



Remap Newsletter No.76 – December 2017

Derby, Burton & District Panel
Serving Derbyshire & East Staffordshire

Editor: Maurice Elliot e-mail remapderby@virginmedia.com



The newsletter started in 1998 and apart from a short period in 2000 it has always been issued quarterly. Then it was markedly different to today's issues. It was four sides in landscape format with the front side showing just the make-up of the panel. Side two was descriptive about Remap history with the next two sides described referrals – without any pictures! The March 1999 issue was still four sides long with side one listing the panel members and recent referrals but now sides two and three described some completed referrals in four columns. Side four listed each referral currently being carried out.

It remained like this until September 2001 when it was changed to two sides that started with a short general "chat" and then three columns describing completed referrals. In June 2017 The layout changed to two columns so that more pictures could be included and the descriptions improved. The circulation has been to around 200, mainly to NHS staff. Initially all newsletters were circulated by post but this was gradually reduced so now they are entirely sent by e-mail.

DB-069, Mike Banks

This client, who sat in his wheelchair when travelling in his car, had a non-standard fully supportive headrest (complete with a head band) fitted to it that was offset to the right by up to 50mm to be most comfortable for him. When he acquired a new powered wheelchair he wanted this headrest adapted to fit on it.

An adjustable bracket was made from two commercially available units.

These were connected by a specially made adjustable plate which carried threaded holes that enabled the headrest to be offset horizontally by up to 50 mm in 12.5 mm increments.



DB-090-17, Malcolm Logan

An elderly man had a chair with curved rear legs and round castored front legs. He needed it raised by three inches. Because the client did not want the castors removed there were problems as the those on the front and the curved legs at the rear were of totally different shapes.

Four blocks were made shaped to fit the different front and rear existing legs The new blocks were varnished to match the existing chair colours.



DB-075-17, Vic Brown

An elderly man with limited knee movement needed the footrests on his Mediquip glide-about commode extended. Because it belonged to Mediquip any changes to the commode had to be made without any permanent modifications to it.

The footrests were removed and steel extension adaptors fitted inside the lower assembly tubes. 10mm square steel blocks were bolted on to the adaptors that allowed the swivel footpads to press against them when in the down position.

To complete the adaptation plastic caps were fitted on to the ends of the adaptors and the modifications were painted satin black. The result was that the footrests were extended forward by 155mm.



DB-083-17, Vic Brown

This elderly lady with osteoarthritis had to support herself by leaning on her walker and gripping the top rail when moving around the house. She needed gutter type armrests adding to her walker to support her forearms comfortably.

A forearm support frame was made from 115mm square section plastic rain guttering lined with 12mm thick carpet underlay and covered with soft leatherette. It was fixed to the top rail of the walker with heavy duty split clamps welded to the support cradles. The sides of the guttering were riveted to the cradles using large head rivets.



DB-079, 080 & 084-17, Mike Banks

A man with muscular dystrophy had purchased a new motorised wheelchair. He needed several modifications to allow him to comfortably drive the wheelchair within his very limited movement abilities.

DB-079-17 - He found that operating a conventional wheelchair joystick was tiring for his wrist so he purchased a micro-controller that could be operated using only fingertips. This needed mounting on the wheelchair together with a fixed support for his wrist. Adjustment of the physical relationship between the wrist support and the micro-controller was critically important as was their combined position on the wheelchair.

A multiply adjustable support was made that gave considerable freedom to meet the client's exacting positioning requirements. All adjustments were locked by plastic handwheels. Safety stops were fitted on the vertical slides to prevent inadvertent loss of any component should a handwheel come loose.

The wrist support made was adjustable vertically fore and aft, and could be rolled to the left or right.



DB-080-17 - The wheelchair lateral support unit was on a pivoting arm which could be unlocked and swung to one side to facilitate side entry into the chair. Two relatively inaccessible thumb screws held the attaching bracket in place at the pivot.

As there was insufficient room in the bedroom to swing the arm out of the way, this whole assembly had to be removed to enable the client to be transferred between his bed and the wheelchair. The thumb screws had to be removed and refitted afterwards. This was a very difficult and time consuming process. They were replaced by a single easily removed lever and locating peg.



DB-084-17 - He also wanted an alternative headrest fitted..

He had found and bought a suitable headrest on the internet and passed it to Remap for fitting to the wheelchair.

A special bracket was made that enabled it to be fitted to the existing vertical support on the wheel chair.



The client also requested that the footrests be inverted to enable him to move his feet further back. New adjustable stops had to be made that could be locked at incremental angles

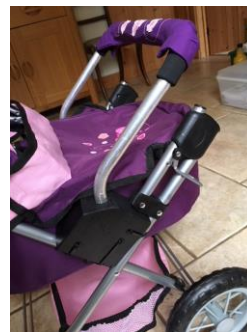
The client later commented that Mike had virtually built the wheelchair for him!

DB-054-17, Chris Morison

A young girl with Downs Syndrome needed a robust, stable walking aid. She wanted to use her dolls pram for this but it was weak and tipped up too easily. One proposed option of modifying a Rifton Pacer with a dolls pram body was rejected by her mother. She insisted that a 'girly' type solution was required. A dolls pram that was donated by an e-bay seller was found to suitable to satisfy her criteria.

The pram was modified to make it more stable by cutting off the existing push handle and moving the point of the handle connection forward to within the wheelbase.

A new handle was made to minimize the possibility of tipping by positioning it, a new shorter alloy tubing unit over the rear wheels. Finally a strip of steel was added to weight the front axle to further increase stability and safety.



Both the girl and her mother were really pleased with the resulting "safe to use" pram cum walking aid.

DB-096-17, Mike Banks

This lady had no control over her legs when sitting in her wheelchair. Her right leg tended to move over to the right and kept slipping off the foot rest. Unfortunately she was unable to put it back on to the foot rest by herself.

She had contacted her wheelchair supplier to provide a padded side support for her seat but it was unable to help.

A padded plate was made and attached to the side of her right-hand leg rest at calf height. This resisted any sideways movement of her leg and so kept her foot on the footrest.

The support arms for this plate were located in channels to hold it in its correct position – see left hand picture. However, there was a handle which when pulled upwards lifted the arms out of their channels so that the plate could be swung sideways, giving unrestricted leg movement when required right hand picture.

