

Motorcaravanabout

Danbury for disabled

Danbury Conversions Ltd, official Volkswagen converters, have designed and developed a leisure vehicle around the requirements of the disabled. Mr Bernard Clarke of the Motor Caravanners' Club presented a special award to Danbury Conversions for their contribution to the motorcaravan industry during this International Year of the Disabled.

Danbury's specially designed vehicle for the disabled is built on the Volkswagen Transporter, 2 litre, automatic chassis.

An electrically operated Stowalift, with a loading capacity of over 400 lbs, is fitted to the sliding door, powered by the car battery. The master switch is located on the dashboard, to the left of the steering wheel. When not in use, the lift folds flat against the sliding door, inside the vehicle, restricting neither visibility nor freedom of movement inside the vehicle.

Both cab seats swivel, using Volkswagen's own EEC approved swivel seat mechanism, thus permitting transference from either wheelchair to cab passenger or driver seat.

A heavy-duty grab handle is fitted above the cab, bolted through a main structural support member, and another grab handle is fitted above the rear bed, again bolted through a main structural support member.

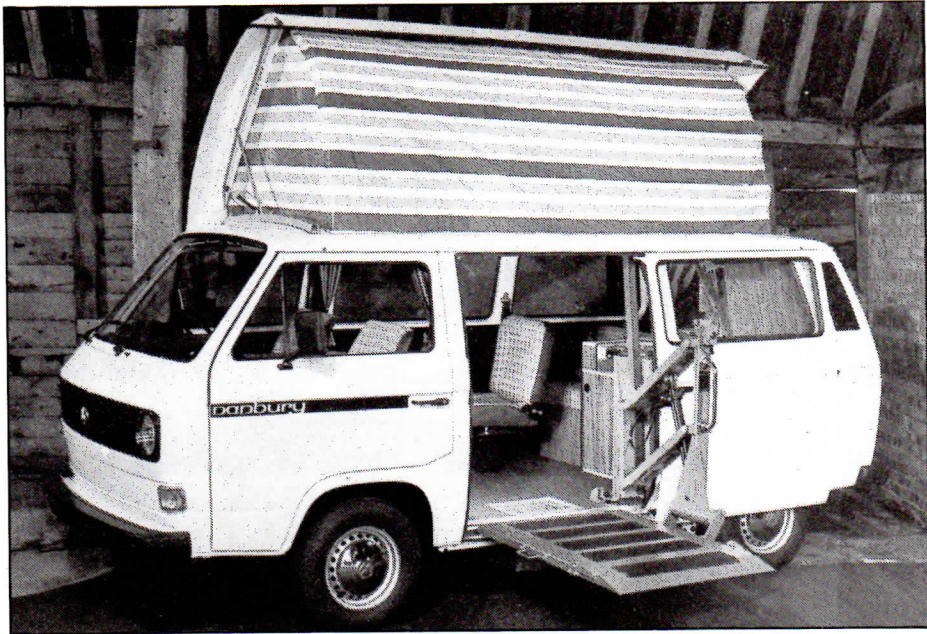
The interior has been designed to give space for the wheelchair to be used or parked.

After consultation with the Stoke Mandeville Hospital and the Disabled Living Foundation, Danbury designed the kitchen equipment for use at wheelchair level. This comprises a two-burner and grill cooker, a stainless steel sink and draining board, hand operated electric water pump and ample storage space.

An under-floor heater is also fitted, as well as fresh air ventilation throughout the rear, plus a portable toilet with padded seat.

The vehicle is fitted with a mains inlet socket, enabling batteries to be recharged, a charge and distribution unit and a fire extinguisher.

The vehicle has a swivel seat behind the driver's seat, which meets with EEC approval and has been crash tested. This seat can be locked into the forward facing position or, alternatively, will reverse and lock into a rearward position — the back rest being able to fully recline or partially recline. Behind this swivel seat there is a small, fixed seat situated on the engine deck, back rest of which forms the rest of the platform to make up a single bed for the disabled person. A person who is not permitted to lie flat can adjust the back rest of the swivel seat to his, or her, personal comfort. Thus there is a facility for four forward facing seats in the vehicle. There is another bed in the electrically operated rising roof.



Mr Pryke in wheelchair with Danbury's Director, Julian St Pierre.



Mrs Agnes Stephens (left) and Mrs Joy Dawson, Managing Director of Danbury.

Awards

The 21st birthday National Rally of the Motor Caravanners' Club at Newmarket Race Course was opened by the man who started it all, Bill Kelly, Founder President. The following awards were presented at the Trade Councours:

Class 11: Motor Caravanners' Club Silver Snail Trophy for the best elevating roof motorcaravan: Toyota Rio from Godfrey Davis Ltd.

Class 12: National Benzole Trophy for the best coachbuilt under 16ft 9in: Bedford AutoSleeper SV100 from Hireway Ltd.

Class 13: Wilson Shield for the best coachbuilt over 16ft 9in: Bedford Pioneer 1204 from Windmill Motorhomes.

Class 14: Ford Cup for the best conversion in the trade on a Ford chassis: Ford Delta from Russell Lunt.

Class 15: Chrysler Shield for the best conversion in the trade on a Chrysler/Dodge chassis: Dodge Swinger Luxury Liner 2 from Russell Lunt.

Class 16: Bedford Trophy for the best conversion in the trade on a Bedford chassis: Bedford AutoSleeper SV100 from Hireway Ltd.

Class 17: VW Shield for the best conversion by a recognised VW converter: Motosleeper from Russell Lunt.

Class 18: Motor Caravanners' Trophy for the best conversion in the trade on a BMC/Leyland chassis: Leyland AutoSleeper from Bowers Motor Caravans.

Class 19: Motor Caravanners' Trophy for the best conversion in the trade on a Toyota chassis: MCC Rio from Godfrey Davis.

There was also a Concours d'Elegance for members' motorcaravans, with nine shields, trophies or cups to be won. Oldest winner was a 1968 Commer Tourstar closely followed by a 1971 Bedford home conversion. We're grateful to Rene Ashton, press officer, for the results. How about some photographs next time?