



FORGE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION



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

www.bfba.co.uk



Follow on Instagram:
@mattaldermanfarrier



3D
HOOF CARE
DEREK POUPARD

3D HALF MESH PAD

NEW 3D Deplano
Fusion Pad



NEW Half Mesh
Narrow Hind Pad



Full Mesh Pad



Ed Eclipse Pad



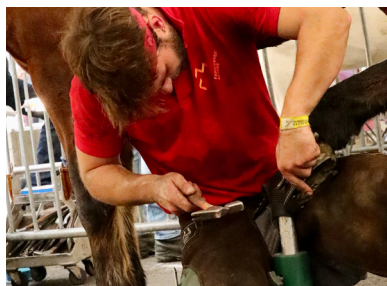

JIM BLURTON
Craftsmanship & Innovation since 1917



STRÖMSHOLM
— KERCKHAERT GROUP —

Order from Stromsholm
Telephone: 01908 233909
www.stromsholm.co.uk

CONTENTS



Focus 2024 round-up

4

Catch up on all the action from Focus 2024, including the presentations, competitions and awards



The Lord Mayor's Show Forge-In

20

Doug Campbell shares an update on the blacksmiths' final preparations ahead of the Lord Mayor's Show



Seasonal and Geographical grip

28

Michael Woods AWCF gives us an insight into some of the unique challenges facing farriers in Scandinavia during winter

BFBA

- 2 President's address
- 4 Focus 2024 round-up
- 10 The International Team Competition
- 14 The BFBA International Team Blacksmithing Competition
- 14 The BFBA International Bladesmithing Competition
- 15 Membership Benefits

ISSN No 0955 5293

Forge is the official magazine of BFBA

Editor Sarah Shephard T: 07967 967148
E: forge.bfba@gmail.com

Forge Editorial Panel

Liam O'Hara AWCF (Chair), Ben Benson AWCF, Abby Bunyard AWCF, Huw Dyer AWCF, Martha Cooling DipWCF, Charlie Dyson AWCF, Jason Sim AWCF, Rebecca Jobson DipWCF, Oliver J. Mitchell BSc(Hons) FdSc DipWCF, Harry Spinks DipWCF, Jack Vickery DipWCF, April Whitfield DipWCF, Kate Horan BA (Hons) MA&MSci (Cantab) PhD AFHEA, Tiffany Gardner DipWCF CJF, Holly Flack (Advertising)

British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association
Holly Flack, Membership Secretary,
Claire Whitehouse, National Secretary.

The Forge, Avenue B, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG. T: 02476 696595.
E: headoffice@bfba.co.uk www.bfba.co.uk

Worshipful Company of Farriers

Clerk: Valerie Gaisford-St Lawrence,
Worshipful Company of Farriers, Magnesia House, 6 Playhouse Yard, London EC4V 5EX

Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

Clerk: Lieutenant Colonel Michael White,
Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths,
9 Little Trinity Lane, London EC4V 2AD

European Federation of Farriers Associations

President, John Ravanelli (EDHV Germany)
Vice-President, Peter Kristiansen (DMFA Denmark)
Registrar, Chris Linssner AWCF
Secretary, Michael Knap (SHV Sweden)
www.eurofarrier.org

Executive Committee

President – Abby Bunyard AWCF
T: 07974 018752
Vice President – Phoebe Colton DipWCF
T: 07745 450602

Treasurer – Aaron J. Myall DipWCF
T: 07710 445201

Vice Treasurer – Huw Dyer AWCF
T: 01677 422587

Ben Benson AWCF
T: 01295 788296

Craig D'Arcy AWCF BSc(Hons)
T: 01254 697050

Charlie Dyson AWCF
T: 07917 696475

Daniel Harman AWCF GradDipELR
T: 07973 693712

Sam Masters DipWCF
T: 07526 348224

Jason Sim AWCF
T: 07711 867261

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

Features

- 20 The Lord Mayor's Show Forge-In
- 24 Beside the Fire
- 26 From the Acorn to the Oak
- 28 Seasonal and Geographical Grip in the Nordic Counties

The November 2024 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains the article:

● Assessing and correcting negative plantar angles: a case series

By Stuart King DipHE



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.

The contents of Forge are copyright and may not be reproduced without the written permission of the editor. NAFBAE/BFBA and the publisher do not necessarily share the views expressed, nor do they accept responsibility for accuracy of statements made by the contributors.

While every care has been taken to ensure that the content in this publication is accurate, neither the publisher for its editorial contributors can accept and hereby disclaim, any liability to any party to loss or damage caused by errors or omissions resulting from negligence, accident or any other causes.

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

Since the September issue of Forge dropped on your door step, the EC have been pedalling as hard and fast as ever!

On the 7th-8th September the BFBA went down to Dorset Show to support The Blacksmiths Guild. It ran like clockwork and the talent within the competitors was inspirational to say the least! They had record numbers of attendance and drew a huge crowd along with our BFBA anvils ringing in the background. A cheeky shout out to Jack Barnes (my own 1st year farrier apprentice) for winning the Blacksmith Apprentice Tong making class, keeping up the farrier end.

BFBA was represented at BEVA in Liverpool on our stand by Holly Flack, Phoebe Colton for the first half and Huw Dyer for the weekend. Our aim here was to invest time expanding farriery reach across the equine industry and to offer farriery up as the expert in our field for CPD providers. We were in good company with prominent speakers Dr Simon Curtis, Jay Tovey FWCF, Simon Moore FWCF, Sarah Logie FWCF, Jenny Hagen and Alex Werner DipWCF CJF. Having personally spoken to Dr Simon Curtis, he explained what a privilege it was for farriers to speak at a conference that was not our own profession, and would like to say how the speakers represented our profession exceptionally well. Huw went above and beyond, dad dancing with Holly at Flares nightclub until the early hours!

The CPD committee are rocking the calendar for this year and next! Marta Ferrari and the Donkey Sanctuary did a webinar with us 28th August, which had approx. 120 sign up. We are confirming dates for a donkey 3-part mini-series in the new year - one will be on treating white line and one with a donkey behaviourist. Tamzin Furtado and Clare Macleod are preparing future CPD days on practical horse weight management, nutrition, human behaviour elements and track systems. On 30th November we also have Mark White's Knowledge and Understanding of Welding CPD day.

On 17th-18th Sep, Aaron Myall attended The Equine Podiatry conference, and Phoebe Colton represented the Association at the British Equestrian Trade Association International. Sometimes it is good to step out of your bubble and look at things from other people's perspectives.

So, on to Focus - and what can I say!? Our wish list was to share knowledge far and wide, build on our industry's community, and be all-consumed by our phenomenal peers unending camaraderie. I think we bloody nailed it!!

The Members' Area (kindly decorated by Longotano Photography) was bulging at the seams for the entire weekend, with laughter, conversation and cake. A special mention to the coffee king Chris Linssner out of retirement to take the lead, strongly backed by the cake crusaders Charlie Dyson and Phoebe Colton.

A huge thank you to Gibbins of Suffolk who sponsored the EC uniform. I feel it identified the EC and brought us together as a whole. Picture on page 8!

Dan Harman pulled together the fantastic speaker line up, which was a smorgasbord of talent and knowledge at our fingertips - thank you to Dan. As a member, don't forget you can watch all the recorded Focus lectures on our website.

The Knowledge & Lecture Theatre was a new addition this year, so thank you to Liam O'Hara for doing such an epic job of hosting it. I think this is an area we can build on for next year - where else in the world can you sit up close and casual with such renowned speakers?

There is a small gang of unsung heroes that are not even within the farriery industry: Lauren and Alex (Holly's friends), Chris, Frosty, Chessa and Sylvie (Claire's daughter). These guys give up their time and work tirelessly behind the scenes each year to help the EC make Focus run seamlessly. My

thanks go to you all.

Mark Watson, Danny Bennett, the Craft Committee and the Purple Army blew the International Competition out of the water this year, making the competitor experience second to none. Jed Hallam, Byron Bennett, Adam Bradley, John Bolton, Russell Jones and Chris Johnson all received bronze BFBA medals for their long-standing service at the international with the Purple Army.



Congratulations to England, the winning team of the 43rd International Team Horseshoeing Championship and to Scotland winning the BFBA International Team Apprentice Championship. Their passion and dedication for the sport is unrivalled. I feel privileged to see these guys fight for their country to be in the top spot (England, whoop whoop, get in!)

Joe Frank and Joe Gillings from Edenbridge and Oxted made the most amazing Damascus caulkin and wedge shoes mounted on wooden feet for the winning international team. They were a thing of absolute beauty and craftsmanship!

A big shout out to Jamie Hughes who kept Brian Mullins stocked up with unsuspecting podcasters. Keep your ears to the ground, as they'll be trickling out shortly.

Sunday saw the Team Blacksmithing competition run by Don Mallet and Merv Allen as well as the International Bladesmithing competition run by Kirk Dexter. Both ran fantastically and we can't thank you enough for making this happen. It was worth being there on Sunday to see Merv Allen swinging their choppers in a padded suit!

It was my absolute privilege to be asked to present Jim Balfour with the Horsescotland Award for Outstanding Contribution. Jim had given up his place at the award ceremony to head the Scottish team at the International, but little did he know the award had come down on the flight with him! You just can't trust anyone these days!

It was also my privilege to be able to present Mark Watson with an award from the WCF EEG and the exam board, as he steps down as Chairman after 3 years of service. I would like to personally thank you, Mark, for everything you have done and continue to do for education within the farriery industry.

As always, a massive thank you to all our sponsors - we could not do any of this without your support, particularly the AFA for their continued sponsorship of the International. It was wonderful to be able to host Hank, Martha, Vern and their families - what a giggle.

I also need to thank all the exhibitors for their incredible efforts - we had some amazing stands, especially the Hoof Boot Shop who won the Best Stand Award - see it on page 8! And guys, check out the amazing new benefits we've added to the BFBA membership since Focus on page 15.

The interviews for the Edward Martin Cultural Exchange were also held at Focus. I am excited to say we interviewed some brilliant newly qualified farriers ready to travel across the pond - good luck and safe travels to them!

Early bird tickets are on sale for Focus 2025 with huge member discounts - it's the place to be on 27th and 28th September!

Finally, let's not forget the one and only Mr George Rogerson for his outstanding win at the World Champion Blacksmiths at Spruce Meadows, keeping the British flag flying. We have amazing skill and talent in our country and we should shout it from the rooftops. It is something to be very proud of and celebrate. (This year is rocking!)

**Abby Bunyard AWCF,
BFBA President**



Now available in toe clip



01908 561171

www.horseshoes.co.uk





FOCUS

FOCUS 2024

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September saw the return of the UK's largest farriery event. Once again we eclipsed our previous attendance number, with 1,900 visitors over the weekend.

Read our recap to relive the event, including details of the informative lectures, competition winners and some of the best photos from across the weekend.



SAVE THE DATE

Early bird tickets for Focus 2025 are already on sale, with huge discounts for members. Get your tickets now via forgeandfarrier.co.uk.

**Saturday 27th and
Sunday 28th
September 2025
Stoneleigh Park**



Your trusted partner for Farriers Insurance

At Eastlake & Beachell, we have been providing insurance solutions to Farriers since 1994.

We have a knowledgeable & friendly team, ready to advise and provide a policy that fits your needs.

Our cover includes

Property
Damage



Public
Liability



Injury to
Horses



Professional
Indemnity



As standard, our policy meets the regulatory requirements of the FRC and provides higher levels of injury to horse cover than available elsewhere.

EASTLAKE



BEACHELL

Contact

Speak with Beth or the Team about your insurance requirements on 0116 2544277 or email beth.eaton@eastlakebeachell.co.uk
Premium discounts are available for BFBA and BABA membership

Underwritten by


HISCOX

The Knowledge Zone, hosted in the newly renamed David Gulley Lecture Theatre and kindly sponsored by Handmade Shoes Ltd, proved more popular than ever this year.

Ian Gajczak delivered two presentations: the first, "Remembering the Toe" demonstrated the importance of correct toe length and how adaptations to the shoe can improve biomechanics. Ian's second lecture "The Foot is not Always at Fault" gave an indication of how shoeing can alter posture, and how farriers need to consider assessment of the whole horse.

Haydn Price brought his recent research expertise to the fore in a presentation about the effects that different orthotics such as pads have on varying surfaces, and the importance of a shoeing plan when dealing with a horse's individual needs.

With the use of high-definition photography, **Paige Poss** demonstrated hoof dissections that show how internal tissues can be affected by external faults, with a specific focus on the palmar digital nerve on day two.

Using her unique architectural background, **Ula Krzanowska** used a series of photos and drawings to discuss how conformation and posture can affect hoof morphology, and described her trimming methods to address these variations.

Stuart Muir shared various interesting case studies with elements of veterinary diagnosis and farriery treatment from his perspective as Head Farrier at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital.

Saturday also included an Open Forum session chaired by **Dan Harman** with **Liam O'Hara**, **Danny Elliott**, **Claire Brown** and **Billy Crothers**. The session focused on the costs of shoeing, and the importance of farriers having an awareness of profit vs loss and charging appropriately for their services. The practical conversation also included the benefits of a good work-life balance to manage physical and mental health.

With inspiration taken from the classrooms and round-table discussions at the International Hoofcare Summit, the BFBA introduced the **Knowledge and Lecture Room** for the first time at Focus 2024. Smaller talks, with bigger audience engagement!

Tamzin Furtado and **Claire Macleod** led a comprehensive discussion on equine nutrition, management of overweight horses, and how to communicate with clients.

Brian Mullins interviewed **Stuart Muir** for "Mullins Farrier podcast". This was a fascinating conversation covering Stuart's background in New Zealand and his move to Kentucky. Don't forget your discounted BFBA Members' Rate to Mullins Farrier Podcast!

Tom Smith FWCF explained the roles of the FRC and its regulation policy, helping the audience understand the act of parliament which regulates farriery.

Sol Tovey shared an excellent presentation on his time in America on the Edward Martin Cultural Exchange, organised by the BFBA and AFA.

Paige Poss discussed some of her anatomy slides presented in her lectures, giving the audience a hands-on experience and plenty to think about!

Marta Ferrari led a session on treatment/prevention of white line disease in the donkey. Marta did a popular webinar earlier this year - look out for a new mini-series!

Finally, **Tiffany Gardner** presented her research into isolation and farriery and how to avoid and/or manage it. This is a subject farriers should all be more aware of, and comfortable discussing.

SPEAKER LINE-UP

From left to right: Stuart Muir, Haydn Price, Ula Krzanowska, Paige Poss, Dan Harman (Lecture Theatre Manager) and Ian Gajczak.

The BFBA would like to thank all speakers for giving up their time to deliver such informative, engaging presentations.



THANK YOU TO EXHIBITORS

Each year we continue to grow our exhibition area at Focus, and we had some exceptional tradestands this year - thank you to you all for your support. Pictured is the Mustad stand with their fun photo booth, which everyone loved!



THE KNOWLEDGE ZONE

The David Gulley Lecture Theatre was packed for the duration of the weekend, with an engaged audience and lots of questions for the speakers.

The popularity of the sessions is testament to Dan Harman, who coordinated the line-up of speakers and managed the operation of the Knowledge Zone throughout the event. Well done, Dan!



SUPPORT FROM HANDMADE SHOES LTD

The BFBA would like to thank Handmade Shoes Ltd for their fantastic support of Focus 2024, sponsoring the David Gulley Lecture Theatre. Billy Crothers also gave demonstrations over the weekend and was involved in the Open Forum session on Saturday afternoon.



THANK YOU TO OUR FOCUS 2024 SPONSORS

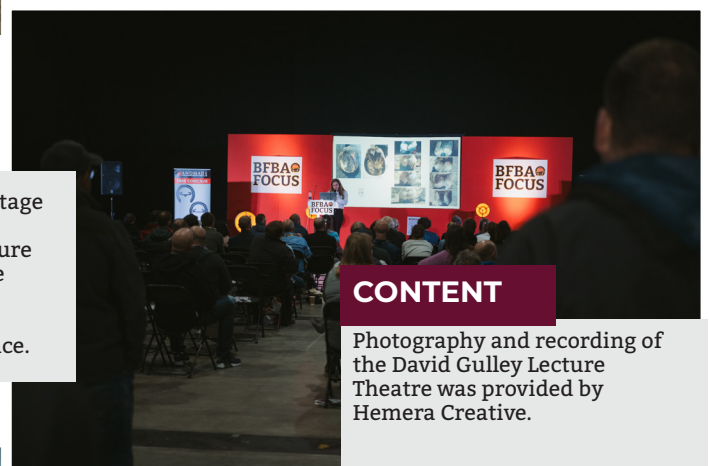
- American Farriers Association
- Barmond
- Bassoli
- Blockworks UK
- Calor
- Handmade Shoes Ltd
- Horslyx
- Jim Blurton
- MNC
- Mustad
- Well Shod

We are very grateful to our sponsors for their support enabling us to bring Focus to life. We couldn't run the event without them.



ON STAGE

Each speaker took to the stage twice over the weekend, delivering a different lecture each day. Pictured is Paige Poss, whose anatomical images proved to be very interesting for our audience.



CONTENT

Photography and recording of the David Gulley Lecture Theatre was provided by Hemera Creative.



OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum session on managing finances and work-life balance - from left to right: Dan Harman (Chair), Liam O'Hara, Danny Elliott, Claire Brown and Billy Crothers.



A TRIBUTE TO DAVID GULLEY FWCF

Jim Ferrie and Gary Darlow made a fitting tribute to the late David Gulley on Saturday afternoon, sharing their memories and stories of David and cementing how influential he was to our profession.

DID YOU MISS IT?

BFBA members get access to watch recordings of all the Focus 2024 lectures on the website.



AWARD WINNERS



Top: The Hoof Boot Shop with the Best Stand Award outside their winning stand

Inset: The Hoof Boot Shop receiving their Best Stand Award from (L - R) the BFBA's Holly Flack, BFBA President Abby Bunyard and BFBA Vice-President Phoebe Colton.

BEST STAND AWARD

The Hoof Boot Shop beat off fierce competition to win Best Stand Award 2024!

The Best Stand Award is designed to honour our exhibitors' efforts. These stands take a huge amount of time, planning and consideration. The stands are judged by our team of secret shoppers who consider the layout, accessibility, lighting, stock displays and the staff approach - all of which the Hoof Boot Shop had done incredibly well.

The winner of the Best Stand Award receives a full page advert and editorial in Forge magazine, exposure on our website and social media channels, plus a £250 discount off a stand for Focus 2025.



JIM BALFOUR

Jim Balfour was awarded with the Horsescotland Award for Outstanding Contribution.



BEN BENSON

Ben Benson was presented with his Past President of the BFBA medal.

THANK YOU TO GIBBINS OF SUFFOLK

The BFBA is very grateful to Gibbins of Suffolk for their generous sponsorship of uniforms for the Executive Committee.

Pictured below are members of the EC and staff team outside of the Gibbins stand at Focus 2024 - left to right: Claire Whitehouse, Sam Masters, Jason Sim, Craig D'Arcy, Abby Bunyard, Phoebe Colton, Holly Flack, Aaron Myall, Ben Benson, Dan Harman and Charlie Dyson.



MARK WATSON

Mark Watson was presented with a decanter from WCF EEG for his service as Head Examiner.



HORSESHOES FOR EVERY OCCASION



www.stromsholm.co.uk
01908 233909



STRÖMSHOLM
— KERCKHAERT GROUP —



By Appointment
to Her Majesty
The Queen
Suppliers
of Horseshoes

The International Team Championship Competition

This year's Focus event also saw the 43rd International Team Horseshoeing Competition taking place. If you missed it, here's a recap of all the action...

Words by Chief Steward Danny Bennett

The International Farriery Competition was held on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th September 2024, a return to its original date following a change to October due to the post-COVID relocation and rescheduling.

This year saw the return of Mark Watson, co-organising and co-Chief Stewarding with Danny Bennett. This lightened the workload for both, and meant more improvements could be made to an already slick operation.

The dynamic duo (with the help of Jim Balfour, Byron Bennett, Hank Chisholm and Wade Chisholm) spent the week prepping all the necessary equipment at Headquarters, until the Amazing Purple Army assembled at Stoneleigh on the Thursday and set about rolling out to set up over at the Focus site.

By lunch time all was set up and fires lit, and the forge was officially opened for the practice session.

This year the Swiss and Dutch team were absent, but we welcomed the return of the German team which included an apprentice team.



Above: Gas forging



The competition does not run without our fantastic sponsors. Massive thanks again to the American Farriers Association, Calor Gas, Mustad, Bassoli, and Les Armstrong for once again providing all our pre-cut steel. This year we welcomed a new sponsor, Well-Shod USA, who have provided us with the new Gas Forges. Thank you to John and your team for your generosity.

This year we saw the introduction of a new scoring system provided by the Mustad Portal. Special thanks to Jed Hallam, Ruth Hallam, Helen Bennett and Siv Ornvall for sorting out the scoring this year.

Once again this year saw equine welfare actively being promoted by all involved and special thanks go to Jackie Hickman, our Equine Welfare Steward, and Kirsty McGregor, our onsite Vet.

This competition happens due to two factors: The Purple Army and caffeine! Yet again the Purple Army rose to the occasion making for a slick, fun competition and a truly world-class event. Thursday evening was the competitors' meeting at the

host hotel which was officially opened by the president of the BFBA Abby Bunyard. This was then followed by a minute's silence in memory of the late David Gulley FWCF, who not only competed at the first international, but went on to be the Chief Steward and driving force behind the competition for many years.

Our Judges this year were Allan Ferrie (Scotland), Simon Bodner (Sweden) and Apprentice judge was Ricky Hilton (England).

A big shout-out to the man with the hardest job of all, Mark Watson for arranging the horses for the competition. All competitors would agree that the feet this year were great and consistent. Thank you to all the suppliers for bringing them.

With no changes to the format this year, except for the addition of music, better ventilation and the dual Chief Stewarding of the shoeing floor, day one kicked off at 8am, with the 2-hour shoeing class and the team gas forging. England were placed first in the Gas Forging and Scotland won the 2-hour class. Also running on day one was the Reserve Gas Forging Class. This was won by Lewis Knaggs (England), but a special mention must go to Irish team manager and BFBA Craft Committee member Alwyn McKeown for stepping into their injured reserve's shoes last minute and placing second. We wish David Lynch a speedy recovery.

Day two saw the start of the Apprentice Championship with Connor Thomas (Wales) winning the individual class and Team Scotland going on to win the Team Championship. For the senior teams there was the 1 ½ hour shoeing class with Plain Stamped shoes going on the feet. This class was won by Ireland, and England coming in second place.

Overall, the best individual this year went to the amazingly consistent Lewis Balfour (Scotland). The newly-crowned World Champion George Rogerson (England) came in second.

The winning Team this year was England, narrowly beating Ireland by less than one point.

Thanks once again to everyone that makes this competition happen, and especially the teams who enter. Without you, there would not be a competition.



*Above left: The forge in action
Right: Judge Allan Ferrie examines one of the shoes*



FOCUS

Results

Class 1: International Team Gas Shoemaking

- 1st: England
- 2nd: Scotland
- 3rd: Ireland
- 4th: USA
- 5th: Canada

Class 2: International Team Horseshoeing

- 1st: Scotland
- 2nd: England
- 3rd: Ireland
- 4th: USA
- 5th: Norway

Class 2: Best Specimen Shoe

Steven Beane, England

Class 2: Best Shod Foot

Lewis Balfour, Scotland

Class 2: Best Individual

Lewis Balfour, Scotland

Class 2: Best Dressed Foot

Lewis Balfour, Scotland

Class 3: International Team Horseshoeing

- 1st: Ireland
- 2nd: England
- 3rd: USA
- 4th: Wales
- 5th: Sweden

Class 3: Best Specimen Shoe

Paul Robinson, Ireland

Class 3: Best Shod Foot

Rodney Ross, Ireland

Class 3: Best Individual

Joe Whitehead, Wales

Class 3: Best Dressed Foot

Dan Corkery, Canada, Rodney Ross Ireland

Class 4: International Reserve Team Member

- 1st: Lewis Knaggs, England
- 2nd: Alwyn McKeown, Ireland
- 3rd: Chris Needs, Wales
- 4th: Rory Bauer, USA
- 5th: Russell Floyd, Canada

Best Overall Team Horseshoeing (Classes 2 and 3)

- 1st: Ireland
- 2nd: England
- 3rd: Scotland
- 4th: USA
- 5th: Canada

Best Overall Team Horseshoeing (Classes 2 and 3) - Best Shod Foot

Lewis Balfour, Scotland

Overall Individual Championship (Classes 1, 2 and 3)

- 1st: Lewis Balfour, Scotland
- 2nd: George Rogerson, England
- 3rd: Alex Collier, England
- 4th: Paul Robinson, Ireland
- 5th: David Varini, Scotland

BFBA INTERNATIONAL TEAM HORSESHOEING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

- 1st: England
- 2nd: Ireland
- 3rd: Scotland
- 4th: USA
- 5th: Canada



Pictured: Team England

APPRENTICE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION 2024

- 1st: Connor Thomas, Wales
- 2nd: Aaron Warner, USA
- 3rd: Billy Machin, England
- 4th: Carl Magnusson, Sweden
- 5th: Ben McCredie, Scotland

APPRENTICE TEAM CHAMPIONS 2024

- 1st: Scotland
- 2nd: England
- 3rd: USA
- 4th: Sweden
- 5th: Germany

APPRENTICE BEST SPECIMEN SHOE

PJ Williams, Scotland



Pictured: Apprentice Team Scotland



*Above Left: Class 2 Hind Foot job
Above Right: Class 2*

Thank you to everyone who makes the BFBA International Team Championship competition happen, especially the teams who enter and travel to Stoneleigh to compete. Without you, there would be no competition.

Look forward to seeing you all next year!

International Competition Photos



Above: George Rogerson



Above: A minute's silence for David Gulley



Above: Steven Beane



Above: Class 3



Above: Team Wales
Below: An alert Army team manager



Above: Purple Army
Left: Katinka Ødegaard
Below: Competitor meeting





FOCUS

The Purple Army

The Purple Army was first formed at the European Championships held in England in 2014.

Since 2015 and Mark Watson taking over the role as Chief Steward at Stoneleigh, the Purple Army have been the mainstay of the International Competition. From the members of the BFBA Craft Committee to the guys and girls who turn up at the Forge on Thursday morning every year and roll their sleeves up and make the event happen. We are lucky to have scorers, sweepers, timers, and more importantly problem solvers, whose soul aim is to make this the best team competition in the world and make sure the competitors have the best chance to do their best work.

This year at the prize giving dinner five members of the Purple Army were awarded BFBA bronze medals for completing over 5 years' service at the International: John Bolton, Adam Bradley, Jed Hallam, Byron Bennett and Chris Johnson. This was a new award for this year and is a small token of how much we appreciate the hard work and time they put into the competition and making the event the great event it is.

Once again, the Purple Army put on a great show making this one of the best organized events in the world. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

CHIEF STEWARDS

Mark Watson
Danny Bennett

GAS FORGING CHIEF

Chris Johnson

SCORERS

Jed Hallam
Ruth Hallam
Helen Bennett

TIMING

Che Broadley

STEWARDS

Nick Cooper
John Bolton
Russell Jones
Mark Humphrey
Mark White
James Todd
Brian Saunders
Adam Bradley
Steve Griffin

VETERINARIAN

Kirsty McGregor

EQUINE WELFARE STEWARD

Jackie Hickman

JUDGES SCRIBES

Siobhan Dillon
Dan Ravenscroft

PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEOGRAPHY

Chris Carrel
Byron Bennett



Left: Team Canada
Below: Team Ireland



Above: Lewis Balfour, best individual



Above: Team Ireland, second place
Left: Lamar Weaver, USA



Above: Byron Bennett, Jed Hallam, John Bolton, Adam Bradley and Chris Johnson of the Purple Army collecting their bronze medals

BFBA International Team Blacksmithing Competition

This year's competition was a pairs competition to make a slip chain link set in two hours.

Congratulations to our winners:

- 1st - Adam Greenwell and Josh Masey
- 2nd - Sam Rees-Wilde and Logan Theobald
- 3rd - Jon Howitt and Lennard Van de Lagemaat
- 4th - Matt Warden and Rebecca Hamilton



BFBA International Bladesmithing Competition

The UK's only Bladesmithing competition is going from strength to strength.

Congratulations to our winners:

- 1st - Daniel Bidirel
- 2nd - Brad Powner
- 3rd - Brandon Caffery



A thank you from the BFBA

Thank you to everyone involved in the International Team Blacksmithing Competition and the International Bladesmithing Competition.

We'd particularly like to thank the Chief Stewards:

Bladesmithing: Kirk Dexter DipWCF
 Blacksmithing: Don Mallett AWCB

And, of course, our sponsors:

Bladesmithing: Barmond Special Steels, Blasting Creations Newport, Blockworks UK, Calor, Central Forge and Multitool Products UK/Europe
 Blacksmithing: Booth & Son Ltd, The Blacksmiths Guild, Swan Products and Vaughans (Hope Works)

We're very pleased to be able to bring these two important competitions to Focus, and hope everyone who attended enjoyed them as much as we did. We look forward to welcoming you all back next year - we know plans are already in place to build on this year's success!



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
- **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





CHATSWORTH SHOEING AND SHOE MAKING COMPETITION 2024

Run by the Derbyshire Branch of the BFBA, the Chatsworth Shoeing and Shoe Making competition took place across the weekend of 30th August - 1st September.

Judged by Mr Philip Dunmall FWCF.

The Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, Mrs Heather Clabon, BA presented our winners' prizes and the medals of the Worshipful Company of Farriers.

The beautiful rosettes were made by Charlotte Outram and Longotano Photography provided super photos of the competition. Thank you to everyone involved for a super show!





RESULTS

1st and 2nd year shoe making

- 1st Alex Owen WCF bronze apprentice medal
- 2nd James Adamson
- 3rd Harry Copsey

3rd and 4th year shoe making

- 1st Jon Davies WCF bronze apprentice medal
- 2nd Jude Hubbard
- 3rd Harrison Willats

Open shoe making

- 1st Leon Bentham WCF bronze medal
- 2nd Liam Burkinshaw
- 3rd James Holliday
- 4th Josh Firth
- 5th Oliver Arnold

Hunter shoeing

- 1st Chris Hole WCF silver medal

- 2nd Will Heslop
- 3rd Sam Johnson
- 4th Sammy O'gara
- 5th Josh Firth

Roadster shoeing

- 1st Leon Bentham WCF silver medal
- 2nd Thomas Richards
- 3rd Guy Welch
- 4th Chris Hole
- 5th Liam Burkinshaw

Champion

Chris Hole

Reserve Champion

Leon Bentham

Speed shoemaking

Raising £110 for Farriers Foundation

Winner Carl White



THANK YOU TO OUR KIND SPONSORS:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Eastlake & Beachell | Farriers Choice |
| Red Horse Products | Handmade Shoes Ltd |
| Little Rock Equine Vets | Trinity Farrier Services |
| Ariat | Moran Horseshoes |
| Calor | Bakewell Vets |
| Stromsholm | NWT |
| Derek Gardner | |



DORSET COUNTY SHOW

7TH AND 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024

With magnificent understatement, a stall holder described the first and previous days' weather conditions as; 'a tad intemperate.' He wasn't joking! The rain fell in buckets but within the cover of our large stand, displays and stalls were set up, anvils, forges, fuel and tools laid out and a stream of visitors throughout the day stopped by to enjoy the wonders of our ancient craft. Understandably, foot fall was down from the previous year's show but all who participated reported that ours was one of the best they had ever attended. The hard work of Guild members, competitors, traders, numerous supporters, assiduous displays by the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association, combined with the enthusiasm and professionalism of the Show management, paid no small part in our success. I'm sure that members will join me in extending their appreciation to everyone concerned.

Praise must go to our judge, Melissa Cole FWCB who worked tirelessly in what were somewhat challenging conditions to deliver her expert assessments of the vast range of work entered into the National Blacksmithing Static and Live Competitions.

It should be noted that we had a record number of entries for the Frank Day Trophy which bodes well for the future. All the Blacksmiths Guild Competitions were well supported, and a massive thankyou goes to Don Mallett and Kevin Boys for judging.

For the first time this year, the public 'Have-A-Go's' were widely advertised and although we had to cut back on the number of planned weekend demonstrations, these new activities were a great achievement and building blocks for future planning.

It was an honour to welcome WCB Prime Warden Mark Abraham FCA and his wife Debbie. Mark spent some time with hammer in hand being guided by Kevin Boys into the delights of hitting hot metal.

A visit by Hector Cole MBE, FWCB was another significant highlight. Hector has recently been awarded the highest accolade in blacksmithing namely the WCB Gold Medal which he will receive in person at the WCB Awards Lunch the end of October. Well-deserved and congratulations go to Hector from all in The Blacksmiths Guild.

In conclusion, an exciting and memorable event that I'm sure will be even more impressive next year; hopefully the Saturday evening's social will be dryer and brighter!





RESULTS

NBCC COMPETITION RESULTS

Class 1: For the Home

- 1st Steven Wilson – Chimney Crane
- 2nd Steven Wilson - Scold's Bridal
- 3rd Josh Massey – Arrow Extractor

Class 2: For the Garden

- 1st Matt Warden – Well Cover
- 2nd Adam Greenwell – Rose Cutter
- 3rd Simon Hall – Umbrella Stand

Class 3: Contemporary Ironwork

- 1st Rebecca Hamilton – Robin on Shovel
- 2nd Simon Hall – Flower Mirror
- 3rd Kirk Dexter – Dagger

Class 4: 30 Minutes - Saleable Item

- 1st Simon Hall – Log Poker
- 2nd William Murgatroyd – Toasting Fork
- 3rd Sam Rees-Wilde – Paper Knife

Class 5: 60 Minutes - Autumn Themed Item for the Garden

- 1st Simon Hall – Weed Puller
- 2nd Simon Hall - Boot Puller
- 3rd Sam Rees-Wilde – Apple Catcher

Show Champion Static – Steven Wilson

Show Reserve Champion Static – Steven Wilson

Show Champion Live – Simon Hall

Show Reserve Champion Live - Will Murgatroyd

BLACKSMITHS GUILD COMPETITION RESULTS

CLASS B1 Decorative Nail

- 1st Phil Taylor
- 2nd Sam Rees-Wilde
- 3rd Andrei Burzo

CLASS B2 Toasting Fork: Bob Hobbs - The Three Spirit Trophy

- 1st Toby Smith
- 2nd Jasper Russ
- 3rd Jim Hutchinson

Class B3 Knife, Fork and Spoon

- 1st William Murgatroyd
- 2nd Will Beaumont
- 3rd Sam Rees-Wilde

Class FB1 Farrier's Tongs – Professional

- 1st Sam Rees-Wilde

Class FB2 Farrier's Tongs – Apprentice

- 1st Jack Barnes

Frank Day Trophy: Andrei Burzo – Guitar Stand

Chez Chescoe Award: Anna Landreneau – Fire Poker, Bracket and Hammer

Visitors' Vote: Kirk Dexter - Dagger

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW FORGE-IN

On the weekend of the 30th August 2024, blacksmiths from all around the country travelled to Stoneleigh Park to bring together their creations in preparation for the dressing of the Lord Mayor's float.

Doug Campbell shares an update with us on the final preparations ahead of the big event.



The Lord Mayor's Show is taking place on Saturday 9th November and is the oldest civic profession in the world, with over 7,000 people, 250 horses and over 50 decorated floats. In the parade will be Alastair King, the 696th Lord Mayor of the City of London and the first Lord Mayor to come from the mother company of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths.

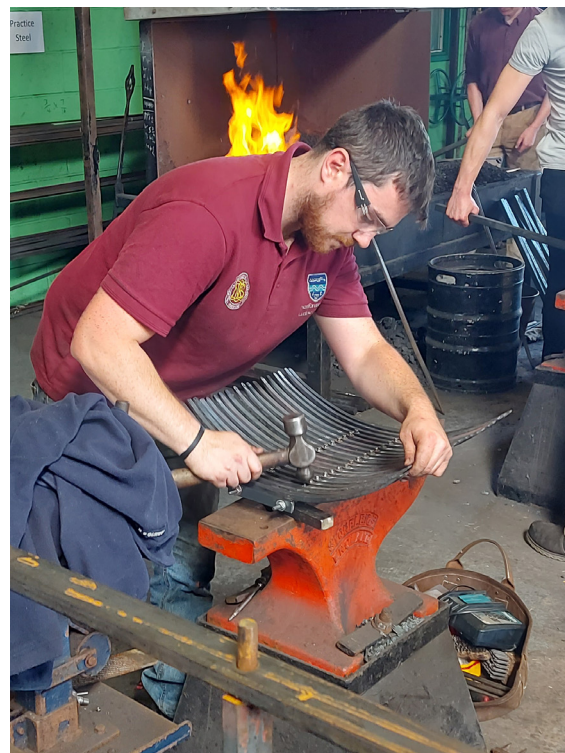
The blacksmiths' creations will decorate the Lord Mayor's float as a fitting tribute and demonstrate the skill and artistry of their exceptional craftsmanship.

The blacksmiths' constructions have all been conceived, designed and started off in workshops and forges from one end of the country to the other. The items include six panels, a double leaf gate, a gazebo, swinging sign bracket and a fire basket.

Once the parade is over, the items on the float will be auctioned off for the Lord Mayor's charities.

"WE CAN'T THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH FOR THE HARD WORK AND EFFORT YOU'VE ALL PUT IN."





The forge-in was hosted by the BFBA who loaned us the use of the building and forges for the duration of the forge-in, thank you all so much! This was an amazingly successful event, with around 45 people attending to bring the project together including our other sponsor, Tony Lenihan from Wilson James who brought the wagon over to the forge-in for us so that we could start fitting the gate and panels ahead of time and then take the panels back to his depo in Silvertown.

The forge-in was a hive of activity there were at any one time, no less, with students from Hereford College, members of The Blacksmiths Guild, blacksmiths from Ireland, Liverymen and non-Liveryman turning up to make this the event that it was, we can't thank you all enough for all of the hard work and effort that you all put in.

Ian Parmenter turned up with his donkey hammer made for the float which was dressed and tooling made for it so that it could be one of the main focuses of the organised chaos that will be the forge scene depicted on the float. The float will have four smith and striker teams, four people handing over "heated steel" from our faux fire (H&S dictates we can't have any real fun!) and a pair on the donkey hammer. We know the hammer works, as I found Adam Greenwell and Ian Parmenter giggling like school children as they tried to forge out a piece of 10mm round under it. It took a while, but it made a dent!

Of course, we would have had a bit of a struggle getting things set up without the help of Mr. Don Mallet, who has been a major support throughout the build and we would not have been fed anywhere near as well as we were had we not had Renter Warden Jane Davis, PPW Adrian Oliver and his wife Jane there providing the nourishment.

The Friday night was relatively chilled as far as blacksmiths are concerned. The Saturday night went with a bang of the drum and a good old sing song around the camp fire and I believe that there was even a sneaky pizza delivery ordered in by two reprobates who shall remain anonymous!

The Saturday evening also saw the presentation of a part of the LM's gifts to Jane Davis who is also the Chair of the Mayoralty Committee: two gold coins designed by Ian Parmenter and stamped thanks to the tooling made by Phil Carter from Phil's Forge in Derbyshire and pressed at David Tuckers workshop by Phil and Doug Campbell.

Along with a key handled top set, the coin dies and casket to hold them and a crozier or rod of office, they will be presented to the LM Alastair King at the silent ceremony on the 8th of November 2024.

From both Ian and I and the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, we can't thank you all enough for what you have done - not least of all to those who took on the individual projects to make this event what it was. You know who you are.

Thank you all for the support,

Doug Campbell



See it for yourself!
 Catch the Lord Mayor's Float in the parade at the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday 9th November, setting off from Mansion House

ANVIL

CPL
DISTRIBUTION

PREMIUM COKE

FOR BLACKSMITHS AND FARRIERS

- FANTASTIC CORE HEAT
- EASY TO MANAGE FUEL
- CLEAN BURN
- FORMS A GOOD CLINKER



TO PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY

Visit coals2u.co.uk/anvil-forge-coke

CALL 01623 860 228

or email commercialteam@cpldistribution.co.uk

DON'T
MISS IT!

BFBA WELDING CPD DAY COURSE

Saturday 30th November 2024

8.30am - 5pm

Hosted at the Forge, Stoneleigh Park,
Warwickshire CV8 2LG.

Nail your basics and refine your welding
skills with Mark White.

What You'll Learn:

- Essential MIG and ARC welding techniques
- Practical applications for farriery
- Tips and tricks from an expert

What To Expect:

- Hands-on experience with MIG and ARC welding
- Equipment will be provided including materials and rods
- You're encouraged to bring your own welder for extra practice
- Please bring your PPE (mask, gloves etc.)
- Complete this essentials course to sign up for our planned advanced welding course which will include TIG aluminium welding
- Lunch and brews included!

BFBA Members: £150
Non-members: £200
Book via QR code or
024 7669 6595



**FREE
BREAKFAST
BUTTY
FOR EVERY
CUSTOMER***



 01677 422587

 enquiries@forgesupplies.co.uk

 www.forgesupplies.co.uk



*T's & C's : offer valid 01.11.24 - 20.12.24 business days only, orders over £250 net (orders of this size qualify for free carriage), 1 x £5 voucher per invoice will be sent via email within 48 hours of purchase, you can choose either Greggs or Costa, you must agree to sign up to our email mailing list, there is no limit on how many times you can redeem this offer (although it can only be claimed once per day), we can withdraw this promotion at any time,
your voucher does not have to be used to purchase breakfast

BESIDE THE FIRE WITH ROBERT RUSH SNR



In this edition of Beside the Fire, we hear from Robert George Rush Senior FWCF, who began his farriery career whilst serving in the Army. Robert since founded R. G. Rush Farriers, a third-generation farrier business operating across East Anglia now predominantly run by his grandson Robbie. Robert's interview was conducted by his grandson Robbie Rush AWCF.

"I joined the Army in February 1957. I had always been with animals and I wanted to continue that, so I said to the Recruiting Sargent that I wanted to join the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC) and become a Dog Handler. He replied that he had never heard of the RAVC. "OK," I said. "I will not join."

A short time later I was in the CORPS. In those days it was two weeks at Dog School, two weeks in Sick Lines, two weeks in Remounts and two weeks in Embrocation Leave, and then off to Malaya. As I was still 17 I was taken off the Malaya posting.

About a year later I was sent to Malta, it was a new posting and for me it felt like 18 months paid holiday! About that time the Royal Military Police were taking over the dogs and they took over the Maltese Dog School.

I came back to Melton and had another year in Dog School, and then I thought there is not much future for dogs (how wrong was I!) I asked for a trade transfer and was offered the Saddlers Shop or the Forge. I chose the Forge.

I was very lucky with a good Farrier Sergeant Major, Bill Green and some very good young Farriers like Dave Symons (Slim) and Dave Gulley, who kept me on my toes.

I married one of the first Women's Royal Army Corp girls in Melton in 1963, Dorothy Goodall, and we are still together nearly 62 years later.

I passed my FWCF whilst still in the Army and served for 12 years. I then continued shoeing in Civvy St and spent nearly 20 years as an Examiner and enjoyed it. I am now very proud to have a Son and three Grandsons all shoeing horses."



*Left and below:
Three photos of
Robert Rush Snr
competing with
the legendary
David Gulley*





Left: Robert Rush AWCF Snr (son), Bob Rush FWCF Snr, Michael Warden DipWCF (grandson), James Warden DipWCF (grandson) and Robert Rush AWCF (grandson).

Right and below: Lance Corporal Bob Rush pictured with his Alsatian Nevis.



LANCE CORPORAL BOB RUSH, of Springfield Park Avenue, Chelmsford, who enlisted in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in February, last year, is now serving as a dog-handler in the Mediterranean area, to which he was flown six months ago. Here he is pictured in Malta with his Alsatian charge "Nevis". Says Bob: "I've always loved animals and I'm in my element in this job".



Q+A WITH ROBERT RUSH SNR.

Why did you become a farrier/blacksmith?

In the army, I was given a choice between Farrier or Saddler. I thought that a saddler would become old with a bad back...I was wrong, it was the other way around!

Who influenced you?

Tam Sutherland Farrier Sgt R.A.V.C in the Forge at Melton Mowbray. He was my first instructor in farriery.

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

I would have stopped in Dog School.

What was your proudest moment of your career?

Probably passing the FWCF.

What other interests do you have?

Golf, although my knees do not allow many holes!

What is the secret to a perfect fire weld?

Wait - until the metal really sweats.

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

David Gulley - I'd like to do all three!

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

I saw a Shetland that had had a hip operation, causing its one leg to become shorter. I made a shoe with a 1inch lift to compensate for the difference in length.

What is your Top Tip for shoeing a horse?

Get the trim right!

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

I'd stop all wars.

What do you still want to achieve?

To live to 100!

FROM THE ACORN TO THE OAK

Andrew Hall FWCB is an artist blacksmith with over 30 years of experience and 5 times national champion. Establishing ASH Ironworks in 1986, Andrew focuses on creating high quality decorate ironwork for homes and gardens.

Here, he shares the story behind one of his most impressive decorative pieces, an oak tree garden arbor, which won the Tonypany Cup by the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths...

It's amazing how one commission leads to another, which then leads to another. I was originally approached by a client for a small side entrance gate. I had a design in my head of an organic style, and convinced the client to use this design at a low price just for the chance to create it.

This gate was then put up on my website, and seen by the client for whom I made the oak tree. He ordered three gates all of the same organic design, one of which was a 4 meter wide single leaf gate.

This client then asked for a bench to go along a walk in an oak wood. I had another design in my head of a bench made from one massive oak leaf cantilevered to sit on and acorns and leaves going up the side. When he received the bench, he liked it so much he didn't want to put it in the woods, so he put it in his garden!

When he wanted to replace a diseased yew hedge that surrounded a Lutyens garden bench with an arbor, he came to me once again for ideas.

After a few days of thinking about what I could do, I came up with the idea of an oak tree growing up behind the garden bench and wrapping itself over and around the bench, to complement the oak leaf bench I had made for him previously. The client was blown away with the idea.

When he received the arbor he thought that the Lutyens bench hid too much of the tree and again changed his mind, and put two chairs there instead.

I did a drawing half full size of the tree lying flat before being wrapped around, to calculate the area of foliage and a 500mm x 500mm section showing the density of leaves and acorns. This all helped me with calculating a price and the client to imagine the final item. A price and timeline were agreed.

I first made a sample piece for the client to approve before proceeding with the full-size arbor. Making the sample also confirmed to me that after galvanizing, there was still enough detail and texture to give the effect I was looking for.



The tree when lying flat and opened up measures 4.5m wide and 3m high, so my large design bench was covered in MDF to that size and the skeleton of the tree was drawn out. A 1m wide roll of heavy-duty tracing paper was used to trace sections of the tree and the details of twigs, leaves and acorns were drawn on the tracing paper which was then used as my main working drawing.

Forging began: there are 760 leaves of various sizes and 250 acorns. Acorns were added to leaves, leaves were added to twigs, twigs to branches and branches to the trunk, until the tree was complete.

A Steel pallet was made to enable the oak tree to be freestanding, which helped with the final shaping and moving and loading of the oak tree. This palette was buried into the ground to act as a foundation and anchor.

The sculpture was shot blasted, hot dipped galvanized and acid washed for a natural, weatherproof finish.

When transporting the oak tree on my trailer to and from the shot blasters and galvanisers I was attracting some amazed looks from pedestrians. South West Galvanisers did an excellent job - I spoke to them prior to taking it in. We craned it off my trailer and into the first pickle tank and then out of the last quench tank straight back onto the trailer, still too hot to tie down. It needed next to no fettling, which was a blessing.

It was then collected by the client's transportation and taken away.



Above: The Oak Tree installed

The Tony Pandy Cup may be awarded annually for a piece considered to be an outstanding example of the skill of a blacksmith.

The client did a lot of groundwork and foundations, but finally it was installed in its final place and he sent me some images.

After winning the National Blacksmith Champion of the year in 2006 and live forging champion on several occasions, my bronze medal in 2012 and my silver medal in 2022, and gold only being given to very few of the best of the best, I thought I had received all the gongs from the Worshipful Company that I was going to get.

However, when I completed the oak tree, I thought it might be a chance to win the Tonypandy Award.

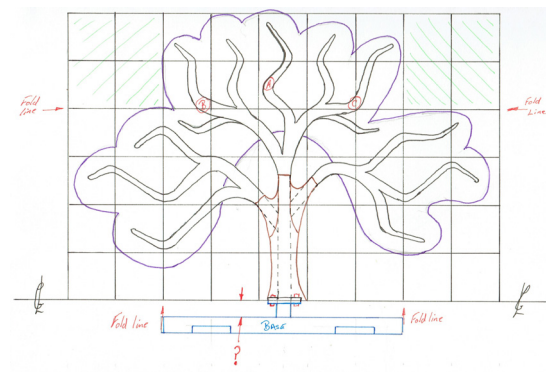
Viscount Tonypandy, better known as George Thomas, the speaker of the House of Commons, was an honorary member of the Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths. After he died, and to mark his association with this company, a cup was donated by Past Prime Warden Lieutenant Colonel Delwyn Dennis. The Tonypandy Cup may be awarded annually for a piece which is considered to be an outstanding example of the skill of a blacksmith or blacksmiths.

I could not be more delighted to have received this accolade. I am very appreciative of the client for entrusting me to design and create these lovely pieces of work.



Above right: The oak tree returned from the galvanizers on the trailer

Right: Andrew's original sketch of the oak tree



Left: A close-up of the oak leaf detail that decorates the magnificent tree



Specification

Dimensions:

Height: 2m Width: 2.5m Depth: 1m

Weight: Approx 750kg

Material: Mild Steel

Finish: Galvanised and Acid Wash

SEASONAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL GRIP IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Michael Woods AWCF is a farrier based in southern Sweden. In this article, Michael gives us an insight into some of the unique challenges facing farriers in Scandinavia during the harsh winter months.

The extreme winter weather in Nordic countries challenges riders, owners, and farriers alike. Exercise of the horses does not stop because of the winter season. Towards the end of September, plans begin to prepare the horse for grip and safe locomotion in a harsh environment. Using winter studs for grip and snow soles is vital to prevent lameness and more importantly, to reduce the risk of life-threatening injury to the horse. Uncontrolled slippage can increase the horse's chance of injury to ligaments, tendons, and muscles.

The perception is that the Nordic countries suffer sub-zero temperatures and heavy snowfall during the winter. However, the most southerly tip of Sweden has a significant difference between the middle and north of the country. Winter ordinarily lasts for two months in the south with a high winter rainfall; in the north, it has freezing temperatures, higher levels of snowfall, and a more prolonged winter. The western coast of Norway has very similar winter conditions to those of the southern parts of Sweden.

History of Snowshoes

The earliest example of horseshoes made for this environment was found on a mountain pass in Norway in 2019 (Marshall, A, 2023). The Hesteruger, a snowshoe found by archaeologist Lars Holger Pilø from ice melts, is estimated to date from around 300 to 1500 AD (Figure 2). Shortly after, a shod hoof capsule with caulkins was found, believed to be 500-700 years old (Marshall, A, 2023) (Figure 3).



Left: Figure 2
Right: Figure 3
secretsoftheice.com



Traditionally, during the winter season, the shoes were handmade with crudely formed caulkins and with ice grabs fitted into the toenail holes. Cooking oil used to be applied to the solear surface to keep the snow out, but the oil would only last for a short time (Figure 4).



Figure 4



Timing is crucial for accurately predicting when the weather will change, but it is becoming increasingly more difficult with each passing year. Winter has been the coldest for a generation this year in Finland and when to fit snow soles and stud holes has posed a dilemma.

The foot's warmth melts the snow and encourages adhesion, which builds up the snow under the rim of the shoe, leading to balling in the foot (Figure 5, 6).



Figure 5



Figure 6

Studs

The farriers in the northern part of Finland provide four stud holes per shoe by the middle of September, whereas in the southern part of the country, they will be preparing the shoes roughly two weeks later (Figure 7).

The standard for Finland is four studs per shoe as opposed to more southern and western parts of Scandinavia, where they tend only to use two studs, one in each heel.

The studs come in various sizes depending on the work the horse does. The traditional winter stud is a hard metal base with a tungsten tip, usually a 3/8 size thread stud. For smaller feet, a 5/16 shorter thread stud is available (Figure 8). Longer studs are placed in the front and slightly shorter studs in the hind shoes to significantly reduce the chances of interference.



Figure 8



Figure 7 (S. Rouhiainen)



Figure 11 (S. Rouhiainen)



More emphasis is placed on grip and traction for the front feet, and the less-sized studs are for the drive behind. The studs will generally last 4-5 shoeing periods with constant snow and ice. If there is a rise in temperature and a lack of snow and ice, the studs will not last. The studs become dangerous because the mid-steel surrounding the tungsten pin will wear down, leaving the pin protruding and risking injury to the horse. The stud hole placement is about 25mm from the point of the heel, and the medial stud hole is placed more toward the inside of the foot. Generally, the studs are left in the shoes from one shoeing period to the next; the bigger, more professional horse businesses will remove them when they are stabled every evening and refitted before they turn out each morning.

Drive in studs

Drive-in studs come in various sizes to meet the shoe and environment requirements. Tungsten pins are brazed to the top of the plug for extra grip (Figure 9).



Figure 9

Studs can also be purchased in various colours to meet the customer's needs (Figure 10).



Figure 10 (T Husby Nygard)

Trotting horses may compete on ice through the winter, so greater traction is needed (Figure 11). The number of studs increases; six studs are fitted in the front shoes, six are fitted in the hinds for Sweden, and eight are in the hinds for Finland.

Trotting horses typically have mild steel shoes when not racing, and just before the race, the shoes would be removed. The horses would race barefoot, and then the shoes were reapplied after the race. From December to February, all trotters that race must have shoes fitted for the winter conditions; this is a racing rule. The shoes also protect the foot from the abrasive mixture of ice and sand.

Ice nails

Ice nails are another option for the farrier. These are nails made from mild steel, with a slightly pointed tip extending further to add traction and fitting in the medial and lateral branches towards the heels. Because these nails are purely mild steel, they wear down quite quickly (Figure 12).



Figure 12

Tungsten carbide tipped nails

Tungsten-tipped nails are another option (Figure 13). This type of nail is designed for tarmacadam, hard, smooth surfaces and winter conditions. Some farriers prefer these as they are not as aggressive as a snow stud, but they are only helpful for mild icy conditions. These are slightly more expensive but last longer than mild steel ice nails.



Figure 13

Borium

Borium is a generic name for tungsten carbide crystals embedded in a matrix. Borium comes in rods or bullets, typically brazed onto the heel and toe of the shoe, providing another way of adding traction.

Snow Pads

Snow pads are a vital addition to enable the horse to function in the winter. The soles stop snow build-up within the sole of the horse's foot (snowballing). The snow builds up in the foot without snow pads, making the horse uncomfortable, leading to sole pressure and often lameness. Snowballing increases the risk of the foot and limb twisting and turning in directions that can negatively affect the soft tissue structures.

Snow pads are made in various materials and designs. The most common form of pads is a polyurethane-based material, which provides a better shape and is easier to fit into the shoe. There are various designs of snow pads on the market today. The traditional snow rim silicon-based pad seems to be the go-to pad for most farriers, and there are also the bubble pad and the polar pad.

Rubber snow rim pad

This is a traditional style of rim pad made of rubber. These pads are designed with a cushioned tube that compresses and expands to push snow out of the sole (Figure 14). It is difficult to trim for fit.



Figure 14

Polyurethane snow rim pad

The polyurethane snow rim pad is a perimeter pad that sits under the shoe; a tube lies inside the shoe's inner edge. The pads are designed with a cushioned tube that compresses and expands to push snow out of the sole (Figure 15).

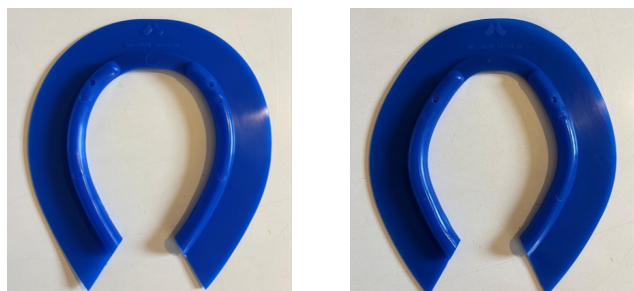


Figure 15

The traditional polyurethane snow rim pad is easy to fit and keeps the snow from balling up in the foot. This type of pad comes in front and hind shapes and various sizes. You can use snow pads with bar shoes and most therapeutic shoes. They require very little maintenance.

Leather pads

Leather pads were most commonly used before the availability of snow pads. Farriers found that the leather would misshape during fluctuations in temperature.



Figure 16 (L Lehtinen)

Bubble pad

The Bubble pad is quite a clever design. The bubble pad covers the entire foot and has a domed centre. The pad compresses when the horse puts full pressure on the hoof. The pad pops back out when the horse takes pressure off the foot, ejecting snow, ice, or muck. This is preferred by some farriers because there is less chance of this pad moving between the shoe and the foot (Figure 16).

Snow Pads - Rider fitted

Where there is intermittent snowfall and no need for continual use of snow pads, the rider can purchase various products to keep the build-up of snow away.



Figure 17

Polar pad

The Polar pad is a pad the horse owner can fit when needed. This pad is made of urethane with steel spacers that attach the pad to the shoe using the toe studs and clips under the shoe (Figure 17). The farrier must ensure that the toe stud holes are not spaced too far apart, as this will not allow the rider to fit the pad correctly.

Hoof flex

The Hoof Flex pad is another owner fitted aid to stop snow build-up. This is a rubber-covered sprung wire that the rider can attach to the inner border of the shoe (Figure 18).



Figure 18

Ikea Pad

Over the years, owners have had to become quite inventive and often make their own pads. Thin, flexible chopping boards can relieve the short-term build-up of snow. They are fitted between the solear surface and the shoe (Figure 19).



Figure 19

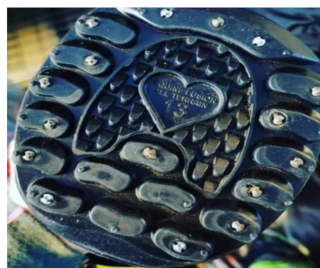


Figure 20 (T Husby Nygard)

Timing

Another consideration the farrier needs to consider is when to fit the pads. If there is no snow, there is a risk of mud and sand getting trapped between the sole and the pad, causing considerable wear to the foot and potential abscess.

Many indoor stables and riding houses in Finland, Sweden and Norway are heated; this temperature change can cause the pad to stick to the horseshoe, rendering the pad useless. When the temperatures are extremely low, the rim pads are found to tear from the ice. How often the snow pads are refitted depends on how much snow has fallen throughout the season. The farrier can refit the pads over three to four shoeing cycles with constant snowfall.

The shoeing cycle does not change with snow pads and studs. The farrier is at an advantage because if there is constant snowfall and the ground remains relatively soft, the shoe will not wear and can be refitted. However, if there is a more significant amount of ice, there tends to be a good amount of shoe wear between the studs, causing weakness in the shoe, which needs to be monitored very closely.

Barefoot horses

In extremely cold weather, snow is not much of a problem with barefoot horses. The absence of shoes does not let the snowball up in the foot. However, the horse struggles with grip if there is a significant amount of ice. Flat-footed horses have an increased risk of solear bruising. Then, the preference is front shoes, at the very least, with studs and pads. Sometimes, the owners can be adamant that they do not wish their horses to have shoes, whatever the weather. So, the farrier has to be a little inventive. A farrier in Norway uses hoof boots with screw-in snow studs and pins. (Figure 20).

Biomechanical considerations with the use of studs

Winter grip is essential for preventing injury to the horse; however, a certain amount of natural slip and energy dissipation when the foot contacts the ground is desirable (Pardoe et al., 2001). Using two heel studs (elevation) decreases the forces affecting the deep digital flexor tendon (Figure 21). Different orientations of the bones of the limb can load or relieve the ligaments, tendons and joints while exerting pressure on the hoof capsules' internal structures, having an adverse effect. The ever-present risk of degenerative joint disease is a constant worry. (Hagen et al., 2017).

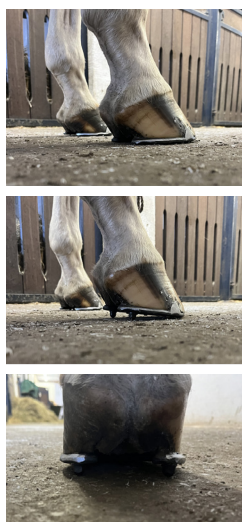


Figure 21

References
Hagen, J., Hüppler, M., Geiger, S.M., Mäder, D. and Häfner, F.S., 2017. Modifying the height of horseshoes: Effects of wedge shoes, studs, and rocker shoes on the phalangeal alignment, pressure distribution, and hoof-ground contact during motion. *Journal of Equine Veterinary Science*, 53, pp.8-18.
Marshall, A., 2023. Norwegian Archaeologists Discover Several Equine Artifacts. *American Farriers Journal*, [online] Available at: <https://www.americanfarriers.com/articles/14104-norwegian-archaeologists-discover-several-equine-artifacts>
Pardoe, C.H., McGuigan, M.P., Rogers, K.M., Rowe, L.L. and Wilson, A.M., 2001. The effect of shoe material on the kinetics and kinematics of foot slip at impact on concrete. *Equine Veterinary Journal*, 33(S33), pp.70-73.
<https://www.americanfarriers.com/ext/resources/News-Images/2019/8/Horseshoe-with-calkins-2.jpg>
<https://www.americanfarriers.com/ext/resources/News-Images/2019/8/Horse-snowshoe.jpg?t=1566238588&width=1000>

Injury

Prolonged use of studs can increase the risk of more severe injuries through interference, which can be common. Overreaching causes damage to the front bulbs of the heel, and medial hind leg scrapes can be common, especially among younger horses that lack coordination (Figure 22).

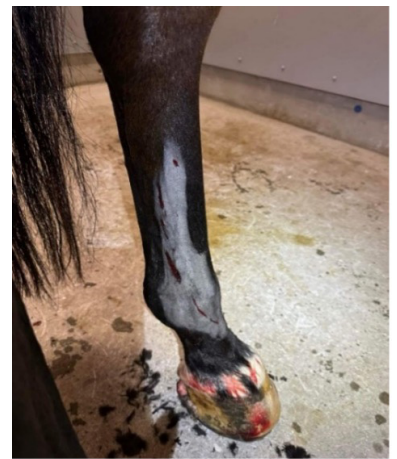


Figure 22 (L Koldal Stenbakk)

Tender-footed horses or those that live in areas with frequent freeze and thaw cycles may need a full pad to avoid bruising and soreness from uneven ground. Careful thought needs to be taken by the farrier with the placement of studs. By design, studs can cause severe lower limb or foot trauma. Coronary band injuries are common from medial studs, and horses turned out together may stand on each other, potentially leading to cracks and hoof capsule damage (Figure 23). But, without these traction devices, the horse could suffer a fatal injury by slipping.



Figure 23 (T. Wien)

Winter brings not only considerations for the horses but also a challenging time for the farriers. Many of the farriers in the Nordic countries have high-roofed walk-in vans to shelter from the harsh weather while working (Figure 24). These mobile workshops will be adequately kitted out for the winter with a dual drill press, one for drilling holes and the second for tapping the threads. The farriers working in the harshest areas will not venture out to work below -20 degrees C.



Figure 24 (S. Rouhiainen)



Living in the most southerly part of Sweden for the last nine years has rarely allowed the author to fit many snow pads. The climate in this area is relatively mild and very similar to the UK climate. However, the winter of 2024 was prolonged with the temperature, -15 degrees C, for just over three weeks. Conditions in any winter can change rapidly, and the farrier must ensure that the horse and rider are well prepared (Figure 25).



Figure 25

This feature has been adapted from an original article written as a project for a FWCF course, hosted by Dr. Simon Curtis at Rossdale's Veterinary hospital.

FOCUS 2024 SPONSORS



AMERICAN FARRIERS ASSOCIATION

www.americanfarriers.org

Sponsor of the International Competition



info@bassoli.it

Sponsor providing rasps for prizes



CALOR

www.calor.co.uk

Sponsor of gas for the International



www.gibbins.co.uk

Sponsor of uniforms for the Executive Committee



HANDMADE SHOES (UK) LTD

info@handmadeshoesltd.co.uk

Sponsor of the David Gulley Lecture Theatre



www.horslyx.com

Sponsor of licks for the horses



www.jimblurton.co.uk

Sponsor of the goody bags



www.horseshoes.co.uk

Sponsor of the lanyards



www.mustad.com

Sponsor of the nails for the International



www.well-shod.com

Sponsor of the new gas forges

BFBA INTERNATIONAL
BLADESMITHING
COMPETITION SPONSORS



BFBA INTERNATIONAL
TEAM BLACKSMITHING
COMPETITION SPONSORS



Booth & Son Ltd



Our new hoodies were a sell out at Focus!

Our new BFBA longback hoodies sold out within the first 12 hours at Focus - well done to the lucky ones who managed to get their hands on them!

If you didn't, don't worry - there's more on the way. We also have the option to add a personalised chest or tail logo if you get in quick - call the office for more details.

Call 02476 696595.



Congratulations to the two new Worshipful Company of Farriers Fellows!

Cody Gregory FWCF Hons (USA) and Ian Schofield FWCF (UK) both passed their FWCF exams held at the DATR Melton Mowbray.

The BFBA extends its congratulations to both Cody and Ian on their fantastic achievement.

IMPRINT[®]
+
EQUINE FOOT CARE



LAMINITIS

**EMERGENCY
FIRST AID
IMMEDIATE RELIEF**



**LIMB
DEFORMITIES**

**STARTING
THE RIGHT WAY**



HOOF REPAIR

**GIVE THE HORSE
THE FOOT
IT WANTS AND NEEDS**



SPORT HORSE

**PROMOTING COMFORT,
MAXIMISING PERFORMANCE**



**CONTACT US TODAY
+44 (0)1666 822 953**

 Imprint Equine Foot Care

 ImprintEquineTV

www.imprintshoes.co.uk

Vets warn about the seasonal risk of sycamore trees

The British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) is reminding owners to keep their horses safe from the risk of grazing around sycamore trees as they shed their seeds. Ingestion of sycamore seeds can cause rapidly fatal illness in horses.

“With leaves still on trees now is the time to identify sycamores in the vicinity of your horse’s fields and predict the future risk,” said Lucy Grieve, Veterinary Projects Officer at BEVA “Once the leaves start to turn and then drop it will be much more difficult to spot sycamores.”

High winds can cause sycamore seeds to spread considerable distances from the tree. In the ideal world horses should be kept away from grazing around sycamores but if there is no other option then providing supplementary forage in the field will help to keep them occupied and help prevent them from ingesting seeds. It is imperative to seek veterinary attention immediately if horses that have access to sycamore seeds show any signs of illness.

Seeds (masts or helicopters) from the common sycamore tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) produce a toxin called Hypoglycin A, which can remain present in high concentrations in seedlings. When horses eat these, either by accident or because they are lacking other forage options, some individuals will develop severe and often fatal muscle damage, called atypical myopathy.

Horses with atypical myopathy may present with variable signs including:

- muscle soreness
- stiffness
- weakness
- difficulty breathing
- dullness
- lethargy
- muscle trembling
- colic-symptoms
- characteristically, brown or dark red urine.

Suspected cases should receive veterinary attention immediately. Around three quarters of affected horses will die, often despite extensive veterinary treatment but those surviving the initial period will usually go on to make a full recovery.

Acorns can also be a toxic risk to horses but tend to be easier to manage as they fall under the trees and are too heavy to spread far. Signs of acorn poisoning include:

- moderate to severe colic or colitis
- lethargy
- dehydration and dark urine which can be a result of kidney failure



Prompt veterinary attention is essential; signs may develop extremely rapidly and death can occur within a further 12-24 hours.

Horse owners are advised to take practical steps to prevent the diseases by limiting access to sycamore seeds and acorns:

- Identify trees both around grazed fields as well as those in close proximity. The characteristic maple leaf shape is easy to spot, and most people will be familiar with the oak, but if in doubt a test is available from the Royal Veterinary College as a result of work funded by The Horse Trust.
- Collect seeds or exclude horses from affected areas using electric fencing or stabling.
- Feed supplementary hay to try and prevent horses from excessive foraging for short blades of grass and inadvertent ingestion of seeds. But ensure that hay does not become contaminated by seeds.
- Don't rashly fell trees when laden with seeds as this can cause a sudden and massive contamination of the pasture. Consider local regulations, tree protection orders and tree ownership if felling is the only option.
- Monitor horses carefully even after they have been moved from affected pasture as disease can occur up to four days after exposure.

For further information you can download the the Royal Veterinary College's fact sheet on Atypical myopathy available on the RVC website, or the British Horse Society's fact sheet on Acorn Poisoning.

For further information visit www.beva.org.uk.

Cliff Carroll **FORGE & TOOL**

PRO-FORGE

 **MADE IN THE USA**

- Hearthplate is easily replaceable right through the front door.
- Hassle free ignition system.
- Instachange Gas Jet System.
- Clean, fast heat that's easy to weld in.
- New Liner Material for longer life and better heat.



1-806-322-3680

WWW.ORDERS@WELL-SHOD.COM

SCOTT ANVILS



THE INDUSTRY'S LEADING ROUND HORN ANVILS

MADE IN THE USA

PHOTOS FROM BEVA



Abby said in her President's Address that Huw Dyer went above and beyond at BEVA, not only helping on the stand but getting stuck into the nightlife with Holly, too! Here's the proof - a selfie at Flares nightclub. Legendary effort from Huw!



The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association stand at BEVA in Liverpool. We're working to improve the reach of farriery across the equine industry, and offer farriery and farriers up as the experts in our field for CPD providers. Building trust between industries deepens our education both ways, and we're very keen to continue to build those links between farriery and the veterinary profession.

Classified Advertisements Marketing and Advertising Sales

Holly Flack telephone: 07984 808445 email: membership@bfba.co.uk

Number Plate for sale - NA65 HOD

NA65 HOD

NA65 HOD

Offers over £2,500

Contact Richard:

07977 492802



INTERESTED IN STARTING YOUR OWN HOOF BOOT FITTING SERVICE?

We'll provide you with all of the tools, education and support you'll need. To get started, join our Trade Membership for free, at: thehoofbootshop.co.uk/become-a-member

- Generate an extra income
- Help support your barefoot clients
- Attend our fitting workshops
- Add an extra tool to your toolbox
- No monthly subscription payments

THE HOOF BOOT SHOP



MUSTAD

THE HOOFCARE PEOPLE

HOOF CUSHION ZNO



ASSISTS WITH NATURAL SHOCK ABSORPTION

MAXIMISES DIGITAL SUPPORT AND LOAD SHEARING

ZINC OXIDE HELPS TO PREVENT THRUSH

AVAILABLE IN 1.5KG AND 660G TUBS

HOOF PAD ZNO

RECOMMENDED FOR USE IN WET CONDITIONS

SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT THRUSH AND INFECTIONS

CAN BE USED WITH ANY KIND OF PAD

CREATES A SEAL BETWEEN PAD AND SOLE TO PREVENT INGRESS OF DEBRIS AND MOISTURE



MUSTAD.COM



A: 1913212
B: 1913212