

## Matt King is Pursuing His Dreams

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**M**att King was injured in his first professional rugby league match in 2004 at the age of 17. He broke his neck at C3-C4, and spinal shock went up to C2 which left him paralyzed from the neck down and completely dependent on assisted ventilation. He is trached and uses suctioning and regular nebulizers to keep his chest clear.

Matt left the hospital in 2007 with two Breas 403s, but was always on the lookout for a smaller device that was more convenient and less cumbersome. Matt learned about the Elisée 150 by chance in a newspaper article and contacted ResMed. He found that the Elisée 150 fit his lifestyle, and he purchased two of them.

Key features that attracted Matt to the Elisée 150 were its size and weight – it can easily and discreetly be stowed on the back of the wheelchair without the need of a vent tray, and it is reliable.

The Elisée 150 has enabled Matt to travel, going on a cruise in the Mediterranean last summer with the use of three external batteries (supplementing two internal batteries) keeping him on the move. Matt also flew to Sweden to go skiing, using his Elisée 150, which stowed easily under the seat in front of him. He flew on Virgin Atlantic, which he reports was

great in assisting with the organization of his flights.

“During the flight, I simply used the internal and external batteries on the ventilator, but brought my second ventilator as hand luggage in case there was a problem.”

At home, Matt keeps one Elisée 150 device permanently on his wheelchair and the other by his bed.

Matt has followed his ambitions and dreams and decided to pursue law studies after his accident. He completed his bachelor's degree in law in 2009 with flying colors. He is currently undertaking his Legal Practice Course in preparation for the master's degree in law with the intention of moving to London on completion of his studies to pursue a successful career in law.

Matt has not let mechanical ventilation get in the way of living his everyday life. He gets around by car, equipped with a ramp at the back to allow him to get in easily and a lock-down mechanism to secure the chair to the plate. He is able to move around easily and quickly.

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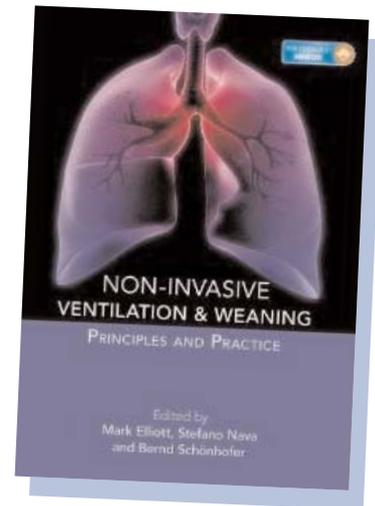
Matt lives in Langford, England, with his parents, younger brother and two dogs.

## New Reference Book on Ventilation

*Non-Invasive Ventilation and Weaning: Principles and Practice*, edited by Mark Elliott, MD; Stefano Nava, MD; and Bernd Schoenhofer, MD, with an expert group of contributors from 14 different countries, is new and vastly comprehensive. The 688-page reference work covers different applications for adult and pediatric non-invasive ventilation, and closely related techniques, both in hospital and at home. Well-organized topics also include NIV in cancer patients, in the elderly, in pregnancy, and in end-of-life care, as well as the effects of prolonged weaning and weaning failure.

The patient experience of non-invasive ventilation section includes “Psychological issues for the mechanically ventilated patient” by IVUN Consumer Advisory Committee Member Linda L Bieniek, in collaboration with Drs. Daniel F Dilling and Bernd Schönhofer.

Published by Hodder Arnold, London, UK, ©2010, the text is available for £149 through Amazon ([www.amazon.co.uk/Non-Invasive-Ventilation-Weaning-Principles-publication/dp/0340941529/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1286803689&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Non-Invasive-Ventilation-Weaning-Principles-publication/dp/0340941529/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1286803689&sr=8-1)) ▲



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What Matt likes the most about his Elisée 150 is its small size and the touch screen that provides comprehensive information. Alarm information is clear, meaning that when there is a problem, it is easily identifiable and resolvable, which also helps his attendants in their work.

Matt has two attendants around the clock, funded by the Primary Care Trust (part of the U.K.'s National Health Service that provides and coordinates health and social care systems). The agency overseeing his care runs advertisements in the local newspaper when needed and passes the applications on to Matt. “I then decide who I would like to interview and ask questions to them directly. At the conclusion of the interviews, I have the final decision as to whether the applicant is taken on.” Matt has a total of eight attendants, all of whom were interviewed, selected and trained by him.

Although Matt lives a busy life, he also contributes his time as a mentor through the Backup Trust ([www.backuptrust.org.uk](http://www.backuptrust.org.uk)), an organization that provides activities, such as skiing,

paragliding, acting courses, etc., for people with spinal cord injury. He is paired up with young people who need advice, someone to talk to and someone who can answer their questions. This opportunity was not available when Matt was injured, but he feels that it would have been a good resource and is happy to give his time to help others.

He lives in Langford, England, with his parents, younger brother and two dogs. ▲

*Ed. Note: The Elisée 150 is not available in the United States.*

## Calendar

**NOVEMBER 21, 9:00 am-2:30 pm. Breathing & Sleep II.**  
Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, California.  
[www.salk.edu/breathingandsleep](http://www.salk.edu/breathingandsleep)

**DECEMBER 6-9. AARC International Respiratory Congress.**  
Las Vegas, Nevada. [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

**DECEMBER 7-13. International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations, 18th Annual Meeting and 21st International Symposium on ALS/MND.** J.W. Marriott, Orlando Grande Lakes, Florida.  
[www.alsmndalliance.org](http://www.alsmndalliance.org)

**DECEMBER 10, 6-8 pm. ALS/MND Nursing Mini-Symposium: Respiratory Care Update.** J.W. Marriott, Orlando Grande Lakes, Florida. [meeting@lesturnerals.org](mailto:meeting@lesturnerals.org).