

## Netherlands (June 2016)

### General Comments

There were good facilities in the main college buildings and in the forge, although some redesign of the shoeing bay is needed to give a safer working environment.

The Board was pleased to hear that all candidates, regardless of prior qualifications or experience, must now complete a three year training programme before taking the final examinations. Holding the various elements of the examination over different days was an unusual feature, but seemed to work well. Since candidates must pass previous parts of the final examination before proceeding to the next, this separation in time allowed marginal failures to resit any failed parts. Limiting the total number of attempts at the examination to three avoids those who are unlikely ever to reach the desired standard from becoming trapped in the system.

The Board would like to see the written theory paper become a part of the final examination rather than an in-house college test. An exchange of examiners between the colleges, and the setting up of a theory question bank would help to ensure commonality of standards between the two colleges.

The Board was not happy with candidates being allowed to bring their own choice of horse to the live horse shoeing exercise.

The times set for each stage of the examination seemed appropriate, being neither too long nor too short.

There was a considerable difference in standards between the best and the worst candidates. However, the examination results gave a true reflection of the candidates' skills and expertise, and the Board agreed with the examiners' final assessments.

The Board was impressed with the friendly and relaxed approach of the examiners.

### 8. Conclusions

**The EFFA Accreditation Board has no hesitation in recommending candidates achieving the Dutch Farriery Certificate, Gespecialiseerde Dierverzorging Paard Uitstroomrichting Hoefsmid, Crebo 97510 for continuing 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 Associations.**