



Gloucestershire



Yearbook Issue . 6



Welcome to REMAP Gloucestershire

REMAP is a national charity that for over 30 years has offered people with disabilities a better quality of life by providing individually designed technical aids free of charge to the users.

The local Gloucestershire Panel of REMAP meets regularly in Gloucester to hear of cases where people of all ages with disabilities need specialist equipment to help resolve their problems and provide greater independence. Clients' needs are brought to the REMAP panel through occupational therapists, social services, other NHS workers or directly by the client contacting a member of the panel. If you are an engineer or health professional who would like to attend one of our meetings, please contact Joan Davies on 01452 426405.

Members of the panel are all engineers or craftsmen who give their spare time and their specialist skills to design and build equipment that helps to overcome the individual problems that people with disabilities face. They operate out of their own workshops and provide a free service to the disabled client.

This Yearbook is intended to provide a snapshot of the work that we are actively involved in, with the purpose also of encouraging more work for the disabled. It is not possible to show everything that we do here, because we average eight or nine case referrals a month.

A blank Referral Form is in the centre page of this booklet – please photocopy as necessary.

We look forward to being of service to you.

John Fox
Chairman

Website: www.remapglos.org.uk

Our Local Sponsors

We are grateful to our sponsors without whom we could not serve the disabled community in the way we do. Some donate money to help with our operating costs, mainly materials and travel costs. Some donate materials or services to help us in a practical way to deliver solutions to our clients.

We should like to thank all our supporters, most of whom are listed below:

Financial

Gloucestershire County Council
The Barnwood Trust
Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes
Zurich Insurance
All the clients who make individual donations

Benefits in Kind

TPG DisableAids Ltd
National Star College
GIS Healthcare
The Barnwood Trust
Plastim Ltd, Staverton
Cotswold Foam, Gloucester
Nick's Timber, Gloucester
Xerox Office Group

Adjustable Height Washing Line

Problem

A young housewife with two small children, who could walk only a small distance, stand for only a few seconds and was normally wheelchair bound, wished to be able to hang out her washing whenever she liked and without assistance.

Solution

The solution was to shorten the washing line stem, support it in a carriage which ran in a slotted tube surrounding the line stem and raise or lower the carriage by means of a pulley system using strong fishing line. This enables a 20kg load to be lifted with 2kg applied at the handle through a height of 0.75m. The handle locks automatically at any height.

The whole assembly is contained within a length of 2.5 ins square drainpipe mounted on a very heavy parasol base.



Benefits

The client can now hang out her washing whenever she wishes. To quote the engineer, 'I've never seen a lady so excited over a washing line. You would have thought she had won the lottery!'

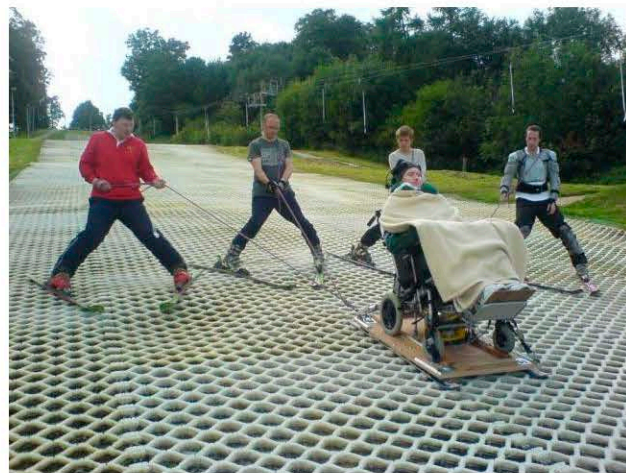
Ski Chair

Problem

Jonathan was a 21 year old competitive skier when he was struck down by meningitis which left him a quadraplegic. He liked to attend ski events at the dry ski slope but was frustrated that he could only watch from the bottom of the hill.

Solution

A pair of Jonathans old skis were fixed beneath a platform. An anchor point for his chair was bolted on together with pulling rings. His chair was clamped into place on the platform and his ski buddies did the rest. They pulled him up the hill to a viewing vantage point and controlled his descent using mountain rescue techniques.



Benefits

Jonathan was able to enjoy his old sport and interact with old friends. He was even able to enjoy the winter snow as his ski chair was used as a sledge for him and his wheelchair-bound friends.

Boccia Ramp

Problem

Although paraplegic with paralysis above level C1, Jonathan who was a competitive skier, still has the competitive spirit and is determined to become proficient in the sport of Boccia. This is a game developed for the disabled based on Bowls and Boules. To enable him to play this it was necessary to develop an electronically controlled release mechanism for the ball in a bespoke boccia ramp

Solution

A ramp was constructed of plywood and was attached to the footrest of the wheelchair with Velcro. The arms holding the ramp were also fixed in slots in the side so that the trajectory of the ramp could be adjusted giving control over ball travel. The solution for releasing the ball was a spring loaded gate operated by Jonathan using a cheek switch. The whole mechanism was packed into a plastic gate box which was fixed to side slots and was able to slide up and down at the top end of the ramp. Calibrations enabled the helper to position the gate box to Jonathan's instructions, thus controlling the distance of ball travel.



Benefits

Jonathan has complete control of the skill of aiming and firing a boccia ball at a jack ball which means that he can compete in the game of boccia. This maximises his potential independence, provides a leisure activity, satisfies his competitive spirit and improves his quality of life.

Unit to couple a hand-propelled wheelchair to a pushchair

Problem

A wheelchair bound father wished to take his new baby out in her pushchair independently.

Solution

A frame was built that can be easily attached to the wheelchair where the foot rests fit. The front of the frame has two narrow boxes which “scoop up” the rear wheels of the pushchair taking them clear of the ground and leaving the pushchair supported on its front castor wheels and the frame. The whole assembly has a single large supporting castor wheel. The pushchair’s front wheels still steer in the normal manner. Spring loaded bolts and clips hold everything in place and additional security is provided by a chain round the pushchair’s axle.



Benefits

The father can now enjoy the benefits of taking his family out independently.

Wheelchair Ramp for Patio Door

Problem

The wheelchair bound client was unable to leave her home because her wheelchair would not go over the step at the bottom of either of the doors.

Although there was a ramp on the outside of the door, there was a 10cm step up to it from inside and a threshold for the sliding patio door.

Solution

A wooden ramp was made which included a “drawbridge” which the client was able to raise and lower with a pole or “Helping Hand”. She was able to open the sliding patio door from her wheelchair, then lower the drawbridge which bridged the step so that she could go outside, where she was able to close the door, having raised the drawbridge. She was also able to carry out the procedure in reverse.



Benefits

The client was able to leave and re-enter her home.

Especially useful if the house was on fire!

Half the width of the drawbridge could be lowered so it was not necessary to open the door fully in cold weather when the dog wanted to go out.

Strengthen toilet/shower chair

Problem

The client was causing the “wings” of the chair to break off when he inadvertently exerted high pressure on them.

Solution

Aluminium strengthening pieces were made and fitted to the back of the chair to support the “wings”. (See picture – strengthening pieces shown by red arrows) These were fixed using small nuts and bolts and backing strips on the front of the chair. These modifications were done to both of the client’s chairs.



Benefits

Client no longer damages the chairs.

Tricycle for a four-year old

Problem

A four year old boy suffered from dwarfism and was desperate to have some sort of bicycle so that he could play with his friends. Unfortunately his parents could not find a bike on the market that was small enough for him.

Solution

REMAP made him a tricycle that suited his size and painted it in his favourite colours.



Benefits

He can now join in the fun with his friends and play on his trike, just like them. His Mum says he loves it so much that he wants to take it to bed with him!

Walker Trolley

Problem

Lucy is unable to walk and had been using her younger brother's trike to get around the house until she got too big for it. She also suffers from a condition where she has to have a cover over her head whenever she ventures outside.

Solution

REMAP made a trolley for her which she propels from a seated position. The trolley had to incorporate a 'Surrey top' to encourage her outside into the garden.



Benefits

She now has mobility both inside and outside the house.

Modification to Baby's cot

Problem

A young Mum was having difficulty lifting her baby out of the cot. A temporary solution of raising the mattress level was going to be fine until the baby became more active and would not have the high sides of the cot to protect him.

Solution

The mattress level was lowered to the original level and the legs of the cot were lengthened to compensate. This now meant that the side of the cot was too high in its lowered position for Mum to reach over and lift baby out. The internal plastic runners were lengthened in extended rebates to allow the cot side to be lowered to a manageable level.



Benefits

Mum can now leave the baby in safety with the cot side high and can also lower the side enough to lift the baby out of the cot.

Play/Feeding Chair

Problem

A baby girl who was born with Congenital Hip Dysplasia was in a plaster cast prior to further hip surgery. Her mother wanted a specialised portable, floor level seat with a small table, to enable her to be able to sit safely whilst eating and playing. Her plaster meant that her legs were splayed at a 90 degree angle, therefore she would no longer fit in a standard high chair or be able to sit upright on the floor. To allow baby to play at same level as her sister and feed without choking, Mum needed a very low level, height adjustable, chair and table where baby could be safely left. It needed to be portable and compact.

Solution

A bespoke seat with table was designed and built. A broad strap with a quick release buckle gave some position control, and a toy tray with cover, at rear, meant favourite toys could be stored and taken to play group.



Benefits

The resulting special chair meant that Mum could safely leave her baby momentarily and provided a comfortable feeding chair and toy storage. Happy Mum, baby and sister.

Lever for Push Button Toilets

Problem

Having problems with all muscles below the elbows, this young client couldn't flush the push-button toilet after use and always had to call for help. She found this increasingly embarrassing.

Solution

A simple device was designed that could be screwed or taped to the wall behind the cistern in line with the flushing button. Its long arm had a glued rubber stud underneath which also lined up with the button.



Benefits

The client now just leans on the lever with her elbow to press the button and flush.

This device may be of interest to older people who may also have difficulty operating the modern push-button toilets.

Modification to Shower Chair

Problem

A shower chair with large front castors was being used by a client suffering with Multiple Sclerosis. The castor wheels tended to swing inwards and impact the client's feet causing great discomfort and limiting her ability to manoeuvre.

Solution

The solution was to replace the castors with smaller diameter wheels but this meant making a spacer component to ensure the correct level of the shower chair was maintained. By introducing an 'offset' to the spacer the castors could be further moved to the left and right well clear of the client's feet.



Benefits

The client can now use the shower chair without the problem of the castors hitting her feet.

Try Walker Rack for Scooter

Problem

The client wanted to take her Try Walker with her when she went on shopping trips on her electric scooter so that she could walk into the shops, many of which do not provide access for scooters.

Solution

The walking stick rack was removed from the back of the scooter and replaced with a purpose built rack for her to hang the Try Walker on.



Benefits

The client can now hook her Try Walker on to the back of her Electric Scooter before setting off to the shops and then use it to walk around the shops where there is no access for scooters.

Brake for Push Chair

Problem

The client suffered from an occasional epileptic fit which meant that she could possibly lose control of the pushchair on the steep hills around her home. She wanted to ensure that if that happened the pushchair would not run away as she let go.

Solution

The solution was to provide the pushchair with a strap mounted low and central on the pushchair and which at the other end had an elasticated strap designed to fit over her wrist, which would act as a brake if she let go of the pushchair. Tests showed that the pushchair would not tip or corner as a result of pulling on the strap.



Benefits

The client was now more comfortable pushing the pushchair on hills, and when it was left parked, the wrist strap could be left on one of the handles.

Toilet Aid for Child

Problem

A young boy who had stability problems and who had very small hands found it difficult to reach the toilet and to be able to get safely down again.

Solution

A step stool was built with hand holds to suit his small hands so that he could climb safely to the toilet.



Benefits

The young client can now be safe and quite independent when using the toilet.

Modify High Chair

Problem

A young child had a chair suitable for her disability but was growing out of it. Remap were requested to modify the chair so that it could continue to be used.

Solution

The seat was lowered and the waist restraint replaced with a larger (opening) restraint.

“Skis” were added to the base to increase stability as this was a concern to the family and the OT.



Benefits

The child is able to continue to use the chair.

Your help is needed

To continue to serve the disabled our Panel needs:

DONATIONS: The service is free to the client and we therefore need donations. Please support us if you can – phone our Treasurer, Ron Crumpler on 01453 756825

MATERIAL: If your Company could support us with engineering materials, metal, plywood, etc. please phone Mike Plant on 01242 245228

ENGINEERS: If you are an engineer or craftsman and would like to join us, please phone John Fox on 01451 861432 or Mike Plant on 01242 245228

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS:
If you are an OT and would like to attend a meeting, please phone Joan Davies on 01452 426405 or e-mail joan.davies@gloucestershire.gov.uk

PUBLICITY: If you are a member of an organisation that would like to hear more about REMAP and what we do please phone John Fox on 01451 861432 to arrange a presentation.

REFERRALS: Please photocopy the Referral Form in the centre of this Yearbook, or visit our website at www.remapglos.org.uk to download a copy, or phone Joan Davies on 01452 426405

WEBSITE: www.remapglos.org.uk

Making a Referral

This is the process required to make a referral to Gloucestershire REMAP:

- Please confirm that all commercial options have been investigated and that none is suitable.
- Use the referral form in the centre of this booklet (or download a copy from our website: www.remapglos.org.uk) to give us the details of the client, the Occupational Therapist (if available) and the details of the problem to be solved.
- Send the form to Joan Davies (address on the form)
- The referral will be reviewed at our next meeting – meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.
- We will be in touch with the referrer shortly after that and an engineer will be assigned to investigate the problem.
- Working together, the client, engineer and OT will agree a suitable solution and the engineer will design and build the required equipment.
- On completion, the equipment will be offered to the client to confirm that the problem has been resolved.
- In the event that there is still a problem, the engineer will attempt further changes to reach a satisfactory outcome.

We work closely with Gloucestershire County Council Social Services:

Adult Helpdesk 01452 426868

A wide range of information and help for adults regarding social care, including referrals taken for occupational therapy and personal care.

Children and Families Helpdesk 01452 426565

Social care referrals for children. Providing information and guidance.

Published by REMAP Gloucestershire
Charity Commission registered charity no 1137666

Printed by Xerox Office Group