

Mobility Roadshow Impact Update

A survey of Mobility Roadshow visitors (combining on-line questionnaires and on-site interviews) gave us feedback from:

- Nearly 3000 people, of whom:
 - 75% were people with disabilities
 - 70% of the rest were partners or carers of disabled people
 - 62% were Motability customers



We asked: Is the Mobility Roadshow still useful to disabled people?

“It inspires hope in me”

“The whole event accepts and caters for disability”

“Lots of choice of products to see and try”

Yes

“I was able to book 5 test drives in 5 different vehicles with 4 variations on hand controls.”

92%

“Being able to touch and feel the WAVs, able to compare the vehicles against each manufacturer by just looking across the room”

“It is helpful to see a number of manufacturers for the items I am interested in”

We asked: Why do people still value the Mobility Roadshow?

“The large variety of mobility aids that are now available was a real eye opener to me”

“It's an open door with a smile and hug”.

“To view the latest products on the market & talk to the representatives of various companies”.

“Many options under one roof, no pressure sales at doorstep”;

We asked exhibitors: Is there a gap in the market which the Mobility Roadshow fills?

“Direct focus on disabled people as customers “

94%

Yes

“It has always been regarded as ‘The event’ for end users”

“Customer's feedback is always positive as it has the best mix of mobility vehicles and wheelchairs all at one location to trial and find good combinations”

Visitor Feedback

Brooke's Story

My 17 year old daughter Brooke has Cerebral Palsy and is unable to walk. Having been made aware of your event, I registered Brooke with you for a test drive despite the fact she doesn't hold a Driving Licence. It may be worth mentioning at this point that until yesterday, Brooke had never even sat in the driver's seat of car and the general opinion of many was that she never would!!

We attended the event yesterday and as we arrived early I was able to book Brooke 5 test drives in 5 different vehicles with 4 variations on hand controls. The Instructors who Brooke had the good fortune of being crewed with were (in order) Lee (VW Golf), Paul (Ford C-Max), Matt (Ford B-Max), Dave (Yaris Hybrid) and Matt (Ford Focus). Every one of her Instructors were a credit to their profession. Their communication skills, compassion, patience and understanding were exemplary, When Brooke is in a comfortable environment she smiles, and yesterday she smiled all day.

Without exception, Brooke's Instructors made favourable and inspiring comments about her ability and more importantly, each of them said in their professional opinion they saw no reason why Brooke couldn't learn to drive. Her 1st drive was confined to the Nursery track, her 2nd and subsequent drives were completed on the Silverstone circuit, a wonderful memory for Brooke to take away. The last 2 hours of our full day were spent enjoying the remainder of the show and exhibits with Brooke being interviewed by a lady reporter representing the event, another highlight of her day.

On behalf of Brooke and me, I would be most grateful if you would accept our sincere thanks for a superb event and most enjoyable day and also extend those thanks to those mentioned. As the Dad of a disabled young lady who until yesterday had only viewed the world from her wheel chair, to see the sheer pleasure and delight your Roadshow, Exhibitors and in particular the Driving Instructors brought to my daughter was immeasurable. An emotional day for me, one I will treasure for all time.

Joe's Story

"It was amazing! I loved the day! You can't imagine how much I get from the show. The day begin in the vast car park where wheelchair accessible cars were ferrying us to the gates of the mind numbingly huge gathering of disabled people. So many wheelchairs, so much room, I could go anywhere, it was great! I was not the only disabled person for once. There was a buzz, a cheerful atmosphere of camaraderie and there was information about every conceivable disability and aid and organisation.

Maybe I shouldn't say this in our PC made world but being severely disabled myself I couldn't help marvelling at other disabled people and admire how they managed. I enjoyed the chats with other visitors at the various refreshment outlets. It was so good to be able to easily find everything that interested me in my constant quest to combat my physical limitations and best of all discovering some aids that I did not know even existed. It certainly helps to get the correct aid.

I had booked a free power wheelchair for the day and that was fun experimenting with a different vehicle. There was so much to see in this huge sprawling exhibition that the day just flew by and I had to reluctantly leave. I say exhibition as to me it's more than just a show, it's so interactive, with demonstrations and personally trying the exhibits. It was so good to lose the feeling of sticking out like a sore thumb, and not one person was compensating or spoke to my carer. I felt like real person again.

So many car conversions to look at and on the latest models some with new innovations, the great variety of disabled driver aids were being shown and test-drives available if prebooked. It would be a boring list to document all that is there and interests me but all I can say is that I look forward to the road show every year.

Anja's Story

I tried out the handcycles as the event was such a good opportunity to do so. We also tried out some cars for fitting my wheelchair in the best and easiest way. Honda were tremendously helpful and the roadshow gave us the perfect chance to try out their cars for space and logistics. I also tried out the totally amazing and massive mountain climbers climbing Powerchair. The first wheelchair I trialled was not for me...it had the bucket seat and the castor wheels at the back. I tried the flimsy new suitcase folding scooter too, which I found far too fragile. I aim to go this year and will be sporting my new Tailwind by Clinton River - the amazing power assisted self-propelling wheelchair. I'll probably be looking at new tech, better gloves as I'll be able to try them on, and perhaps this year I will have the self-confidence to join in with some activities...I sure hope so. We were so amazed at how everyone on the stands spoke to the wheelchair user instead of in the 'real world' where I am spoken to second. I'm hoping to enquire about trialling things and that maybe I will be asked to trial things at home e.g. gadgets.

Thank you, to you all, for your brilliant efforts for this event - it's an open door with a smile and hug.



Callum's Story

In 2012 I attended the Mobility Roadshow and two *Get Going Live!* events for young and novice drivers with disabilities (I have Hemiplegia which affects the right side of my body). This helped me out so much, as I did not know much about the different control systems available and through viewing and testing the systems I decided on the ideal one for my particular needs. The events were so helpful to me - I didn't really know where to start.

It was great too to get driving tips from the professional accompanying drivers and advice services that were at the events to help people like me find their way around what's available.

I passed my test in October 2012 (at the second attempt). It took me roughly seven months to get to test standard in my instructor's automatic car, which had the same hand control system fitted as the one I had chosen as most suitable for me, which really helped.

Passing my test was just fantastic, and helped me with looking for and securing a job. It also allowed me to indulge in my passion for motorsport, which has been a fantastic thrill (although maybe not for my poor mum!). I was very proud to be asked to become an Ambassador for the Mobility Roadshow and *Get Going Live!*, which I was delighted to do, as the events had helped me so much when I was a novice driver and didn't know where to turn for advice. Having the opportunity to test drive vehicles even before I had obtained my licence was such an incredible thrill, and massively helpful in deciding which hand controls might suit me best. I am proud to be associated with the show, and delighted to pass on any information about the event that might help others.



Calvin's Story

I just wanted to say what a great time we had yesterday at the Mobility Roadshow.

We (my grandson Calvin and I) hadn't been to a roadshow before. He loved trying out all the different equipment and we came home full of ideas and in a very optimistic frame of mind.

A special thanks to David Tuke who helped Calvin drive the Yaris and made our day with his cheerful nature and kind comments. A very good day and all at no cost!

Thanks again to all the organisers and staff.

See you next year!