

# Farriers Registration Council – Election 2020

## Successful Candidate Election Addresses

The election addresses of the four nominated candidates are presented below for information. The addresses represent the personal views of the candidates.

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### Mr T B Daniels DipHE DipWCF

My name is Toby Daniels and I am a farrier with my Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and

have been qualified for 6 years. I have obtained my Higher Diploma in Farriery and am starting my final year of my BSc (Honours) in Farriery. I am an ATF and have formerly employed 1 part-way through apprentice, who was a 3<sup>rd</sup> year apprentice. My business at present is a limited company of which has grown hugely, with 3 members of staff. This includes myself, 1 apprentice, and also a personal secretary who does my bookings and organises my paperwork daily. I would however, like to grow the business further to help a wider range of horses. I currently shoe a variety of horses but at present concentrating the majority of my shoeing on sports horses, including dressage, eventing and show jumping. We shoe the local heavy horse centre and a local riding school, I shoe a race horse yard. I also pride my skills in therapeutic shoeing, as I assist a lot of the local veterinary practises in there needs, working alongside them for example; once they have taken x-rays adding in shoeing to aid the horses needs.

The intention of taking on an apprentice who had already completed part of their apprenticeship was for the sole reason that I could help them when they really needed it. I strongly felt I could assist in their growth with both the practical and theory skills.

I chose the route of doing my BSc (Honours) for furthering my skills in a higher education on the theory side in particular, as I felt that going down this path gave me a chance of writing research papers which would become recognised in a scientific journal, moving the farrier trade forward in respect of research. I have a serious interest in biomechanics of horses and conformational issues within horse movement. This is assisted by the designing and development of a camera analysis system in which it will be used to view the horse in slow motion. All this is to allow the further development in my own equine knowledge and understanding in horses' movement and the best way in which to shoe for comfort and performance.

Why I feel I would make a good appointee for the Farriers Registration Council is that I care greatly about the way our trade works and moves forward but not only that, the way tradition and the past has shown how strong we as Farriers in the United Kingdom are some of the best in the world. From the first form of shoeing, to the research in colleges is important to myself. Also more importantly the apprenticeship scheme being modified in such a way to allow greater training in each young adult who wish to carry on this way of life, which myself and the rest of the farriers hold. I am not narrow minded, there is one hundred ways to shoe a horse and each way isn't wrong, as long as the horse's best interest, and a sound judgement on the farrier's side is undertaken. I strive to always do the best job I can for the horses' feet and in everything I can. I feel I can bring my passion to the Council and help a

wide range of professionals such as; other farriers, veterinarians and lectures from the colleges. I feel I can aid horse owners with a voice if necessary, but most importantly help us to help the horse itself.

My passion and time I feel would greatly assist the Council if I became a Council member and would strive to do all I can to help all.

### Mr D T Gardner AWCF

I qualified in 1991 after serving my apprenticeship with Gary Darlow AFCL. At the end of my apprenticeship I relocated to Dumfriesshire and set up a farriery business from Edward Martin's forge before moving to my current base in Cumbria in 1993. I gained the Associate of the Worshipful Company of Farriers in 1995.

I was an Approved Training Farrier for 20 years and I have trained a number of apprentices. Two of my apprentices have represented their respective countries in farriery competitions and one is now a Worshipful Company of Farriers Fellow and examiner. I continue to teach regularly providing farriery clinics both in the UK and worldwide.

I was introduced to farriery competitions by Gary and I continue to enjoy the thrill of competing and benefit from the skills gained through both practise and competition today. My competitive achievements include winning the BFBA National Championships twice and I have been a member of the Scottish team, with success, on multiple occasions.

In 2000/2001 during the foot and mouth crisis I had two apprentice's and no work. Two of us found work disposing of carcasses while one apprentice manned the phone and took care of a few horses. This taught me to be more versatile and not 'have all my eggs in one basket'. The DT Gardner Tool Company Ltd was borne and continues to grow each year, distributing tools worldwide. I have always been keen on country pursuits and in 2008 opened a small gun shop. What initially started as a hobby has grown to become a successful, and enjoyable, business.

I am standing for election to be part of our regulatory body as I would like to influence the future of our industry. It takes more than one person to effect change but by working together we can make a difference. I am a great believer in transparency and honesty; I know we all wonder why and how decisions are made, and possibly don't agree with the outcome, but with your help I would like to take your opinion forward to the FRC. Increased clear and direct communication is something I would like to encourage, promoting clarity and a healthier understanding amongst all parties.

Most importantly I would like to help guide and influence a positive forward movement in an industry I still love working in, protecting both the craft and the Farrier working in the field every day.

### Mr D A Hall BSc (Hons) DipWCF (Hons)

I would just like to introduce myself again.

I have been a farrier for just short of 40 years including my apprenticeship, starting in January 1981 aged 15 and qualifying with Honours in 1986. I completed the BSc Honours Degree course in 2014. The degree course has stood me in good stead for being on Council with the huge amount of reading and research that is required to arrive at the best decision. I

was an ATF between 2000 and 2016 and in that time I trained 6 apprentices. In 2018 I was elected to The Farriers Registration Council as the Southern Area Self Employed Candidate and it has been an honour and a privilege to serve in that role. In 2018 I was elected to Deputy Chair of the council and in June of 2019 I was elected to the Chair, an office I have held for the last 14 months.

#### *What do I bring to Council?*

I have always been passionately interested in the future of our profession, as no industry stands still in this day and age. New Government policies that affect all industries have been implemented in recent years, meaning even crafts as traditional as ours have had to change with the times. Being a working farrier on council helps with the tailoring of these policies. The lay people on Council look to the farriers for their perspective, which when combined with the huge array of their different life experiences, ensures that the best outcomes are reached. It is essential for all these discussions that I have good communication skills as well as being able to listen. I'm not afraid to make a decision, and it's done having spent many hours reading and researching a subject. I will always seek many differing views on a situation before arriving at my own.

In the three years I have been on Council I have learnt a lot about the running and function of the FRC, especially since I have been the Chair. There has been the implementation of new policy and the updating of existing policies, the bringing online of the new apprenticeship scheme, benchmarking exams, registration and finance. This is a team effort and having the right people in place has never been more important than in the recent way in which Council dealt with the Government, regarding the COVID 19 pandemic. Horse owners and farriers alike knew exactly where they stood and we were able to provide our clients with an essential service, to prevent any animal welfare issues.

#### Why should we vote?

The Government feels that our profession is important enough to be regulated, which highlights the importance of the act of farriery. Horse owners can have the confidence and assurance that the person they are engaging to work with their horse, is qualified, fully insured and will behave in a professional manner. There is no such assurance from someone who is not on the register. The Farriers Registration Act gives registrants the ability to elect four farriers to the Council, therefore enabling them to take part in the shaping and implementing of new policies. This helps to give them a true farriery perspective to all their decisions. So please - exercise your right to vote.

Finally, if I'm re-elected I will continue to work tirelessly for farriers and for Council as I have been doing for the last three years, both to communicate farriery to the Council and the Council to farriers. If I remain in my role as Chairman, I will continue to provide strong leadership and accountability and look forward to the new challenges.

### **Mr T Smith AWCF GradDipELR**

When I was 17 years old I began my career as a farrier by enrolling on the Pre-Farrier course at Warwickshire College, five years later I completed my apprenticeship under the tuition of Chris Powell FWCF. I set up my current business immediately. In 2013 I passed the AWCF examination, being awarded the Varnam Trophy for the highest grade in the practical assessment. In 2016 I enrolled on the first GradDIP ELR course at the Royal Veterinary College, passing with distinction in 2019. I am fortunate to work alongside my best friend, who was also my first apprentice, Joe Lawson AWCF and we currently also employ a third-year apprentice. We shoe a varied type of horse, from top-level Dressage horses to Racehorses and nearly all in

between. I am a full-time working Farrier, just like most of you who are reading this. I would like to ask for your support in the upcoming elections.

In 2017 I was elected to the Farriers Registration Council; this presented me with a very steep learning curve! The challenge was one that I have enjoyed and been proud to have undertaken. I put myself forward for election in 2017 with many aims, one of which was to try to make the interaction between the Council and Farriers with their 'boots on the ground' more positive. I feel that we have been able to improve this greatly. Work will always remain, and with your vote, I hope to be able to continue to maintain and build upon the positive momentum.

Often there is much misunderstanding around the FRC, particularly by working Farriers. I hope that through communication, I can help you understand the regulatory role of the FRC. I have served three years on Council, two years on the Approvals Committee and the past year as Deputy Chair of the FRC. In 2017 the Registration Act passed through Parliament, requiring a great deal of work from the FRC to implement it. This was completed ahead of schedule, bringing the governance of the profession into the 21st century and ensuring the regulatory independence of any disciplinary actions. I was able to be involved in interviewing some of the candidates for the independent committees, the quality of the minds and people that were shortlisted was exemplary.

I have been privileged to communicate with many Registered Farriers over the past three years. Calls, emails, face to face conversations and other forms of contact have been about a wide variety of subjects important to them. I do not mind admitting that there have been several occasions when I have not known the answer, but working with the excellent members of staff based at Peterborough, I have always felt that I was able to respond to all questions. Your vote will allow me to continue to do this.

I would very much like to be a sensible and constructive voice for the working Farriers at the Council meetings for another term. As a working Farrier myself, I completely understand how hard our line of work is. It would be my honour to be a link between Council and working Farriers again, to ensure there is a better understanding at Council of Farriers and their work, and between you and the decisions that the FRC has taken.

Four Farriers are elected to Council (plus others as appointees from other organisations), it is vitally important that these Farriers can operate effectively in the very different environment of a Council or committee meeting. I believe that I can offer this ability; to work successfully with other Council members to achieve the best outcome, ultimately benefiting the Horse, its welfare and the Farriery Profession. I would appreciate your vote to enable me to continue to develop and form policy alongside a progressive and cooperative cohort.

If you elect me to Council, I will work thoroughly and diligently in recognition of your trust. I will make myself available to all Farriers that require my help, as I have done so throughout my term over the past three years. The issues around COVID-19 have demonstrated to me that I identify as a Farrier, I am glad to be a Farrier, and I am proud to be a **Professional** Farrier. By electing me, you would be ensuring that all Professional Farriers have a voice at the Farriers Registration Council.