



# The Queen's Awards for Enterprise Magazine

# 2020



Sustainable  
Development



International Trade



Innovation



Promoting Opportunity  
(Through Social Mobility)



Award Holders  
2016-2019

We tender the loyal greetings of all Queen's  
Awards winners to Her Majesty The Queen



Tomcat Dragon – a part of Tomcat's 'Affordable Quality' range of trike.



Tomcat Dragonfly – a junior version of the Dragon



Tomcat Electric Silver Bullet – Suitable for seniors with a mobility issue

### An invention with a Social Purpose.

**Tomcat Special Needs Innovation Ltd is a design and manufacturing company providing specialist seating and tricycle solutions to the disabled community, either direct to the customer, or through a UK and worldwide network of specialist distributors.**

Over 22 years, Tomcat has built on its signature innovation, Carer Control™, which enables the steering, braking and speed of a trike to be



Tomcat Rotor (Hand Propelled Trike) Latest innovation

controlled by a carer. The Gloucester-based company has also conceived nearly 50 further innovations, many of which have become industry standards worldwide.

### We Are All Unique

Tomcat's prolific portfolio of innovation came from its willingness to bespoke build in a medium volume environment, recognising as it did, that each customer is unique in their abilities and aspirations. It was a policy that changed lives and was recognised in 2013 with the company's first Queen's Award for Enterprise in Innovation.

Much of the company's design work addresses the challenges presented by genetic disease, either physical or cognitive. As a consequence, many products are provided for children in their formative years, where the health and social effects of managed exercise can be life changing.

### Our World Is Changing

More recently, Tomcat has – like us all – become increasingly aware of the fragility of planet Earth. Technologies that define us: like the airplane, train and motor car, have all played a detrimental part in exposing that fragility - but in recent years a genuine desire has grown to find greener transport alternatives.

Tomcat responded to those changing aspirations by transferring its "access, transportability and genetic and acquired disease I.P." to the adult tricycle market where, despite the numerous health and environmental benefits, there was little provision for adults with mobility or disability issues.

The outcome was the Bullet range of tricycles, for which the company is proud to have won its second Queen's Award. The range incorporates five models that, between them, have the capability to address almost every obstacle to cycling that customers in their teenage to senior adult years may encounter.

### The Products

The Apprentice model is designed for those needing carer supervision through blindness, cognitive or physical disabilities. In contrast, the Silver Bullet is a multi-geared machine for fully independent riders with difficulties ranging from balance and access issues, through to stroke and heart disease recovery.

The Cycle Squad is an easy access, easy adjustable machine for multi-user environments, such as schools and cycle hire facilities, whilst the Flash is an out and out high-performance sports machine. Finally, the Rotor is a finely balanced, hand-propelled machine for riders unable to use their legs.

### Change Is A Natural Part Of Life

Because it is the nature of a person's lifestyle or disability to be constantly changing, the entire range is modularly designed to change with each individual's own particular needs or abilities. For example, single speeds can become multi-speeds, or manual drives can become e-trikes ranging from slow speed drives for supervised trikes through to

high-performance pedal assistance for independent models.

Bob Griffin, Tomcats M.D. says: "My team are very proud to have won this new Queen's Award for innovation, because not only will it encourage the non-disabled community to adopt a healthier, greener form of transport, it will also help bring an understanding of what is personally achievable to the disabled adult community – an ever-growing section of society that is so often ignored."

He added: "The Bullet has created a new technology for those who may have thought their cycling days were over, but for many, it may be just beginning. An essential part of everything we design is about style, because feeling good about yourself and what you are doing is important to us all. What could lift your spirits or make you feel prouder to be cycling, than to ride the UK's highways and byways on a Queen's Award winning tricycle."

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Tomcat Silver Bullet – the innovative adult trike that won the award