



## SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY

### MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE SHOEING STANDARDS FOR SHIRE HORSES

This document has been produced with the cooperation of The Worshipful Company of Farriers, The Farriers Registration Council, The RSPCA, the Society's Honorary Farrier, Mr Stephen Gowing AWCF and the Society's Honorary Vet, Ben Ryder-Davies BSc BVM&S MRCVS.

This document highlights the importance of a well-balanced foot and minimum acceptable shoeing practices for the welfare of the Shire Horse.

**Owners are reminded that only registered farriers, enrolled farriery apprentices, veterinary surgeons and veterinary students may carry out farriery in Great Britain. This is set out in the Farriers Registration Act 1975 (as amended 2017).**

To check if your farrier is registered or for any other information about registration of farriers please visit the website of the Farriers Registration Council at [www.farrierreg.gov.uk/find-a-farrier](http://www.farrierreg.gov.uk/find-a-farrier)

At the Spring Show exhibits will have their feet inspected by a farrier. The inspecting farrier will watch the horses move away from them in the collecting ring and will have sanction by the Society to lift horses' feet if considered necessary.

**Any horse which does not comply with the standards set in this document will not be allowed to be exhibited at the Show. Horses may also be inspected at other affiliated shows.**

## **WELL BALANCED FOOT.**

The correctly trimmed foot should allow normal frog pressure. This facilitates the absorption and distribution of concussion, thus minimising fatigue and wear to the bones, joints and ligaments. The feet should be trimmed to suit the configuration of the leg and excessive flairs removed.

Both front and hind feet should be well balanced and trimmed to a natural shape without distortion.

A correctly balanced foot is one which when viewed from the side has a toe of the correct length and heels of correct height.

When viewed from the front, there should be no flaring of the hoof walls, the foot should appear symmetrical and the centre of the ground surface of the foot should ideally lie under the load bearing line of the limb. When viewed from underneath, the foot should appear symmetrical in shape.

## **UNBALANCED OR OVERLONG FEET**

An unbalanced or overlong foot can lead to:-

- Tearing of the laminae which attach the wall of the hoof to the pedal bone resulting in separation of the white line or laminitis.
- Excessive and uneven wear on the bones and joints resulting in sidebone and arthritis (ringbone).
- Excessive strain on the flexor tendons and suspensory apparatus of the fetlock joint.
- Arthritis (bone spavin) may form in the hocks as a result of hind shoes fitted with a single caulkin.
- Corns or collapsed and bruised heels.
- Tripping and stumbling.

**Anything deemed to compromise the welfare of the animal is not negotiable.**

## **SHOES**

- Shoes must be fitted to the circumference of the foot and give maximum support at the heels.
- Hind shoes should be fitted to the correctly trimmed foot with an outside heel which could be thickened to no more than half of the material of the original shoe. The inside branch of the shoe should support the full heel and cover the whole ground bearing surface.
- The clips should be broad. The base and height of the clip should be relative to the width of the shoe.
- Clenches should be of even height, a third of the way up the wall.
- Bevelling is not essential but if bevelled should follow the contour of the foot wall. Excessive bevelling can lead to injury e.g. brushing and ring bone.
- Shoes should fit the whole foot and be balanced.
- Single caulkins are not permissible.
- Three quarter shoes are not permissible.
- Additional outer ridges on outer branches of shoes are not permissible.



It should be noted that horses do not have to be shod for showing purposes. A well balanced un-shod foot is shown below. Images kindly supplied by Roger Clark.



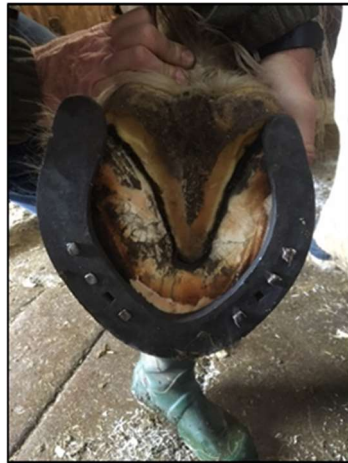
Below are some images of examples of shoeing that are considered to be demonstrate acceptable shoeing practices. It should be noted that the images are not exhaustive.

### **Best Shod Champion Spring Show 2017**

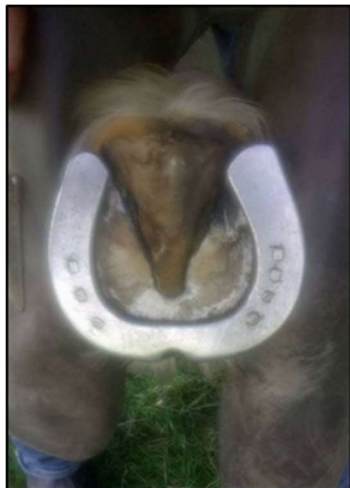
Photos showing the Best Shod champion at the National Show in 2017 are attached below:-



The images below have been sent to the Society by Council member; F M Richardson of Bewholme Moonlight Serenade (5<sup>th</sup> HOYS 2017). The work is by Gary Lazenby Dip WCF.



An example below shows what the Society's Editing Committee consider to be a balanced foot, with an acceptable shoeing practice. It is noted that these may not win a farriery competition, but are not considered detrimental to the movement or joints of the horse. (Farrier in both cases below: Mr P Woof DipWCF)





The Shire Horse Society Editing and Training Committee have reviewed this document alongside a number of images of shoeing. **Below are images of shoeing that the Editing Committee unanimously agreed were incorrect and potentially harmful to the horse:**



1. Hind shoe with single caulkin and additional outer ridge. The front shoe has a double caulkin which may cause joint damage.



2. Note that the inside heel is not covered and a single caulkin is present. The clip is significantly misaligned with the frog and the foot is asymmetrical in shape.



3. The foot is overgrown and asymmetrical in shape. A single caulkin is present and the inside heel is not covered by the shoe.

