

International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame (International) Nominees for 2020

Below you will find the list of candidates for the 2020 International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame (international nominees). The candidates are listed in alphabetical order and comments submitted about each can be found by clicking on the candidate's name. Please cast your vote by Sept. 21.

[Andrés Cánovas, Almeria, Spain](#)

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International Nominees

Andrés Cánovas, Almeria, Spain

Andrés Cánovas, Spanish by birth, began his farriery career in South Africa. For 25 years, he shod, leading local and international horses across the disciplines of showjumping, dressage, eventing and endurance. He worked closely with veterinarians, trained and mentored apprentices and serviced on the board of the original South African Farriers Association.

Cánovas returned to Spain to work in an area rich in history and horses. There, his practice grew to include champions of Spain and international competitors.

Today, he works closely with owners, trainers and veterinarians, with an emphasis on the fine-tuned maintenance of high-level sports horses. This includes collaboration with veterinarians in orthopedic and corrective work. Fluent in four language, Cánovas has traveled to other European countries to work with farriers on individual cases. He has also served as a farrier to two endurance teams at the FEI World Equestrian Games (Jerez 2002).

Cánovas has bred Purebred Spanish Horses (also known as PREs or Andalusians), has worked with them and has studied their particular tendencies over the years. The PRE is Spain's national breed. In recent years, these horses have gained worldwide attention due both to their beauty and their ability in dressage.

While he was working as a farrier, Cánovas attended Bible College, supported missionaries, went on mission trips to Africa, pastored churches and established a home for AIDS orphans. Now, at age 65, he is still shoeing and continues his pastoral work as a self-supporting missionary.

Endorsement:

“Andrés Cánovas has been the farrier of choice of many South African top show jumpers, dressage and event horses, including those belonging to our Olympic and international riders. He has worked extensively with many different veterinarians, undertaking complex, specialized treatment procedures relating to farriery, especially in the therapeutic and corrective fields.”

David Farmilo, Oakbank, South Australia

David Farmilo has spent more than 50 years in the horseshoeing industry. He has taught both public and private clinics in the U.S. and all over Australia. He also has made instructional DVDs and written books on horseshoeing and on a hoof reconstruction that resulted from a complicated case of seedy toe.

He has written articles on various subjects on horseshoeing in several magazines, including the *Australian Stock Horse Journal*, the SAMFA Newsletter, *American Farriers Journal*, the *European Farriers Journal*, the *Horse Report QLD* and *Hoof Beats WA*.

Farmilo has also been a guest speaker and educator at the Equitana Melbourne in 2002 and 2005 and The International Hoof-Care Summit in 2006 and 2008. David is a member of the AFBA, SAMFA, AFA and the FIA.

Farmilo invented the Hoofline, a measuring tool that accurately measures horses' hooves to ensure balance on any horse regardless of size or breed. The Hoofline was voted #6 in the top 35 innovations in the last 35 years by the *American Farriers Journal*.

Farmilo is an accredited master farrier and a Level IV trade assessor. He has spent 50 years of his life dedicated to the farrier trade both in his work and also in educating other people in the proper way to correctly balance horses' feet and shoe horses properly for soundness and

performance. Farmilo exemplifies the true measure of a fine farrier, craftsman and educator in the horseshoeing field.

Fabio Fuquim Correa, Brazil

Although Brazilian farriers have not really made a big mark on the international scene of farriery, Fabio Fuquim Correa has made an undeniable mark on Brazil.

My first interaction with the farriers of Brazil was in 2007, and seeing what a difference there has been since then is truly an inspiration. Correa has been the key that made most of the transformation happen.

Correa shod his first horse on his dad's ranch at the age of 17, under the guidance of a gaucho that was the ranch farrier. He worked with those horses and under this man's tutelage until leaving home and becoming a veterinarian.

After graduating from vet school in 1980, Correa worked as a vet until he started shoeing for the public in 1985 at the age of 30. His passion had always been under a horse, so he decided to follow that passion.

Correa has since been to seven American Farrier's Association conventions at various places around the U.S., and competed at a few of those events. He has also competed at Calgary three times, and was instrumental in bringing the Farrier International Testing System (FITS) Exam to Brazil. He was among the first to qualify as a successful advanced skill farrier under the FITS program, and has been a FITS Examiner in both the U.S. and South Africa.

Correa is a certified journeyman farrier with the AFA, and has done farrier clinics all over Brazil. He even holds small courses at his house.

Aaron Gygax, Brittnau, Switzerland

Aaron Gygax lived in the United States for a while, working in Palm Beach and at the Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Ky. Back in his native country, Switzerland, he focuses on working with upper-level sport horses that are under pressure to stay in competition training despite their hoof problems and lameness issues. He is one of the most-asked-for farrier speakers — and his English is great!

At the 6th International Equine Conference on Laminitis and Diseases of the Foot, Gygax, explained how — with a veterinarian's advice — a farrier can devise a hoof-care plan that helps a horse return to performing as soon as possible. Gygax emphasized that communication between veterinarian, horse owner, rider and farrier is key.

There is an article with photos from SoundHorse.com that shows a technique used by Gygax while he was working at Rood & Riddle's Equine Podiatry Clinic (approximately 2004 through early 2008) with Dr. Scott Morrison. The technique uses sutures to lace a quarter crack without penetrating the hoof wall.

It is one of several techniques that can be successfully used to stabilize a crack; it presupposes the crack is dry and no longer weeping or suppurating. This technique does not require the farrier to drill holes in the hoof wall in cases where the hoof wall is compromised and may not support the loads imposed by a conventional lacing process.

Steve McConnell, Waterford, Canada

Steve McConnell is an incredible and inspiring farrier. Professionally, McConnell is a farrier but this truly is his life's work. He puts everything he has into learning as much as he can to better his skills.

Endorsements:

- “My mare’s feet were a challenge to start out with, having high-low syndrome as well as weak walls, and soles. Over the years, Steve has done an amazing job keeping her sound and happy, and has transformed her typical OTTB hooves into strong healthy ones. He takes the time to check in on her feet even when she is not due for her trim and reset, and only wants the best for every horse I have seen him work with.”
- “I have had a number of farriers that have passed through the barn doors over decades of working in the equine industry, but Steve has stood out as such a positive force for the active caring and prevention of long-term negative effects or pain to our equine partners.”
- “This man is driven, passionate, educated, knowledgeable, and humble. He is an extreme example of what we all look for when we entrust a farrier to work with our horses.”
- “Steve is passionate about the challenge to become the best possible farrier he can be, so he can help all of the horses he touches in the best way they need. He has said that he will never stop learning, ‘there is always more to learn’ and farriery is continuously evolving as the entire industry learns and understands new ways to help horses.”
- “Over the years I have watched Steve literally perform miracles with other horse’s serious problem feet. I’ve seen ‘before and after’ situations that were astounding.”

David Nicholls, Slinfold, England

David Nicholls started a farrier apprenticeship in 1968 and has since grown his practice into a multi-farrier practice that specializes in therapeutic cases. An Associate of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, Nicholls is committed to elevating horses to a higher level of soundness and is dedicated to providing horse owners, trainers, farriers and veterinarians with valuable information and education in order to treat and ultimately prevent lameness in horses. His in-depth knowledge of foot- and limb-related problems has led him to be deeply involved in the rehabilitation of damaged or diseased hooves.

Nicholls runs a highly successful multi-farrier practice called “Natural Balance Hoof Care Ltd.” He also serves as the technical director of “Total Foot Protection Ltd.,” a farrier supply business operated by a number of area farriers.

Nicholls collects many different types of farrier and individual horse data in an effort to not only improve the efficiency of his business, but also to research various hoof concerns. As a result, he’s developed into an excellent speaker on different aspects of the equine foot.

Bob Rush, England

Bob Rush joined the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC) in 1957 and trained as a dog trainer. His first posting was 18 months in Malta. After completing his time in Malta, he went to the Defense Animal Centre in Melton Mowbray. In 1961, Rush applied for a trade transfer and joined the forge. He took the Registered Shoeing Smith (RSS), now known as Dip WCF, in March 1963. He took his Associate of the Farriers Company of London (AFCL), now the AWCF, in August 1964 and the FWCF in June 1965. He then posted to 3 years in Hong Kong on a mule pack.

After leaving the army in 1970, Rush began shoeing on his own, trained a number of apprentices over the years, and competed in a number of contests as well.

Rush was an examiner for me in 1997 when I took my AWCF, and then was the Senior Examiner for both of the provisional DWCF Exams. Rush has done a lot for farriers in his

incredible career, and it is with great reverence that I nominate him for induction into the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame.

Paul Sidwell, London, England

Over the nearly 40 years working as a farrier, Sidwell has had the pleasure of shoeing most types of horses. He has dealt with some of the most interesting customers that a professional would encounter in their business life.

Sidwell has shod everything from Shetlands ponies to Shire horses, and has worked with everyone from the pony club to show jumpers — but his real interest has been shoeing driving horses, Welsh cobs, Hackneys and coach horses. In fact, one of Sidwell's other claims to fame is that he shoes the Queen's fell ponies at Windsor Castle that his Royal Highness Prince Phillip drives.

Over the years, Sidwell has competed with his own horses in showing, and more recently combined driving trials. During the last 4 years, he has competed nationally and internationally. During this time, he became the British National Champion. Last September, Sidwell was asked to take part in the World Single Horse Driving Championships in Rome, Italy, where there were 82 competitors from 22 countries taking part. As a result, he became the new World Champion, winning the individual gold medal, with his homebred horse Weir Bank John.

Over the past decade, Sidwell has visited Tucson, Ariz., and has now almost made it his second home, meeting and making many friends in the horse world there. With his captivating talent and enthusiasm to pass on his knowledge and expertise to all that he meets — not only as a farrier, but also as an accomplished carriage driver — he is an Ambassador for the farriery profession. He is probably the first working farrier to ever be a World Champion, especially in that fascinating sport of competition carriage driving.

