

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

MO AND DICK KINGSWELL



mounted at the rear of the wheelchair - that assist the carer in propelling the wheelchair forwards or backwards. Magic - number 1!

Wheeling Mo around the supermarket is now a finger-light one-handed exercise, even with a full shopping trolley attached to the front of the wheelchair and on a recent trip out, we 'walked' a 2 mile course up a couple of fairly steep gradients that needed only a little extra muscle from me. OK, the Power-Pack doesn't operate very well on gravel but there again neither does Mo, so we do tend to stick to tarmac or grass on our wheelchair expeditions - the difference is that now at the end of such a trip I am still in human form rather than a profusely sweating blubbering mess! At a cost of around £850 for the Power-Pack plus the £500 for the fully-sprung wheelchair, it is not a cheap option but it serves its purpose very well and we are very pleased with it. Our next challenge now is to design a brake system to

'ON THE ROAD AGAIN'

And I'm old enough to remember when Willie Nelson first sang that song!

Two things have happened recently to Mo and myself that have set us on a relatively new track in our motor-homing life but to start at the beginning: we now have a 23foot Fiat Ducato based 2 berth Swift Bolero that has been totally modified to suit Mo's disabled requirements, including a space under the fixed bed where we can store her "Frenetic Elite Care" fully comfort-sprung wheelchair.

As any 'carer' will tell you, pushing a heavy wheelchair up any kind of incline in a wheelchair is not for the faint-hearted, so recently we invested in a TGA Power-Pack wheelchair

propelling system which is basically a pair of electrically driven wheels





stop the wheelchair from running away from me when going downhill!

Secondly, in early May 2016 we bought a Vango Idris Air-inflatable drive-away awning which when fitted to the side of 'Bolly' (our motorhome) provides an outside 'sheltered' dining area as well as an overnight garage for the wheelchair. It cost around £450 and weighs in at around 14kg and basically does everything it says on the box. I can fully erect it, single-handed, in about 10 minutes flat although it does take at least another 30 minutes to peg it down properly – we really do not have any interest in para-motorhoming suspended underneath a wind-blown awning! For pegs, I took advice from several people including Paul Rees from the ARV Magazine and I use 7inch Turbo Coach Screws with stainless steel washers – which I drive in with either a small wheel brace or an 18v electric screwdriver fitted with a 13mm socket. Magic number 2! Hard-standing, gravel or grass – makes no

difference to the electric screwdriver, those screws go in so hard that I cannot shift them by hand – I just have to remember not to use the electric screwdriver in the rain – that is when the wheel brace comes into its own!

For our first trip this year we elected to travel up the West Coast heading for Scotland, starting at Wooda Farm Holiday Park which is already published in the 'RV Here' Guide (site 205) but which needed an RV-oriented report to personalise it from our point of view. Unfortunately, there weren't any RVs on site when we were there so we photographed our 23ft 'Bolly' on one of the longer pitches to give you an idea of the overall pitch length.

First of all, please let me stress once again, the warning shown on the site page concerning the use of SatNavs. We have a Caravan Club sponsored Garmin Snooper SatNav with a 7inch screen and a motorhome program that uses vehicle dimensions (length, weight, height etc.) which is fully

specified to our vehicle. According to all the advertising available, the Snooper should not take us onto any route deemed unsuitable for our vehicle size and weight. Well, Rhubarb! Let me tell you that unless you have a vehicle less than 23ft long, a cast-iron constitution and a spare set of underwear – you are very strongly advised NOT to follow this particular Snooper route. Later on when we were safely pitched on site, I watched the crash-cam video of our ascent up that forbidden road and it was interesting to say the least! Please, please use the travel directions supplied by the site management – those directions will lead you to a nice easy site entrance!

Having turned into the site entrance you will approach the Reception Block where you are faced with a left-turn into the Arrivals Area, situated in the car-park. There is a slight rise up the road into the car park so when you have booked in and been given 'pitch' directions, you will need to reverse out of the car-



park to get back onto one of the site roads – failure to do so will probably result in scraping your rear-end on the rise in the road.

Most of the RV-sized pitches that we saw were gravel-based Premier Pitches complete with a 16-amp hook-up, a fresh water tap and a grey tank drain on each pitch. On site there are two well sign-posted drive-over black tank dump points (man-hole covers) with a fresh water supply adjacent.

Should you wish to use the site facilities blocks, you will be utterly spoiled for choice and cleanliness, from a superbly appointed baby-changing room to a fresh-water dog shower situated behind one of the facility blocks. Yes, we were there at the beginning of the season but Mo and I know enough about campsites to know that the facilities on this site are well designed, well-built and no matter what time of the season you are there, you can bet your bottom dollar those facilities will be scrupulously clean and rigorously maintained.

There are quite a few pitches that would happily take a 36ft RV and some, especially Premier pitch one (P1) that would take a 40ft'er - but management at Wooda Farm have restricted overall length to 36ft – so if you are longer than that, simply telephone them and ask if they will let you in – you might be surprised!

The gravelled area on most of the Premier pitches is at least 16ft (5m) wide and 34ft (10m plus long) with a 16ft (5m) grass strip on one side – all of which adds up to a very easy pitch to reverse onto with ample car parking space alongside as well as a grass sitting-out area. The grass is regularly mown and the cuttings are



collected so no 'walking' grass cuttings into the motorhome! Every pitch is separated from adjacent pitches by chest-high, well-groomed beech hedges and is thus perfectly private with absolutely no need for

the infamous wind-breaks.

Leisure activities cover such extremes as an Archery range, Pitch and Putt, a fishing lake, a kite-flying area, tennis courts, a sports barn and a fitness suite, as well as a 'toddler'



play zone and one of the most interesting children play areas that I have ever seen, with half-size models of a motorhome, a land-rover and a tractor and trailer as well as a mammoth fort-style aerial walkway. There is an on-site restaurant, a pub and a separate take-away food shop. The picturesque beaches around Bude are just over a mile away with Sandymouth beach just over 2 miles away in the other direction.

In general, it would be fair to say that we were 'well-impressed' – and that coming from two jaded 'old' motorhomers who have seen it all before – is exceptionally complimentary indeed – top marks to Wooda Farm Holiday Park, it's Management and the Staff!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SEE THE SITE REPORT IN THIS MAGAZINE