward Martin MBE Cultural Exchange:** unique opportunity to represent the Association on an educational 3-month trip to the USA. Travel and expand your farriery knowledge and skills whilst working with some of the most highly regarded farriers (for Graduates only), **or** the opportunity to be part of a growing list of hosts for an AFA American student on their visit to the UK
- **10% discount** at Federation of Small Businesses
- **FREE** half-hour consultation on dispute resolution with Venn Mediation
- **10% OFF** Hoofit farrier app subscription
- **One FREE** apprentice contract per year (for ATFs only)
- **30 minutes' free** HR/employment law advice with Raspberry HR (for ATFs only)
- **10% discount** on The Hoof Boot Shop fit kits at their workshops
- **Subscription discounts of between 12.5 - 25%** with Hoofflix.TV
- **Two free months** of access to the paid podcast 'Brian Mullins Farriery Podcast'
- **15% off** any photoshoot (business/pet/horse/competition/family) with Longotano Photography
- **10% off** individual orders at Seren Handmade (hoodies) - makers of the new BFBA longback hoodies and a Business Bundle for farriers



**EXISTING TO REPRESENT,
SUPPORT AND BE THE VOICE
OF OUR MEMBERS**



APPRENTICE FOOT BALANCE CLINIC

Sunday 20th July

Scan me



The Forge
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire

www.bfba.co.uk

BFBA AGM SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025

The following proposition has been received for the AGM.

"New rules: Any professional advice being sought by EC members on official BFBA business must be sent through Head Office. Head Office must be copied in to any advice given by said professionals, with the exception if it refers to an employment or staff matter, in this instance it must have 2 office holders copied in.

Any financial decision decided by the EC must be signed off by the treasurer."

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POSTURE & BIOMECHANICAL CONNECTIONS



Anatomical Painting Workshop for
Farriers and Apprentices with
Gillian Higgins

Friday 13th June

Scan me





Above left: Ali Wiks eventing Gypsy Lane in 2006

Above right: Andrew and Julia Poynton

IMPRINT: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

25 years ago, a curious mind - motivated by a desire to help suffering, severe laminitic cases - and an unplanned trip to A&E inspired the use of thermoplastics in equine hoofcare that the farriery industry had never seen before.

Fast forward a quarter of a century with a design award, peer-reviewed paper and exhibiting alongside Team McLaren Mercedes Formula 1 and Andrew Poynton FWCF's 'plastic fantastic' has taken him across the world to work with horse owners, farriers, vets, equine hospitals, colleges and universities whilst being invited to present at many international conferences.

We sat down to look back at the incredible evolution of his product and to review its remarkable journey.

Words by Claire Brown

What inspired the creation of the Imprint Equine foot care system?

Trying to fit and nail shoes to distressed, severe laminitic cases, some with much hoof detachment. I subsequently saw in a hospital A&E low temperature thermoplastics used as a temporary cast for a broken arm. I thought 'I wonder if I could make horseshoes out of that?' I formulated the unique blend of plastics to as closely as possible assimilate hoof horn density and flex.

The first patient that I tried my new creation on was a Welsh pony suffering from chronic laminitis, with an acute flare up. When brought to Town Forge she was barely willing to walk, and in great discomfort. I did what I could with trimming and debriding, then fitted the plastic shoes to the feet along with a partial hoof build also made from the same materials. When she was asked to walk out, she was able to walk in a straight line comfortably although turning was still quite painful. The immediate improvement was incredible - and a shock - I already had considerable experience of treating many laminitics.

At that stage, I had not revealed exactly what or how I had achieved this result. The pony returned for follow up treatments and continued to recover and to have quality of life for some time.

Once these results were replicated in further cases, I

approached a Patent Attorney. I had a novel product and technique for equine shoeing that was unique, undisclosed, and patentable. Poynton Ltd was established and patents filed internationally in the UK, USA, and many European Countries.

How did you continue to develop the product?

Design, make, and test was not a new concept having previously designed and used a variety of shoes, predominantly for foals. I still have the first mould, made in a low-tech way on a bench in the forge.

One of the advantages of the plastic I use is that it can be moulded at temperatures as low as 65 degrees Celsius - which is very useful when working close to soft tissue - and it can be shaped as desired which is important when fitting to the hoof. It can adhere to itself without adhesive or to a hoof that has been built or covered with the plastics. To achieve hoof assimilating properties I blended a mix of different molecular densities of plastic unique for this purpose. Incidentally, the plastics of the Imprint First shoe are bio-degradable: I don't know of any other that is.

The adhesive we find best for this application is unaffected by moisture, unlike most adhesives on the market. Imprint Ultrafast Adhesive cures in just a few minutes. Very little volume of this is needed in application.

The original design of the shoe functioned better than I had expected. The first shoes I made had an upstanding rim extending around three quarters of the shoe - leaving the heels of the hoof freedom to expand - and a solid frog plate. This 'flip flop' design was not ideal for shoe retention. To maintain heel expansion a radius slot in the back half of the frog plate was included. This became known as the 'W flexing bar' and was incorporated into the original patent application. The frog mating surface can be moulded three dimensionally, creating a comfortable 'frog cradle' - there is no need for any dentist impression material, silicone or pads. The sole can then be kept open for access and clean, dry, fresh air.

Hoof-like material

A main objective was to create something that was more akin to the hoof itself, both in structure and function. The materials used were less than half the weight of steel and flexible. The patented method of attachment is more than just glued on; the plastic of the rim was moulded and interdigitated with just the lower hoof wall, having a mechanical union too which works well.

Beyond laminitics and Town Forge

Having seen marked patient pain relief from first treatment and better long-term outcomes I had further sizes of shoe moulds machined, still manufacturing at Town Forge, so that I could cater for larger equines such as flat-footed broodmares and foal shoes. If we can facilitate dramatic restoration to serious laminitics why not a lame athlete with dodgy hooves too?

If the wider equine world was going to benefit, a viable commercial approach was needed. CAD (computer-aided design), CAM (computer-aided manufacturing) and CNC (computer numerical control) were becoming commonplace, and the Imprint shoe designs could be manufactured by the injection moulding method.

All design, development and manufacturing is still carried out in the UK.

Malmesbury is also the heartland of the James Dyson Empire; although I think he still may just have the edge on us!

The development of the Sport range was in direct response to the success of the Imprint First shoes and horse owners were asking for a durable sport shoe. Five sizes of each front and hind thoroughbred shapes, 4 1/2" - 6" were introduced on the market at the time of launch.

BIGGEST CHALLENGES:

“Finding durable fast acting adhesive that still works with moisture present and perfecting a method of attachment of the shoe even when the hoof was seriously compromised and of poor quality.” All shoes were trialled for many months with simultaneous designs on the go and varying densities and cohesive of friction being trialled.

MOST MEMORABLE CASE:

“The first pony fitted with Imprint shoes - that was a eureka moment! It helped me refocus on farriery in a different way.”

“IMPRINT SHOES ARE AN INVALUABLE AID TO HELP IN THE REHABILITATION OF BOTH THE ACUTE AND CHRONIC LAMINITIC CASES, PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE PEDAL BONE AND AS A RESULT, COMFORT FOR THE HORSE. I HAVE FOUND THE USE OF THE IMPRINT GRANULES IN THE TREATMENT AND STABILISATION OF SEEDY TOE AND SAND CRACKS TO BE ONE OF THE EASIEST AND MOST EFFICIENT REMEDIES AVAILABLE.”

- SUSANNAH REYNOLDSON MA VETMB MRCVS



Left: Imprint development shoes and accessories

Reflecting on 25 years

A common denominator over the last 25 years has been the great hospitality, generosity and friendship shown wherever I travelled; the good side of humanity. This is further strengthened by our shared love of the horse and the art and science of farriery.

Dave Strange joined me on the road in the early days, helping to set up for the Imprint training courses. He has been an integral part of the business for many years and was responsible for our website, office and IT systems, orders and much more – many of which we couldn't function without! We are grateful for his contribution.

Farrier Dean Bland's consistent support over 20 years has been instrumental in delivering excellent training and practical coaching. We have travelled extensively and, whilst we are very different in our approaches, Dean is a brilliant teacher and a good friend.

My wife, Julia, has always run the office, keeping a keen eye on the finances and talked with hundreds of farriers, vets and horse owners over the years. She has had to handle a fanatical, obsessive inventor, whilst being encouraging and practical! Together we are a team, Imprint wouldn't have happened without her skills and commitment.

Little did I know when I visited A&E all those years ago would it lead me to embarking on the most incredible time. I would like to thank all those horse owners, vets and farriers that have entrusted me and I look forward to continuing to promote equine soundness and longevity moving forward.

*Below: Hind feet sloughing
and 10 months later*



ONGOING CHALLENGES:

“Opinion within the industry has changed markedly. Once upon a time anything other than a nailed-on metal shoe was viewed with great suspicion. The pendulum has now swung in the opposite direction with a plethora of plastic, rubber, composite, nail and glue hybrids as well as multiple density impression materials and pads. Understanding anatomy, structure and function is fundamental, and it is better to 'keep it simple.'”

BFBA PRESIDENT ABBY BUNYARD FWCF:

“On behalf of myself and the Executive Committee congratulations to Andrew and Julia on a terrific 25 years! Andrew has been a guest speaker, clinician, Focus exhibitor and Forge advertiser and contributor on many occasions. Together, Andrew and Julia's unwavering support of the association has been second to none. Thank you.”



IMPRINT®

EQUINE FOOT CARE

Est. Poynton Ltd. Imprint
Equine Foot Care.
First patents filed.

2000

2001

May - Imprint First
launched.
New sizes Imprint Oval,
Imprint Hoof Repair and
Imprint Plus shoes
follow.

Imprint First featured in
'Best Designs in Europe'
at The European Design
Show - the only
equestrian product in the
show and nestled
alongside Team McLaren
Mercedes Formula 1!

2005

2006

Imprint Sport launched
at British Festival of
Eventing, Gatcombe Park.
First horse and rider go
clear wearing Imprint
Sport at International
level.
Tested and approved for
use at Hong Kong
Olympics.

Prototypes on Imprint
Sport trialled on sport
horses including race
horses, dressage, polo
and hunters.

2008

2015

Department of Equine
Sciences Utrecht
University, Holland,
begin study on the
efficacy of the Imprint
Equine Foot Care System.

Utrecht University
Holland study published
in peer-reviewed Equine
Veterinary Journal

2018

2025

Celebrating a
tremendous 25 years,
Imprint Equine Foot Care
system continues to
provide innovative
solutions, promoting
relief, soundness and
equine welfare.

“IMPRINT FIRST AID HAS CHANGED THE GAME WHEN IT COMES TO LAMINITIS. IMPRINT SPORTS ARE A REVOLUTIONARY MULTI-DISCIPLINE SPORTS HORSE GLUE-ON SHOE THAT DO WONDERS FOR HORSES’ FEET. I HAVE FIXED MORE CRACKS AND HOOF WALL DEFECTS WITH IMPRINT GRANULES THAN I CAN COUNT.

FANTASTIC COMPANY, QUALITY PRODUCTS.”

- DECLAN EMMERSON DIPWCF

*Below: Progress of an
ex-racehorse in 36 weeks*



PRICES – ARE BRITISH FARRIERS SELLING THEMSELVES SHORT?

Words by Tom Smith FWCF GradDIP ELR



Farriery, like so much of the world at the moment, seems to be experiencing real negativity around some aspects of the profession. This is difficult to admit when Farriery is a profession I am incredibly proud of; after all it has provided for me and my family and, by and large, treated me reasonably well. I am proud to be a farrier and of the training regime that I have been fortunate enough to have been offered from my apprenticeship, the colleges and other organisations within British Farriery.

Farriers exist to look after horses, provide regular care for their feet and by extension their limbs and general health. Running in parallel with the care of the horse, is the need for farriers to provide many services to the owner of that horse; the owner that is ultimately paying for the service. I have always said farriers are not in the horse game, they are in the people game, and those people just happen to own horses!

British farriers have, for some time now, been falling behind in rates of payment and prices charged when compared to pretty much all other farriers working in developed countries.

Exploring this phenomenon, and the issues it is having on farriers in Britain is challenging and exceedingly multi factorial. However, I hope to be able to summarise just some of the points in this article.

Giving the situation some context...

British farriers are some of the highest qualified in the world. Our 'entry' exam (the one that allows registration to the farriers register) is pretty much considered to be the gold standard around the world. The Certified Journey Farrier (or CJF), the highest qualification offered by the American Farriers Association (AFA) is considered in Britain to be roughly the equivalent of the old DipWCF, or the new End Point Assessment (EPA). We also have the offerings of the other examinations from the WCF, namely the AWCf and the FWCF, plus the 'degree' type courses such as the BSC (Hons) and the GradDIP ELR.

Let's be honest, we in Britain are a well trained and highly educated group of farriers!

So, why are we charging substantially, and I do mean substantially, less than our American and European cousins for our skills and services?

- British people have an affinity for their equine partners that is probably unlike any other country. The horse is considered a friend, a pet, a competitor and something that people are entitled to own. This entitlement is one factor that is almost certainly keeping prices down; many people choose to own horses despite their financial position not really allowing it. This is driving prices down in certain areas.
- Farriers in Britain are registered, providing them with the ability to work without competition from unskilled people (let's not get bogged down in this article with illegal farriery and barefoot arguments - they are for another day!) Registration is positive in many ways, including for the horse and owner. One issue that might arise from our farriers register is that customers do not understand differentiation? Farriery, as with all professions and trades, has a scale of people working in it at different levels, some offering basic services (and these are still very much needed so please don't think I'm being derogatory about this) right up to the very highly trained and specialist operators, with every level in between. In unregulated areas, farriers differentiate themselves from others by undertaking often expensive training, optional examinations and attending events - then they sing about it to all that will listen, and so they should. Their prices are then based on their skill level and the level of service they are providing.

In Britain, farriers are all considered to be 'registered farriers' by a vast majority of customers who will then hunt around for a farrier that is charging the lowest price; forcing prices to remain at the lower levels. How many of our customers really understand the post nominals we proudly display? And how many realise what CPD we are doing each year? How can customers value us if we don't explain what training we have received?



“BRITISH FARRIERS HAVE, FOR SOME TIME NOW, BEEN FALLING BEHIND IN RATES OF PAYMENT AND PRICES CHARGED WHEN COMPARED TO PRETTY MUCH ALL OTHER FARRIERS WORKING IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.”

- There are exceptions to how farriers price their work but most of the time it is 'piece work' or, in other words, we charge a certain amount per item of work completed. The price of a set of shoes will usually stay roughly the same for all of a farrier's customers. There are many issues in this approach; such as time spent with each horse, the price of different products, travel... There are also advantages, including simplicity and the ability to provide a price, when asked, as a 'quote' which other trades would envy us for.

The issue with our standard pricing policy is that there are other activities a farrier must complete now in order to work and run a business. We largely go unpaid for these elements and they are rarely factored into the piece work price. Why is this? Might I suggest that there is certainly an element of fear involved in pricing our work? Farriers will most likely price their work by looking at what those around them are charging, possibly adding or subtracting a little from that, therefore creating an environment where prices will rarely change in any meaningful way.

HIGHLIGHTING THE ISSUES LOW PRICES ARE CAUSING...

Some issues within farriery might be obvious, others a little more nuanced and subtle but to list just a few:

- Farriers choosing to not train apprentices any more
- Farriers finding other jobs or employment, either part time or leaving farriery all together
- Work/life balance falling further in the wrong direction
- Horse behaviour deteriorating
- Customer behaviour deteriorating
- Disciplinary cases increasing
- Trust and camaraderie between farriers reducing
- General negativity within the profession

What might it take to resolve these issues?

With so many factors at play this is a very difficult question to answer simply. Tackling the causes of each issue will certainly help us get to the point where we might actually be able to make meaningful change.

Looking to our American and European cousins for advice on what we should be charging is a sensible place to start. There are certainly variations over there too, however it seems the average costs for a professional service from a well trained farrier is around \$300 and €200 meaning British farriers are about 50% cheaper. As previously discussed, just pricing along with other farriers is not sensible and this should be used just as a guide when considering what it is a farrier should actually charge individually.

Understanding how much money you need for your lifestyle, including family, housing and any extras you might need (such as a pension) is a great place to start. You can then begin to consider how many horses you want to shoe per day, per week etc and divide that required income by the number of horses.

For example:

I want to make £100,000 to fund my lifestyle (don't judge me, it's easy for the maths!).

I want to shoe five horses a day, five days a week.

Even though I won't work 52 weeks of the year because my work will repeat I will still need to do them before time off or when I get back.

25 horses per week, 52 weeks a year = 1300 horses shod per year

$\text{£}100,000 / 1300 = \text{£}76.92$ profit per set of shoes.

Now, this doesn't sound particularly much per set. When you consider most farriery businesses operate around a 50 to 60% profit margin you would then need to be charging around £150 per set, exclusive of VAT to achieve this.

This is before tax is taken off too, so if you wanted to take home £100,000 you would need more again.

Ok, so we know we need to put prices up, but how can we do that?

Simply put, this level of increase would be a tough ask for most farriers to achieve on their own; and customers would not tolerate a rise of such magnitude without a decent amount of groundwork to help them understand the value that you, as their farrier, brings. Also, it would be impossible to do this alone because other farriers might be considered to be cheaper if they were not rising their prices too. The solution is Forge Smart.

Forge Smart is a programme designed for farriers, by farriers; to enable them to understand how to achieve the financial and professional aims that they want and deserve. Lasting ten months, it will take farriers through the process of understanding what they truly want to achieve and where the profession of farriery is at the moment; then using these two understandings to create a pathway to get from one to the other.

Forge Smart will enable farriers to understand their customers better, to learn to articulate their value better and demonstrate their abilities and skills in ways their customers will understand. It will enable farriers to design communications around price rises so that customers can be educated and understanding of its necessity.

Forge Smart will draw on the expertise of farriers that have already been through this process, business coaches that have worked with farriers on this process and other business experts in different fields of work too.

The Forge Smart programme will end for all farriers at the same time, developing a community on the way, so that

all farriers understand what their needs are financially and can implement them, safe in the knowledge many other farriers are doing the same, at the same time. Forge Smart will not tell farriers to put their prices up, but will enable them to make the right choices and coordinate this within the community for Forge Smart farriers.

In summary, Forge Smart will provide the platform for farriers to increase their prices substantially, at the same time.

So how do I join the Forge Smart community to work smarter, not harder?

Forge Smart will be run online in a way that means all farriers can follow the programme at a pace that suits them. There will be regular check-ins in the form of live webinars and round tables.

Forge Smart will be a multi-format programme, making use of videos, podcasts, information documents and much more, and all will be accessible through an app so you can use it while you are out and about.

You can join Forge Smart by visiting www.forgesmart.co.uk and follow the simple instructions.

For around the price of a pair of shoes a month; can you really afford to miss out on Forge Smart? Invest in your future, and your profession.

Once in a generation there is the ability to make a substantial change. Forge Smart is that change that not just you will benefit from - the future profession will thank you for making it too.



FORGE SMART

Unlock Your Potential: Follow This Programme to Work Less and Earn More in Just 10 Months!



Join the **free** community now and begin your journey to **Working Smarter, Not Harder!**
By farriers - for farriers!

www.forgesmart.co.uk

RECOGNITION AT AINTREE FOR LONG-STANDING FARRIERS

At the 2025 Grand National meeting, two farriers were presented with awards for their long-term service to the famous Aintree race.

Andrew Smith received an award to recognise his 56th year of farrier service to the Aintree Grand National.

Barry Oldman received an award to recognise his 50th year of farrier service to the Aintree Grand National.

That's an impressive 106 years of farrier service to the Aintree Grand National between them!

Both Andrew and Barry received an engraved bowl and a bottle of champagne.



BLACKSMITH EXPERIENCE DAY SUNDAY 18TH MAY

Do you know anyone who fancies giving blacksmithing a go?

In conjunction with the Blacksmiths Guild, we're running a Blacksmith Experience Day - a fun and hands-on day where attendees will learn how to make a variety of decorative metal items.

To be held at the Forge,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

For more information go to
bit.ly/BlacksmithExperienceDay



BASSOLI.IT



EQUINE RESCUE SERVICES

The UK's leading provider of horsebox and trailer breakdown, rescue and recovery are launching a new opportunity for Farriers to earn extra income by marketing membership packages to your existing client base.

Look for the advertisement in this issue to find out how to contact their team to receive more details, call the team and they will tell you more, and send you a briefing pack if you wish to become involved.

"This is a good chance for Farriers to explain to their clients that having cover from Equine Rescue Service allows them to transport their horses with complete peace of mind, knowing that if they do break down just one call will mean that help is on the way and that if it

can't be fixed at the roadside, their vehicle and horses will be recovered and transported to the destination of their choice.

"Farriers will be able to offer a 15% discount on membership to their clients and earn a 15% commission on all new memberships that they sell.

"We look forward to working with a good number of BFBA members and will supply a kit that includes Briefing notes, A3 posters for the inside door of your vehicle and leaflets to hand out which will feature your unique code to track conversions and payments." says Debbie Macmorran, Managing Director.

ADVERTORIAL SUPPLIED BY EQUINE RESCUE SERVICES

HOOF BOOT FITTING WORKSHOP with THE HOOF BOOT SHOP

Saturday 19th July
10am - 4pm

A hands-on clinic with experienced hoof boot fitters, giving you the skills to add broader barefoot services to your business. Another tool in your toolbox.



WHERE

The Forge
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG



COST

BFBA
Members £100
Non Members
£150



BOOK



Established 1904



02476 696595



forgeandfarrier.co.uk



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CPL
FUELLING THE FUTURE

NEW BEVA AWARD TO RECOGNISE EXCEPTIONAL EQUINE VETS

The British Equine Veterinary Association has introduced the BEVA One To Watch Award to recognise exceptional early-career equine vets. Nominations for the new award open on 25 April 2025. The winner will be announced at BEVA Congress 10-13 September 2025, at the ICC Birmingham, and will receive a bundle of prizes including a year's free BEVA membership, a special Congress experience and bespoke career support.

The BEVA One to Watch Award has been introduced to shine a spotlight on early-career equine veterinary professionals who are making waves, whether it's through their clinical skills, passion for equine welfare, leadership, or just being a legend in the field.

Anyone - clients, colleagues, mentors - can put forward a nomination if they've seen a young vet doing great things. To be eligible nominees must be a BEVA member, have graduated within the past seven years and be a registered professional with the appropriate body (eg RCVS).

"We all know that one superstar who's brilliant with patients, fantastic with clients, and just an all-round legend in the making," said BEVA Council Member Gemma Dransfield, who has been instrumental in setting up the new award.

"This is your chance to give them the recognition they deserve. The BEVA One To Watch Award recognises those who are shaping the future, setting new standards in equine care, and driving the next generation of equine veterinary excellence. Not only will they have the glowing accolade of winning, but they will also win some career-boosting perks."

To put an individual forward for consideration, a seconder is needed and either the nominator or seconder must be a BEVA member. All nominations will be reviewed by a



panel of experts comprising a BEVA Careers Committee representative, a senior equine vet, a non-equine veterinary professional and an external industry representative or client. Up to five finalists will be selected and invited for a friendly online chat with the judging panel. Nominations open on 25 April 2025.

The winner will be announced at BEVA Congress and will be presented with a trophy, one year of BEVA membership, a fully paid BEVA Congress experience (including a one-day pass, overnight stay, and ticket to the annual dinner) and an exclusive career-boosting opportunities with BEVA to help take their career to the next level. All finalists will receive a one-day ticket to BEVA Congress.

To find out more and to submit a nomination visit: <https://www.beva.org.uk/About-us/What-we-do/BEVA-Awards/One-to-watch>.



**EXISTING TO REPRESENT,
SUPPORT AND BE THE VOICE
OF OUR MEMBERS**

THE BLACKSMITH'S FUEL: KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE WITH ANVIL FORGE COKE

In the blacksmithing world, few fuels hold the reputation and reliability that British coke once did. For generations, the UK's own Monckton coking works in South Yorkshire had supplied blacksmiths, farriers, and solid fuel merchants with some of the finest blacksmith's coke available.

But in 2014, this era came to an end, as Monckton ceased operations, marking the close of a legacy that left many in the trade searching for an alternative fuel source to match its quality and consistency.

Since then, the UK's fuel suppliers have had to look beyond their borders to meet demand. Sourcing blacksmith coke now means turning to European producers, particularly in Poland and Italy.

Thankfully, CPL - a historic name in solid fuels since the 1800s - was ready to adapt to this changing landscape. With a network of reputable partners across Europe, CPL moved swiftly to provide British smiths and farriers with a premium-quality coke that lives up to the legacy of Monckton's fuel. Enter Anvil Forge Coke, a product that has quickly become a mainstay for blacksmiths seeking a reliable, clean, and high-performance fuel.

Anvil Forge Coke is well-regarded for its high consistency, low ash content, and hard, compact clinker. This means blacksmiths can enjoy a fire that remains clean and hot for extended periods, without the fuss of frequent clean-ups. Size has always been a key focus, with many customers requesting a more uniform, smaller product. We listened closely, and since launching our improved, consistent sizing, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. This refined size offers better temperature control and enhanced heat transfer, delivering a more efficient and reliable performance every time. Its quality has earned it high praise across the trade, with many blacksmiths and farriers now considering it the go-to fuel for their forges.

Anvil has been part of several showcases across the UK, which have been great for highlighting traditional craftsmanship and innovation in blacksmithing. CPL contributed by donating their Forge Coke, providing superior quality and consistent sizing for optimal forge performance.

The production of blacksmith coke, also known as metallurgical coke, involves a process called dry distillation. Bituminous coal undergoes heating in the absence of air, driving off gases and liquids, which are then utilised in other industries like gas, oil, and power generation. What remains is a solid material—coke—that serves as an invaluable fuel source for industries reliant on high-heat, clean-burning fuel.

Though global efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels are ongoing, CPL's suppliers have invested significantly in meeting rigorous environmental standards, ensuring that Anvil Forge Coke can continue to meet demand for years to come.

Established working relationships with producers ensures the long term supply of Anvil Forge Coke. Whether in convenient 25kg bags or full, loose loads, Anvil is readily accessible for collection or delivery throughout the UK.

Ready to place an order? You can receive a 5% discount on your order placed before 31st July 2025 using discount code ANV2025.

Just call our Heritage Fuels Team on 0345 450078 to place an order and enjoy reliable, high-quality fuel at a competitive price.

For blacksmiths, farriers, and traditional craftsmen across the UK, Anvil Forge Coke represents the best of both worlds: a premium fuel with the legacy of the past, made ready for the future.



ADVERTORIAL SUPPLIED BY CPL INDUSTRIES

eXcel ORIGINAL

All year-round perfection.

HELLER EXCEL ORIGINAL is just that – the original 50 mm wide rasp.

With 711 small and compact teeth, this rasp is a farrier's best friend in every season.

Steady and durable, the EXCEL ORIGINAL requires minimal effort when pushing the rasp while still performing with maximum efficiency over and over again.



711 Teeth per Row



PRO-FINISH

Perfect results every time.

HELLER PROFINISH is the ultimate tool for farrier who strives for perfection. Get that super polished finish with this 40 mm rasp.

Alt: Get show quality finish with the multiglide file side and even finer, super polished finish with the smooth glide side.



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eXcel LEGEND

The best rasp you will ever own.

HELLER EXCEL LEGEND is a real performance rasp for the farrier who need an extremely sharp, extremely efficient rasp for all-round use.

With this rasp, you get 666 sharp teeth divided into 74 rows over the 50 mm wide surface.

The coarse side removes hoof instantly and is perfectly complemented by the fine multiglide side which gives a great, glass-like finish to the hoof.



666 Teeth per Row



LEGEND

Legendary sharpness.

HELLER LEGEND does everything you need. Its sharp teeth take off a lot of hoof in no time at all, and performs even better in wet conditions.

This durable 40 mm rasp will accompany you for up to 60 horses!



RED TANG

Versatility is key.

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

Performs especially well with dry and hard hoofs.



BLACK LEGEND

High performance.

HELLER BLACK LEGEND is effective and sharp, while being more rust resistance due to the black coating covering the entire 40 mm wide rasp.

This rasps performs particularly well in wet weather.



Black Coating



BLACK MASTER

Every-day performance.

HELLER BLACK MASTER is the perfect workhorse for the everyday use. Its small and concentrated teeth over the 40 mm surface makes trimming easier.



Black Coating

