

## AUSTRIA (April 2015)

### General Comments

The Board was impressed with the professional conduct of the exam, the excellent facilities, and the friendly and relaxed approach of the examiners, which was helpful to the candidates at a stressful time. They were also impressed with the on-going improvements that are being made to the training and exams, such as the recent addition of the theory exam.

The examiners talk to the candidates when the horse is trotted up before the Practical test, discussing how it moves and what the candidate can do to help the horse. At the trot up after the test they discuss whether the candidate has achieved these objectives. The Board suggested that it might be helpful if notes were taken at the initial assessment, which could be referred to after the test.

The candidates appeared to lack experience in trimming and shoe-making, as their skills in these areas were weak. They seemed to be reluctant to trim the feet, and in some cases more trimming was definitely required.

The candidates appeared to be trying to ask the instructors questions, which is not permitted in the exam. It might be helpful if they were reminded before the exam that the instructors are not permitted to answer queries during the exam, and that it is therefore a waste of time, and a distraction, to approach them.

At the end of the Practical test the Shoeing area was very crowded with other candidates, which can restrict movement and distract the candidates. The Board suggests that in order to reduce the number of candidates who are waiting around, the Practicals and Orals could be held over 2 days, with half the group doing the Practical and Oral on one day, and the other half doing the Practical and Oral on the second day. Alternatively, candidates who are not taking the test or assisting could just be asked to stay out of the Shoeing area.

The Board did not see a bar shoe, which is a requirement of EFFA Standards.

### Conclusions

**The EFFA Accreditation Board recommends approval of the Austrian Certified Farrier training and qualification for re-accreditation and certification in accordance with the Standards of the European Farrier in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as approved by the European Federation of Farriers Association.**