



UKHSU Newsletter

Issue 8, autumn 2004

The Voice of the Farrier

Welcome to UKHSU newsletter number 8. We apologise for the delay since the last newsletter, it's not because we have been idle, in fact a lot has been happening. We are particularly pleased to announce our affiliation to the Union of Country Sports Workers, giving you free membership of the UCSW worth £15.

Lantra representative

The Governing board of Lantra accepted our request for representation on their "Professions Allied to Veterinary Science Industry Group" despite objections from the Group itself chaired by Miles Williamson-Noble. Giles Holtom volunteered to be UKHSU representative and we were delighted to propose

him to the Lantra Board. However the Lantra board decided that they would not accept our recommendation on the grounds that Giles is not currently a training farrier. Stuart Craig offered himself as an alternative and we are delighted to announce that he was accepted. A report on his first meeting is on page 3.

FRC Disciplinary meeting 8th September 2004

We are pleased to report that the disciplinary case against a farrier was thrown out, a complete fiasco and a shocking waste of farriers registration fees.

Haig Colliery Mining Museum in Whitehaven Cumbria are an ongoing restoration

project, restoring and developing what has been left of the Haig Colliery.

Their most recent project is the restoration of a Blacksmiths Shop, complete with original forges and anvils and the restoration of an original Massey Hammer. The area has had a complete re fit and is nearing completion. They are looking to lease this area to a self employed blacksmith to use for their own purpose, whilst maintaining a viewing area that the mining museum visitors can use.

For more specific information see their website which is www.haigpit.com or phone Pamela Telford on 01946 599949

Keeping you informed

Have you received any emails from Ukhsu? If not then we do not have your email address. Help us to keep you informed by giving us your email address - we can keep you up to date more often by email than we can by post. Just send a blank email to secretary@ukhsu.com and we will add you to the mailing list. And, of course, tell us if it changes!

Membership

Don't forget, if you want to sign up a new member, forms are available from the office or on our web site.

Business expenses

We issue receipts for your membership subscriptions and also for EFJ subscriptions, as these are legitimate business expenses. If you don't get your receipts do let us know.

Need to talk?

What do you do when the stress and strain catches up with you? Sometimes you don't even want to admit it to your family. This is where the **Rural Stress Information Network** can be your lifeline. They have trained volunteers who can offer advice or just listen. It is often easier to talk your problems through with a stranger and all calls are treated in the strictest confidence.

Phone 0247 641 2916.



Lantra meeting 5th August 2004

This meeting was mainly concerned with Veterinary Nursing, but other items discussed were:

Level 4 National Occupational Standards

It was reiterated that LANTRA is not an awarding body for qualifications, but that all qualifications being developed must demonstrate industry support ie support from this group. This results in a closed shop and shows how important it is for UKHSU to be represented on the Industry Group which seems to be accepted by official bodies such as the Qualifications and Curriculums Authority as speaking for farriers.

Professions update

All farrier apprentices are now members of NAFBAE. This money is given by the FTS. The question has to be asked why are apprentices been allowed into the National Masters Farriers and Agricultural Engineers Association. With regard to illegal farriery, MWN said it is difficult to prove on animal welfare grounds.

UKHSU

Membership of the Industry Group was refused at first, went to appeal and was given. Other members not particularly happy and wanted to know who appoints the committee and if it was ratified by the LANTRA Board. Williamson Noble asked if I were there to sabotage registration. I said we support registration.

Farrier vets secondary registration legislation.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons have plans to take over registration of farriers. Very vague: something we need to watch closely.

European Farriers

There are moves to achieve a common standard for farriery across Europe. Needed 6 years experience, now down to 5. Holland, Switzerland and the UK have similar standards. The rest of Europe are not agreed on farriery standards.

Home education of apprentices

WN said not a good idea as the standard could not be checked or administered. I agree otherwise the whole thing regarding apprenticeships could become a free for all.

Veterinary nurses education/apprentice system.

The farriers seem to be well ahead of the training system for veterinary nurses. The nurses seem to be unhappy with the way in which they are often no longer required at the end of their training as they become more expensive to employ.

Report by UKHSU rep Stuart Craig. Please contact Stuart on 07930 323263 if there is anything you would like to discuss. The next meeting is on 9th March 2005.

ATF meeting 25th of August 2004.

A very significant meeting for the future of farriery registration / training took place on the 25th of August 2004, at the LANTRA offices, RAC, Warwick. About 50 persons were present.

C T Swan chairman of JFTC was in the chair. It was explained that this was the first meeting of ATF's for some time and agreed by the meeting that in future there would be two ATF meetings a year. [FRC / FTS talking to the trade is something UKHSU has been striving for since it was formed]. It was further stated the purpose of the meeting was one of information gathering in order to brief JFTC to make representations on behalf of the craft to the FRC.

Mrs F Heather gave a presentation on the FRC decision that all ATF's are required to be Police Checked [Criminal Records Bureau - CRB]. It was stated that this was not a statutory requirement but came about as a result of a recommendation from JFTC, which was due to concern over the possibility of offences that may be practiced on apprentices by their ATF's. JFTC felt a history of any previous bad conduct was necessary. A recent article in The Horse and Hound highlighted FRC's particular concern regarding possible sexual offences. The format was that ATF's would have to bear the cost of the CRB check which is £33. ATF's would have to sign the requirement document in the presence of the FTS field officer, then the CRB would forward the police check direct to Mrs Heather, where it would not become public knowledge. The irony of this is that now it is understood even if the CRB check comes back as a positive FRC could not preclude anyone because of it. The reason since given is, that when a legal sanction had been served by the person involved the matter is spent and thus closed at law.

A personal enquiry with Mrs Heather revealed her statement regarding who could be made aware of the CRB check, was a little naive. MWN would see it and it would be held on file at Sefton House for the statutory 6 months. If the document was found to have a relative content this would go before the Registration Committee of FRC [its membership is also the investigating committee of FRC] and may even then be placed before full Council, a public meeting, yet a prospective employee [ATF] could not lawfully be acquainted with the content. Thus a prospective apprentice who may have been convicted of a very serious offence prior to commencing his employment would be protected from any details of the case being passed on to his employer. FRC would know about this by way of the CRB, yet the ATF would not see it by law, and could not appreciate the danger this person may present to members of his family or his clients.

The meeting it seems was called as a result of a letter from SJ Curtis citing several other senior ATF's who were also not happy with the concept of ATF's being subject to compulsory CRB checks. The members JFTC feel they were duped into agreeing to CRB's by the nature of an agenda item for which MWN admitted he was "ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE".

CT Swan later conceded he probably misled his committee [JFTC] by leading them to believe it was a statutory requirement for ATF's to be CRB checked and therefore the matter was passed through JFTC as a recommendation to FRC. There was one serious flaw in this argument which was recorded at the meeting. It was obvious from Mrs Heather's presentation, later re-enforced personally by MWN, it is PATENTLY NOT a lawful obligation for ATF's to be CRB checked. It then follows why did MWN not instruct JFTC of this fact at their meeting when the matter was debated by them. MWN responded, he was in the room at the time of the debate but didn't know that was what the members of JFTC were thinking. [It was obvious to more than one observer he was misleading the ATF's at the meeting by making this statement!].



Sadly there is one VERY SERIOUS matter that has come to light since this meeting. We have raised concerns with the FRC about reports of an apprentice with serious previous criminal convictions, we have been advised not to publish any details about the matter at present.

A presentation on The L11 course and the ATF shoemaking assessment certificate was then presented by MWN. It was agreed by the ATF meeting to recommend to JFTC that the current ATF certificate should remain in force for all those that have actively trained with it for an indefinite period, and that the L11 course should only apply to new ATF's. The new ATF shoemaking assessment certificate is linked to the L11 course and it follows that it would now only become a prerequisite for all new ATF's.

The general demeanour of the meeting was one of aggression and dissatisfaction towards FRC / FTS and particularly MWN, and that all ATF's were again being made to jump through hoops for the failings of a few. It was suggested that the matters which were under discussion today would not satisfy what was required to rectify matters. either for the apprentice or the ATF. A good example was used, 32% of the last apprentices who passed NVQ at level 3 failed to pass the DWCF exam, yet nothing that was proposed at this meeting would target the apprentices that under perform or target the specific failures or sort out their non performing ATF's.

What was of concern to the meeting was sorting out under performing apprentices and ATF's, specifically those that WOULDN'T accept or deliver satisfactory training, it was these that needed weeding out of the training system, and not the motivated members of the system that needed to be harassed.

PNB (Press officer, UKHSU).

Union of Country Sports Workers

We are delighted to announce that UKHSU have affiliated to the Union of Country Sports Workers. We remain an independent association but we can count on the support of the UCSW with its 4,000 members and its valuable experience and contacts in the issues that affect our livelihood.

Among those who have already joined UCSW are hunt servants and game keepers; ghillies and water bailiffs; saddlers, riding boot and clothing manufacturers; grooms, vets, gun dog trainers, sporting agents, wildlife rangers, shoot managers and beaters; feed merchants, transport operators and gun retailers; skin dealers, farm contractors and tour operators; secretaries, accountants, and physiotherapists. We think that farriers have a lot to gain by joining with other groups with a similar stake in the country way of life.

This means that all our members will receive all the benefits of UCSW membership - worth £15 a year - just by belonging to UKHSU. Enclosed is your copy of Livin' Country, the latest UCSW magazine which we hope you find enjoyable. UCSW has a free advisory service for its members. The main areas covered are legal, taxation and the rural economy. UCSW also offers a personal injury claim service. In other words, if you have been injured in an accident at work within the last three years through no fault of your own, their personal injury lawyers can claim compensation on your behalf.

We have been asked to have a place on the UCSW executive committee and Peter Baker is currently filling that position. If you would be interested in sharing this duty please contact Peter, meetings are held in Oxfordshire.





The Horse's Mouth

The discussion board from the UKHSU

Have you visited our website at UKHSU.com?

Check out our discussion board, it's the best place to air your views, have an argument or a laugh.

Here are a few excerpts from the forum:

"To be honest if as a farrier you are asked to carry out procedures that could be held over your head by the FRC it would be better to refuse to do anything other than straightforward shoeing - no bar shoes, no laminitis jobs and then see what the horseowners do."

"Nafbae do a lot of good things and have a lot of good people as members. We would never advise anyone not to join nafbae. Their fault is that the executive do not stand up for the members. The FRC love "token" farriers who are keen to further their personal status rather than represent the aspirations of the community of farriers."

"The best time to cook on a coke forge is after the first two horses have gone and you are ready for a brew. I find the fire has settled down and as the blower has been off for 5 mins the heat is not so fierce. Its a good time to fry because you can clean out any clinker after the pan comes off. You must have a quiet fire because sausages burn too easily. Sometimes little bits of carbon get into the pan but it just adds to the taste. BON APPETITE MON AMIS!"

"For the FRC/FTS to give money to nafbae seems to be unhealthy and improper if not corrupt, and an unlawful use of public money."

"I was in Ireland 8 times in the last 12 months and visited the school and racing school next to it. It is a superb facility as is the racing school but they need a longer gallop. I believe the Kildare town bypass is now complete. The problem the school is going to have is in convincing the older generation of farriers that they need to send the young lads to school. Every farrier I spoke to thought it was a waste of money and a lot didn't like an Englishman telling them how to shoe horses. In the UK apprentices don't have a choice in Ireland they do and therein lies the problem."

"So you are saying that there is no farrier of any consequence browsing this forum who would contemplate replying to the ranting of some demented bintI beg to differ! The membership of the UKHSU is made up of the more discerning members of the farriery world and take it from me ' slowhand' is one of the best because unlike the rest of you I know who he is! The UKHSU is an organisation developed for the good of farriers who ply their trade and where else can you type into a forum and get such a lively debate going on all aspects of the trade... This site is the place to be heard and if you disagree, please tell me where else you can go??? No matter what your views are on 'slowhands' postings he has livened up this bloody site."



The Voice of the Farrier

UKHSU have written to Miss Clayton, the Chairman of the FRC, raising concerns about three important issues.

Offenders

We have raised concerns with the FRC about reports of an apprentice with serious previous criminal convictions. As mentioned on Page 5, we have received strong legal advice not to publish any more details about the matter at present. We have demanded an urgent and thorough investigation.

FRC meetings

We wrote: "We also would like to take the opportunity to raise the issue of FRC meetings. It is repeatedly put out that farriers and others are welcome to attend FRC meetings eg from FRC Bulletin 85 "Attendance at a Council meeting provides a useful insight into how the FRC and FTS are managed and the Council would be pleased to see more farriers or apprentices attending. Meetings usually start at 10.15am and finish at about 3.30pm." The reality is that the public are excluded before the lunch interval, and all of the documents under discussion are with-held so that visitors have no idea as to what is being talked about. We request that your actions are brought more in line with your words on this matter."

Overseas Farriers

We wrote: "It has come to our attention that EU farriers are gaining registration here on the grounds of experience with no checks on their work and no requirement to obtain the DWCF qualification. It seems to us that the amendment of the Farriers Registration Act 1975 under Statutory Instrument 2002 No 1597 was based on the false premise that access to farriery in the UK is regulated on the basis of qualifications or experience which is not the case. The present situation makes a mockery of the Farriers Registration Act and the system of examinations which the Act was brought in to support. We request an investigation into this matter."

We will let you know the response.

Couping

As outlined in our last letter to members, proposals to strengthen legislation to protect all animals have been announced by the Scottish Executive. A draft Bill will be published later this year and it may include a ban on "couping" or uneven shoeing of horses to alter their stance.

We have sent our comments to the Scottish Executive as follows:

"Hoof balance is a grey and often controversial area. We are concerned that specific laws could affect legitimate practices and that we feel that the general provisions of the Act will cover the situation eg the fact that it will be illegal to cause unnecessary suffering."

Highlands and Islands

We also have been informed by the Scottish Executive that they are planning to extend Farriery Registration to cover the Highlands and Islands. We will let you know when we hear more details.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please spread the word about UKHSU. Why not pass this newsletter to a friend?
If you know someone who might like to join, here is a membership application form:



Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms etc) Address	Initials	First Name	Surname
Telephone numbers: Work Mobile		Home Fax	
Email	Are you a registered farrier/ horse shoer /vet / horse owner / other (please specify)		
I apply to join UKHSU. Signature			Date

Information given will be stored in a computerised database but will not be supplied to any other organisation without your permission.

Please return this completed form to the address below together with a cheque for £20 payable to UKHSU.

UKHSU, 3 Roughdown Villas Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0AX

SPECIAL European Farriers Journal OFFER TO UKHSU MEMBERS - still available!

1-year subscription to the Farriers Journal (6 issues) only £25 (normal price 50 euros/£35) - This is a great deal and has been a very popular offer - if you would like to participate or renew your subscription please send a cheque for £25 to the UKHSU office.

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