

M.E.A. NEWSLETTER

THE MEDICAL EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity 328200

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REPORT ON THE SPRING TRAINING COURSE

BY DR. JOHN GIBSON

Two Day Pre-hospital Equestrian Extraction and Life Support Course held at the Unicorn Trust Centre, Stow-in-the-Wold.

It had been some years since I went on the Badminton ATLS course and I had therefore decided that if I was going to continue event doctoring my skills needed updating.

Rob Griffith's Pre-hospital course sounded just the job so I enrolled. On arrival at the splendid Equestrian centre outside Stow on the Wold I was filled with all the doubts and fears of such an occasion. Would I be hopelessly out of date? Would I make a complete fool of myself? Oh God what are the components of the Glasgow Coma Scale? Would it be confrontational?

These fears were completely unfounded.

The faculty is a mixture of experienced paramedics and doctors, the latter mainly from a trauma and anaesthetic background. The teaching style is relaxed and informative.

The course is 2 days each divided into lectures, practical skills sessions, and moulage, i.e. a lot of hands on.

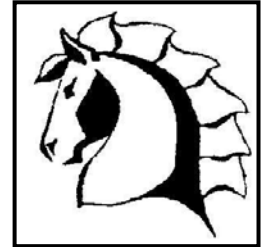


Dr. Ian Mackay practicing a hands on approach !



C-spine stabilisation

We were taught a range of topics which I expected; (airways, cervical spine protection, shock, head injury) and some which I did not expect



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kinematics, ALS, update, Major Incident management and Triage. All were useful and the extras added a new breadth and slightly different dimension to the course.

Lectures were well prepared and there was plenty of time for discussion during and after them.

There were about 20 delegates. For the moulages and skills stations we divided into teams of 4 or 5 taking it in turns to lead. The majority of the moulages were riding related but not all. How do you get an injured person out of a drainage pipe for instance?



Stabilising and extricating a patient from beneath a carriage

There was critiquing and discussion after each scenario including the team dynamics and it was interesting to see how these developed over the course.

This was all supported with all the equipment we may have to use and the skills stations instructed us on how to use it.



Checking over the equipment

For me it was extremely helpful. It presented a logical approach to the work we do and emphasized stabilisation and dispatch rather than embarking upon any more invasive

techniques, e.g. chest drains unless absolutely necessary.



Stabilisation and Dispatch

The whole was delivered in an informative and supportive atmosphere and discussion was encouraged. I came away refreshed and informed. I would thoroughly recommend this course to colleagues.



I would again like to thank Rob Griffiths and his team for the hard work they put in. In my view they achieved their aim to increase my awareness of what could and should be done for patients before they are dispatched to hospital.