

FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL, 14 SWAN COURT, FORDER WAY, CYGNET PARK, HAMPTON, PETERBOROUGH PE7 8GX

FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL

-V-

ANDREW BAGNALL DIPWCF

DECISION ON APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION TO THE REGISTER

1. The Disciplinary Committee (“the Committee”) of the Farriers Registration Council, convened to consider an application for restoration to the Register by the Applicant, Mr Andrew Bagnall. Miss Curtis appeared on behalf of the Council. Mr Bagnall appeared and represented himself. He was supported by his friend RH, a Registered Farrier.

2. Application for the hearing to be heard partly in private

2.1 At the outset of the hearing, Miss Curtis indicated that mention may be made of health matters relating to Mr Bagnall and if they were, the FRC had no objection to those matters being heard in private.

2.2 The Committee considered the matter with care and accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor, who referred to Rule 11 of the Rules. In accordance with Rule 11, hearings before the Committee ordinarily take place in public so that the public are aware of the functions being carried out by the Regulator. However, Rule 11(3) does allow for the hearing, or part of the hearing to be heard in private, where it is in the interests of justice to do so. The interests of justice include compliance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protect an individual’s right to respect for their private and family life. Accordingly, the Committee agreed that any references to Mr Bagnall’s health and private life would be dealt with in private in order to protect his private life and any reference to such matters in this determination would be marked private.

3. The Original Hearing

3.1 The Disciplinary Committee heard the original case against Mr Bagnall from 30 October - 1 November 2023. The case against Mr Bagnall related to his use of unnecessary force towards a horse, S, by punching and kicking S.

3.2 The Charge Mr Bagnall faced was:

That, being registered under the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 (as amended) (“the Act”), you:

1. *On 8 October 2022, having attended an appointment at an address in Coventry to trim horses belonging to Ms. DD, used unnecessary force towards a horse named S, more particularly by punching and/or kicking S;*

And that in relation to the facts alleged above, whether individually or in any combination, you are guilty of serious misconduct in a professional respect.”

3.3 Mr Bagnall denied the Charge.

3.4 The Council called evidence from DD, the owner of the horse, together with DD's daughter SD (who was thirteen at the time of the incident) and DD's husband, RD. It also heard the agreed statement of a veterinary surgeon. Mr Bagnall also gave evidence.

3.5 The Committee found the facts proved with regards to both kicking and punching the horse. The Committee stated:

Taking into account these pieces of undisputed contemporaneous evidence, and the evidence given by both Mrs. DD and Ms. SD, the Committee is satisfied that the respondent did kick S and also punched her after he had kicked her. It rejects the implausible suggestion that Mrs. DD and her daughter have, because the respondent failed to complete the trimming for which he had been engaged, colluded to produce a fabricated account of these events.

There could be no justifiable reason for kicking and punching a pony in the circumstances described by Mrs. DD and Ms. SD. The Committee therefore finds that the respondent used unnecessary force towards S by punching and kicking her.”

3.6 The Disciplinary Committee went on to determine that these facts amounted to serious misconduct in a professional respect, stating:

“The Committee reminded itself that the Code, at paragraph 24, makes clear that a farrier faced with a difficult horse should not commence or proceed with the farriery. It is not the function of a farrier to dominate and punish the horse to allow farriery to take place.

In the Committee's judgment the respondent had sought to dominate the horse by repeated kicks and punches. The Committee accepted [Counsel for the FRC]'s description of the kicks and punches administered as punitive and retributive. The pony was injured.

A significant feature of the case was that this behaviour took place in the presence of a 13-year-old child, as well as the owner of the pony. It was conduct liable to cause serious damage to the reputation of the profession.

The Committee concluded that the facts found proved clearly amounted to serious misconduct in a professional respect. It reached this decision independently of the existence of a previous severe reprimand.”

3.7 The reference to the previous matter was to the fact that, on 12 October 2000, the Disciplinary Committee had found Mr Bagnall guilty of serious misconduct in a professional respect with regards to a similar incident, and had imposed a severe reprimand. Counsel for the FRC in October 2023 explained that, with regards to the previous finding:

“... the charge arose from events on 4 April 2000 at a yard in Birmingham and a horse called Champ. [The Applicant] became angry with the horse. He used unnecessary and inappropriate force against him, which consisted of kicking the horse several times in the area of its girth and hitting it with [his] hand around its head. There was then some bad language and then he effectively left the horse without being fully dressed.”

3.8 At the sanction stage in October 2023, the Committee said:

The Committee concludes that the only proportionate sanction in this case is that of removal from the register. The deliberate causing of injury by repeated kicks and punches to a tethered horse requires this sanction, notwithstanding the inevitable serious impact that such a sanction is likely to have upon

the respondent. The Committee concludes that this is the only sanction which will properly satisfy the public interest. Although the Committee is bound to regard the previous warning as an aggravating factor, the Committee would have concluded that removal from the register was appropriate even in the absence of the previous warning in view of the punitive and retributive nature of the kicks and punches and the presence of a child at the time.

The Committee determined that it was appropriate to issue a direction under section 15 (7) of the Farriers Registration Act 1975 (as amended). The consequence of this direction is that the respondent shall not be entitled to apply to be registered in the register again until 12 months have elapsed from the date of today's direction."

- 3.9 Mr Bagnall appealed against the Committee's decision and the direction for his removal was suspended pending the outcome of the appeal. On 17 July 2024, the appeal was heard by Eyre J in the High Court. On 31 July 2024, the High Court handed down judgment, dismissing the appeal. Mr Bagnall's name was therefore removed from the register on 31 July 2024.
- 3.10 Mr Bagnall subsequently applied for restoration by way of a completed application form, dated 25 July 2025, and submitted at the beginning of August.

4. Summary of the Council's submissions in connection with this application

- 4.1 These are set out in the written submissions for the Council in respect of this application. The Committee took into account the oral and written submissions and all the information within the Council's bundle.
- 4.2 Miss Curtis on behalf of the Council, drew the Committee's attention to the underlying facts relating to the case and the seriousness of the matters found proved. She said that the Council was neutral on the application by Mr Bagnall to be restored to the Register. Miss Curtis invited the Committee to consider the factors set out in her written submissions when deciding whether Mr Bagnall was fit to be returned to the Register.

5. Summary of Mr Bagnall's evidence and submissions in connection with this application

- 5.1 With his application form, Mr Bagnall provided the following documents for the Committee to take into account:
- a list of character references' names
 - a letter from Mr Bagnall
 - [redacted]
 - a copy of a letter from an [redacted]
 - Continuing Professional Development (CPD) evidence for 2024
 - CPD evidence for 2025
 - a financial agreement between RH, JC, and WB
 - letters from JC and RH confirming assisting Mr Bagnall
 - 84 character references
- 5.2 In answer to the question on the application form "*What are your reasons for seeking restoration to the Register of Farriers?*", Mr Bagnall wrote:

"I am looking to get back onto the Farriery register as this is the only job I've ever known, and it is my life. After being removed from the register 12 months ago, I've been broken as a man. It has been the worst experience of my life. Every single day since being removed has hurt me. As you will see reading through my letter I have added to this application, I need to get back to doing what is my life and not just a job.

I also need to get back to doing farriery as financially, I am leaning of family members to help pay for day to day things, as well as relying on a couple of farriers to help keep my business running." [sic]

- 5.3 Mr Bagnall went on to say in his application form that since being removed from the register he has kept up with his CPD. He added that he has kept up with bare foot trimming on all his horses and ponies that do not have shoes, and he has picked up a new job trimming some pet sheep. Mr Bagnall also said that after being removed from the register he went to see a counsellor who offered [redacted]. Mr Bagnall said, *"I was pleased I went to see her, as I need to prove to you, (the FRC), that there is never any intention to hurt or injury any horses or ponies I will be working on in the future."* [sic] Mr Bagnall stressed that he has not performed any farriery whilst off the register.
- 5.4 In his letter to the Committee, Mr Bagnall referred to the way his world had fallen apart after being removed from the register. He added that he completely understood why the FRC had carried out a full investigation of the complaint about him.
- 5.5 Mr Bagnall said that after being removed from the register his world collapsed around him, [redacted]. He said he has been a farrier since the day he left school, and he has no other skills to earn money. [redacted] farriery was a job he found easy, and it is all he has ever known. He now feels empty with no sense of direction.
- 5.6 Mr Bagnall referred to farrier friends who have helped him out and worked for him free of charge, but he needs to pay them back once back on the register. Inevitably a percentage of his work has gone to other farriers as his friends could not cover all of his work and their own. Mr Bagnall said he was able to stay in touch with many of his clients by doing trimming work and the feedback he gets is that they want him to return to him as soon as he is back on the register.
- 5.7 Mr Bagnall said he was committed to getting back on the register and he had continued to complete his CPD, pointing out that since coming off the register his CPD has not been from a practical point of view of farriery. He attached a folder containing all his CPD. He also referred to an [redacted] session he had attended and included a report from the counsellor. Mr Bagnall said he had been very surprised by how many people had been happy to say positive and kind things about his farriery in the many testimonials he had been able to obtain, saying how he had shod for some of them for over 20 years.
- 5.8 The Committee was also provided with a letter from the [redacted], who specialises in trauma-informed therapies, working with individuals across a range of emotional and psychological challenges, including anxiety, grief, loss, and emotional regulation. She said that Mr Bagnall approached her to discuss a situation in which he had been wrongly accused. She said she found Mr Bagnall to be *"sincere, articulate and emotionally self-aware. He demonstrated a strong capacity for self-reflection and was open and honest in the way he explored difficult emotions and life circumstances. In discussing events that could have understandably provoked emotional or angry responses, Andrew instead showed a calm and thoughtful nature. His ability to remain grounded and composed, even when reflecting on painful or unjust situations, spoke volumes about his character."*
- 5.9 The counsellor went on to say, *"From a professional perspective, I observed no signs of [redacted] issues, nor any indication that Andrew struggles to identify or regulate his emotions particularly those linked to frustration or anger. On the contrary, he showed empathy, maturity, and a genuine desire to understand himself more deeply."* She concluded, *"It is my professional opinion that Andrew presents as a person of integrity and emotional resilience. Based on my observations, the situation he described does not align with the calm, respectful, and emotionally intelligent individual I encountered."*

- 5.10 Two farriers, RH and JC, provided statements confirming that whilst Mr Bagnall has been off the register they have been helping him out with his farriery work to help keep his business going, so that Mr Bagnall only does work that does not require him to be registered. The arrangement being that Mr Bagnall would pay them back once back on the register.
- 5.11 Mr Bagnall provided an exceptional number of very positive character references. Two referees attended the hearing and gave oral evidence in support of Mr Bagnall's application to be restored to the register.
- 5.12 The Committee heard from Mrs C, JP. She has known Mr Bagnall for over 30 years, originally as a farrier's apprentice, then as a qualified farrier. She said that Mr Bagnall had been treating her horses that entire time with dedication, care, compassion, and expertise. Mrs C told the Committee, *"I have never had any concerns regards Andy's handling of my horses, even when dealing with a very nervous, excitable rescue pony, two and three year old colts and an aged arthritic mare."* Mrs C said that Mr Bagnall had continued to come to her property following his removal from the register and had trimmed the feet of her two unshod ponies. He had also been very helpful in arranging for another farrier to shoe her daughter's pony. Mrs C said Mr Bagnall's help had been extremely beneficial as her daughter's pony received injuries to the deep digital flexor tendons on both forelegs and Mr Bagnall's advice and expertise had been invaluable in explaining the need for specialised shoeing and in interpreting the MRI scans.
- 5.13 Mrs C told the Committee that it was apparent to her that the removal from the register had *"a huge effect"* on Mr Bagnall. She said how despondent he was initially, but she was extremely impressed by his resilience and determination to continue to do his best for the horses under his care. This was despite what has, she said, *"inevitably been a period of considerable financial hardship for both himself and his family."* Mrs C said Mr Bagnall had been steadfast over the last year in his determination to do everything necessary in order to apply to be reinstated to the register. She said she fully supported and endorsed Mr Bagnall's application to be reinstated, adding *"He does so much good work for so many people, and I offer my support without hesitation."*
- 5.14 The Committee also heard from Mr C. He said Mr Bagnall had been the farrier at their stud for over 20 years, having been highly recommended by their vet. He said Mr Bagnall was the best farrier they had had at the stud, which has been in existence for some 50 years. He described Mr Bagnall as very professional and that his communication skills, demeanour, and the quality of his work were *"beyond reproach."* Mr C said Mr Bagnall was very sympathetic towards shoeing their stock and the time he takes to carry it out, taking a lot of pride in his work. He said he had never seen Mr Bagnall lose his temper with any of their animals and thus he was *"beyond flabbergasted"* when told about what had happened. He said that was not the man he had got to know over many years. Mr C said he knew Mr Bagnall had reflected on what had happened and he hoped the Committee would be able to give him his life back and let him carry on *"doing the job he loves to do, for him and his family and his many clients."*
- 5.15 One of his referees, a Veterinary surgeon, and Associate Professor in Equine Practice and formally a clinical director at an Equine Hospital, regularly assesses the EndPoint Assessment for the Farriery Apprenticeship on behalf of VetSkill and prior to that the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers. He has known Mr Bagnall for at least 20 years and they have many mutual clients. He said:

"I have always found Mr Bagnall to be highly professional and never heard of any concerns being expressed about him. I have read the decision of the FRC disciplinary committee and understand from it that this was a very serious matter. I also appreciate that the decision has been confirmed on appeal by the High Court. However, the character displayed in the reports of the incident are entirely at odds with the Mr Bagnall I have encountered and worked with. I can therefore only assume that this was aberrant behaviour brought on by the severe pain of being bitten which although entirely unacceptable does not reflect Mr Bagnall's true nature and character."

During his removal from the register, I know that he has behaved very professionally and arranged alternate farriery services for his clients.

There is a shortage of farriers in Staffordshire, and I know that clients would like to be able to retain Mr Bagnall as a farrier again. The fact they want to use Mr Bagnall's undoubted skills to shoe their horses reflects well on their confidence in his professionalism and behaviour. In my view it is strongly in the public interest for Mr A Bagnall to be restored to the register."

- 5.16 The Clinical Director at Pool House Equine Hospital has known Mr Bagnall since 2001. He said he was aware that Mr Bagnall had been removed from the register and the reasons for it. He said:

"I have always found Mr Bagnall to be a highly professional and caring individual with a high regard for equine welfare. I can only imagine that the offence that has caused him to be removed from the register was a momentary lapse brought on by the stress of the situation as it is in my opinion totally out of character for Mr Bagnall.

Mr Bagnall is (was) a highly respected farrier in this area and I know other farriers regard him very highly. Obviously, we have many mutual clients, and I know that they would like to be able to retain his services as a farrier again.

In my view it would be very much in the public interest and serve equine welfare needs for Mr Bagnall to be restored to the Farriers Register and help with the shortage of farriers in Staffordshire. I know that this has been a very salutary exercise for him and that he has developed considerable insight as a result."

- 5.17 There was a wealth of further testimonials, some 84 in total, written in a similar vein, referring to Mr Bagnall as an 'exceptional' farrier and attesting to his high quality work, professionalism and passion for animal care and hoof management. Reference is also made to his thorough understanding of equine health, attention to detail and a caring attitude to both clients and their animals. The authors included many Veterinary Surgeons and horse owners, who have found Mr Bagnall to be patient and considerate, especially when trimming tricky or nervous horses and ponies. Indeed, many owners make particular reference to challenging horses they have, and how often it was Mr Bagnall who was the only farrier ever to have gained their horse's trust, saying he was always patient and never got angry. Many spoke of how surprised they were of the charges Mr Bagnall faced and how they did not align with the person they knew, it being completely out of character for the person they had known for many years.
- 5.18 Mr Bagnall is spoken of as an "asset to the farrier community", someone who provides exemplary care to horses and someone they would like to see reinstated "so that he can get on with the job that he excels in". One horse owner who has known and used Mr Bagnall for over 22 years said she had "never witnessed maltreatment of a horse whilst Andrew has been my farrier, towards any horse, even when a horse's behaviour has been challenging. He has always been approachable, polite, punctual, and professional and acted in the best interests of my horses." This was a common theme with many clients who had used Mr Bagnall's services for many years. Scores of them comment on how Mr Bagnall had gone out of his way since being removed from the register to ensure reliable farriers were available to do his work to ensure continuity of care for the welfare of their horses.

- 5.19 Mr Bagnall provided oral submissions to the Committee. He said:

"Since being removed from the register, I've had 12 months to reflect on the events that got me to this situation. I can understand why the decision was made to remove me from the register. On reflection, I understand the actions I have been found guilty of were unprofessional and not a good reflection of the profession. So, I can prove to you that this will never happen again, I've been to seek help from an [redacted], to see if there are any areas I can improve on myself. [redacted].

I understand why you carried out a full investigation, and I can understand the reasons for being removed from the register. It did take me some time to understand, but the time I've been away from shoeing horses has given me enough time to reflect on the actions I was found guilty of.

I've been attending shoeing appointments with my farrier friends, so I can assist them with horses that are my clients. My clients have been very happy that I attended so as their horse can be shod in the same way as I'd been doing them myself up until removal from the register. [redacted].

Should you allow me back on the register, I can 100% assure you, I will never be back in this position again. It has been the worst 12 months of my life, with not only, not been able to work, but some very personal issues too. [redacted].

[redacted].

I've also kept up with my CPD points as I'm still so very interested in the job, having gained 15.5 points in 2024 and 8.5 so far in 2025. I've completed 1 more point since sending my application in.

Since being removed from the register, I've kept my professional conduct to the maximum. I've still been on the phone or in person to clients to aid problems that may have arisen. I've attended appointments to meet vets and gone to the vet practices in some cases to meet clients there. I've been very transparent to all of my clients as to why I can't shoe at the moment. It has been a struggle at times to work out the logistics of the 'diary,' but with the help of friends, I just about managed to look after a percentage of my work.

I've been lucky with the lads that have helped me as I've not paid them yet. I spoke to them, and they have been very understanding about my situation, realising I have a mortgage to pay. Again, it's been a struggle to keep up to date with bills when I'm not up to 100% capacity shoeing 5 days a week. I am currently in some debt. [redacted]

I've struggled with been removed from the register. I realise that I must have a very close look at horses I will be working with in the future, and only shoe them if I know them to be very easy to handle. While I've not been shoeing for the last 12 months, I've refused to trim several horses until they can be sedated either by the client or a vet so that the horse has good experiences to encourage the horse that each visit from the farrier is a positive experience." [sic]

- 5.20 Having read his submissions, Mr Bagnall was asked a number of questions by the Committee. When asked what he had learned from the experience, he said that he had had time to reflect and he accepted his conduct was not acceptable and will have affected DD, SD and S, the pony. He said he had been trying to do his utmost to conduct himself in the absolutely best way that he could. He said he has still been going out and helping other farriers and doing his best to be professional. Mr Bagnall referred to the "big learning curve" over the last 12 months and that he realised "things can change in the flick of a switch" and he was trying to be a better person. He said the whole incident had "rocked" him. He understood the role of the FRC and why he ended up where he has. He added, "I totally understand that what I did was very unprofessional and I understand why I was removed from the register."
- 5.21 Mr Bagnall referred to being in denial for some time and that was why, following legal advice from his legal representative, he appealed the decision. He said it took a while for it all to "sink in" and for him to be able to accept it, which he now does, saying "I realise what I was found guilty of was totally wrong and utterly inexcusable." He regretted his actions and the upset caused to DD and SD, which "hangs heavy" on him. He spoke about wanting to send them a letter to apologise.
- 5.22 Mr Bagnall said he would never be in this position again and he gave a number of examples of how he has subsequently dealt with challenging horses, ponies, and a donkey since being off the register, but carrying out trimming work. Mr Bagnall said he made it clear to the owners that either the animal is sedated, or they would have to find someone else to carry out the work. He realised this could lose him work, but he said he was not prepared to work on unsedated, difficult animals. Going forward he now "vets new clients beyond belief" and is looking through his diary to see which horses to remove as he is "not prepared to get under horses that I think could endanger me or the horse themselves."

6. The Committee's decision

6.1 The Committee noted that the burden of proof is on Mr Bagnall to satisfy the Committee that he is fit to be restored to the Register. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor. It took into account all the material provided, the oral evidence of Mrs C and Mr C and the submissions made by the parties.

6.2 The Committee was particularly struck by the evidence of Mr Bagnall. He did not have the benefit of legal representation, yet spoke with a sincerity and genuineness that came from the heart. Indeed, it was his oral submissions that had the greatest impact on the decision reached by the Committee. Before his submissions, the impression given by the material he had provided was that he did not accept the findings of the original Committee and was only concerned with the impact on himself of his removal from the register. That impression changed markedly following his oral submissions. He candidly stated that he was not a public speaker and admitted that he had been in denial after the original findings and that was why he had appealed the decision. It was also why he told the [redacted] that he had been wrongly accused. He accepted what he had done and that it was "*utterly inexcusable*." He spoke of the impact on the client, her daughter, and the pony itself.

6.3 The Committee considered the factors referred to by Miss Curtis and the Legal Assessor that may be relevant to an application for restoration, namely:

- The seriousness of the findings of the Committee at the original Inquiry Hearing;
- The time period directed by the Committee before an application may be made (bearing in mind that there is no automatic right to restoration after that period);
- Whether the Applicant accepts the original findings;
- The length of time off the Register;
- The reputation of the profession and maintenance of public confidence in the profession;
- Efforts by the Applicant to keep up to date in terms of knowledge and skills since removal from the Register (accepting that he must not practise as a farrier);
- The Applicant's conduct since removal from the Register;
- The impact on the Applicant of having his name removed from the Register;
- Any public support for the Applicant.

6.4 The seriousness of the findings of the Committee at the original Inquiry Hearing

There is no doubting the seriousness of the findings of the Committee at the original Inquiry Hearing. Animal welfare is paramount in the farriery profession and must always be put first. This Mr Bagnall failed to do. He kicked and hit S, the pony, all in the presence of his female client and her young daughter. The seriousness of Mr Bagnall's overall conduct was reflected in the sanction of removal from the register and the period of twelve months stipulated before he could apply to return.

6.5 The time period directed by the Committee before an application may be made (bearing in mind that there is no automatic right to restoration after that period)

The Committee directed a time period of twelve months. The Committee considered that had been sufficient time for Mr Bagnall to be able to demonstrate that he is now better able to understand and control challenging animals and thereby avoid a repetition of such behaviour. The Committee considered Mr Bagnall had put his time to good use to better himself over the last 14 months by keeping up with his

CPD, seeking the assistance of an [redacted], and coming up with coping strategies to deal with challenging animals.

6.6 Whether the Applicant accepts the original findings

Up until he addressed the Committee, the impression given was that Mr Bagnall did not accept the original findings of the Disciplinary Committee in 2023. However, that changed when he made his oral submissions and answered questions by the Committee. As referred to above, Mr Bagnall candidly accepted that he had been in denial, but that he does accept the original findings and that his actions were “*utterly inexcusable.*”

6.7 The length of time off the Register

Mr Bagnall has been off the Register for over 14 months. The Committee that ordered he be removed considered a minimum of twelve months was required. That has clearly been surpassed. He had used the time constructively and the Committee did not consider this application to be premature. The Committee was satisfied that a fully informed member of the public would be satisfied that the timing of this application was appropriate.

6.8 The reputation of the profession and maintenance of public confidence in the profession

This is central to the issues in question, since there is no doubt that Mr Bagnall’s appalling behaviour damaged the profession and public confidence in the profession. That behaviour has been marked by being removed from the register and the Committee that removed him considered twelve months was required before Mr Bagnall could apply to be returned to the register. He has now been off the register for 14 months and, in the Committee’s view, in light of all he has done during that period, this would satisfy the public interest in this case and the public would be in favour of returning an otherwise extremely competent farrier, who has clearly matured, demonstrated insight and is spoken of so highly by his many clients. Indeed, this sentiment was expressed by many of those that provided testimonials in support of his application to be restored.

6.9 Efforts by the Applicant to keep up to date in terms of knowledge and skills since removal from the Register (accepting that he must not practise as a farrier)

Mr Bagnall has been able to maintain his extensive knowledge and skills as a farrier by working closely with other farriers and his clients, but with him in a role that does not require registration. Together with his farrier friends, Mr Bagnall has been able to keep his business going, although he is now financially indebted to those friends and will have to repay them if he is allowed back onto the register. Mr Bagnall has also carried out relevant CPD. The Committee was impressed by the materials that he provided for this hearing, and it was apparent that Mr Bagnall had given a great deal of thought and time into compiling them. His CPD reflection showed some characterful thought and careful analysis of the incidents he was commenting on, together with an in-depth knowledge of farriery.

6.10 The Applicant's conduct since removal from the Register

In the Committee’s view, Mr Bagnall would appear to have behaved entirely professionally since his removal from the register, as commented on by many of the referees. He has remained working with horses carrying out work that does not require registration. He has behaved responsibly by using farrier friends of his (and his son once he qualified as a farrier) and continuing, thereby, to service his many long-standing clients, making the continuity of care and welfare of his clients’ horses a priority. He has also taken the time to reflect on his behaviour, made efforts to understand what went wrong and what he must do to prevent a similar occurrence. He has also, at his own expense, sought [redacted].

6.11 The impact on the Applicant of having his name removed from the Register

The impact has clearly been significant, affecting not just Mr Bagnall professionally, [redacted] and financially, but also his partner and his son, who has himself recently qualified as a farrier. Being

removed from the register has had a devastating effect on Mr Bagnall for whom being a farrier is his life. It has affected his self-confidence [redacted] and felt that his world has collapsed. He has expressed remorse for his actions and is clearly ashamed (and rightly so) for the atrocious way he behaved that day. He has without doubt learnt a very salutary lesson and the Committee was satisfied that the likelihood of him repeating such behaviour was vanishingly small. The Committee is satisfied that he now recognises and understands what it is to be in a profession, and the privileged position farriers hold.

6.12 Any public support for the Applicant

There is clearly significant public support for Mr Bagnall. He has provided a substantial number of references from Veterinary Surgeons and longstanding clients who think most highly of him as a farrier and as an individual. They are aware of what Mr Bagnall did and speak about it being out of character and not representative of the Mr Bagnall that they know. The picture they portray of a dedicated, highly skilled, patient, polite and courteous farrier are somewhat at odds with his behaviour in October 2022, leading the Committee to conclude that what he did that day might indeed appear to be out of character, were it not for the fact that he received a severe reprimand from the Disciplinary Committee for very similar behaviour in April 2000. However, it was important to maintain a sense of proportion and the incident in 2000 was now over 25 years ago and it could not be said, in the Committee's view, that this was evidence of a pattern of behaviour. Furthermore, the Committee could not ignore the significant public support Mr Bagnall enjoys and the wishes of so many people that he be reinstated. Rarely has the Committee seen such overwhelming support for a farrier to be reinstated. He has clearly matured, and the Committee thought it highly unlikely he would behave in that way again.

6.13 In conclusion, the Committee is satisfied that Mr Bagnall has done everything that could be required of him in order to be able to satisfy the Committee that he is fit to be restored to the Register, indeed it was hard to imagine what more he could have done, beyond evidencing his insight earlier on. He has now shown insight into his offending behaviour. He has been proactive in his rehabilitation and taken significant steps to ensure there would be no repetition. He has demonstrated humility and provided reassurance that it would not be repeated. He is clearly passionate about the profession and the welfare of horses, and his expertise is reflected in the many glowing testimonials. He has worked hard at maintaining his skills and knowledge, in so far as he has been able to in light of not being able to practise as a farrier. He has clearly matured as a person, and the risk of repetition is very low. His responses to Committee questions about his behaviour were appropriate and persuasive. He has expressed genuine remorse and there is, in the Committee's view, a public interest in allowing him to be restored to the Register.

6.14 For all these reasons the Committee considered Mr Bagnall had earned the right to once again practise as a farrier and his application to be restored to the register is allowed.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

9 October 2025