



## Remap Newsletter No.79 – September 2018

**Derby, Burton & District Panel**  
Serving Derbyshire & East Staffordshire

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After 21 years I am leaving the Derby, Burton & District Panel. That is exactly half the time that the panel has existed. I am very proud of what the panel achieved in my time with it.

Immediately after I retired in 1997 I received a letter from the I. Mech. E. suggesting that I might like to join Remap. I did, and immediately under duress became Publicity Officer for four years. I was elected panel chairman while I was away on holiday in 2001 and served in that capacity for 11 years. In that period, with around 18 panel members, referrals rose from about 20 to 140 each year. In the first decade of the century we carried out more jobs than any other panel for three consecutive years and we were in the top three for ten years. In 2004 we were awarded the Nationwide Building Society prize as the Best Voluntary Endeavour Group in the country. I also served as a Remap Trustee for three years in which time I resurrected the defunct Rotherham & Sheffield panel.

I completed over 250 referrals until I was forced to stop using my machinery because of increasing problems with mobility and dexterity. I created and edited all issues of the newsletter to date as well as giving around 100 talks about the work Remap does. I have organised talks and managed stands at many events. Every year Remap awards prizes in several categories of innovative aids. I received two of these from Professor Heinz Wolff – the Remap President. After I stood down as panel chairman I was astounded when my colleagues arranged for me to meet the Queen who, on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015, presented me with an MBE – “For services to the Disabled in Derbyshire”. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Remap but there is a time to go – mine is now.

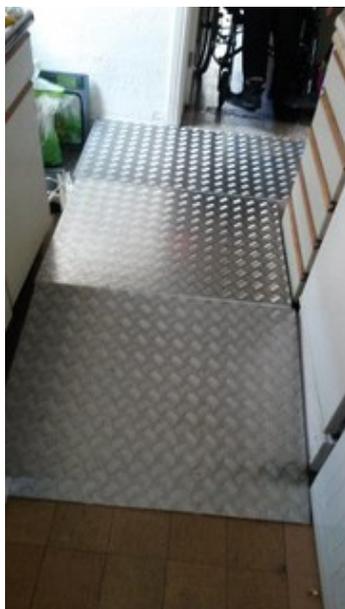
### DB-112-17, John Gellatly

A lady with MS needed a tailored ramp to get her self-propelled wheelchair down a 160mm step from her living room to the kitchen & bathroom. The main problem was that the wheelchair had to be manoeuvred through an S-bend at the same time as traversing the change in elevation.

Initially two ramps were made, as large as possible within the space constraints. There was a level section followed by an inclined ramp down into the kitchen. However the client found it too difficult to manoeuvre the wheelchair up the inclined ramp while turning through the S-bend. Consequently a further level platform was provided with sufficient flat area to enable the wheelchair to be turned through the S-bend. This arrangement meant that the adjacent fridge had to be raised and the bottom of the doors of a nearby cupboard removed to prevent it fouling.

The initial trial of this arrangement was only a partial success as the lady found it difficult with her poorly leg and weight to get the wheelchair up the ramp as it required very accurate positioning of the wheelchair front wheels. However she decided that, with practice, she could do it and agreed for the necessary changes to be made.

A raised platform was made for the fridge to sit on and the work surface was cut to suit. It was re-secured to the wall whilst the bottoms of the cupboard doors were cut off to enable them to open with the ramp in place. The oven was also turned though 90 degrees to give better access.



As the ramps might need to be moved to allow access through the back door, they and the fridge platform, were made to be light with wood frames and aluminium treads.

### DB-034-18, Malcolm Logan

An elderly man with motor neurone disease who was confined to his wheelchair day and night, needed an iPad support attached to the wheelchair that could be easily moved out the way for when he needed to get out of his chair.

As the client had very little movement in his hands it was decided to motorise his existing I-Pad stand using a very light weight but powerful 12 volt motor sourced from CANADA. The motor could extend and retract by 12 inches which was enough to retract the I-Pad stand to clear the chair as required.



A 12 volt powered bespoke control panel and 2 channel relay system was made. It necessarily included very sensitive micro switches that he was capable of operating. A 12 volt DC power supply was also provided.



### DB-132-17, Chris Morison/Bernard Kileen/Vic Brown

This lady had limited movement, balance problems, a disfunctioning right hand, and was unable to use her right arm. When she tried to get in and out of her office type chair it tended to rotate. This made it extremely difficult for her. A locking mechanism was needed to stop the chair from swivelling that was also easy to disengage so that the chair could rotate when required.

A lever and slot design was chosen with a handle operated horseshoe that latched into an index plate. The manufacture was a team effort - turned components were produced by Vic Brown, and a subcontract machinist. Other items were produced by Bernard Kileen using Alibre 3D CAD software.

The locking handle was initially determined by trial and error using a welding rod bent to shape to be within the client's easy reach. This bent shape was then reproduced in Alibre 3D CAD, where the operational movement could be simulated and checked for no interference anywhere. The finished handle was made from 8mm diameter rod and bent accordingly. A plastic knob on the end gave it a comfortable grip.



### DB-060-18, Vic Brown

A boy was subject to involuntary movements due to his condition. His stair lift was not designed to accommodate a child. The shoulder straps on the chair chafed his neck and the manufacturers were unable to modify it to suit him. Remap was asked to modify them to make them more comfortable.

The solution was to reposition the top anchor points of the shoulder straps so they were further apart at the rear of the seat and over his shoulders.

Aluminium clamp plates were made and fitted lower down on the front of the seat so that the angle of the straps came from the sides instead of from above.



A headrest made from ply board was made that clipped over the seat top. Steel vertical support legs were bolted to the plyboard and through the seat back. The assembly was then covered with 10mm dense foam mat and soft padding on top, covered in brown vinyl.



### DB-052-18, Malcolm Logan

This elderly lady had a form of Parkinson's disease and had problems holding the dessert spoons she used. They needed a small additional handle near the bowl of the spoon so she could stabilise it using her other hand.

The client clearly knew exactly what she needed to help her and spoons were modified accordingly.



### DB-048-18, Mike Banks

This elderly lady with scoliosis asked for the arms on her kitchen perching stool to be raised to give her better support.

At a joint visit with the referring OT it was determined that the client really needed a larger top on her trolley table so that she could sit closer when eating and so reduce the chance of the odd piece of food dropping down on to her lap. The trolley was owned by Mediquip so any modifications could not permanently alter it.

A larger trolley table top was made using coated chip-board held in place by a pair of brackets. It was easily removable so the trolley could revert to its' original state if required.

