



Sean with his mother.

## Fun and Fast

### **Vent User Starts Powerchair Football Club**

Sean Stamp, Auckland, New Zealand, lions.mouth@orcon.net.nz

I have Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), which means that I lack a protein for building muscle called dystrophin. Because of this I had trouble walking because my muscles didn't develop properly, and as I grew, it got harder and harder to walk. I started using a manual wheelchair at age 11, and since age 12, I've used an electric wheelchair.

DMD is a progressive disability, and at 30 years old, I've gradually lost more of the use of my legs and arms but stay active as much as I can through sports.

In 2009 I had some respiratory problems and was put on a bilevel machine (ResMed VPAP™ III) overnight to control carbon dioxide because my breathing is very shallow. As time went by I had to start using it during the day too, because when I get tired, I have trouble breathing. It got to the point where I was only off the VPAP for two hours a day, which pretty much meant I was stuck in the house.

I had a feeding tube put in, as I wasn't eating well, and this helped with my



Sean and his friend, Jenny, play powerchair football.

breathing. A course of steroids also helped my chest muscles, and I was able to be off the VPAP up to about six hours a day.

A friend from Australia showed me his ResMed Elisée™ 150, and I knew it was something that would change my life. I arranged a trial and straight away it meant I could go out again and not have to worry about breathing as the Elisée was there waiting when I needed it. I use CoughAssist at night to keep my airways clear.

continued, page 5

### **Powerchair Football**

A couple of years ago I saw a video of powerchair football and thought it looked like a lot of fun. I just had to have a go somehow. I decided to start a club in Auckland and applied for private funding for the equipment needed to play. The funding came through in February 2012 and in July we played our first game.

I had a great time as did the other players. The game is fun and very fast. I was worn out after the game so turned the Elisée on and had a rest.

## Vent User Starts Powerchair Football Club

continued from page 1

(The VPAP Sean uses only has pressure support modes and no internal battery so was not designed for mobile use. He uses it at night with a full face mask. The Elisée has both an internal and external battery, which gives him the freedom and flexibility to leave his home, using “sip” ventilation.)

Now that I have my own Elisée I’ve been able to go back to playing sports and racing remote control cars again. I have recently started sailing too.

The Elisée also has enabled me to go to more family functions as well because with the long battery life of the Elisée, I can go out at night. A highlight was being able to attend my sister’s 21st birthday party. ▲



Sean prepares to set sail.

► Copies are available at <http://newportnmi.com/HT50.asp> and <http://newportnmi.com/HT70.asp>. Click on “Airline Info.”

GE Healthcare/Breas reports that there have been delays in re-testing the Vivo® 50 so certification has not been completed.

Impact Instrumentation’s home vent is the Uni-Vent® Eagle™, Model 754. It is tested to military specification for fixed and rotary airplanes, which is the highest standard.

Philips Respironics states that Trilogy100, Trilogy200, BiPAP AVAPS, BiPAP S/T (c series) are all cleared for flying. A certificate can be downloaded from the product website for each, e.g., <http://trilogy100.respironics.com>. The company’s newest version of CoughAssist T70, soon to be released, also complies with the requirements. The PLV series of ventilators are all discontinued and will not be tested. All BiPAPs that are not “c series” will not be tested, either.

ResMed’s S8s, S9s, VPAPs all have been tested and letters can be downloaded at [www.resmed.com/us/patients\\_and\\_families/living\\_with\\_sleep\\_apnea/travel.html?nc=patients](http://www.resmed.com/us/patients_and_families/living_with_sleep_apnea/travel.html?nc=patients). Other hints on flying appear on the same page. The letter for the Stellar is located at [www.resmed.com/assets/documents/service\\_support/air\\_travel\\_compliance/faa\\_letter\\_rtca\\_do\\_160g\\_germany\\_signed\\_eng2.pdf](http://www.resmed.com/assets/documents/service_support/air_travel_compliance/faa_letter_rtca_do_160g_germany_signed_eng2.pdf)

SIARE Engineering International group s.r.l. does not have an official certification for its line of home care ventilators (Falco 101, Falco 202).

Letters for Weinmann’s VENTiLogic LS, VENTiLogic plus, VENTiLogic, VENTiMotion, VENTiMotion 2, BiLevel ST 22 can be found at [www.weinmann.de/fileadmin/weinmann/infoservice/reiseversorgung/Manufacturer\\_declaration\\_SafetyInFlight\\_ventilation\\_EN\\_0709.pdf](http://www.weinmann.de/fileadmin/weinmann/infoservice/reiseversorgung/Manufacturer_declaration_SafetyInFlight_ventilation_EN_0709.pdf).

All of the above manufacturers assured IVUN that all new products released in the future will be tested and certified for flying. ▲