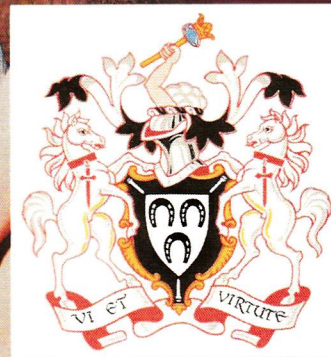


The Worshipful Company of Farriers Equine Veterinary Studies Award Report for 2016.2017.2018



Message From The EVSA Coordinator

Hello everyone, I write this newsletter for the first time having taken over from Honorary Court Assistant Valerie Ellis our previous coordinator, who was fundamental to the establishment of the award back in 2009.

My work throughout the year centres on promoting the award to each of the UK vet schools, communicating with the award winners, connecting them with host Farriers and encouraging the vet students to apply for Freedom of the Livery, which is part of their award. They receive this for up to two years postgraduation.

I hope you enjoy reading about the award winners over the past three years.

Lydia Brown MBE Phd FRCVS
Court Assistant

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About the Award

Every year, the eight UK vet schools are invited to nominate a candidate for the Equine Veterinary Studies Award (EVSA).

This is usually awarded in the penultimate year of study. Each school has its own selection process, but students are normally expected to have a good academic record, have an aptitude for equine studies, be well motivated and have some experience of handling horses. Our Company holds a register of host Farriers, who are normally qualified to AWCF or above, with experience of training apprentices and are also Freemen or Liverymen of the Company.

We connect vet students with host Farriers in locations and on a date that suits them both. We cover accommodation and travel expenses within proscribed limits. If the host Farrier is able to provide accommodation, we pay for this at an agreed rate. Additionally, we now offer an honorarium to the host Farrier to acknowledge the time and effort they spend on each vet student. The host Farriers are our only representatives of the Livery Company to the students at the point of taking up the award and their professionalism and knowledge is passed unsparingly on to the students. In recognition of this, each host Farrier is given a special badge which they wear on Livery occasions.

The student is asked to produce a report of their experience, and in each year all host Farriers and vet students are asked to complete a short survey about their experience. The results are collated and anonymised and we use this data to continue to improve how the award is run each year.

Our survey responses show that both vet students and host Farriers gain a lot from the programme, and by keeping the questions the same each year we can identify any trends. It is gratifying to report that both students and Farriers appreciate the programme and feel that they are given all the information and help they need. There is always the opportunity to provide free text and one host Farrier commented: *'This is an excellent programme which is driven by the students themselves given that the only applicants for the award are those that express particular interest in farriery. In my experience both parties benefit and especially when they can interact with farriery students in the workplace.'*

Costs of running the programme

EVSA is financed by the Company's Charitable Trust and averages less than £4,000 in total each year. If anyone wishes to make a donation to the Trust (gift aided if possible), it would be very welcome!



The students and their host farriers

Extracts from the student reports

EVSA AWARDEES FOR 2016 TO 2018

University of Bristol

2016 Helen Klein, placed with Wayne Upton.

A good Vet/Farrier partnership with successful communication is key to maximising a horse's performance. Exchange of diagnostic images and knowledge with an in-depth discussion between a client's Vet and Farrier is paramount to managing many lameness issues. I saw a Shetland with laminitic changes and very overgrown feet with a broken back hoof pastern axis.

Wayne trimmed the toes but left the heels. Laminitic changes take time to grow out the full length of the foot. This pony had grown an extra toe wedge. Wayne explained the true meaning of pedal bone rotation on radiographs rather than growing an extra wedge of hoof.

Laminitic Shetland before trimming (right fore) and after trimming (left fore).



Army Master Farrier WO2 McCabe fitting an Army horse with a heart bar shoe.



2017 Nicholas Dymond, placed with Rob Hayden.

The morning of my first day at the Army School of Farriery was spent in the classroom at the school with WO2 McCabe taking me through revision of the relevant structures and pathologies of the distal limb, all with an emphasis on correct conformational balance and of the theory underpinning therapeutic treatment. Later that day, following a tour of the site, we visited the equine veterinary medicine department where I met the Veterinary Surgeons, and was introduced to that day's medical cases.

In addition to caring for those horses arriving into the Army on purchase from civilian producers, the veterinary department also handles cases referred from ceremonial duty and the training population that spend their working lives at Melton Mowbray.

2018 Amy Leather, placed with Paul Horner.

Without a doubt I would say that my farriery placement as part of the EVSA was one of the best weeks of extramural studies (EMS) I have had to date. I was placed with Master Farrier Paul Horner FdSc AWCF in Somerset and spent the week travelling to shoe a huge range of horses, from tiny ponies to top competition horses.

University of Cambridge

2016 Rachel Gough, placed with James Blurton.

As a bit of fun, I was allowed to make my own horseshoe from scratch! It turns out I don't have a particularly good aim with a hammer, but the end result resembled a horseshoe, so I was pretty chuffed!

Don't worry though, it won't end up on a horse any time soon. It certainly gave me a lot more appreciation for the skill involved in making the more complex custom shoes such as hospital plates.





Gluing on an Imprint shoe for a laminitic pony.

2017 Annabelle Bates, placed with Rob Rush.

I was fortunate to spend two days at Redwings whilst I was with R. Rush Farriers. This was a perfect opportunity to further practise taking off shoes and I saw a plethora of cases. In particular, we saw a great deal of laminitic ponies of varying degrees of severity. I saw how farriers help manage these cases and how trimming and the fitting of Imprint shoes can really make a difference. I was even lucky enough to fit several of these shoes myself.

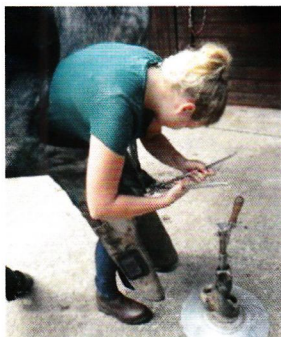
2018 Kirsty Hibbs, placed with Rob Rush (Jr).

On my first day, Rob started explaining the best ways to assess hoof conformation and ways of dressing and shoeing a horse to best support performance and prevent lameness. I was particularly impressed by the tailored approach not just to the horse, but to each individual hoof, and how strategies had to evolve with the changing shape of the hoof.



Kirsty Hibbs (Cambridge) 2018

University of Edinburgh



Karis Stevenson

2016 Karis Stevenson, placed with Stephen Newman.

Steve structured the week to incorporate use of a wide range of techniques and products. Although a certain level of theory was necessary, it was very much a 'hands-on' week where I had the opportunity to be involved in many aspects of the farriery process. Steve felt it was important that I had both theoretical and practical knowledge of many of the existing methods so that in my future career I would have a basic understanding of procedures relevant to equine practice.



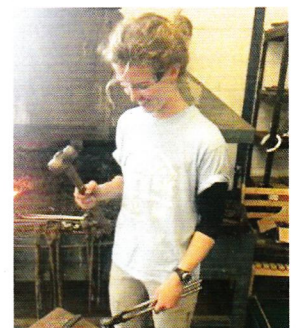
In addition to this he made a point of explaining shoeing for 'five years' time' - based on his opinion that there is no point in applying a technique to benefit a horse now which could hinder its performance in later life. This thought process is one which will stay with me.

2017 Abbie Dimelow, placed with Kevin Willard.

I can safely say that this has been one of the most valuable weeks of EMS I have completed, both clinical and non-clinical included. I found the time spent learning about the role of farriers and the ways in which they are able to make life-changing improvements (and in some cases, if completed incorrectly, debilitation) as well as the role they play in the equine community extremely enlightening and I would absolutely recommend to any vet student that they should apply for the EVSA.

I have just passed finals and working on my selected rotations in equine medicine, equine anaesthesia and small animal anaesthesia and I'm currently applying for Jobs.

2018 No award made for this year.



Abbie Dimelow

University of Glasgow

2016 Max Hannan, placed with John Chilman.

John taught me how a Farrier makes and adjusts shoes in the forge and even had me making a hoof pick and a horseshoe of my own!

Now qualified, I'm working in mixed practice on the lovely island of Jersey. I primarily do a mixture of equine and small animal work but I love getting out and about seeing horses. My host Farrier was passionate about helping me learn all aspects of farriery and my attempt at forging a shoe will not be forgotten quickly! Working alongside my host Farrier primarily with youngstock was really interesting, and the way he handled foals was so careful and considerate.



Max Hannan

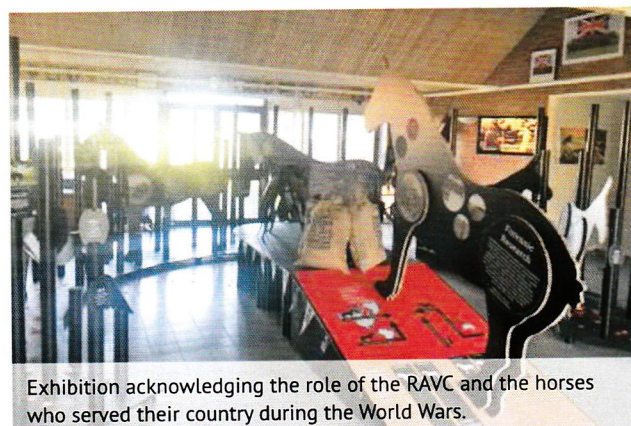
2017 Amber Mathie, placed with Steve Hewitt.

At the end of the week, arriving back at the forge, Steve told me I couldn't leave till I had made a shoe! It was great fun to end the week on a high, the experience has been even better than I hoped, and I think something like this should be integrated into the veterinary course, for example, as an option during final-year for students interested in equine practice.

I'm now in my final-year at vet school, and hopefully graduating this June! I keep in touch with Steve; we have corresponded over email about certain cases. The most important thing he taught me was to communicate effectively (as a vet) with your Farrier and work as a team when approaching cases. I've gained a good eye for hoof and limb conformation and I think this has been an incredibly useful skill; it's something I will take into practice with me. I can also take off a shoe pretty fast apparently, for a vet student! So, thank you, Steve!

2018 Roxy Leyshon, placed with Chris McCabe.

While I was on this placement, I got the chance to see a temporary exhibition honouring and acknowledging the role of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and the horses that served in both World Wars. I learned that the Army Veterinary Service was initially founded in 1796 to improve farriery in the cavalry. The devastating loss of horses in the Boer War in South Africa demonstrated the need for veterinary services, and in 1903 the Army Veterinary Corps (AVC) was formed becoming the RAVC in 1906. I was astounded to learn that during World War One, over 2.5 million equids were admitted for care, and that 80 per cent of them returned to duty. This exhibition was a wonderful, poignant way of illustrating the importance of the RAVC and the animals it serves.



Exhibition acknowledging the role of the RAVC and the horses who served their country during the World Wars.

University of Liverpool

2016 Laura Strain, placed with Steve Hewitt.

Over the week, I understood how rigorous the training is to become a Farrier and have heard many stories of the difficult cases which Steve has worked on. I appreciate the importance of a good Farrier/Vet working relationship, and how this can improve the welfare of the horse. It is clear that Steve is very passionate about what he does, and that he is a very knowledgeable and skilful Farrier.



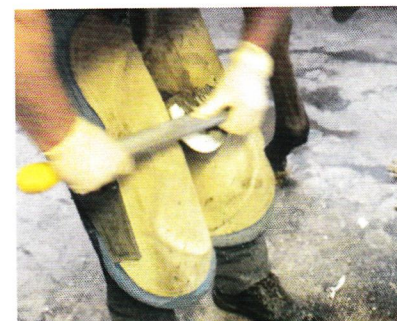
Laura removing a set of shoes. The horses checking she's doing it right!

2017 2017 Pippa Lyon, placed with Simon Curtis.

It wasn't just foot trimming that I got involved in during the week! Simon had a collection of horse's legs for the apprentices to practise their shoeing on. I had a go at not only removing a shoe, but also putting one on which is a lot harder than it looks! I also attempted (with much help) to forge a shoe, where it quickly became apparent how much strength and dexterity is needed to work with hot metal.

2018 Stephanie Neild, placed with Marc Jerram.

The week I spent with Marc was invaluable in providing me with the skills needed to deal with lameness cases originating in the foot. I thoroughly enjoyed the week and would recommend it to anyone wanting to pursue a career in equine practice.



Pippa Lyon

Royal Veterinary College, University of London

2016 Jamie Judd, placed with Rob Hayden.

The end of the week allowed me to experience my first farriery competition. I travelled down to Knightsbridge to watch the Cavalry Pairs Shoeing Competition hosted by the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment at Hyde Park Barracks, in which a few of my Farrier mentors from throughout the week were competing. The experience only furthered my appreciation of these Farriers and skills they needed to forge and fit a pair of shoes under competition pressure and in one hour.



Shoeing competition.



Melissa Kelson

2017 Melissa Kelson placed with Peter Ibbotson.

One of my primary goals was to become competent at removing shoes and I was afforded every opportunity to practise this skill. The Ibbotson Farriers were very patient with me, talking me through it and offering suggestions as to how I could make life easier for myself. Although still trying to perfect my own technique, by the end of the week I wasn't holding up proceedings too much. The week I spent with the Ibbotsons was a good insight into the working life of a farrier and all the practicalities associated with it.

2018 Lauren Wood, placed with Peter Ibbotson.

By the end of the week, they had me making shoes from scratch; emphasising the skill involved in personalising shoes to fit each individual hoof, which can often be forgotten when it is made to look so easy! The farriers explained that, although pre-made shoes can be altered and personalised, some feet require bespoke shoes for their individual needs/purposes, thus maintaining the need for such craftsmanship.

University of Nottingham

2016 Isabelle Wild, placed with Chris Linssner.

Chris explained to me the importance of foot balance and how he would trim and fit a normal shoe. As with most cases, prevention is better than cure and ensuring the foot has the best balance prevents problems down the line.

Client communication and the Farrier/Vet relationship is an incredibly important factor for ensuring the best result is achieved for each case. I really learnt how the owner values this communication and how the Vet and Farrier must work effectively together through good communication and understanding of the work undertaken by each profession.

Forging a heart bar



2017 Kate Rogers, placed with Paul Horner.

On several mornings I joined Paul on visits to a large equine hospital where he was asked to apply remedial shoes to a variety of horses. It was interesting to see how he and the vets worked together, and the options they discussed based on the different cases they had seen. My time spent with Paul and his apprentices as part of the EVS award has been invaluable. In particular, having the opportunity to remove so many shoes on a variety of different sized horses has been extremely beneficial to my future career let alone the other pieces of information Paul has taught me including assessing the overall hoof structure/conformation and foot flight.



Tony McAlpine

2018 Toby McAlpine, placed with Stephen Hill.

I was lucky enough to accompany Stephen to the Examiner's Day held at Stoneleigh. This was of great benefit to me as I was able to listen to experts in their field giving their insight into how the apprentices had shod the horses that day and pick their brains on different aspects such as dealing with laminitic cases. I also experienced first-hand how the veterinary and farriery industries work alongside each other, since numerous vets were also present for the day and it was interesting to hear the various stories and experiences from both a farrier's and a vet's point of view.



Cerys Owens removing the first shoe of the placement

University of Surrey

2017 First year of award. Sarah Linnea Hesse, placed with Nigel Brown.

Removing a shoe is an essential skill for a Veterinary Surgeon, but one I had only practised on a training aid, known as the Blacksmith Buddy, at university. Although it is a valuable tool, holding a live animal, especially for lengthy periods of time, comes with challenges. By shadowing Nigel for a week, I have been lucky enough to get this experience with a wide range of horses of varying ages, breeds, sizes and temperaments.

2018 Cerys Owens, placed with Haydn Price.

I have a huge respect and appreciation for farriers following this EVSA and will look forward to working with them in the future. Thank you so much to Haydn, Andrew and Jamie for letting me get involved in their cases and taking the time to explain what they were seeing in each case, and what their shoeing/footcare plans were going forward and why.



Sarah Linnea Hesse

Comments from the panel of host Farriers

Marc Jerram

When I work with a vet student for a week, I get the chance to enhance my teaching skills. As every student is individual, they have their own learning style. The EVSA allows me to articulate farriery knowledge to how each person learns. The students have little to no farriery knowledge prior to the week as they are not taught a great deal at the veterinary schools. By the end of the week, they have experienced a lot of horses, a lot of assessments of horses and the farriery applied to them to enhance their performance. I have kept in touch with my student with further examples of case studies and any cases they come across in their daily work. We exchange ideas on a regular basis. The most memorable thing for me was to watch the student become proficient at removing shoes. When she took the practical exam of removing a shoe at Liverpool university, she came out with top grades and in fact gave a demo to the other students!

Wayne Upton

I have had four students in total through the EVSA system, all of them girls and without exception all have been a joy to have around for the week or so that they are living with us; having two daughters it has been like having a third for a few extra days! I personally get a lot out of it, by having a very bright keen student who is hungry for knowledge. They are articulate and enquiring, which I find quite stimulating, and it's an excellent way of promoting relations between our professions.

It also helps students break down any preconceived ideas they may have about the farriery profession and understand what we can achieve by working together. I think the vet students see it in a similar way. They see the practical side of things, ie, dealing with clients, human and equine. None of the students could believe the depth of knowledge we have regarding the horse, which is very often an untapped asset for the veterinary profession. I've kept in touch with the students via Facebook through my daughters and sometimes by email if they have an equine problem. Every one of them emailed me after their qualification as a vet, and again if they came into the Company. My wife Marisa and I went to support one student who was competing at Hickstead a couple of years ago and met her family. I have lots of lovely memories from all the girls; one girl stayed on for an extra couple of days to have some side-saddle lessons with Marisa. Later, I had the chance to catch up with them when they took the Freedom which, come to think of it, they ALL did!

Kevin Willard

What did I get out of it? The chance to show how Farriers and Vets can work together to help the horse when required and how two different people's views can often come up with a solution. The student learns to appreciate how hard it is to shoe the horses often in difficult conditions; not all clients have ideal facilities. Seeing the vet students take off their first shoe is a great moment. Sometimes both sweat and tears are involved but their achievement is overwhelming and emotional.

Peter Ibbotson

When we take these vet students I think we gain an insight into the most up-to-date veterinary curriculum and they get to see how well-respected farriers are (although sadly not by everyone). I've kept in touch with one student who is local to us. It would be nice to know how the others get on and if they take up the Freedom of the Company. I hope we managed to give them all a memorable experience.

Paul Horner

In hosting a vet student for a week, I got to understand what and how a vet views the horse when they are assessing it, and also to test my veterinary knowledge. As a farrier, my aim was to help the student understand what we look for when shoeing horses and what we are trying to achieve in gaining optimal balance for each horse. We kept in touch after the week. I was sitting some exams and the student helpfully sent me some PowerPoints for revision. A memorable point of the week was when we made a shoe together. It was great to see her achieve something which she thought she would never be able to do.

Rob Rush (Jr)

During my weeks hosting vet students (we took one in two of the three years covering this report) I learned how to forge a better relationship between vets, farriers and clients and to take a "whole horse approach" when shoeing horses. I think some of the students will have found that when diagnosing and treating a lameness, communication and teamwork between vet and farrier always works best! We haven't kept in touch recently but I know that all the students were interested in joining the livery so I'm sure we will all meet up in due course. There was one memorable moment in the week with one vet student where I didn't have the heart to tell our new apprentice that the student was making a better shape shoe than him!!

The veterinary schools view of EVSA

Edinburgh (RDVS). Eugenio Cillán García, LV, MSc, MRCVS, Senior Lecturer in Equine Surgery

The EVSA is definitely a very good award and great opportunity for the vet students to get experience in farriery.

Nottingham. Sarah L Freeman, BVetMed PhDDip ECVS FHEA MRCVS, Professor of Veterinary Surgery.

An important aspect of our curriculum is how vets and students work with allied professions. The undergraduate teaching at Nottingham includes lectures and practicals from Farriers in Year 1 and 4. This award scheme enables them to continue this collaboration into their clinical practice experience. The EVSA award is invaluable to the students who are planning to work in equine practice - it gives them an in depth understanding of foot balance, shoeing and remedial farriery. The opportunity to work closely with an expert Farrier for a week means that our students have come away with a good set of practical skills, a solid knowledge base, and most significantly, an understanding of the importance of farriery work and how vets and farriers work together effectively. Student comments have been: 'The Worshipful Company of Farriers EVSA scheme was one of the most worthwhile placements I have undertaken whilst at vet school. The experience I gained will benefit me greatly in my future career and job prospects.'

Glasgow. Alison Halley, Administrative Assistant - EMS Support Veterinary Medicine

Here at Glasgow we have strong links with the Worshipful Company of Farriers and rely on their expertise regarding remedial farriery on lame horses. We have also previously been involved in the assessment of farriers' formal qualifications. The students get the opportunity to experience a first-class EMS placement, teaching valuable skills in the diagnosis of foot lameness. They also have a chance to build links and form working relationships with specialist Farriers. The benefit of being financially supported during this time is particularly important due to the costs associated with students completing EMS.

Feedback from our EVSA 2018 student: 'The teamwork between the farriers and between the veterinarians when cases arose was encouraging, and I really hope to be able to emulate that as I begin my career as an equine vet, as I believe the horses really benefited from having professionals confer and collaborate with each other to achieve a result. I am really grateful for the opportunity and will take home so many messages and skills from this placement.'

Liverpool. Harry Carslake, MA, VetMB, DipACVIM, MRCVS, Senior Lecturer in Equine Medicine

The award shows a commitment by the Worshipful Company of Farriers to maintain the good working relationship between Farriers and equine Vets, which is so important for equine welfare. It's an opportunity for students to learn something above and beyond the essentials and for their efforts to be recognised. The feedback I've had from students in the past has been very positive.



Awardee freemen of the company admitted between 2016 & 2019

2016

Isabelle Wild. Helen Klein

2017

Nicholas Dymond. Annabelle Bates.
Abbie Dimelow. Melissa Kelson

2018

(Admission in 2019) Amy Leather.
Kirsty Hibbs. Roxy Leyshon.
Stephanie Neild. Tobias McAlpine

We aim to publish student reports on our Facebook page. If you would like to read the reports in future please visit and like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/The-Worshipful-Company-of-Farriers-677353369066459/ or contact the EVSA Coordinator drlydiabrown@gmail.com

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If you would like to see any of the complete reports by any of the awardees since 2016 or would like to be placed on the panel of host Farriers, please contact the Awards Coordinator Dr Lydia Brown on 07710 785132 or drlydiabrown@gmail.com