

'Case Management & Beyond' - Ships' Story

One of the great joys for a case manager is when they have the opportunity to catch up with a former client, long since discharged from our case management service, to hear how they're getting on.

This is the result of one such recent catch up, between Lynn Goodall and her former client Ships...

Firstly, we'll let Ships introduce himself - he wrote this for an RWW newsletter in 2012, not long after he was discharged from case management.

"Hi my name is Ships and I would like to tell you how Rehab Without Walls helped me.

On 15th August 2004, I was travelling to London with family and we had a car accident. From this incident I sustained a spinal cord injury at level c6/7 and this became a life changing experience.

After spending a year in hospital, I was introduced to my case manager Lynn Goodall who helped me gain my independence. I wasn't too sure what to expect from her but after meeting her we set goals and were able to achieve those goals as time went by.

One of the most important parts of my rehabilitation was to find suitable accommodation and, most importantly, to make sure it suited my needs. Lynn helped me organise meetings with builders and she liaised with them on a regular basis to keep up to date with progress. Unfortunately, as work progressed the builders were behind schedule and a lot of work was incomplete. Lynn and I were not so impressed with the contractors, as they were not keeping to their word. We organised several meetings and Lynn outlined exactly what needed to be done. After several months, I moved to my new abode and finally started to settle in.

During my time in hospital I was introduced to wheelchair rugby and I have really loved the sport ever since. My wish was to play rugby and Lynn organised a meeting with a member of the Wolverhampton Rhinos rugby team. In January 2006, I went for my first official training session and it was fun. I was helped onto a rugby chair and was starting to settle in with the team.

Hitting someone with a wheelchair was fun and it was legal! Not sure what Lynn was thinking but I don't think she believed me when I said it is an aggressive game. Since then, we have organised several tournaments and Lynn made sure I had the right care when I went away for tournaments. My ultimate goal is to play rugby and eventually reach the GB elite squad. From there my target is to represent Great Britain in the Paralympics.

It has been a long journey and I am very proud to have had Lynn as my case manager. She has provided the help and support I needed over the last few years and eventually I was getting on with life. I am very happy and have a positive attitude towards life. Thank you Lynn and Rehab Without Walls for all your help and support!!!!!!"

Lynn recently visited Ships for a catch up. He is now married and Lynn was delighted to meet his wife and hear the exciting news that they are expecting a baby very soon! He told her that he had continued

playing wheelchair rugby until his recent retirement and he *did* achieve his dream of playing for Team GB!

Lynn's influence had had another effect she didn't expect though - Ships told her that the experience they had getting his property ready had inspired him to get into property development and renovation! He said - ***"We did it together. I reckon I could do it now."***

Reminiscing about their time together, Ships said -

"I can't believe it has been so long! I was telling my wife and carer of the journey we had together but also wanted to thank you for your help during those times."

You helped me onto my feet and I have gained so much independence. I remember you took to rugby in January 2006, it got me into the sport for the next 14 years!"

Lynn replied -

"I will never forget that first visit to the rugby! I left my Sat-nav in the car whilst we went into the hall – and came out to find the window had been smashed, it had been stolen and there was glass all over your seat – I had to sweep and Hoover it all up and we travelled back with plastic over the window – freezing – and worried in case I'd missed any glass which could've caused you a problem. Didn't put you off though did it!! I think the horror on my face at the tackles during the game spurred you on!!"

