

# **Report on a Re-Accreditation Visit to the Farrier Associations of the United Kingdom (28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2010)**

## **General Comments**

The apprenticeship as a whole, which consists of a clear statement of standards to be achieved, ongoing assessment across all aspects, and a final examination bringing everything together, ensured that all successful candidates were well qualified to become self-employed farriers. Examination standards were high but fair, and particularly in relation to the standard of hand-made shoemaking exceeded those seen in other European nations that have been accredited.

Members of the Accreditation Board were impressed with the examiners' professional approach to standards, and their encouragement of candidates to give of their best. Candidates were well briefed and knew what was expected of them.

The system of marking independently and comparing marks at the end of the day, then immediately producing a draft grade, meant that assessment was fair and that any anomalies could be resolved immediately. The Registrar and Craft Secretary had an excellent well-documented system to ensure that the selection of examiners, the setting of papers, the process of assessment and the production of final results and grades was accurate and fair. There were good appeals procedures if needed.

The documentation supporting the National Vocational Qualification was very comprehensive and ensured common standards for all. Any other EFFA nation considering setting up a new examination is encouraged to ask for sight of the UK documentation to use as a template.

The Board was disappointed that the Worshipful Company of Farriers had rejected the Board's previous recommendation to include an assessment of conformation, action when moving and the production of a shoeing plan at the pre-shoeing inspection.

The examiners extended an invitation to the Accreditation Board to observe a higher level examination to see the progressive nature of the qualifications offered.

## **Conclusions**

**The EFFA Accreditation Board are satisfied that they can recommend candidates completing the Advanced Apprenticeship in Farriery and achieving the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers for reaccreditation and certification in accordance with the Standards of the European Farrier in the 21st Century as approved by the European Federation of Farriers Associations.**

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