

# Horse and Rider Fall: A Theatrical lesson?



Points to ponder from  
Greenwich  
2012

MEA Nov 2012



# From Dr Richard Budgett

“....in the bid commitment 7 years ago.....the NHS would provide doctors experienced in.....equestrian sport.”





# Errors in Theatre

- Communication: between 1-2/hour
- To reduce this: preoperative 'huddle', equipment check and 'time out'



Piper Alpha 6th July 1988



As a result of failure to replace one valve and not communicate this information, 167 people died



# Non technical Skills

- Recognition that failures in non technical skills contributed to accidents in high risk industries (aviation and oil) has led to study non technical skills in operating theatre.
- Analysis of adverse events in surgery reveal that underlying cause is often behavioural, rather than technical

R Flin



# Skills in the Operating Theatre

- Technical  
ie dexterity,

- Non Technical  
ie cognitive and  
interpersonal  
Situation Awareness,  
Team work,  
Communication,  
Decision making,

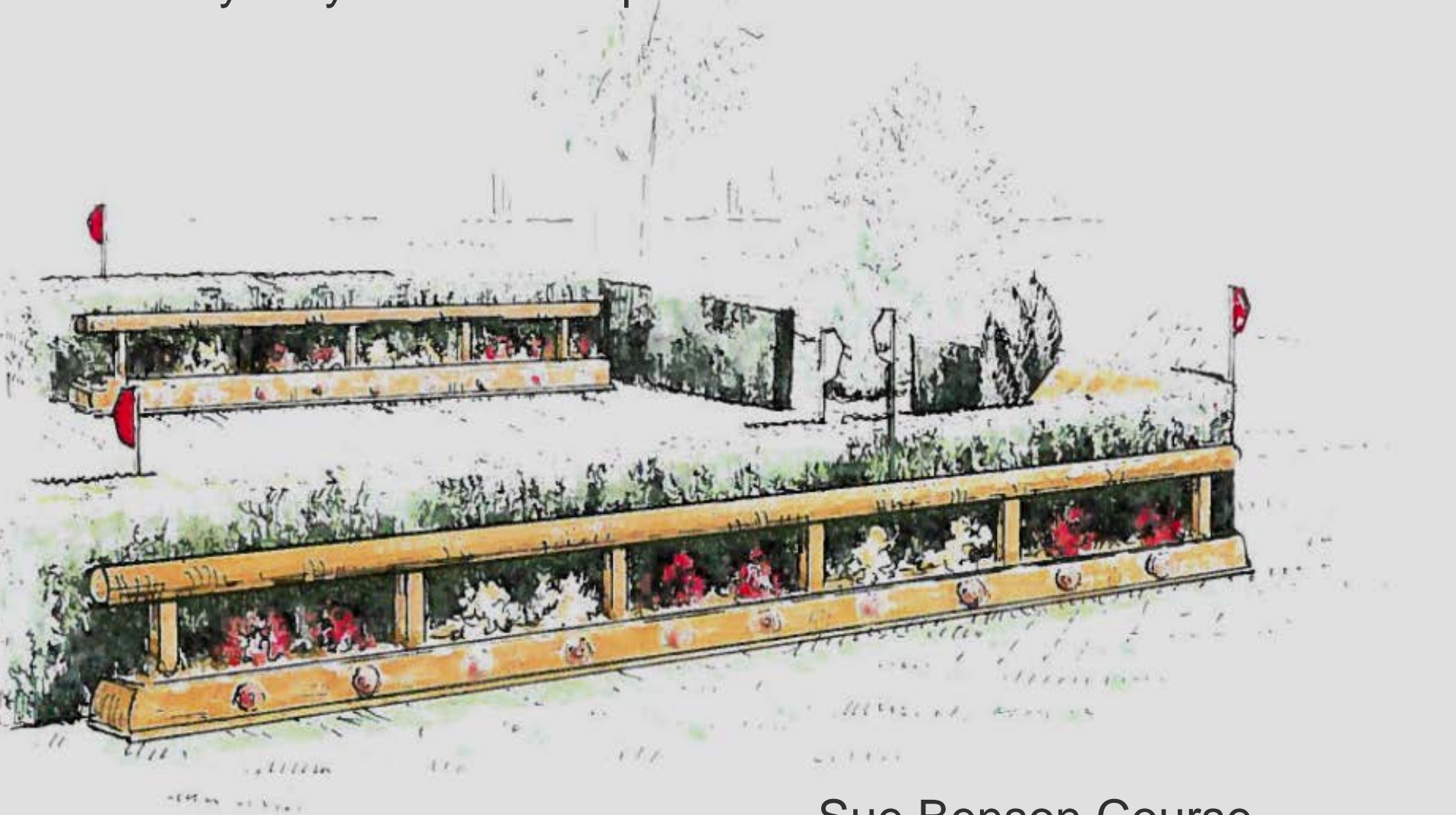






ence 24ab, The Rose Garden.

...the weary may be wise to opt for the scenic route...”




Sue Benson Course  
Designer









# Scenario

- Horse lying with right side of body on floor and legs flaying weekly in fence
- Rider still in saddle but pinned down by horse across right thigh and lower leg.
- Rider alert, stressed, could move toes





# Issues: Horse and Rider Fall

- Tired Horse, weekly thrashing legs and head
- Stressed Rider, concerned for horse
- Spectator, “ I am a Doctor”
- Radio, seeking information
- Initial reaction.....



# Resolution

- Onsite team:
- Vets (2)
- Fence Stewarts (3)
- Doctor (1)



# Resolution(2)

- Additional Vet
- Fence Builders (2)
- National Team (3)
- Doctor Fence 28
- Ambulance Crew (2)
- Horse Ambulance Crew (2)



# Resolution (3): MDT

- Horse sedated iv Ketamine
- Saddle girth and martingale undone
- Horse lifted sufficient to.....
- .....slide rider out





# Result

- Rider assessed: no major injuries
- Horse and rider loaded into Horse Ambulance
- Course declared clear
- Horse fractured ribs and haemothorax
- 1 week convalescence in Lambourn



# Can you rehearse a horse and rider fall and entrapment?

- Probably not exactly
- .....but the component parts.....



# Requirements for Equestrian Sports Medic:

- Clinical Skills
- Non Clinical Skills
- Experienced in Equestrian Sport
- Team worker



# Get Prepared.non clinical skills

- Know your sector
- Know your colleagues
- Talk to experienced competitors
- Know your equipment and practise it
- Know your radiospeak





.....and the lesson I learned,  
aka change in behaviour

- I now take an active role in the preop huddle and time out.



# The Team:





Thank you.









Rider error





Rider error



Horse fatigue







# Stress

- Sudden, unexpected
- Demands for information and decisions
- Uncertainty