
Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the UK Farriery organisations and what do they do?

- The Worshipful Company of Farriers
- The Farriers Registration Council
- The British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association

While serving farriery in different ways, the three organisations work to promote the welfare of the horse and maintain the high standards of UK farriers and farriery.

Q. Where can I get information about awards for a Best Shod Horse competition?

A. The Worshipful Company of Farriers

Q. Where can I get professional and free legal advice as a working farrier?

A. The British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association

Q. Who organises farriery examinations?

A. The Worshipful Company of Farriers

Q. Who represents the working farrier on the Farriers Registration Council?

A. The British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association

Q. Who awards farriery qualifications?

A. The Worshipful Company of Farriers

Q. How do I find out more about the work of the FRC, in particular how to check whether a farrier is registered, how to get the best from a registered farrier, and how I may find one?

Answers to all these questions, and more, may be found at www.farrier-reg.gov.uk or by telephone on 01733 319911

Q. Who do I contact for information about becoming a farrier?

- A. The farrier training colleges based at Hereford, Myerscough and Warwick.
- Hereford College – www.hicollge.ac.uk
 - Myerscough College – www.myerscough.ac.uk
 - Warwick College – www.wcg.ac.uk

Contact details

The Worshipful Company of Farriers

The Clerk

Magnesia House,

6 Playhouse Yard,

London EC4V 5EX

Tel: 020 3410 0720 (Option 1)

Email: theclerk@wcf.org.uk

The Senior Registrar

Magnesia House,

6 Playhouse Yard,

London EC4V 5EX

Tel: 020 3410 0720 (Option 2)

Email: registrar@wcf.org.uk

The Farriers Registration Council

14 Swan Court,

Forder Way, Cygnet Park,

Hampton,

Peterborough PE7 8GX

Tel: 01733 319911

Email: frc@farrier-reg.gov.uk

The British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association

The Forge,

Avenue B, 7th Street,

Stoneleigh Park,

Warwickshire CV8 2LG

Tel: 024 7669 6595

Email: headoffice@bfba.co.uk

A Who's Who of UK Farriery



The Farriers Registration Council



The Worshipful Company of Farriers



The British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association

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The Farriers Registration Council

- The FRC is the national regulatory body for farriery in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales), the FRC has no authority in Northern Ireland, The Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
- The FRC is established in primary legislation, The Farriers Registration Act 1975, 1977 and 2017.
- As with other regulatory bodies the FRC operates independently of Government but works with Government to deliver and develop regulation of farriery.
- The FRC has 16 members of whom 12 are directly appointed, 4 are appointed by way of an election scheme; the Chair of the FRC is elected by the 16 members.
- The Act requires the FRC to carry out four primary functions, these functions are mandatory and not matters of choice:
- Registration – the maintenance of a register of farriers who may practice in GB.
- Approvals – the approval of courses of training (e.g. the farriery apprenticeship), qualifications (e.g. the DipWCF), and training institutions (e.g. the colleges that deliver the farriery apprenticeship).
- Investigating – the preliminary investigation of cases where a registrant is liable to have their name erased from the register.
- Disciplinary – the consideration and determination of disciplinary cases.
- The planning and delivery of farriery training is the responsibility of training providers, presently three further education colleges based in England.
- In addition, the FRC operates a number of policies of choice, these have no basis in statute, including:
 - The Approved Training Farrier (ATF) System.
 - The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system.
- Unlawful practice of farriery is a criminal offence and subject to investigating and reporting by the Police, and prosecution by the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales, and the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland. Where information is made available, resources permit and there is a realistic prospect of conviction the FRC may choose to prosecute cases of unlawful practice.

For all this information and more go to
www.farrier-reg.gov.uk



The Worshipful Company of Farriers

The Worshipful Company of Farriers is one of 113 City of London Livery Companies. Livery Companies are the trade associations of the City of London. The Company was formed in 1356 for the welfare of the horse through good farriery, a cause to which it has remained firmly committed throughout its history. The Company is one of the few Livery Companies that still maintains a very “hands-on” involvement with the trade behind its formation.

The Company, along with other interested parties, was involved in the introduction of the 1975 Farriers Registration Act and the two amendments to the Act in 1979 and 2017, reaffirming its commitment to good farriery and the welfare of the horse.

Since its formation, the Company has been involved in the training of farriers. More recently it has been part of the working group from which the new apprenticeship standards have evolved. The Company continues to set the standard through CPD events and examinations.

The Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education, which oversees the development, approval and publication of apprenticeship standards and assessment plans as well as the occupational maps for apprenticeships, has approved the Company to serve as an End-Point-Assessment Organisation for the farriery apprenticeship. The Company's higher qualifications, the Associateship and Fellowship, are examinations that farriers, not only in the UK but internationally, aspire to pass. They are highly regarded and much sought-after qualifications.

As well as examinations and qualifications, the Company:

- Promotes Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Promotes relations with veterinary schools by running the Equine Veterinary Studies Award (EVSA) each year
- Maintains the Farriers' Charitable Trust, which makes funds available to registered farriers who need financial and emotional support
- Promotes the excellence of farriery by judging and awarding prizes at farriery competitions
- Awards Best Shod Horse (BSH) medals at horse shows
- Promotes farriery not only to horse owners but also to the general public

The Company is unique for its approach to safeguarding the standards of farriery.

For further information visit: www.wcf.org.uk



British Farriers & Blacksmiths Association

The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (BFBA) exists to represent and support the professional farrier and blacksmith. For farriers, the Association is the only trade union and is the voice of the professional farrier”.

The aims of the Association are –

- To provide essential farriery representation and balance to the regulatory bodies by listening to their views and providing practical experience and an essential voice at board level.
- To encourage education and facilitate the development of its members skills through national and regional educational events encompassing practical and theoretical skills and knowledge
- To support our members through- out their career with a host of membership benefits to include discounts with leading industry suppliers, legal and HR support, insurance and educational events.

BFBA Head Office is based at The Forge, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. The office is manned during working hours and works to support the President, Executive Committee (EC) and Craft Committee (CC). The EC carries out the business of the Association” and organises Europe's largest farriery event BFBA Focus , whilst the CC prepare, organize and oversee the UK's leading farrier competitions including the inaugural BFBA International Team Horseshoeing Championship”.

The Association has many branches spread around the UK. These branches host meetings, educational events, competitions and social gatherings throughout the year. It is a great opportunity to meet up with colleagues, share experiences and exchange knowledge – in addition to having a good time!

The BFBA was established in 1904 and was formerly known as the National Association for Farriers, Blacksmiths and Agricultural Engineers (NAFBAE). The Association's trading name was changed in 2010 to reflect its evolving membership and role.

For further information email:
headoffice@bfba.co.uk