

Report on a Return Visit to the Escola de Capacitació Agrària Eqüestre of Spain (5th to 8th of July 2010 / Barcelona)

General Comments

The Board was especially pleased to see the tremendous efforts that had been made to overcome shortcomings highlighted on the 2007 visit. The Association and the school had clearly worked together and had completely overhauled their methods of assessment, both ongoing and in the final examination. The results were evident in both the greatly improved objectivity and quality of the examination systems, and the ability to track a candidate's progress through the course. These results were at hand during the final assessments and greatly helped in decision making on borderline cases. There had also been a marked improvement in the standards of the candidates' workmanship.

Members of the Board were impressed with the friendly and relaxed approach of the examiners which was helpful to the candidates at such a stressful time. They also noted the good practice which requires the candidate to have his/her work checked at every stage of the shoeing exercise before being given approval to move to the next. This is obviously beneficial to the welfare of the horse.

Conclusions

The EFFA Accreditation Board recommends approval of the Associació de Ferradors de Catalunya's qualification of Oficial Ferrador obtained as a result of successful completion of the course of training and examination offered at the Escola de Capacitació Agrària Eqüestre, Barcelona for accreditation and certification in accordance with the Standards of the European Farrier in the 21st Century as approved by the European Federation of Farriers Associations.

This recommendation does not extend to other courses of training elsewhere in Spain, nor to any possible replacement for the current training and examination system. These would require separate visits before they could be accredited.

The recommendation is not retrospective to those who took the examination at the time of the previous visit 2007 visit.