

# CASE STUDY

## SPECIALIST AND ADAPTED CYCLES



When the Cycle to Work Scheme was introduced in 1999 there was a £1,000 limit which meant specialist cycles and trikes weren't possible through the scheme. This put employees with mobility issues at a clear disadvantage given the price points for specialist cycles. Pioneering scheme provider, GCI, set to change this in 2016 when it launched its no limits, no fees scheme model. Any type of cycle was now available.

### A handcycle for Guy

In 2019, Guy was working for innovative brand and digital agency, [The Escape](#), based in Hampshire. At the age of 23 (in 1993), Guy was diagnosed with a malignant tumour in his upper thoracic spinal cord. Following surgery, Guy was left with an incomplete spinal injury which severely reduced the strength and co-ordination in his legs and lower body.



Although Guy is able to walk with the aid of sticks, he cannot do so over long distances and it's becoming harder as he gets older. Before his illness, Guy was extremely fit, competing nationally in athletics, and playing basketball, running and cycling. Despite the injury, Guy has continued to be active and has learned to scuba dive and has played wheelchair basketball for the Hampshire Harriers.

Whilst Guy uses a recumbent trike for leisure activities, its not suitable for commuting. So in 2019, Guy researched the different Cycle to Work Schemes available and GCI's scheme with no £1,000 limit was the clear choice. His employer agreed to take part and so Guy approached Draft Wheelchairs, a leading supplier of hand cycles and other specialist mobility equipment.

The team at [Draft Wheelchairs](#) helped Guy try out several different hand cycles and Guy selected a Top-End Force 3 hand cycle with a retail price of £2,950. Utilising the [GCI Savings Calculator](#), Guy worked out that as a higher rate taxpayer, he would save 42% and his take-home (net) pay would reduce by just £47.53 per month over three years. Guy's total savings would be a massive £1,239. What's more, if Guy used the VAT relief on assisted equipment, he could have made an overall saving of £1,829 which is 62% of the cost of the handcycle.



*When the handcycle was ready for collection, Guy visited the Draft Wheelchair showroom for a 'bike fit' to ensure the set-up was correct for his riding position.*

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### The outcome

Guy lived in Dorset whilst his office was 60 miles away in Hampshire. A 120-mile round trip commute each day is, of course, too much for anyone to cycle. Instead, Guy has split his journey into two sections; he would drive to his colleague's house which was closer to the office and travelled the rest of the way using his hand cycle. Thus he is able to achieve his objectives of improving his fitness whilst reducing his environmental impact.



“The hand cycle has been such a great addition for me. I’ve been able to get out and cycle with friends so that I can build up my fitness, to enable me to cycle part of my commute. I chose GCI as they offered no limit on the cost of a bike. Other schemes were limited to £1,000 and a typical hand cycle starts at about £2,500. Also when I got in contact with Rob Howes, he was so helpful and keen to help me get on the scheme, and investigated thoroughly for me if it would be possible. The whole process was very easy. I have chatted to members of HCAUK and they are keen to promote the scheme for other disabled people who work and would benefit from hand cycling as part of their day to day routine.”

**Guy Nicholson**

“GCI have been so easy to deal with, its been a pleasure. Rob from GCI was very helpful and took time to explain the scheme to me and made sure I understood what would be required from Draft Wheelchairs as a GCI reseller. I would recommend the scheme to all my other customers who would qualify for it. The savings my customers can make without impacting our business’ bottom line are tremendous”.

**Jon Eiloart from Draft Wheelchairs**



*Draft Wheelchairs is an independent and innovative company providing equipment to people of varied disabilities, promoting independence and enabling easier, more active lifestyle.*

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