

## **THE “VELD” KNIFE – NON-GUILD COMPETITION, 2018/2019**

The competition may be entered by any non-guild member, who is a citizen of any country in Southern Africa.

The competition will be administered by the committee members of the Knifemakers' Guild of Southern Africa.

You may submit more than one knife – but only one will qualify for a prize.

Entry fee R150 per knife entered. Proof of payment into guild's account to be included with your submission.

The competition judges' decision is final.

- The prescribed knife is designed by Kevin Harvey. A detailed drawing is attached. All aspects of the design must be followed as close as possible
- A sheath is required in this competition.
- All work done on the knife and sheath should have been done by yourself. i.e. engraving etc. This is what is called “Sole Authorship”.
- Blade steel, handle and fitting material is the maker's choice.
- Blade may be flat or hollow ground.
- Provide details of what steel you used, and your heat treatment process.
- The knife needs to have a logo or identifiable mark permanently on the knife. A brief description of your logo to appear on your entry form.

All the knives entered will be displayed for the duration of the Guild's annual show, 2019. Show dates to be announced. The top ten makers will be informed of their knives having been placed in the top ten, so they may attend the prize giving to be held on the Saturday at 12 noon.

The submissions to be posted/couriered or delivered to:

- Kevin Harvey: 68 Lizana Magagula Street (old Van Kraayenburg St), Belfast, Mpumalanga, 1100. Phone: 013 253 0914
- Albie wantenaar. 62 Holzgen street, Brackenhurst, 1448. Cell 082 809 2111
- John Arnold, 14 Phillipstreet, Poortview 1724. Cell 0823892772

Please include a copy of your proof of payment with your submission as this is required to reconcile your entry with our bank statement. Without this your entry will not be judged.

Delivery date latest 30 June 2019. Please phone ahead of time to make an appointment to drop off or to give the tracking number. Please be respectful of the time you use up. Imagine 100 entrants took up “only” 15 minutes of his time when “visiting”!

Knives not collected by yourself or your proxy from the guild show, will be returned to you via post or courier at your own expense.

Knives will be kept, transported and exhibited with utmost care, but the organisers do not accept liability for damage or loss of knives during the process.

### INTRODUCTION AND INSIGHTS (by Kevin Harvey)

- **Note1:** The information below is shared in good faith, and represents the way I go about making a knife of this kind. I cannot be held responsible for accidents in your workshop, or failure of this method to work for you. Your safety and success depends on you alone.
- **Note2:** There are as many ways to make a knife as there are types of knives. Your method will be determined by materials being used, your equipment and skill level. I hope you do find the information useful. If you do have a smarter way of doing something, please share it.

As far as I am concerned, a utility knife of this size and shape is “super practical” as a knife in the field for hunting, camping and general outdoor work. It is neither too small to be able to tackle robust tasks, nor too large, so as to be clumsy during delicate work. It might be paired up very well with a larger, heavier camp knife, with a blade of say 250mm long. (Just saying.)

This knife has been designed to equally suit both the stock removal and forging methods of knife making.

A feature in this design that is included for this competition on purpose, is a narrow tang. For some reason very few knives, (more specifically, knives made by the stock removal method), employ this construction method. There is the opinion that they are complicated to make, when they are not; and that they are weak, when they are not; if correctly made. With a few workshop tricks and gadgets, that I will share, and the proper construction and design considerations, narrow tangs might become your favoured construction method, as they are mine.

The blade features a choil that is spread out from the bevels. Take care while doing this, so as to get both the edge in the center of the blade and the plunge line at the ricasso nicely in line with the choil. The eye follows this line and the two should not be staggered. Stock removers need to take care here, but particularly smiths, because bad forging is difficult to repair at the grinder. The

blade may be either hollow, flat or convex. I guess that means you could file the blade too! (Even if it was just to tidy the grind a little).

Choose a suitable blade steel for this knife and give it the best heat treatment possible for that specific steel. Remember, there is no such thing as one steel that can perform on all forms and sizes of knives or the same temperature that applies to all steels for hardening and tempering. Give it an edge geometry (thickness and edge angle) suitable for a utility knife. It is not a chisel. Too many makers make their edges too thick! Don't now go and make it flimsy.

The handle sculpting leads to a knife that is comfortable to use, even for time consuming and sometimes difficult tasks. There are no sharp edges (I'm talking about the handle), and the cross section is oval to varying degrees. It is not round, as that would allow the handle to twist in your hand during hard work. Being a South African "Veld" knife I would like to see attractive indigenous wood used for the handle material. We have such a wonderful variety to choose from. There is a saying that goes, "the better braai wood it makes, the better handle it makes." Select the most interesting wood grain you can find. Don't use the first piece you lay your hands on. You may however use any type of handle material. It is entirely your own choice.

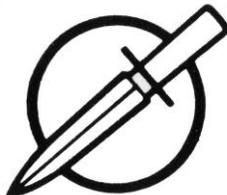
A utility knife is pretty useless without a way to carry or store it. A functional (and decorative if you choose) sheath of your own making is compulsory, and will be judged together with your knife. The sheath is also the first thing that is noticed when a knife is worn – so make it worthy of the knife it carries.

Using fancy/expensive materials may look good, but will not score you extra points. Any added embellishment, unless it adds to the overall appeal of the knife, is best left undone, and if done, must be well done, by yourself. The emphasis is on clean and precise workmanship. Concentrate on fit, finish and feel.

There are detailed photos of the making of a "Veld Knife" and these together with descriptions of the photos can be downloaded from the guild's website [www.kgsa.co.za](http://www.kgsa.co.za) or obtained by contacting myself or Heather Harvey for a link to the Dropbox or pdf. file. Email us at [heavin@heavinforge.co.za](mailto:heavin@heavinforge.co.za) Competition entry forms and picture tutorial can be downloaded from the Kgsa website.

Best of luck to you and thank you for entering this competition

The KGSA Chairman  
Kevin Harvey



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I hereby accept the rules, and accept the judges' decision as final.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell No. \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank account details:**

**KGSA,**

**ABSA branch 632005,**

**Account number: 4056808599**

**Send proof of payment, with the word 'Comp' and your name as the reference, to:**

**Carel Smith:** carelsmith1965@gmail.com

**Logo description** \_\_\_\_\_

**Steel selection and heat treatment** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Signature**

**Date**