



FORGE

FORGE IS THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION



**Counting down to Focus
2024 and the return of the
International Team
Horseshoeing Competition**

————— The Voice of the Professional Farrier —————

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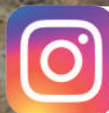


Photo by Nigel Turner
@rescuestuds

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Farriers appointed to FRC Council

Farriers elected to FRC Council (three-year appointment)
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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 September 2024 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains the article:

- **Keratolytic disease of the zona alba in the donkey**
By **Robert Rush** AWCf
- **Rehabilitation of horses**
By **Sally Hodgson** BSc(Hons), MA VetMB MRCVS



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

President's address

They say that time flies faster as we get older, and I had started to panic that I was aging exceptionally quickly until I pulled up the diary to start to write this issue's address. I realised that in the last two months behind the scenes, the EC of the BFBA haven't actually come up for air! Here's a quick run-down:

On 18th June I chaired my first EC meeting on Zoom. We had a huge array of topics to cover, meaning it didn't finish until 10.45pm. This was a massive wake-up call of what's to come! I apologised to the EC - I feel my school report would have said "Must try harder."

On Thursday 20th June the BFBA were invited to The Worshipful Company Diploma Award Ceremony. Following on from a long tradition of BFBA Presidents, my role involved a speech about the value of the BFBA and what it offers to all newly qualified farriers. It was a privilege to speak, as well as being part of the presentation of the Fellowship medals to my great friends Andrew Bowyer and Brad Greenham - a huge congratulations to them all. A special mention to Travis Vern Powell - his sheer grit and determination in his studies paid dividends as he collected his Associate award.

On the 21st June we travelled to Scotland to present the medals at the Royal Highland Farriery Competition. It was great to see Alan Murdoch, the Chief Steward, running a slick competition and to catch up with the judges Jim Balfour and Steven Beane. It was also brilliant to speak to the competitors about the BFBA's relevance and educational opportunities moving forward. I would like to personally thank them all for their huge welcome and hospitality.

On the 6th July we held a Glu Shu CPD event - huge thank you to Mark Aikens and Peter Loots, who both travelled to the depths of Dorset to give a presentation, demonstration and hands-on clinic. With 15 farriers attending this top class educational day, Mark and Peter kindly allowed us to send all of the proceeds straight to the Farriers Foundation.

Farriers Week kicked off on social media on 7th July - Red Horse Products generously sponsored £100 voucher each for the winning farrier and customer - congratulations to Grace Binding! Our highest-reaching post that week made it to 180,000 people, making it our most successful Farriers Week!

Claire Brown, Phoebe Colton and myself are also continuing to work with the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC). Phoebe attended the NEWC AGM, making sure we keep up-to-date with any developments within the equine community. The Farrier Survey results are imminent, and the BFBA will be able to identify areas of concern within the industry and how we can help. NEWC will also be attending Focus, and would welcome anyone wishing to have a conversation - more later.

On the 15th July the EC held a mammoth Zoom meeting with a new social media and marketing company to identify the personas of those visiting our social media outlets. This was hours of mind-blowing lateral thinking! One of the aims is to appeal to and educate the younger generation, but overall making sure that we appeal to all our members. Since then we have had three more meetings and I am no less mind blown, but watch this space - we have some fantastic concepts.

On the 17th July we held our second EC meeting - we flew through this more smoothly and achieved masses! I'm delighted to announce there was an unanimous vote to rename the Focus lecture theatre as "The David Gully Lecture Theatre" - a fitting tribute to an incredible past BFBA President

that educated so many people.

On the 24th of July we were kindly invited to present the medals at the Royal Welsh Show. It was brilliant to catch up with Wayne Preece (Chief Steward) and Jonathan Nunn (Judge). The crowds were 10-deep for most of the day!

A big thank you to Stuart Pink for reintroducing the farriery competition to the New Forest Show - it was a tremendous start to what I can only see as a definite date in the diary for next year! It was interesting to see how judge Andrew Nickalls made it a learning experience for all the competitors. Also attending was Don Mallet (Chairman of the BFBA Blacksmithing Committee) running the Blacksmithing competition. Between the noise of the Blacksmiths' anvils and the noise of the farriers shoeing it again drew huge crowds. One person I need to mention was the winner of the wrought iron competition Robert Percy - his piece was phenomenal, absolutely breath-taking. Pictures on page 16!

On a slightly different note, in the lead up to the Olympics we all saw the media storm and quite disturbing public opinion on horses being used in sport. As part of protecting farriers' freedom to operate, the BFBA Craft Committee have been working on guidelines for horse shoeing competitions to futureproof them and ensure we keep equine welfare at the heart of everything.

The CPD Committee have been smashing out dates for the end of this year and well into 2025! The Donkey Sanctuary webinar on the 28th August had over 100 attendees. In the midst of being finalised are nutritionist, human behaviours, mental health, welding, knife making and business skills. The 26th October introduces the Apprentice pre-exam preparation days, with Robert Shave FWCF and Stephen Hill FWCF.

On the 17th August the BFBA hosted a Hoof Boot Fitting Day with the Hoof Boot Shop at Stoneleigh. 22 people attended, earning themselves 3 CPD points with practical fitting sessions on live horses with a variety of brands of hoof boots. We also negotiated 10% extra discount for Association members on the fit kits, for those wanting to add the service to their business. It's great that The Hoof Boot Shop are so keen to work with farriers, recognising our skill and expertise.

On the 18th August the EC met to finalise Focus 2024. It is going to be a smorgasbord of culinary farriery delight: a weekend not to be missed! We've got a huge array of trade stands, old and new, and fantastic speakers from all over the world. We also have a brand new breakout room for smaller and up close discussion. More details on page 6.

The 43rd International Team Horseshoeing Championship has 11 teams this year coming from far and wide, not to mention provisionally the seven apprentice teams. With Kirk Dexter as Chief Steward of the Bladesmithing Competition and Don Mallet as Chief Steward of the Team Blacksmithing competitions, it's set to be a belter of a weekend.

I hope you've all booked your tickets - I can't guarantee the weather if you've got to queue!



**Abby Bunyard AWCF,
BFBA President**



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FOCUS

Focus 2024

It's all systems go for the UK's largest farriery convention on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September.

EDUCATION

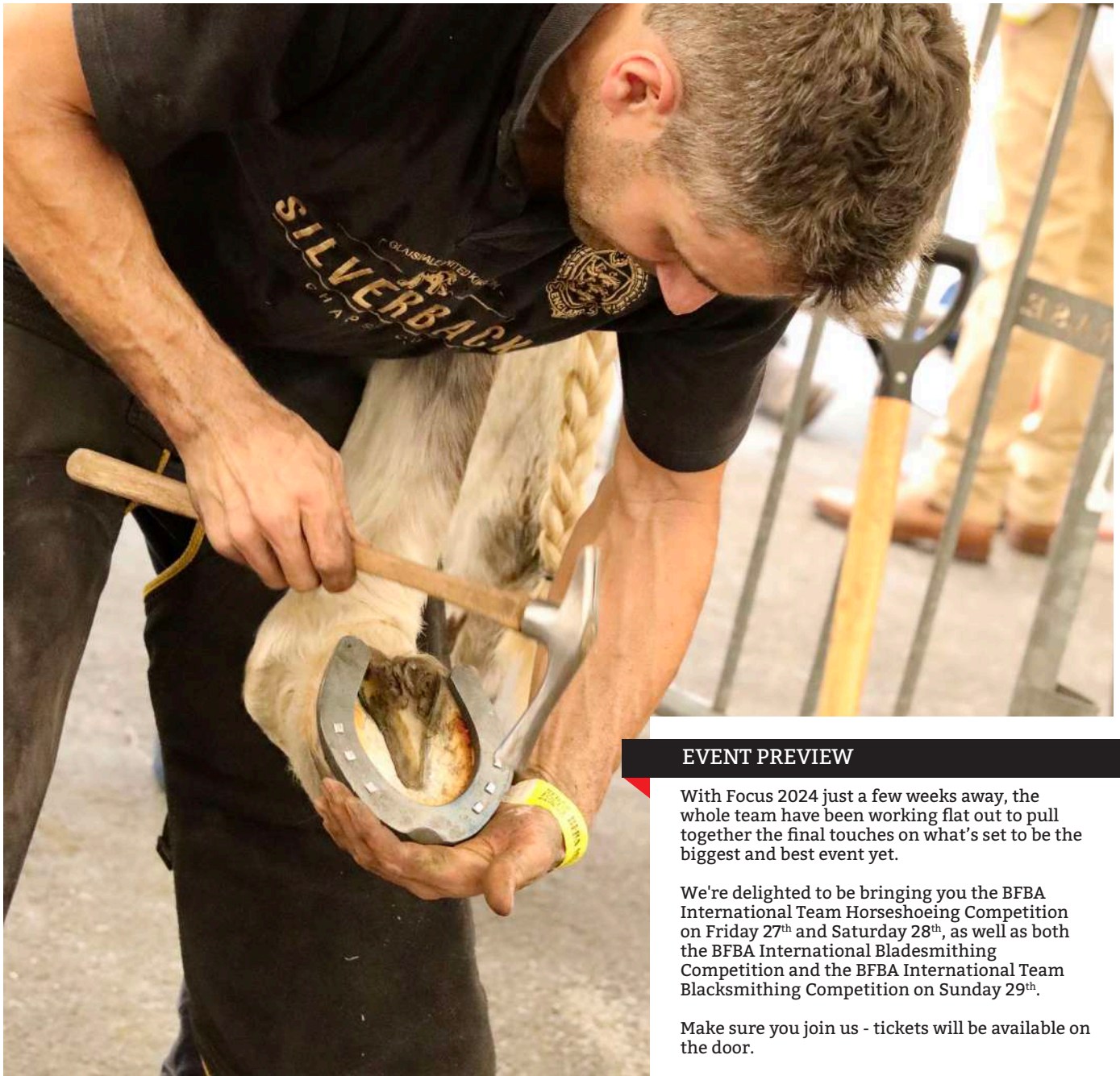
Lecture Theatre,
Demonstrations and
Breakout Rooms

TRADE STANDS

Meet suppliers and take a look at
some of the best products on the
market

COMPETITION

The return of the BFBA
International Team
Horseshoeing Competition



EVENT PREVIEW

With Focus 2024 just a few weeks away, the whole team have been working flat out to pull together the final touches on what's set to be the biggest and best event yet.

We're delighted to be bringing you the BFBA International Team Horseshoeing Competition on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th, as well as both the BFBA International Bladesmithing Competition and the BFBA International Team Blacksmithing Competition on Sunday 29th.

Make sure you join us - tickets will be available on the door.

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FOCUS

Meet your Speakers

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. As well as the usual lectures, demonstrations and trading, we've also got a brand new breakout room for smaller and up close discussions – confirmed speakers so far include Brian Mullins, Tom Smith, Tamzin Furtado, Sol Tovey and Marta Ferrari MRCVS.

The newly renamed David Gulley Lecture Theatre will play host to an outstanding line-up of speakers who will be taking centre stage over the weekend. Our huge thanks go to Dan Harman for managing the lecture theatre and coordinating the speakers this year.



Haydn Price

Haydn graduated in 1983 and formulated a mixed practice in South Wales for 38 years. During that time he has developed a special interest in performance and lameness shoeing techniques. He has established both a need, and been instrumental in the practical application and understanding of Farriery specific biomechanics, along with the utilising equine gait analysis systems for both profiling and quantitative data collection.

An interest in research lead to a number of projects looking at applied farriery and its effects on both locomotion and function. Haydn is also a graduate of the Diploma in Equine Locomotor and Research course in 2018 at the RVC, as well as a regular international lecturer and contributor to equestrian related symposiums in Farriery, primarily in North America, South America, Australia, Mexico and Europe.

Haydn held the post of lead consultant farrier for 20 years to the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and World Class Equestrian Programme (WCP) before retiring in March 2019. His responsibilities included the development and implementation of proactive assessment profiling, along with performance limiting factors of elite competition horses.

Haydn was also consultant farrier to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Performance Programme developing strategic procedures for the implementation of horse profiling as a continued management process, along with focused performance enhancement through applied farriery foot care.

Haydn was awarded the BEF Medal of Honour in 2011 for continued contribution to Farriery within the BEF and the WCP. He was then inducted into the International Farriery Hall of Fame (2013) for continued services, commitment and education to the International Farriery Profession.

Haydn continues to operate a mixed referral practice to all equine disciplines with a particular interest in lameness and poor performance. When not working, he is often found flying around the Welsh skies with his 9-year-old grandson, who equally enjoys his passion for aviation.

Lecture One: Demystifying Sport Horse Shoeing: Practical Application. Function with a bit of science thrown in!

Lecture Two: Applying Orthotics: What considerations do you make in your shoeing plan?



Ian Gajczak

Ian has been shoeing horses for over 20 years now and runs a small professional multi-discipline business in southeast Scotland. He lives at home with his wife Hannah and his 2 children, Amber and Oliver.

During his time as a farrier, Ian has had the opportunity to compete, both attend and present clinics and judge at several events both nationally and internationally. It is at these events that Ian has been able to gather snippets of information and skillsets from a vast array of fellow colleagues, which has put him where he is today.

Ian has enjoyed a successful career to date with multiple successes under his belt, including at some major competitions including 4th at the world championships in Calgary, 1st in the individual at the International at Stoneleigh, part of the Scottish Team for a number of years, Swiss International Champion, 6 times Overall Champion at the Royal Highland Show, just to name a few!

Up until the last 2 years due to ongoing multiple spinal surgeries, Ian also has a high-end reputation for his everyday work and was always in high demand. Ian deals with most breed types and disciplines. His main involvement is the multi-discipline athlete event horse, but he also takes a lot of referrals involving the older or ageing horses which need a sympathetic approach to trimming or shoeing.

With Ian's passion and commitment to the industry, he is not letting his current situation of not being able to physically shoe horses stop him doing what he enjoys and is now busy doing lots of teaching and clinician work which is being very well received.

Ian always puts his successful business and competition careers down to "good solid basics!"

Lecture One:

Remembering the Toe. A mixed presentation and practical session focusing on building the toe into a shoe combined with fitting keg shoes.

Lecture Two: The Foot is Not Always at Fault. A short presentation on recognising some postural adaptations that influence our shoeing plan.



Ula Krzanowska

Ula Krzanowska, also known as The Hoof Architect, is a full-time farrier with an architectural background. She graduated from the Technical University of Lodz, achieved her MSc degree in Architecture and practiced as an architect and illustrator in Poland and the Netherlands for a couple of years whilst trimming horses alongside her main work, until she decided to follow her passion and fully switch profession.

She currently works on all types of horses, from pasture pets to high performance horses and referral cases from veterinarians. She incorporates the understanding of three-dimensional space and physics into assessing hoof form, with the emphasis on the two-way relationship between hoof morphology and conformation/posture. She aims to combine both a scientific and empirical approach in order to understand and explain the changes occurring within the hoof in a way that is easy to comprehend for hoof care specialists and all equine practitioners.

In her free time she travels extensively, developing her own personal research regarding hoof morphology and educational hoof care projects, including online publication, The Hoof Architect.

Find out more about Ula at <https://thehoofarchitect.blogspot.com/>

Lecture One: Two-way relationship between conformation/posture and hoof morphology

Lecture Two: The details of hoof deformation patterns determined by specific conformational/postural configurations



Stuart Muir

Stuart started his horseshoeing career in Christchurch, New Zealand. After completing a 4 year apprenticeship, Stuart started his own business in 1999 and worked towards obtaining his New Zealand certification. Once certified, Stuart continued to expand his business, working on numerous therapeutic cases and on some of New Zealand's top race and show horses.

As Stuart's clientele expanded, Stuart realised the need for a higher level of education and he actively pursued many educational events throughout the Southern hemisphere and the USA. The exposure to new progressive information and techniques also led to Stuart working for the highly decorated and Olympic gold medal rider, Sir Mark Todd.

Stuart's dedication to improving equine foot care led him to tutoring at the New Zealand Equestrian Academy from 1999 through to 2012. He also won a scholarship from the New Zealand Research Foundation in 2010. The grant was awarded to enable a Veterinarian and Farrier to further their education while improving Vet and Farrier relations in New Zealand.

Stuart's thirst for knowledge drew him back to Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, where he was hired as a full-time Farrier. Stuart's clientele consists of sport horses and horses that have diagnosed pathology. Stuart enjoys the challenge of working on complex pathology and enjoys rehabilitating horses.

Stuart gained his American Farriers Association Certified Journeyman Farrier Certificate in 2014 and his Diploma with The Worshipful Company of Farriers in 2018. Stuart has continued to offer education and lecturing for organisations and Veterinary clinics throughout America and Canada.

Lecture One: Management of Toe and Quarter Cracks. This lecture once again identifies the components that influence hoof capsule dysfunction.

Lecture Two: Injuries Around the Coffin Joint. This case study-based lecture uses diagnostic imaging to identify pathology in the distal limb.



Paige Poss

Paige Poss has dedicated over 25 years to the hoof care industry, where she specialises in trimming horse's hooves, conduction distal limb anatomy studies, and creating educational materials. Holding a BS degree in Animal Science from North Carolina State University, Paige initially ventured into the field as a lab tech at various research facilities. However, her journey took a turn in 1999 when a lame horse ignited her passion for hoof care.

In collaboration with her business partner, Jenny Edwards, Paige co-founded Anatomy of the Equine, LLC, a platform that publishes and sells education materials tailored for farriers and veterinary professionals. Paige's unique approach blends her love for photography, science, anatomy and art. Her fascination with hoof and horse anatomy has led her to dissect and photographically document hundreds of lower legs and even whole horses. Her most impactful dissection images to date focus on the palmar digital nerve as it descends deep into the hoof capsule.

In 2020, Paige stepped back into the academic field and was asked to set up and manage the anatomy lab at the new University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine. She worked in this lab from 2020-2022 before returning to trimming and lecturing independently. As of 2024, Paige has delved into researching EMS as a lab tech at the University of Arizona.

Paige's unwavering commitment to understanding hoof mechanics, coupled with her technical skills, positions her as a trailblazer in the industry. Her dissections and clinics provide a creative and encouraging platform for others to explore hoof mechanics. Through her passion for teaching, Paige creates powerful images that not only educate but also inspire a deeper appreciation for the intricate world of horse anatomy.

Paige continues to actively participate in clinics and speaking engagements, sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience.

Lecture One: Hoof Distortions Unveiled: Exploring the Connection Between Hoof Capsule Changes and Internal Tissues

Lecture Two: Tracing the Path: Understanding the Palmar Digital Nerve in Equine Hoof Health

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Introducing the International

This year's Focus event will also see the 43rd International Team Horseshoeing Competition taking place. Here's a preview from Chief Steward Danny Bennett on what you can expect...

Preparations are well underway for this year's competition, where 11 international teams will battle against each other to win the title.

This year many of the competitors will be hot footing it from the World Championship Blacksmithing Contest held at Spruce Meadows in Canada, a fortnight before Stoneleigh. Although this year we do not have a team from Switzerland and the Netherlands, we do welcome back Team Germany in both the Senior and the Apprentice competition, who have been absent since 2019.

Following on from their amazing second place result in 2023, we wonder whether this could be the year where Team USA take the title away from the home nations?

This year we have three amazingly talented judges, of which some competitors are referring to as the "Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" - we will let you decide who is who! Get to know them on page 11.

2024's only real change is the Chief Steward pairing of Mark Watson and Danny Bennett splitting the floor to have an even keener eye on what is going in accordance with the rule book.

The Purple Army will be in action once again, providing the competitors with the smoothest running contest on the planet!

There is a new Facebook page dedicated to the competition for information, scores and a live stream following the competition.

The event starts with an open practice session on Thursday afternoon followed by the Competitors meeting in the evening. The true battle commences on Friday morning and runs through to the Saturday afternoon.

This year we have been generously sponsored by the American Farriers Association and Well-Shod.

If last year was anything to go by, this will be a tough contest and an amazing spectacle.





FOCUS

Spotlight on the Judges

Allan Ferrie FWCF



Allan works in Ayrshire, Scotland, shoeing a variety of horses and specialising in remedial shoeing and vet referrals. He was in partnership with his brother Jim for 40 years, running a multi-farrier company and a supply business, training over 25 apprentices over the years.

Farrier competitions: he was in Scottish team 25 times, two-time Individual Champion at Stoneleigh and a member winning team twice. He's been Reserve World Champion at Calgary three times, a winning member of four-man team Calgary four times, and won two-man at the AFA convention twice with Jim in Daytona and Lexington! He's won the Gold medal at RHS not just once, but five times!

Allan has done clinics in New Zealand, USA, Canada, Norway, Denmark and Sweden. He still enjoys teaching candidates for higher WCF exams.

He was awarded FWCF by HRH. Princess Anne in 1984, aged 25, and inducted into AFA International Hall of Fame 2003. He was also awarded farrier industry legend in 2000. Allan also became Freeman of City London, and joined the livery company. He was a WCF examiner for 25 years, and is also a WCF judge!

Allan is married to Janice, has two daughters and three grandchildren. His hobbies include shooting, fishing, making shoes and having family time.

Simon Bodner



Simon has been a qualified Swedish Farrier since 2009 and is a Swedish Master Farrier.

He has been Swedish National Champion four times, and has been a regular team member for Sweden at the Stoneleigh international competition.

Has been a judge and a clinician around the world. As a tool maker he has reached global success, producing some of the highest quality tools and even a book on how to maintain them!

Ricky Hilton DipWCF Hons



Ricky has been a qualified farrier since the late 2000s, and is one of the most naturally skilled farriers to have ever graced the circuit.

Ricky was National Apprentice Champion two times and has competed around the globe including at the World Championships and the World Classic of which he has had two second places and a third place.

He has won many competitions throughout the UK but until recently had disappeared from the competition circuit, and turned to the dark side and tried his hand at being an Eventer. However, Ricky has recently jumped back into shoeing competitions and cleaned up at this year's Royal Welsh Show.



Exhibitor List

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P3 Equestrian Limited

Life Data Labs

Retraining of Racehorses

Red Horse Products Ltd

Eastlake & Beachell

Silverback Chaps

Stromsholm

NAF

Jim Blurton - Sponsor

AWM Tools

Blacksmith SRL

Handmade Shoes UK Ltd - Sponsor

Total Foot Protection Ltd

Gibbins UK Ltd

Bassoli

ACR Aluminium Horseshoes

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The Shoeing Lab

Myerscough College and University Centre

EponaMind

The Donkey Sanctuary

The Hoof Boot Shop

Value Feet

Telos Hoofcare

Werkman Hoofcare

N&U Sport Horse Shoes

NEWC

Tom Clothier

Tylers

Brooke

Housley Clothing Ltd

Richard Ash

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Warwickshire College

Hereford & Ludlow College

JA Tools

Farriers Foundation



FOCUS

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- Title Sponsor of the International
Competition

Well Shod - sponsors of the new gas
forges

Handmade Shoes UK Ltd - sponsoring
the David Gulley Lecture Theatre

Jim Blurton

MNC

Calor

Mustad

Horslyx

Barmond Steel

Block Works

Central Forge Multitools

Liam Sell

Booth and Son Ltd

The Blacksmiths Guild

Swan Products

Vaughans (Hope Works)

**BFBA International
Team Blacksmithing
Competition**



**BFBA International
Team Bladesmithing
Competition**

Entries for both the Blacksmithing
and the Bladesmithing competition
are now open.

Visit forgeandfarrier.co.uk for entry
information or email Holly Flack on
holly@bfba.co.uk.



Sharp Zone Exhibitor List

Mike Smith - Manor Knives

Henry Lee - Block Works UK

Richard Airy - Barmond (Special Steels)
Ltd

Central Forge Multitools

The information listed above was correct
at the time of going to print. A full list of
exhibitors will be available in the Focus
2024 programme or online at:
bit.ly/FocusExhibitors

Additional Funding for Apprentices thanks to David Hall

"On the 14th of August we received notification that the Government had approved an increase in funding for Farriery.

These days, the apprenticeship is divided into two aspects - the first is the "on-the-job training," where the apprentice spends time training with his employer, and the cost of salary and materials are met by the employer.

The second aspect is the "off-the-job training". This takes place at a College by a learning provider. We have three colleges delivering Farriery. This part of the apprenticeship is paid for by the Government.

When the new apprenticeship was started six years ago, Farriery was funded at the lowest band. The bands range from band 1 (the lowest) to band 27 (the highest).

When I took over the Trailblazers Committee last year, I spoke to the colleges who were concerned that they may not be able to continue delivering a course at such a low band, especially when all costs associated with the course had gone through the roof. When the matter was raised with IFATE (Institute for Apprenticeships) they said there was a method for appealing if you feel that the course is in the wrong band. We had several online meetings to discuss the issues and adjust the relevant software used to calculate the cost of the farriery course, in order to be evidence-based data.

After five months of meetings with the colleges and collating all the costings, we were set to submit the new funding application.

The first tier of scrutiny was IFATE, who approved the application. The next tier was the Department of Education, and they also approved it. Finally, I had to write a 500-word submission to accompany the application which was placed in front of the (now new) Minister for Education - she had the final say. Thankfully, this was also approved!

We are now banded at the highest band of 27. I am assured that it is unprecedented to have as high an uplift as this.

This positive outcome means that the Colleges will be adequately funded to continue delivering farriery in its current form. I'd like to pay tribute to the Colleges who worked hard and quickly to provide the information to make this possible, Dean Jones my line manager at IFATE and the members of the Trailblazers Committee who approved the process of the application.

As we all know this is not the only problem with Apprenticeships that needs attention, but it's a major start. We will now continue to look at ways to update the course and address the issues."

- David Hall



▲ *BFBA President Abby Bunyard AWCF with one of her apprentices, Jack*

A note from Abby Bunyard, BFBA President:

"I want to say a really huge thank you to David Hall and the Trailblazers Committee on this absolutely fantastic achievement. This is a perfect example of individuals working hard to deliver real change and safeguarding the future of farriery. We are all very grateful."

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, to include one softshell jacket, one hoodie, three polo shirts and three vests all embroidered with your logo (left-chest decoration on all items)
- **FREE** half-hour legal advice over the phone on any issue with Morrish Solicitors plus preferential rates on their other services
- **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



Photos from the road

England, Scotland and Wales - new BFBA President Abby Bunyard AWCF has hit them all in recent months to represent the BFBA at three key shows, as she detailed in this issue's President's Address. Here are Abby's photos from the farriery competitions at the Royal Highland Show, the Royal Welsh Show and the farriery and blacksmithing competitions at the New Forest Show.

The New Forest Show



The New Forest Show had a fantastic atmosphere with everyone taking home new tricks and tips. Judge Andrew Nickalls took his time with each competitor, and shoutout to Stuart Pink who made it all happen!



▲ Congratulations to talented farrier Robert Percy, the winner of the wrought iron competition with this phenomenal piece



The Royal Welsh Show



Rob Duggan receiving his well-earned prize. Rob plays a large part in making the whole competition happen ▶

◀ Speaking at the Royal Welsh Show, congratulating competitors and conveying the relevance of the BFBA. Education and camaraderie are key!



Royal Highland Show



One of the main things to note about the Royal Highland was that both Jim and I were interviewed by Scottish TV about the relevance and details of farriery training, sustainability and the importance of the industry and competitors. We were so pleased to have this opportunity!



Smiles in the bar! ▲



The technology at the Royal Highland Show was epic - the competitors were filmed from above, and this bird's eye view was projected on to the big screen for everyone to see!



▲ Prize giving at the Royal Highland Show with Jim Balfour and Steven Beane. To the left of me is the sponsor, Gogar Services - they have made huge changes to help the competition. On the far right with the paper in hand is Alan Murdoch, Chief Steward, who ran a very slick competition!



Edenbridge and Oxted Agricultural Show

This was a fantastic show - congratulations to the organising team. The caulkin and wedge Damascus horse shoe trophy made by Joe Gillings and Joe Frank was phenomenal - they definitely deserve a mention for their talent!



The beautiful trophy is even named after the BFBA!

I was pleased to be able to present the trophies and rosettes to the winners - congratulations to you all.



Apprentice End-Point Assessment Preparation Day

Saturday 26th October 2024

Hosted by the BFBA at our HQ in Stoneleigh and led by EPA Examiners Rob Shave FWCF and Stephen Hill FWCF, this day aims to leave you feeling prepared and ready for your End-Point Assessment.

The Preparation Day includes:

- Live horse shoeing under exam conditions, to include a pre-shoeing assessment trot-up
- Live barefoot trimming demonstration for exam preparation
- Written exam paper
- Post-session evaluation and feedback



**£150 per person.
Book via QR code or
024 7669 6595**



Hoof Boot Fitting Day

We recently held a Hoof Boot Fitting Day at Stoneleigh in August.

This is a new BFBA member benefit, with an additional discount for any fit kits bought on the day.

It was a very informative day, and we also signed up six new members! If you missed out, keep your eye out for details of the next CPD day.



Beside the Fire with Mark Spriggs

As he retires from his 54-year career as a farrier, we hear from Mark Spriggs, one of the founders of The Farriery Practice and farriery supplies business Total Foot Protection Ltd.

Well known for shoeing competition horses, Mark's career has also seen him spearheading educational initiatives for farriers, becoming a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and serving on their Craft Committee and CPD steering group.

"After sitting my exams, I left school at 15 and looked for an apprenticeship with a farrier. This was not very forthcoming, so I carried on working at Gennets Farm in Loxwood West Sussex.

I had 'worked' there from about the age of 12, being a general labourer, helping with the day-to-day jobs and occasionally helping with the showjumpers by mucking out etc. While I was there I often met the local farrier, Sid Smith. We got chatting and I watched him at work, but at the time I wasn't really thinking this was something I could pursue as a career. I had had ideas of being a thatcher but hadn't been able to find someone to take me on.

I approached Sid about a job and although he considered me, he wasn't really interested in training an apprentice. Eventually, I was taken on and worked between a chap who was a panel beater/blacksmith and Jan Facer AFCL R.S.S in Faygate, West Sussex until Jan moved his business to his mother's farm in Cowfold. I then became an indentured apprentice in September 1974. I attended Hereford Technical College on block release on the AEF course which covered blacksmithing, engineering, agricultural repairs, welding and farriery. I qualified on 27th June 1977 gaining the R.S.S qualification, and soon after became self-employed.

Along with three other farriers David Nicholls AWCF, Mike Williams DipWCF and Mark Hobby DipWCF we formed the first UK Farriery Practice, which to date has four active farriers and two retired farriers. Out of this, Total Foot Protection, a farrier's supply business was founded and subsequently has

become a source of innovative products for all specialist equine needs. And in a joint venture with American farrier Gene Ovnicek's family business, EDSS Hoofcare Inc. and MNC, the NB Fitzwygram shoe was produced which in turn led to a collaboration for the design and manufacture of the Alpha Centrefit range of shoes.

For several years now, TFP has run many educational events bringing the likes of Gene Ovnicek and Bob Bowker (Veterinary Pathologist) from Michigan State University, who between them were at the forefront of farriery and veterinary science. Total Foot Protection, ELPO (Equine Lameness Prevention Organisation) and Gene Ovnicek have also worked together to run farriery courses in natural balance horseshoeing with exams and qualifications. We've also hosted the UK's finest farriers - Simon Curtis, Grant Moon, Jim Blurton and Steven Beane (to name a few!)

Later, I became the chairman of the Sussex branch of the 'NAFBE' (as it was known then) for several years, attending various AGMs. Following this, I was put forward by Mac Head FWCF and Howard Cooper FWCF to become a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farriers. Initially, I served on the CPD steering group as the company representative in a joint committee of the WCF, FRC and BFBA to establish formal points that could be awarded for CPD. I then became the Southern Area Representative on the FRC council where I sat on disciplinary committees. In addition to this, I was also a member of the WCF Craft committee.

This association with Gene Ovnicek has taken me and my fellow business partners all over Europe running many



Mark Spriggs at work ▼



training clinics and making many friends along the way.

"I have retired from horseshoeing but will still be active in my role as Financial Director of Total Foot Protection Ltd continuing to provide CPD to farriers and vets and attending trade fairs around the UK and Europe."



◀ Mark enjoyed a c.54 year career, shoeing competition horses who competed at the highest levels in dressage, showjumping, eventing and endurance riding



▶ Mark with his son, Jack Spriggs. Jack was Mark's one and only apprentice

Why did you become a farrier/blacksmith?

I sort of fell into it through my love of working outdoors and interest in animals. However, I was inspired by watching Sid Smith – the farrier on the farm that I worked at.

Who influenced you?

I was very influenced by Sigrid Young, the owner of the farm I worked at as a youngster. She had escaped Nazi Germany and built a life in England and was probably the first person that I knew who did dressage. Through her I had my first exposure to warmbloods, which at this point were unheard of in the UK. I shod Sigrid Young's horse and liveries for some 30 years, and continued to shoe for the Groom and her partner up until my retirement. My son is now taking over many of my clients that I shod for some 45 years or more.

If you had not become a farrier/blacksmith, what do you think you might be doing instead?

I had once hoped to be a thatcher and I briefly considered the army, but whatever I ended up doing it would have been something outdoors, making or building things - a master builder, for example.

What was your proudest moment?

My first proudest moment would be

when I gained my qualification as an ATF so that I could take on my one and only apprentice, my son Jack Spriggs. My second proudest moment was when he qualified.

What was your most embarrassing moment?

I was doing a demonstration in front of around 40 farriers at one of our CPD events on foot mapping - using the ELPO protocol and the correct placement of a Centrefit front shoe. Unbeknownst to me, when I was away from the horse my partner David Nicholls used a red pen to put a mark just below the clench - the whole audience were in on this. When I returned to the horse, I noticed the red mark and thinking it was blood, profusely apologized for pricking this poor horse, at which the whole audience roared with laughter.

Tell me about your most difficult/challenging/puzzling case?

Many of my clients had sports horses that required specialist attention and maintenance – dressage, endurance, eventing and show jumping. All of which needed to be kept at peak performance – a constant challenge.

What other interests do you have?

I love gardening, going for long walks, swimming, cooking and eating out. I have also just started volunteering with

a local community food waste stoppage charity.

What do you still want to achieve?

I really want to travel and see more of the world and spend more time with family and grandchildren.

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

Gene Ovnicek has completely changed the way I trim, process and evaluate my assessment of horses and made me a better farrier, so I would love to have all the updates on his trimming and shoeing techniques - although it's a bit late now I suppose, as I'm retired!

What advice would you give to someone just starting their career?

Never stop learning, embrace CPD, run your business in a professional way by working to a high standard and charge for your skill and knowledge - don't worry what everyone else is doing. Don't be afraid of VAT as you will only limit your business. Think about how many weeks of holiday you want a year and what pension you will need to be comfortable when that day comes. All this needs to be factored into the income you need to make this happen. Remember your clients' horses are a luxury and you are not there to subsidise their hobby!!

Time for a chat?

BFBA Focus regulars will be familiar with the red tent that the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) marquee has been using at the event for many years now.

NEWC brings together and represents almost 100 member organisations – including BFBA and the WCF – all of whom are committed to supporting and improving the health and wellbeing of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules across the UK.

Welfare organisations are often thought of as ‘enforcers’ and the stories which make the biggest splash in the news and social media are usually those where legislative action has been needed. But these cases are not common and the vast majority of a field officer’s time is spent supporting and guiding owners to help improve situations so early signs of an issue can be addressed before welfare deteriorates and the horse’s wellbeing is seriously compromised. The vast majority of owners are not cruel or deliberately negligent, and often a friendly chat, practical advice or a reminder of an owner’s responsibilities can make all the difference for those who may be struggling with personal circumstances, relying on inaccurate information or have taken on too much.

Farriers have a unique role in the equestrian world and in equine welfare through the frequency and importance of routine visits and the close relationships that are often established with owners and their horses. This means they are perhaps more likely than other equine professionals to become aware of early changes in a horse’s health or behaviour or in an owner’s circumstances. Farriers are also trusted sources of advice and information who are often well-placed to chat with owners about a horse care issue.

However, not every farrier is able or comfortable to start a sensitive conversation with every owner and this can lead to uncertainty and worry around the best course of action. Welfare charities are keen to reassure farriers that they need not feel alone in these common and understandably delicate situations. Field officers want to support farriers in the most appropriate way, whether that’s by just providing a confidential sounding board and signposting to useful resources to pass on to an



owner, or through a sensitively-handled visit that won't compromise the farrier-client relationship.

Being able to chat to some of the people who work for NEWC organisations in person, find out more about how charities can support farriers and arrange to be put in touch with their local field officer can be incredibly reassuring for Focus delegates.

A discount code for the online CPD course, offered by The Horse Trust and Redwings, provides a further chance to enhance understanding of how farriers fit into the systems that support equine welfare and guide owners in doing the best for their horses.

“Farriers have a unique role in the equestrian world and in equine welfare through the frequency and importance of routine visits and the close relationships that are often established with owners and their horses.”



▲ The NEWC stand at Focus

“Focus is an invaluable opportunity for wider conversations around the bigger picture of equine welfare and current issues and opportunities.”



◀ Farriers play a key role in equine welfare and communicating with horse owners

While field officers and farriers often work together in specific circumstances, Focus is an invaluable opportunity for wider conversations around the bigger picture of equine welfare and current issues and opportunities. In recent years, farriers have used the NEWC stand to voice their concerns over equine obesity, laminitis, horses that lack basic training, delayed euthanasia and inexperienced owners, in addition to issues around hoof care.

Farrier insights not only help direct the projects that welfare charities focus on and allows their voices to be shared with wider industry partners, they also enable field officers to better understand how to support farriers when they are faced with a situation that concerns them. In NEWC's 2021 survey at Focus, more than two thirds of those who took part felt welfare organisations could do more for farriers to help them uphold equine welfare, and charities want to help. Every circumstance is different and farriers may not be comfortable to raise a concern themselves with every client, so working is key. As always, good communication is at the heart of finding the best way forward - and Focus is all about communication!

At this year's Focus, the NEWC team will be on-hand once again and keen to hear from farriers at all stages of their careers. They will also be sharing some of the findings from last year's farrier survey, signposting delegates to a wealth of digital and print resources that can be offered to clients and tickling the grey matter with some thought-provoking props. The team will include RSPCA Inspectors Fiona and Suzanne who are keen to find out more about the issues facing farriers, discuss the wide variety of approaches they use for individual cases where a horse's welfare is of concern, and find ways to improve communication and partnership between welfare organisations, farriers and horse owners.

Cost-of-living pressures are still causing many people to feel the pinch, and recent data suggests almost one in five owners are extending the period between routine farrier visits, with others considering taking that step. The impact of more extreme weather on ground conditions is also taking a toll on hoof quality and foot health, and making weight management more challenging for many. Coming together to share experiences, information and ideas is needed more than ever to support horses, their owners and the vibrant industry that is built around them.

Visit the NEWC stand at Focus

Talk to the NEWC team over the weekend to find out more about how charities can support farriers in guiding horse owners to improve their horse's welfare.

A Farrier's Guide to the Olympic Games

Paul Horner FWCF is a farrier based in West Harptree, on the edge of the Mendip Hills in Bristol, Somerset. However, for a two-week period in July 2024, Paul's work took him somewhere quite different – the stunning Palace of Versailles in Paris, France for the Olympic Games.

There are several different ways for farriers to be involved at the Olympics. Some teams, such as Team GB, take their own farrier who is assigned to work specifically for that nation and their horses. For the other countries without their own personnel, the International Olympic Committee provides veterinary and farriery care. It's this IOC Farriery Team that Paul has been part of – firstly for Tokyo, and now for Paris.

"We do work alongside the farriers for specific teams, although we generally won't shoe their team horses. There's a Forge with all the kit that we will need, and if any of the Team Farriers have a job they want to do they can come up to the Forge and we'll accommodate them."

The work involved with being on the farriery team at the Olympics is similar to being a farrier on duty at other large events, "It's basically two shifts in a day – 6am until 2pm, and 2pm until 10pm," said Paul. "Generally I would be there for both shifts, so it's quite a long day!" There's a commute involved, as well. "I was based an hour away from the site, with a 30 minute walk and a 30 minute train journey each way. We got about five hours sleep at night."

"When we're on duty, we provide cover across the site – so the stables, any of the walkways where the horses may go, the warm-up arenas and the main arena too. So it means we get to watch a lot of the action – ringside seats for the actual games too, which is quite exciting!"



Providing cover across such a large site in Paris was made slightly easier for the team with the provision of a small electric farriers' car, which Paul says was popular on social media! "We had this little prototype electric car with a small farriery kit in the back, which looked pretty cool! The site was massive – the walk from the Forge to the arenas was about 15 minutes – so having the car was a huge help. I still did lots of walking, though – between 18 and 26km a day!"

The on-site Forge is the central hub where the majority of the work happens. "Any horses that are having problems with their shoes come straight to the Forge. It could just be that the shoe has moved slightly, maybe the horse needs a set of shoes, or maybe it's even gone lame. We can deal with all of that at the Forge."

"Some horses actually turn up needing shoeing, which you might find surprising considering it's the Olympics. But they come from all around the world, so it might have been their quarantine period, or it might be that they've come from another big show and they're not returning home, so they use us to shoe the horses while they're over here."

Next door to the Forge is the veterinary clinic, which is fully kitted out with everything you'd expect including diagnostic imaging machines like x-rays. "We work with the vets every day – whenever there's a problem they go into the veterinary clinic and everything's done as a precaution. They go above and beyond with the veterinary care at the Games to prioritise the welfare of the horses."

The farriers are based at the Olympics for the duration of the equestrian sport – Paul himself was present for the Dressage, Eventing and Showjumping, as well as the arrival of the Pentathlon horses. The work is variable over the course of the Games, but there's one particular crunch time for the team.



"The big time for us is after the cross country. There are obviously lots of lost shoes to replace just from galloping in the ground – having said that, the ground was actually really good in Paris because they had had lots of rain before the cross country and the conditions were great – but the horses do lose shoes. So we put the shoes straight back on if it's that easy. But some horses may be bruised or may have damaged their feet, so we'll sort them out ready for them to trot out the next morning for their final check-up before they showjump."

Unsurprisingly, Paul says the atmosphere is one of the main reasons why he loves being on the Farriery team at the Games. "Although I'd done Tokyo before, that was during Covid and so there were no spectators. In Paris the stadiums took 18,000 people – it was great to be part of it. When Team GB won Gold in the Eventing, everyone was cheering and roaring away!"

"The atmosphere is very, very good throughout. To start with everyone is in game mode and really focused. You get to see all the teams in their groups and colours, which is really exciting. Then once the Games are over it's quite relaxed and everyone is cheery and chatting!"

Something that makes working at the Games unique is the melting pot of nationalities from all over the world sharing the same goal. Paul sees the Forge and the main farriery team as playing a huge part in this feeling of camaraderie. "We try and keep the Forge feeling like a bit of a hub for the other farriers. There's farriers from all over the world there with their teams, and they'll come and have a cup of tea or some chocolate with us and we get to find out how they shoe horses all around the world."

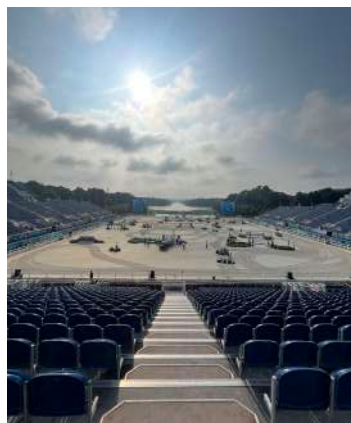
The networking aspect of the Games is something that Paul says can be quite interesting, particularly when it comes to comparing different countries' shoeing methods. "All the basics are there, but everyone thinks they might have the edge by doing something slightly different, and maybe that little edge is what's going to get them the medal. You do see some different things, which is interesting, and if you're lucky enough to speak to some of the farriers you'll get a little idea of why they're thinking of doing that."

"The hardest thing was actually the language barrier between me and the French farriers – I couldn't speak French, and they couldn't speak English! They tried to teach me a few words which I kept getting wrong, so we had to use Google Translate. We got there and it was actually a great laugh. It's my fault for not learning any French!"

With all the excitement, the long days and the hard work, the fantastic experience is over in a flash. However, Paul used his talents to produce some gifts for other members of the equestrian support teams to remember their time at the Games.

"I made some hammers as a bit of a memento for the Olympics and a token of my thanks for letting me join the team. I also made some shoes and stamped them with the Olympic logos and Paris 2024, too, for the lead vet and some of the other people I worked with. It just keeps that Olympic spirit going."

"I'd definitely like to do the next one. I enjoy the atmosphere, and I especially enjoy it when competitions go well for the horses you've worked with. You always learn something, too. And the next Games are in Los Angeles – so at least there will be less of a language barrier to contend with!"



A look into the past...

Mark Lee DWCF is a Surrey based, born and bred farrier.

With a keen interest in farriery history, Mark has shared an insight into his fascinating collection of black and white photos.





THE HAPPY ISLANDS OF ORKNEY.

A smithy at Stenness on the Mainland. It was hit by a bomb causing the first casualty of the 2nd World War. Later the islands were heavily defended and the Islanders became used to a large floating population of servicemen.

GOS - 5.



1893

Mr. Hilliard

To E. HILLIARD,
Smith & Farrier,
CROWN HILL, CROYDON,
AT BACK OF THEATRE.

June 0	4 Horseshoes	2 0
June 11	4 Horseshoes	3 0
July 23	4 do	3 0
Aug 0	4 do	3 0
		12 0

Dec 21 1894
Received of
Mr. E. Hilliard



Are you interested in the history of farriery?

We're always on the lookout for interesting pieces of farrier and blacksmith history.

If, like Mark, you've got something that you'd like to share with our readers, please send it to us for possible inclusion in a future issue of the magazine.

Email forge.bfba@gmail.com.



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Correction: Congratulations to the new DipWCFs

On page 26 of the July 2024 edition of the Forge; the Council noted that the article titled 'Congratulations to the new DipWCFs' contained two errors. The first relates to the statement in the article, first and second sentences, that the FRC was represented at the ceremony; in fact, the FRC had not been invited to the ceremony and was not represented at it. The second relates to the final sentence which suggests that newly qualified apprentices "...can now officially work as practising qualified farriers". To practise farriery in Great Britain a practitioner must be registered to practise with the regulator following qualification; this has been so for 49 years.

New BFBA Merchandise launching at Focus!

- Longback Hoodies
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From Hereford to Denmark...

Level 3 Blacksmithing Students from Holme Lacy College recently embarked on an amazing journey to the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark. Their skills and talents were put to the test in a collaborative effort to construct a replica anchor for the Skudelev 5 vessel, excavated in Roskilde Fjord in 1962, which is currently being recreated at the Museum's Shipyard. The museum places a strong emphasis on experimental archaeology, recreating ships using techniques that are traditional to the original makers.

The initial task for the tutors was to complete research into a period-accurate anchor. They chose the Ladby anchor, discovered in a ship-burial 120km away from Roskilde, and made within 100 years of the Skuldelev V vessel. Using x-rays alongside excavation reports, finds reports and a knowledge of traditional techniques, the team were able to create accurate drawings and technical plans for the anchor.

The students were split into four teams, with each team focused on forging one component for the anchor, with the components then being fire welded together. The students were outside of their comfort zone for a large part of this experimental archaeology project. In some cases, the students were working with materials and traditional techniques that they were not familiar with. Topp and Co donated wrought iron from three Victorian anchor chain links to the project - a material that many of the students are not used to handling within their educational practices, as well as having to adapt to using coal instead of the more familiar coke. Indeed, students are more used to controlled conditions within their workshop at the College and therefore faced a number of challenges when completing a large project, using unfamiliar materials and fuels in a tent in Denmark.

Clare and Kyle, two of the group leaders, explained that they had a wonderful time and that they really valued the

efforts of their tutors to organise this trip. Clare mentioned that the opportunity to work in a professional team was a great experience and a real learning curve, making for an invaluable experience.

The anchor is currently in transit on the way to the College so that students can complete the finishing touches before returning it to the museum. From there, the rest of the ship will be reconstructed, and the museum will be able to gain a better perspective and understanding of the archaeological history of the boat and the different trades involved in its construction and use. The tutors and students expressed that this connection with the museum has been an amazing opportunity for them, and one that will be strengthened by the next cohort of students as plans are already in the making to return in following years to work on the chain for the anchor.

The students would like to thank Triona and Silas from the Viking Ship Museum, and everyone involved in the organisation of this trip. This project had wide coverage, having so far appeared on TV news in Denmark and France, and online news in Spain, Iceland, Denmark, China, Uruguay and New Zealand! There is a real buzz amongst the students upon their return to the College, and a resounding sense of pride to have been involved in such a unique and exciting project.



In the September 2024 issue of *Forge Knowledge*

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

In September's issue of *Forge Knowledge*, hear from Robert Rush AWCF on keratolytic disease of the zona alba in the donkey hoof.

Donkeys in the UK live in an environment that is far removed from their natural habitat. Robert explains how this, combined with the structure of their hoof wall, predisposes them to keratolytic disease of the zona alba - colloquially known as 'seedy toe'.

Also included is a guide to rehabilitation of horses by Sally Hodgson BSc(Hons) MA VetMB MRCVS, which offers some general advice on rehabilitating horses after injury or illness.



Apprentices are entitled to **FREE BFBA membership**. They can get their own copy of *Forge Knowledge* and *Forge* by emailing membership@bfba.co.uk

WE WILL MISS YOU

Unfortunately **we cannot attend Focus** this year due to an important family event

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A Guide to Claiming Travel Expenses - Part Two

In the July issue of *Forge*, Michael Harwood & Co, BFBA's Chartered Accountants shared some guidance on how to claim travel expenses. Here, we're sharing the second part of their advice so you can feel more clued up if you're looking to travel for work.

Home based employees

Some employees work at home occasionally, or even regularly. This does not necessarily mean that their home can be regarded as a place of work. There must be an objective requirement for the work to be performed at home rather than elsewhere.

This may mean that another place becomes the permanent workplace for example, an office where the employee regularly attends. Therefore any commuting cost between home and the office would not be an allowable expense. But trips between home and temporary workplaces will be allowed.

If there is no permanent workplace then the employee is treated as a site-based employee. Thus all costs would be allowed including the occasional trip to the employer's office.

The home may still be treated as a workplace under the objective test above. If so, trips between home and any other workplace in respect of the same employment will be allowable.

Expenses exemption regime

An exemption may apply to the reporting of employee expenses on forms P11D as long as the necessary conditions are met. Under the exemption the business must satisfy itself that the employee would be entitled to full tax relief on the expenses reimbursed.

The exemption

An exemption applies which effectively means that businesses will not have to pay tax and NIC on paid or reimbursed expenses payments or report them on a P11D. The exemption places the onus on employers to determine whether employee expenses are fully deductible for tax purposes.

Types of expenses

The main types of expenses to which the exemption applies are:

- travel and subsistence expenses
- fees and subscriptions
- business entertainment expenses.

All other non-allowable expenses are still reportable on a P11D and/or subject to PAYE (and possibly NIC). Employees are able to claim tax relief in respect of unreimbursed business expenses.

The exemption does not apply to expenses or benefits provided under a relevant salary sacrifice arrangement. This includes any arrangement where an employee gives up the right to receive earnings in return for tax free expenses payments or where the level of their earnings depends on the amount of any expenses payment.

Conditions of the regime

In order for an employee reimbursed expense to be treated as an exempt payment, an employer needs to put himself in the position of the employee. The employer then asks himself the question - would that expense have qualified for full tax relief to the employee (were it not for the amount being exempt)?

An employer should consider:

- setting out a corporate policy of which type of expenses are reimbursable and the need for those expenses to be reasonable
- requiring the completion of a standard expense claim form
- the need for any expense claim to be supported by a receipt
- making checks on expense claims
- requiring a senior person to authorise the claims.

What about scale rates?

The rules allow amounts based on scale rates to be paid or reimbursed, instead of the employee's actual costs in certain circumstances. Scale rates are generally for travel and subsistence expenses and consist of round sum allowable amounts for specific circumstances.

Two key types of scale rates are available for use by an employer:

- "benchmark" rates and
- "bespoke" rates.

Benchmark rates

Benchmark rates are a set of maximum reimbursement rates for meals. These round sum amounts can be used by employers for payment or reimbursement of employees' expenses where relevant qualifying conditions are met.

These rates apply only if the employee incurs expenditure in the course of 'qualifying business travel' as follows:

- one meal allowance per day paid in respect of one instance of qualifying travel,
- the amount of which does not exceed:
 - £5 where the duration of the qualifying travel in that day is 5 hours or more
 - £10 where the duration of the qualifying travel in that day is 10 hours or more, or
 - £25 where the duration of the qualifying travel in that day is 15 hours or more and is on-going at 8pm or
- an additional meal allowance not exceeding £10 per day paid where a meal allowance a. or b. is paid and the qualifying travel in respect of which that allowance is paid is on-going at 8pm.

Bespoke Rates

The Bespoke rates

These are rates negotiated and specifically agreed with HMRC in writing. If the business wants to pay bespoke rates for meals or other types of expense, it can apply to HMRC.

Checking

There is no need to require receipts when making payments to employees for subsistence using benchmark scale rates. This applies to standard meal allowances paid in respect of qualifying travel and overseas accommodation and subsistence scale rates. Employers still have to ensure that employees are undertaking qualifying travel.

The checking system rules are relaxed and the requirement for employers to check receipts when making payments to employees for subsistence using benchmark scale rates is removed. This applies to standard meal allowances paid in respect of qualifying travel and overseas accommodation and subsistence scale rates. Employers still have to ensure that employees are undertaking qualifying travel.

The accommodation and subsistence overseas scale rates are treated in the same way as benchmark rates. Employers only need to ensure that employees are undertaking qualifying travel.

HMRC has issued guidance on what checking systems they expect employers to operate. We can assist you with this matter or in applying for bespoke rates so please contact us for more information.

Business mileage rates

The key travel and subsistence expenses for many employees are their costs in using their own car or van for business travel. Many employers and their employees use the statutory mileage allowances known as 'authorised mileage allowance payments' (AMAPs). These are scale amounts that employers can pay to employees using their own vehicle for business travel. For cars and vans, the scale rate is 45p per mile for up to 10,000 miles in the tax year and 25p per mile above this. AMAPs are a separate statutory regime and do not come within the new exemption regime.

For employer provided vehicles the fuel advisory rates can be used to reimburse fuel costs incurred in travelling on business. These advisory fuel rates are updated quarterly throughout each tax year: gov.uk/guidance/advisory-fuel-rates

New company car advisory fuel rates have been published and took effect from 1 June 2024. The guidance states: 'you can use the previous rates for up to one month from the date the new rates apply.' The rates only apply to employees using a company car.

Thanks to Michael Harwood for this article - visit michaelharwood.co.uk for more information.



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Lateral view, after showing hoof wall rebuild complete.

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Calling amateur equine photographers to enter #NEF25 programme competition



If you'd like your equine photography to be featured on the programme cover for a leading national equestrian event, this opportunity is for you. The National Equine Forum (NEF) committee is calling for amateur equine photographers to enter a special competition to find a cover star for the NEF 2025 programme.

All amateur photographers are eligible to enter, by submitting a picture of their own horse, pony, donkey or mule, or one they have received permission to photograph, subject to terms and conditions.* Submitted images will also be included in the BETA (British Equestrian Trade Association) 2025 calendar competition on request.

"This is the third year of our NEF cover star competition," said NEF honorary publicity officer Sarah Shephard. "It is fast becoming a highlight on our NEF calendar, as we have been bowled over in previous years, not only with the quantity of entries but also with the wonderful creative quality. It's a lovely way to celebrate the equestrian world and reflects NEF's mission to bring the equestrian community together."

The winner will follow in the footsteps of Lorna Elliot's captivating headshot of her Fell pony Greenholme Grey Bobby II who won the NEF24 competition. The winning image will feature on the programme cover for the 33rd National Equine Forum, which takes place on Thursday 6th March 2025 (#NEF25), as well as in other #NEF25 contexts.

The image should be of a horse, pony, donkey or mule (singular or multiple), or a creative headshot or other anatomical area. It can also feature the horse's environment in the background. It should not include any image of an identifiable person.

Entrants will also be given the opportunity for their image and details to be passed to the BETA (British Equestrian Trade Association) 2025 Calendar Competition. From all the winning entries, one image will be judged Best in Show and the successful entrant will receive a luxury hamper. Further details can be found [here](#).

To enter the NEF programme cover star competition visit [nationalequineforum.com/cover-image](https://www.nationalequineforum.com/cover-image). Terms & Conditions apply.

Pictured is the winning photo from 2024: Lorna Elliot for the image of her Fell pony Greenholme Grey Bobby II.

BEVA Congress to shine spotlight on the horse's foot

BEVA Congress (11-14 September 2024, at the ACC in Liverpool) will be shining the spotlight on the horse's foot with a lecture stream dedicated to the foot and farriery. The wide range of content should appeal to vets, vet nurses and farriers and aims to celebrate teamwork between vets and farriers in making the dream work.

The farriery stream will run all day on Saturday 14 September, with content curated by Dr Simon Curtis who is internationally renowned in the hoof-care world for his remedial farriery textbooks and lectures.

"Any historical, perceived divide between science of veterinary medicine and the craft of farriery is no longer in existence," said Simon. "The overlap is vast which means it is more essential than ever that vets, nurses and farriers understand each other's roles in order to maximise their patient outcomes."

"Farriery isn't sexy, but it beats everything else for improving soundness. It is impossible to maintain or regain soundness without farriery being considered as an integral part of the process.

"The impact good farriery can have on a horse's ability to tolerate conformational, work-related or other causes of lameness associated pathology is all too often overlooked by all parties, and this should no longer be the case. Vets and farriers must work as a team to avoid injury and facilitate recovery wherever possible."

The sessions will cover significant ground, exploring various aspects of the critical connection between veterinary science and the craft of the farrier.

BEVA Congress is uniquely produced by horse vets for horse vets. The farriery stream is part of 90+ hours of live and on-demand CPD on offer, covering almost every aspect of equine medicine, surgery and practice. The balance of practical and clinical content is delivered via interactive discussion, debates and workshops.

To find out more and to book your tickets to BEVA Congress visit bevacongress.org.

The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association will be exhibiting at BEVA again this year - come and say hello!

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The New Generation

Joe Lawson and his modern approach to traditional farriery

With a passion for working with animals and a commitment to mastering a timeless craft, Joe Lawson of Oakland Farriery has witnessed the farrier profession evolve significantly over the years. In this interview, he shares insights into how he balances traditional farriery techniques with modern innovations, while discussing the impact of ongoing education and the shifting demands of horse owners.

What sparked your interest in becoming a farrier, and how has the industry evolved since then?

I've always had a passion for working with animals and wanted to develop a skill that would be valuable in any era. Becoming a farrier fulfilled both of these aspirations. Over the years, the industry has evolved to meet the demands of modern times, particularly with the introduction of Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

How do you balance traditional methods with newer innovations, such as barefoot trimming and hoof boots?

Balancing traditional methods with new innovations, like barefoot trimming and hoof boots, is a complex issue that involves both client demand and professional expertise.

In your experience, what are some of the common misconceptions about barefoot hoof care?

A common misconception is that farriers are only there to shoe horses. While shoeing is a significant part of our work, we also possess a comprehensive skill set and deep knowledge of barefoot hoof care.

Are you familiar with Scoot Boots? If so, what have you heard or seen about the product from your professional perspective?

Scoot Boots are one of the leading brands I encounter regularly. I fit horses with them on a weekly basis and find them to be a reliable option for hoof protection.

What role do you believe education and professional development play in maintaining high standards of care in farriery, particularly with new innovations in technology?

Ongoing education is crucial in farriery. Every day offers an opportunity to learn something new. Bringing professionals together to share their knowledge and experiences strengthens the industry. No one knows everything, and there will always be a horse that challenges your expertise.

Has introducing barefoot and hoof boot services increased the number of clients you assist daily?

Absolutely, incorporating these options has allowed me to assist more clients daily, without significantly increasing the time required for each appointment.

Do you notice that the physical demands of the job are lighter, and safer by not having to be beneath a horse?

Yes, trimming and fitting boots is much easier on the body compared to traditional shoeing. It also reduces overheads. Fitting boots is straightforward and hassle-free, provided there's clear communication with the client about pros and cons.



Scoot Boot Regular from £82.95, The Hoof Boot Shop

Have you seen an increase in horse owners awareness of barefoot options and requests for hoof protection like Scoot Boots?

Yes, there's been a noticeable increase in awareness, largely driven by social media. It's a powerful tool that we should leverage to showcase our high standards and diverse skill set as UK farriers.

What advice would you give to farriers who are considering expanding their barefoot service offering?

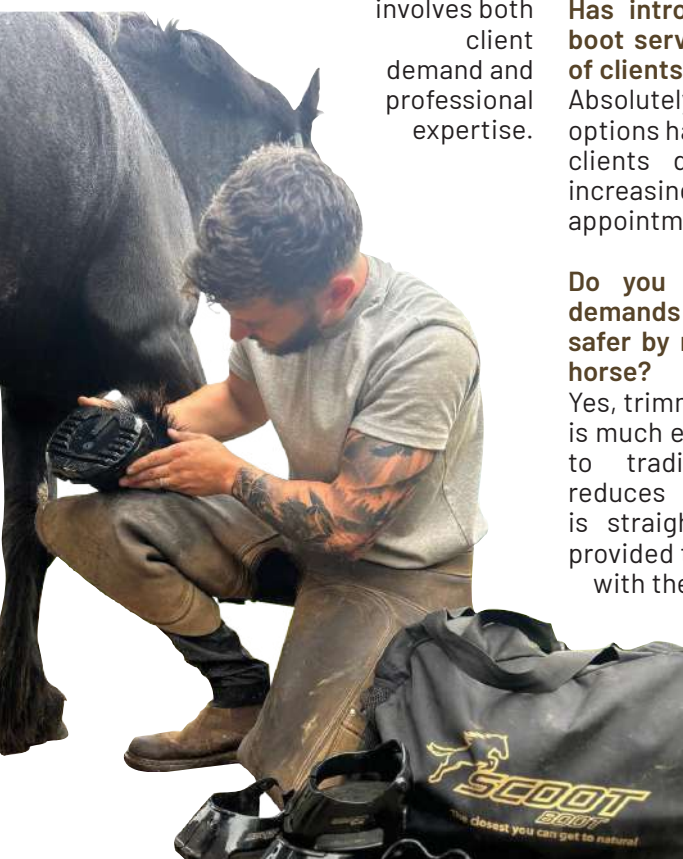
I recommend attending a workshop with The Hoof Boot Shop. You'll gain valuable knowledge and CPD points, and it's an excellent way to expand your understanding of hoof care.

Does a hoof boot fitting service bring in more income compared to shoeing alone?

While fitting hoof boots may not significantly increase my income compared to shoeing, it's a valuable service that integrates seamlessly into a typical shoeing round. Fittings are quick, you can charge appropriately, and they don't require a long-term commitment, which helps maintain a balanced workload.

Shop Scoot Boot, and start your own hoof boot fitting service by joining The Hoof Boot Shop trade membership for free at thehoofbootshop.co.uk. Learn more at scootboots.com and oaklandfarriery.co.uk.

THE HOOF BOOT SHOP



Are you a new generation farrier interested in accreditation and training for barefoot services? **The Hoof Boot Shop and Scoot Boot are giving away free workshop places for 3 lucky farriers!** Scan QR code to enter. UK farriers only. T&C's apply.



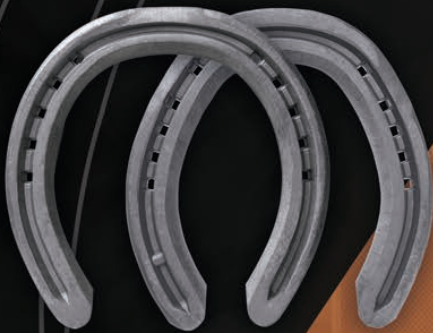


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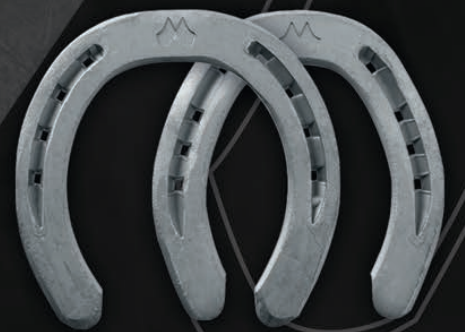


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