International Farriery Contest 11 & 12 May 2018
Association Steel Horse, 63220 Doranges, France

Presentation of the Municipality of Doranges

Situated in Auvergne, in the heart of the Livradois-Forez Regional Natural Park, on the Monts du Livradois, Doranges (63220) is a small rural village: situated at an average altitude of 1000 m above sea level.

Geographical location

Through its activity, the Steel Horse association, allows us to energize the sector and to make Doranges known on a national or even international level!

What's a farriery contest?

Competitions seen by professionals

A competition allows everyone to compete against each other in forging and ironing tests, but this is not the only interest for the profession.

Opportunities for exchanges between professionals are rare in the daily practice of the farrier's trade. The contests offer them the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas.

Farriers exchange their methods and know-how with each other. The youngest learn from the oldest, new techniques are introduced...

Categories present on the contests

The farriers registered in a farriery competition fall into four different categories:

**Novice**: beginners in competitions, who discover the stress of competition, how to manage it, and how to work in a limited time.

**Intermediate**: former novices, who won a competition during the previous season, or who finished in the top three at the French Novice Championship. The times decrease, the level increases, and the participants sharpen by forging more complicated irons than in novice.

**Open**: The elite, like the intermediaries, have already won several games. It is in this category that the places in the French team are played to participate in the European and World Championship.

**Veteran**: professionals with many years of experience.
Conduct of a competition test

Each event is run in the same way:

The competitor has a piece of land (iron bar) and must give it a precise shape while respecting the given dimensions in a limited time. For the shoeing event, he must also place the shoe on a horse's foot.

Prepared Open event - Duration: 45 mn

dimensions are given here in inches

Horseshoe 1: Hind Morgan-Style
piece: 11 1/2” of 1x3/8
Nails: E4 slim Mustad – rasp finish

Horseshoe 2: Egg Bar
piece: 3/4 x 3/8 x .......
6 stamps – Nails: E3 slim

As soon as the time is up, the shoes are retrieved and identified by an anonymous number. Judges evaluate them according to specific criteria and give a score. At the end of the events, the total points obtained will be used to rank the competitors.

All the competitors are farriery professionals

General presentation of the Doranges competition

In a few words, the farriery competition of Doranges, is an international contest (important for the championship of France) bringing together ferrous farriers from all over France and the different countries of Europe.

Each year, for two days, up to sixty rail farriers have already participated from 2012 to 2016 in the Doranges competitions in four different categories: Novice, Intermediate, Open and Veteran.

Competitors may train to shoe draught horses during a forged iron shoeing event, accompanied by a surprise specimen that is only revealed at the last minute. This type of event is unique in France because it concerns draught horses. Then, they perform the forging of two shoes during a blacksmith's test prepared in a given time, which varies according to the category.

All forged shoes during these events are removable. Some of them are orthopedic and are intended for particular pathologies of the horse's foot. Others are intended for horses performing special tasks.
History of the Marshallery

The Marshallery in the past

The farrier is a craftsman whose job consists in shoeing the feet of horses and other ungulates and taking care of their trimming. Tractor cattle are nowadays rarely used for shoeing draught cattle. It's a profession over 3,000 years old.

The term "marshal" comes from the ancient Frenchman Marhsalkalk, who comes from the common Germanic "markhaz", himself from the Celtic "markh" (horse), and the Germanic "skalkaz "servant", literally: the servant in charge of caring for horses, who designated a servant who cared for the horses. (then appointing the commander of an army of horsemen in the twelfth century)

In the Middle Ages, the knight himself had to be able to heal and shoe his horse and did not employ a specialist: it was only when the use of the fitting spread that the profession of farrier as we know it appeared.

In the 12th century, the title of Marshal refers to certain officers attached to the royal stables and, in the next, the Prévôt de Paris Etienne Boyleau points out in his Livre des Métiers that " mareschaux, vrilliers, heaumiers et cosiers form a single trade, that of the fèvres-maréschaux ".

In the 17th century, his trade was clearly separated from that of the blacksmith: he had the right to serve as an intermediary in the sale of horses and to care for them, by royal gift in 1649, thus becoming the true ancestor of the veterinarian.

The Marshalry Today

There are now about 3,200 farriers/marshals and 1,200 apprentices in France compared to 5,000 farriers/marshals in the 1950s in the Paris region.

In the past, the owner of a horse used to take him to the farrier. Nowadays, the latter travels to the workplace and has all the necessary tools in a van: irons, gas oven, buckets, halters, aprons, hammers and other tools...

The farrier himself no longer forges horseshoes, with the notable exception of those of the Republican Guard and orthopaedic irons adapted to particular pathologies.

A farrier may work as an employee or as a self-employed craftsman. He usually earns a good living, but only if he does not count his hours and effort. The profession is considered to be used over time because of the uncomfortable position it imposes. As a result, most farrier marshals convert after twenty years of service.

The veterinarian takes care of the horse as a whole and the marshal takes care of the horse's feet and everything related to the feet.

The qualities of the Farrier

To be a good ironing marshal,

It is necessary to know the particular anatomy of the horse, its limbs and feet, the "plumbing defects", as well as the different causes of lameness and to learn how to parry the foot or hoof.

It is necessary to learn how to forge, because if a farrier rarely forges the irons he uses, you must always "turn"or adjust the irons to the shape of the horse's feet. In orthopaedics, it is often necessary to manufacture irons that the pathology requires and which are not necessarily commercially available and/or which are not available when the Marshal needs them.

You have to be patient and attentive in order to be able to handle horses. The farrier is often known for his ability to be respected by horses, using all possible soft methods or by binding himself to a veterinarian who will put the horse to sleep, only for extreme cases.

To have a good physical condition because the job requires a good physical resistance to hold the feet and work for long periods in knee position bent knees and curved back, difficulties accentuated with a horse uncooperative.

Finally, you must be available because, like veterinarians, a farrier is sometimes called upon for emergency situations, such as fourbures or abscesses, which require rapid intervention. This job requires solid knowledge, good manual skills, observation, reflection and availability.
Steel Horse Association presentation

STEEL HORSE is a non-profit making 1901 association. Its purpose is to:

- To promote professions related to the animal world;
- Organise and ensure the smooth running of any event related to the animal world.

It aims to energize our commune, our territory, our region, by setting up events and animations.

Created in 2013, at the initiative of Loïc Nignon, farrier in Doranges (63220), to ensure, among other things, the smooth running of the farriery competition. However, the association offers the possibility to organize other types of demonstrations around the animal world.

Who's our president?

Loïc NIGON, young farrier settled in Doranges (63220, France)

Its main activity is the trimming and shoeing of sport horses, reimming and full course of course, but also ponies, donkeys and draught horses.

In parallel, he has participated in numerous marshalling competitions since 2008, and has even been selected twice in France in 2010 and 2011, twice in France pro team in 2015 and 2017 for the Stoneleigh (UK) international European competition.

He is the 2012 intermediate champion of France and now competes in the top category (open).

He participates in the various competitions of the French championships on the national territory but also travels in Europe: Italy, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, England, Canada... Judge at the EPL Agro de Verdun competition in May 2015 and at Olgiate Molgora at Bassoli (supplier of Marshalerie), Italy in June 2015.

Evolution of the farriers competitions in Doranges

The first competition took place in 2012 under the aegis of ADM (Association pour le Développement de la Maréchalerie). It was a training competition in the French championship conditions. It brought together about fifteen marshals from all over France. The two judges were:

Ludovic Mathieu (Meurthe et Moselle)
- Professor at the École de Maréchalerie de Verdun
- 15 times French champion
- 20 times member of the French team
- European Champion
- 3rd at the World Championships

Gilles Sirieix (Haute-Loire)
- Professor of Marechalery at St Chely d’Apcher since the opening of the section until 2016.
- several times member of the French team

In 2013, Steel Horse was born and organized a national farriery competition. It was integrated into the French championships and brought together about thirty competitors. It also hosted the final of the French Cup intermediate category 2013. He was tried by:

Antoine Gomez (Cher)
- Intermediate French Champion 2010

Laurent Nizou (Cher)
- Marshal of France's most qualified marshal!
- Best Worker in France
- International judge (Belgium, Italy, France) for CAP, BTM and MOF.
- Member of the French team
In 2014, still part of the French championships, it opened up to international competition and welcomed competitors from Belgium, Italy and Spain. The tests were carried out with coal forges. What hadn't been seen in France for 20 years!

This competition was held in teams of 2, as in some international competitions. He was tried by:

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<tr>
<th>Jérôme Pettinato (Orne)</th>
<th>Yohann Policard (Loir et Cher)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Participates in many competitions in France and abroad</td>
<td>• Forge World Champion 2014</td>
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<td>• 3rd at the 2014 World Championships</td>
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<td>• European Champion at 21 years old</td>
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<td>• Winner of numerous marshal competitions</td>
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<td>• Winner of the Spring Games 2017</td>
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In 2015, the two judges came from Switzerland and Belgium respectively:

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<th>Philipp Bülher (Switzerland)</th>
<th>Alain Van Der Der Schueren (Belgium)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• 4 times Swiss champion,</td>
<td>• Professor at the Namur Field Marshal School,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3rd at the European Championships in</td>
<td>• former professor at the Royal School of</td>
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<td>Stoneleigh, UK in 2009,</td>
<td>Brussels,</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Member of the Swiss pro team at the World</td>
<td>• Mustad Belgium reseller.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Championships in Calgary (Canada) in 2012,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• International judge at Stoneleigh in 2013</td>
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This suggests that his fame has crossed borders. 50 marshals came to compete, about 4,000 visitors visited the site.

In 2016, our competition was judged by two women for the first time in France: Sarah Beane (Scotland) and Virginie Lamaille (Belgium) brought their experience and know-how to judge the tests of the 5th international marshalling competition of Doranges. This will be the first time that a competition has been judged by women in France!

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<th>Sarah Beane (Scotland):</th>
<th>Virginie Lamaille (Belgium):</th>
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<td>• apprentice at Derek Gardner AWCF in Penrith Cumbria.</td>
<td>• Marshal for 13 years in Belgium</td>
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<td>• qualified as a blacksmith in 2007</td>
<td>• Studied farriery at the Brussels school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• installed in Yorkshire since 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>• AWCF (Associate of the Worshipful Company of Farriers) in 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fellowship of The Worshipful Company of Farriers in 2015</td>
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<td>• It is the most popular competition in the world.</td>
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The 2016 competition was also the occasion to set up a "clinic" on the eve of the competition.

Indeed, a conference and debate "The Clinic" about the horse locomotion, intended for all professionals of the horse world (osteopaths, veterinarians, breeders, apprentices, students) was animated by Audrey Haslé, animal osteopath, Patrick Doffémont, farrier companion specialist in locomotion equine and Hélène Pasquet, veterinarian graduated in locomotion.

The program included a presentation of tendonitis, diagnosis and treatment, dissection of an anterior foot and a posterior foot with explanation of the low locomotion of the horse in the morning. A "Horse body paint" session with movement of the horse to explain the high locomotion of the horse came to complete this day in the afternoon.

The year 2017 was a year of reflection for the members of our association. A training camp, led by Mathieu Delcroix, reigning French champion, was nevertheless organised for fifteen marshals.

So far we have been able to maintain a balanced budget and make a small (sometimes minimal) profit, allowing us to invest moderately in future events.
Special feature of the Doranges competition

In addition to grouping the competitors by team, the Doranges competition has another special feature: the events are designed for draught horses, both in the forge events, where there are many heavy and difficult irons to make, as well as in shoeing events.

Organized over 2 days (Friday and Saturday), always at the beginning of May, at the same time as the spring market of the Commune which takes place on Saturday.

Animations such as horse-drawn carriage rides, ploughing, small animals farm, chainsaw sculpture, etc... are proposed near the competition. These animations become more and more numerous and varied over the years.

Since 2015, a garage sale has been running around the area surrounding the contest and on Saturdays, a link has been established between the spring market in the village and the competition site.

In 2016, the 2 days of tests on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 May will be preceded by a day called "the clinic" on Thursday 5 May where lectures-debates, in the morning, animated by: an equine dentist, a veterinarian, an osteopath equine and of course a farrier, will be followed in the afternoon by practical workshops.

Where do competitors come from?

From France:

Vosges, Jura, Vendée, Gard, Hérault, Pyrenees, Haute-Loire, Puy de Dôme, Loraine, Cher, Normandie, Rhône-Alpes, Bretagne,...

From abroad:

Great Britain, Belgium, Spain, Romania, Norway, Italy, Netherlands,...

Partners who are already following us:
The 2018 Contest

Why "grow up"?

In 2018, we have the opportunity to expand our event even further. In fact, the farriery competition of Doranges has the preference of the marshals in France. Its notoriety allows us to think about expanding and trying to rise to the height of "big" and beautiful contests such as those of Verdun (Meuse), Spring Games (Netherlands) Stoneleigh (UK) or Calgary (Canada). It would be the first international competition of this scope in France, which gives it a unique character and a certain originality.

Moreover, French marshals have been waiting for a long time for a big European competition in France. Until now they have been forced to move outside France. The cost of this trip and the competition being borne by the trainees and young French marshals, they have difficulty raising the necessary money and for the most part, they do not travel outside France.

Steel Horse's office moved to the other major contests to pick up ideas and ask for information in order to plan an optimal organization of this competition size.

This is why it seems likely that we will be able to gather 150 to 200 marshals and benefit from the support of at least 16 marshals suppliers spread across France, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, England and other European countries.

In parallel with the competition, we are planning to hold conferences and debates during the 2 days for professionals and enthusiasts. These conferences, grouped into "clinics", are a veritable showcase of the professions related to farriery and the equine world in general. They allow for an additional spread of the event and presage an impact on the whole territory. Participants in this type of meeting come from all the professions related to the equine world: marshals, osteopaths, veterinarians, breeders, owners, suppliers, breeders, etc.

To achieve this goal, we need to consider an appropriate infrastructure that requires additional costs and allows competitors and their professional sponsors to be grouped together in a single barnum. A surface area of 600 m² would be ideal to meet this need. This will not prevent the other merchants, craftsmen and animations from being present. The association of blacksmiths of the flight (43) already proposes us to mount around the event a medieval village in addition to the animations already existing the previous years.

We continue to think about this organization with the greatest possible care and to make many contacts both in the farriery world and outside.

This event, by its scale, would allow us to highlight our commune, our community of communes, our department and our region by an international influence by offering to each one a showcase unequalled until then on our territory.

In order to make this event a success, we need your financial support.

The association has always managed to balance its budgets (sometimes fairly evenly) thanks to subsidies and sponsorships. We are aware that without you the 2018 competition will not become a reality and will remain in the domain of utopia.

Our small town of Doranges can't better hope to open up to the outside world and gain in notoriety.

In terms of communication, we plan to distribute an advertising booklet (by ourselves and our professional sponsors). But also articles in the local, national and international press, radio spots, a facebook page and the updating of our website. Not forgetting the tourist offices, the sites of the town hall of Doranges, the Ambert Livradois-Forez Community of Municipalities, the Livradois-Forez Regional Natural Park and other local authorities and sponsors who will be happy to support us.

We thank you for your attention to our file and for the help you feel you can give us.

The STEEL HORSE association