



# UKHSU Newsletter

The Voice of the Farrier

Issue 7, April 2004

## UKHSU Elections 2004

The following nominations were received:

Chairman: Steve Boddy  
Vice Chairmen: Darrin Oldman, Stuart Craig  
Treasurer and Press Officer: Peter Baker  
Secretary and web person: Martin Humphrey.

None of the positions were contested and so there will be no election.

## European Farriers

10 new countries - Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia - will join the existing 15 EU members at the beginning of May.

It is claimed that the arrival of immigrant workers from these countries will benefit the UK's economy. It will only be necessary to produce a certificate of experience in order for an immigrant to practice farriery in the UK. The government is keen to encourage cheap labour to come here because of the shortages in many building trades. We cannot know what the effect on farriery will be, but since there is little that can be done to keep foreign

farriers out, perhaps we should be looking to employ them as an alternative to apprentices.

## UKHSU Seminar and AGM 2004 - Thursday 20th May

We are delighted to welcome back Haydn Price who will be telling us about an exciting new system to assist vets and farriers in diagnosing lameness.

Agenda.

7.00 pm UKHSU AGM for members only.

Followed by an Open Seminar for members and sponsors invited guests.

7.30 Short topics:  
Shoeing to relieve a locking patella.  
Adhesives to repair hoof cracks.  
The realignment of the hind limb of the racehorse.

8.15 Refreshments.

8.30 Lecture by Haydn Price "the Equinalysis equine gait analysis system".

9.30 Forum discussion.

Venue: Bear Hotel, Hungerford.

Kindly sponsored by Sefco Equineering.

**Demand is high and space is limited so please let us know if you plan to come.**

## UKHSU farriers survey 2004

Last year you said that you had enough work, weren't affected by unregistered farriers or a possible hunting ban, and were dissatisfied with the farriery powers that be. Make sure you have your say in this years survey.

## FINANCE

### VAT

The turnover threshold at which businesses must register for VAT is now £58,000 per year.

### NMW

From 1st October the National Minimum Wage will be £4.85 per hour for ages 22 and above, £4.10 for 18-21 year olds and £3 for 16-17 year olds.

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## Reasonable Force

The factors that a farrier must take into account when he decides what is reasonable force in order to trim and shoe the foot of a horse.

A personal view by Peter Baker.

1. The law. It is established that before a case of cruelty can be proven at law, it must be shown that unnecessary suffering was caused to the animal (Report, Burns Enquiry).

2. The problem of unruly behaviour by the horse is brought about by:

i) Fear and unfamiliarity with :- being handled, or worked upon during the action of trimming or shoeing. The equine response is to attempt to flee. The remedy is to prevent the animal running away by stopping it from doing so by restraining it, or by containing it in a small enclosure, round pen, and then building its confidence that it has nothing to fear.

ii) Aggression :- when due to association with a previous circumstance, the animal reacts in a manner which it has learnt does not allow the previous abuse to which it has been subjected to reoccur. This antisocial behaviour has to be reversed by physical manipulation, in a calculated manner in order to effect a behaviour modification.

iii) Temperament :- whether by breeding or environment, the animal is or has become stressed to a

point that it is out of control of its own functions, i.e.. Weaving, box walking, crib biting, when it needs shoeing at racecourse, or in the ten minute box.

3. The force needed, the minimum required to enable the animal to be shod in a manner as:

i) Action, to enable the task in hand to be achieved, (shoeing or trimming).

ii) The farrier must effect the safest possible environment for, (in order of importance), himself, his assistant, any other person present, the owner of the horse, and the animal itself, by dealing with the situation at the onset in a manner calculated, and that could reasonably be seen as not likely to cause the animal unnecessary suffering.

iii) Training to improve the future behaviour of the horse, by using methods calculated to allay its fears, and build its confidence.

iv) Build confidence and trust in humans. To make the horse future compliant to additional mental and physical stresses that it may encounter, some of which may not be predictable, and be unrelated to the act of farriery.

4. Factors that every Farrier must learn, most have already done so but may be unaware that they have.

i) Approach, done other than in a direct manner, (approach shoulder first). Avoid eye contact, express by voice his intentions, the

first contact with the back of the hand, avoid rapid movements, all verbal contact during the shoeing process must come from the farrier, he has to be the dominant factor during the shoeing, no feed bowl during the process of shoeing, all rewards farrier to horse, and only after each significant stage has been accomplished, remember to reinforce reward with voice, later all that will be need is a soft voice.

ii) Never discipline with a raised voice, shouting indicates fear or alarm, both by the farrier and the horse. I ask you to remember the stress and anxiety we suffer from a screaming horse or the squealing mare, it instills fear in the farrier, the same as a raised voice does in the horse. The horse will flee or attempt to, taking those close by with him. The voice should be used to reassure, reinforce and direct the animal i.e., pickup, get over, and steady (remember the roar of the lion and herd of zebra, and the resulting spontaneous panic response).

5. Behaviour Modification, in order of desirability:

i) Passive modification by gentle approach, kind words and a soft reassuring touch, especially with the young nervous horse.

ii) Active modification, environment restraint, taking away the ability to flee, (a), holding method of restraint, head collar, bridle, cross ties etc, (b) enclosed area, round pen, stable yard, loose box, starvation paddock.

iii) Physical correction, stallion chain over nose, under jaw, under lip, chifney bit, gypsy twitch, nose twitch, poll pressure devise (Monty Roberts).

iv) Sensory deprivation, blind fold, towel or bag over eyes.

v) A short sharp slap to a non vulnerable part of the body. It is part of nature's order for the dominant member of the herd, (the farrier in this case), to administer a sharp blow to effect compliance by a subordinate member of the herd (the animal being worked on), it must be remembered that sometimes the farrier has to establish his dominance in order to effect a safe environment. It is also worth remembering equine quadrupeds can only kick or bite each other, the author cannot understand why it is so frowned upon to discipline a horse in a controlled manner using the most appropriate limb which will do the job most effectively, if humans were not bipeds there would be no difference between a punch a slap and a kick. It is the ferocity used that must controlled and be appropriate, not the method.

vi) The use of tranquillisers are the expensive last resort and require the attendance of a Veterinarian. There are circumstances when this method cannot be used, eg. 72 + hours before a competition.

It is the experience of the author who applies the methods above in his specialist area, which is primarily a horseman as well as

in his regular farriery practice, and then as a racecourse farrier dealing with very up tight horses, that there is a key to every door, the author very rarely needs to resort to a short sharp slap or the use of drugs, but circumstances do arrive when it is necessary. I suggest that all true professional horsemen resort from time to time to the use of the short sharp slap, it would be impossible to be an effective farrier shoeing presented horses without these two methods in the armoury. For the industry to deny it to be so would not be truthful. All of the described restraint methods stop well short of causing unnecessary suffering, in fact more suffering is caused to attendant parties including the horse during the process of trimming and shoeing, by failure to use the appropriate training, restraint and disciplining methods.

The consequence of not providing sufficient horse education during the process of trimming and shoeing is the inability to control a situation when it arises. For example warding off kicks when lifting the hind leg, avoiding bites during the process of pulling the foot forwards and when clinching up, (all because the animal hasn't been given the correct parameters of manners and respect to move away from the operative in moments of stress). The occurrences, of the unruly horse galloping away dragging a gate through a crowd, wrapped rope around the hand of an assistant, horse getting leg over lead line or getting loose

whilst under the control of a farrier and colliding with a car or wire fence, are seen. It can even be as simple as the animal getting tangled with horse shoeing kit, stepping on sharp tools and nails. All of the above happen and demonstrate the horse's imperfect stress response and inadequate trust in the farrier.

The correct responses must be taught by the farrier, and learnt by the horse to minimise the dangers associated with farriery, and prevent the physical breakdown of methods of control, and enhance the understanding of the safe principles of horse handling.

It must become part of a farrier/client implied contract that a reasonable amount of force can be used in any specific circumstance, and when necessary this shall be a reflex reaction by the farrier, and that the client agrees to this.

In the event of non client agreement the farrier should correctly decline to deal with the animal.

**ALL FORCE USED MUST BE MINIMAL IN SO MUCH THAT IT WOULD NOT REASONABLY BE CONSIDERED, BEARING IN MIND EACH INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCE, TO RESULT IN UNNECESSARY SUFFERING TO THE ANIMAL.**

P N Baker, first published Forge 2000

## Move to Flat Rate Scheme may Reduce your VAT Liabilities

By Julian Millinchamp, VAT Manager, Hazlewoods Accountants, Windsor House, Bayhill Road, Cheltenham, GL 50 3AT e-mail: [jwm@hazlewoods.co.uk](mailto:jwm@hazlewoods.co.uk) Telephone: 01242 237661

The VAT Flat Rate Scheme is available to smaller businesses whose net VATable turnover does not exceed £150,000 per annum, and whose total turnover is up to £187,500 per annum.

Under the scheme, the net VAT liability for the quarter is calculated not by comparing output and input VAT but by applying a percentage (determined by the business's trade classification) to the VAT-inclusive turnover figure for the quarter.

### Example

Net sales for the quarter	£15,000	
Output VAT thereon @ 17.5%	£2,625 (1)	
	_____	
VAT – inclusive turnover	£17,625	
	_____	
Input VAT for the quarter	£500 (2)	
Flat rate percentage for the business – assumed in this example to be		*10.5%
VAT liability for the quarter under normal VAT accounting ( (1) – (2) )	£2,125	
VAT liability for the quarter under flat rate scheme (10.5% of £17,625)	£1,851	
<b>Saving for quarter</b>		<b>£274</b>

*\*This is the flat-rate percentage for “boarding and care of animals”. Customs’ website confirms that this category includes farriery.*

As will be deduced from the above, under the Flat Rate Scheme there is no need to separate out the amounts of VAT on individual purchase and expense invoices/payments, as there is no claim for input tax as such. The only exception to this would be for the purchase of capital items with a value, including VAT, of £2,000 or more, on which a separate claim for input tax can still be made.

Therefore the Flat Rate Scheme is likely to be attractive to labour-intensive businesses which do not have a great deal of input tax to reclaim under traditional VAT accounting – however Customs will of course have taken this into account in the calculation of the different scheme percentages!

In the Chancellor’s December Pre-Budget Report, it was announced that the various flat rate percentages were being reduced with effect from 1 January 2004, which clearly makes the scheme more attractive than it was previously. A ready reckoner for estimating the potential savings is available on the Customs & Excise website (accessed via [www.hmce.gov.uk/business/services/flat-rate-dets.htm](http://www.hmce.gov.uk/business/services/flat-rate-dets.htm)). Alternatively, we at Hazlewoods would be pleased to run the calculations for you and provide an estimate of the benefits of moving to the scheme, on the assumption that the pattern of your income and expenses remains broadly similar to that over the past twelve months. If, in the future, your input tax is likely to increase significantly in relation to your income for whatever reason, this will clearly affect the decision as to whether moving to the scheme is beneficial or not.

Please feel free to contact me at the address above, or by telephone or e-mail, to discuss the Flat Rate Scheme, or indeed any other VAT-related matter, in more detail.



## Medial-Lateral Balance

A talk by Haydn Price to the UKHSU AGM on the 23rd of April 2003 at the Bear Hotel, Hungerford

Haydn Price introduced himself as a practising farrier who shoes normal horses 5 days a week, has been doing so for 25 years, and still loves the job. His guiding principle is KISS - Keep It Simple Stupid!

Understanding locomotion - Haydn has worked with Alan Wilson on gait analysis at Bristol University and has recently been involved in video analysis.

In the UK not enough attention has been paid to Medial-Lateral imbalance - there has been too much obsession with Anterior-Posterior balance. ML imbalance more than AP imbalance can turn a sound horse into a lame horse.

Level footfall is the ideal but very few horses have the perfect conformation. The most important aspect is not the point of contact, it is limb loading during weight bearing. It is acceptable to have horses that never land level but can keep sound by loading evenly during weight bearing.

Force plate analysis has proved that horses that land unevenly actually bear weight centrally, loading is perfectly OK.

Compression and contraction are not the same thing. You only need to look at the hoof to see the loading on the foot. Medial loading/lateral loading occurs during weight bearing. Coronary border displacement is a good indicator of imbalance.

Odd feet - the upright foot always rotates medially, the medial wall being more upright - limb length differential. We are always told to expand the upright foot by lowering the heel, but Haydn finds that it is better to leave the heels long to compensate for the shorter limb.

More weight goes anteriorly in an upright foot. There is increasing awareness of problems in front caused by hind limb imbalances.

The T-square. If it works for you, fine, if not, leave it alone.

Especially with performance horses, ML balance requires a lot of examination. Lateral extensions can be very successful in keeping the hock from twisting during weight bearing.

Haydn is not into following the foot shape all of the time - if the foot is unbalanced then the shape is wrong.

Cause and effect - shoeing the coronary border. Release pressure on the coronary band by fitting the shoe wider if the hoof is narrower distally making a wedge shape.

It can take a month or so for a horse to adapt to a change in ML balance.

Haydn showed an example of a horse belonging to his wife which he "corrected" by wedging the inside heel to make the hoof land level - this made the weight bearing uneven. Better to fit the shoe wide medially.

Haydn expressed confidence that we will soon be able to utilise technology to make adjustments to our shoeing, and that we will in the near future have more power to change things for the better.

The End.

Notes by Martin Humphrey.



