

Lisa's Dream Come True - Honda CBF 600s

One thing I always wanted to do was to ride a motorbike but as a child & as a teenager that was one of those things I was told "You can't do that!". Never really being a believer in that phrase I thought "you never know, one day I just might". I'd worn an electronic arm for years (as I was born with my lower left arm missing) until as a result of an RTA my arm weakened and I couldn't use it for years. After various challenges I got my new electronic arm in July 2007 after a lot of hard work to re-build the muscle strength in my upper arm.

A few months on from that I got chatting to a friend of mine at work (she has a bike and was shopping for a new one) about how I'd always fancied riding a bike. Things kind of started there, a little bit of investigation work on the Internet proved helpful. I was also introduced to a guy my friend had met while "bike shopping" who had been involved in a bike accident and had heard of the NABD. He wanted to know where I got my arm from and I wanted to know how I could ride a bike, so it seemed a good idea to stay in touch and help each other

out. I contacted the NABD, joined up as a member and found out all about the adaptations that were already out there. The support of the NABD has been great, so I thought I'd see what the likelihood of finding a local motorcycle training school that could help. A quick email to "1st Castle School of Motoring & Motorcycle Training" to ask the question "can I ride a bike and could you teach me?" brought the welcome response of "Now there's a challenge! Lets talk more..." Maggie Hawks and her husband Jon from 1st Castle have been nothing but supportive since day one so I never contacted anywhere else. In 2008 I decided that this year is my year and I never thought I'd have an electronic arm again so I decided to go for it!

I bought a CBF 600s and started investigating where I could get it adapted in Hampshire. Again it was the Internet that helped me out... I put on Facebook "does anyone know where I could get my bike adapted?" To my surprise I got a few responses.

A local place about fifteen minutes away, "Road Racer" in Purbrook Hants, had done some adaptations before according to my Facebook buddy. I rang and asked if they could help me out, went in for a couple of hours the next day and after chatting to Stefan & Mel, came away thinking "Yeah this is possible!" They gave me a quote for the adaptation work and I applied to the NABD for a grant, which was accepted.

Stef & Mel were great and I've been involved in the whole process of working out what was best and how to do it with loads of people along the

way suggesting things as they came in to get their own bikes serviced or repaired etc, my adaption was put together from scratch. A year on from getting the arm I didn't think I'd use again, I'm on my way through learning and fulfilling a dream that I never thought I'd do, if I hadn't discovered the NABD or been chatting to my friend Sonia I probably would have just stuck it in the back of my mind as I had done for years and never done anything about it.

I am so grateful to have found the NABD and the willing people along the way especially Maggie & Jon at 1st Castle in Cosham Hants (tel: 023 92 380368) and for all the hard work and time that Stefan & Mel at Road Racer, Purbrook Hants (tel: 023292 261077) have put into this to make it possible for me to do this.

Thank you all.

Lisa Clements

For more information on 1st Castle Motorcycle Training see; www.1st-castle.co.uk

For more information on Road Racer motorcycle services see; <http://www.roadracer-purbrook.co.uk>

**This NABD grant
of £500.00
was sponsored
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"Any Spare Change Rally"**



Switchgear & clutch lever adaption



Clutch and front brake levers in parallel



Lisa & her CBF 600s