

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES OF FARRIERY COMPETITIONS

The purpose of these Guidelines is to highlight the more important aspects of a Judge's responsibilities when he is representing the Worshipful Company of Farriers at a farriery competition.

The Company's Awards (Silver and Bronze medals, BSH awards etc.) may only be awarded by Judges who have been appointed to the Company's Judges Lists.

Most of the points covered below are common sense ones and in this regard, the list will simply serve as a useful reminder. However, there a number of procedural matters, including the matter of dress protocol which do need to be noted.

GENERAL

1. On Receiving an Invitation to Judge.

Having received an invitation to judge a competition, the Judge must be sure that he clearly understands the competition schedule. If he does not, he should ask the organising Secretary. The schedule may even need amending.

The Judge must ensure too that he is able to judge the classes listed competently.

2. Accepting a Judging Invitation.

Invitations should, for politeness sake, be responded to by return if possible.

Judges should make sure they know who is to be responsible for organising over-night accommodation. Ie. is it being organised by the show or is it an individual responsibility. It can be both embarrassing and irritating to arrive at a venue to find no accommodation has been booked.

Similarly, it needs to be established whether or not travel expenses are to be paid.

3. Responsibilities.

The Judge must be aware of his responsibilities to:

- The host organisation.
- The competitors.
- The profession and himself.

His integrity at all times must be beyond question.

4. Dress.

Judges should be dressed in a manner befitting the position. Male Judges are expected to wear a suit, collar and tie. Traditionally, a white coat (to protect one's clothing) is worn at live shoeing and shoemaking competitions. A bowler hat is permissible but may be inconvenient or unsafe on the shoeing floor.

For Best Shod Horse, a suit and bowler hat are normally worn. However, a white smock coat and bowler hat is an acceptable alternative if the show allows it. A suit and farriery apron are also acceptable.

English shows normally insist on men wearing a dark suit and bowler hat in the ring. Please check the local dress rules and adhere to them.

Always wear your official badge(s) so that they can be clearly seen.

If the weather is bad, Judges should wear a wax jacket or a mackintosh. Anoraks and similar types of coat are not acceptable.

LIVE HORSE SHOEING COMPETITIONS

5. On the Day.

On the competition day, the Judge should report to the organising Secretary at least half an hour before the start time advertised in the schedule.

He should explain his role and method of conducting the judging to both the competitors and the stewards. He should answer any questions and, if applicable, produce a specimen shoe for inspection by the competitors prior to the start time.

6. Prior to the Start of the Competition.

All feet to be shod should be seen by the Judge before any work is done on them. Any job out of the normal for a particular foot must be discussed with the competitor concerned prior to the start.

7. Judging Standards and Criteria.

Marking should be based on the sound principles of horse shoeing and in accordance with the competition schedule.

A Judge should stand by his decisions and, if necessary, be prepared to substantiate them.

In the event of a tie, the Judge will decide on which points to make the tie-break.

The Judge should make himself available to farrier competitors after the results have been given out, not to justify the marking, but to offer help and advice to those looking to future competitions.

Shown at the end of this Guide is a suggested mark sheet for shoeing competitions.

BEST SHOD HORSE COMPETITIONS (BSH)

Most of the comments above also apply to the judging of BSH. However, there are a number of additional points to be noted for BSH.

8. Location for Judging.

Normally, the Judge will be asked to judge either in the ring whilst the Breed class is in progress, or in the collecting ring (which is not the best place). Sometimes the BSH will be given its own ring.

9. Liaison with the Commentator.

Clearly, it promotes the farriery profession if the BSH is judged in the main Breed ring. If there is a commentator, try to brief him before hand on what you are about to do. Better still, give him a short prepared written script, which can be re-used at other competitions. Commentators always welcome new material and they will almost always be happy to explain your work to the audience. This is good PR for the Craft.

10. Liaison with the Breed Judge.

If you are sharing the ring, make sure you introduce yourself to the Breed Judge and ask him if he minds that you stand at the opposite end to him for his stand show. Then, when in line, start judging from the bottom of the line to the top.

11. Judging.

Before you start judging, make sure your Steward has your mark sheets readily to hand. The Steward should also have a cloth or towel available for cleaning hands and/or wiping hooves.

When inspecting a horse with feathering, ensure that the hair is readjusted neatly so that the horse is not disadvantaged when the Breed Judge assesses it.

Apart from exchanging pleasantries (Good Morning, Good Afternoon etc.) with the horse handlers, Judges should use their Steward to communicate any instructions. Judges should not allow themselves to be drawn into discussions on lameness or soundness of animals.

When assessing the shoeing, Judges should take into account the appropriateness of the style of shoeing for the class. Normal shoes, showing plates and showing shoes are equally acceptable, provided they are suitable for the horse.

Do not discuss your findings with the Breed Judge. Likewise, do not discuss his findings with anyone until after all the Classes have finished. It is unprofessional to pass derogatory comments on an individual farrier's work unless he/she is present. It is acceptable, however, to say that you prefer one shoeing job to the others.

It is not considered good etiquette to communicate with anyone at the ringside during a competition.

**REMEMBER, ALL THE TIME A JUDGE IS OFFICIATING HE IS ACTING AS
AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE PROFESSION**

