

A Learner/Loaner, a successful test and a Suzuki GSX650F with K-Lever adaption makes another happy biker in Kettering

I joined the NABD in August 2009 and I thought this was brilliant, giving people who are disabled the chance to overcome their disability and ride.

I have owned small bikes and wanted to progress up to bigger bikes but unfortunately, I had a stroke at 14 years old (now 39) and I got over it, but never really got my right hand back properly. My hand is very slow for the front brake, so I thought that riding bikes was too risky with my ailment, and I didn't think it would be possible to pass my test, as you need to do an emergency stop.

I contacted the NABD and asked if they could send me some info on what levers there were, if any, for my disability. Then I noticed on the web page the learner/loaner bikes, so I enquired and spoke to Ian Taylor, what a brilliant man, he knew what I needed and it was so good to speak to someone who knew what I was talking about, rather than the blank expressions and "I'll get back to you", which I've heard so much of.

I told Ian I had wanted to pass my test but couldn't because of my hand, after a little chat he said the NABD had a CG125 they could convert for me to ride. I was so chuffed I was getting back on the road.

Ian and his friend brought the loan bike round and I booked my CBT straight away. It was good to get on a bike with all the levers where I wanted them (clutch and front brake both



David Bayley

on the left). Some might have found this weird, but I found it brilliant and got used to it after a couple of rides in the car park.

So the CBT test was passed with ease, the theory test was passed, part one was passed, with a touch of stress as it rained on the day with a big puddle at the end of the course, and I dreaded the 'swerve' part. Passed part two, was brilliant, I rode it like a dream, all of the shoulder checks and looking in the mirrors at the right time too!

Now, after all the tests I can't believe I've done it, I also can't believe there are so many good people who will help and advise you.

Now I finally have my first big bike, (I am restricted for the first two years but it's like two bikes in one), a Suzuki GSX650F with a "K Lever" adaption and it is fantastic and it's all down to the NABD, without which all of this wouldn't have been possible from the converted loan bike to the advice and for the grant for the K-Lever adaption.

I would like to thank Ian Taylor for all his help, Steve Davis for the encouragement, Steve the motorbike instructor from Ridendriveuk in Raunds, Alistair from Midlands Superbikes, Market Harborough for fitting the levers and thanks again NABD.

David Bayley

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