

“Choosing Cubex was one of the best decisions they have made. I owe my parents much for their efforts in easing me through my childhood and allowing me the many opportunities that I have enjoyed in my life, but I also remain grateful for the continued professional support of Cubex that I have received over the years.”

Born with a severely profound hearing loss, Jonathan Topp doesn't consider his hearing loss a disability and lives his life to the full. “Although I still find that my hearing loss can be a disadvantage in certain situations – I am much more easily able to deal with and adapt to such situations; there is something about having **37 years of unique experience in dealing with a hearing impairment!**”

He was first introduced to Cubex in the mid-70s by his mother who frustrated at the lack of attention, care and commitment shown by NHS hospitals, tirelessly sought other options. ***I have been associated with Cubex ever since.***

“Being only 4-5 years old at the time, I very much remember attending Cubex at the former Gray Inns Road site. Monty, my audiologist back then, used to reward me with chocolate smarties at the end of each consultation.” His earliest hearing aids were of the large box type worn across the front of the chest with a body strap and very prominent wires leading up to his ears – “a far cry from today's minute and technology-packed hearing aids”, says Jonathan.

He remembers the response of his friends during early school days as being very positive. He was quite a popular and highly rated member of football teams. “Participation in sport has served me well as an outlet for my inner frustrations – that is, having to deal with the daily obstacles that being unable to hear as well as others inevitably brings and the continuous personal perceived sense of injustice that I used to feel during the early days, i.e. “why me?”.”

The consultation process at Cubex continues to be enjoyable, informative and rewarding

Adam Shulberg became his audiologist in mid 80s (when Monty retired). With his guidance and support, Jonathan progressed through his teens and 20s with a range of analogue behind-the-ear hearing-aids, followed by analogue in-the-ear hearing aids. This year, he has finally decided to wear digital hearing aids for the first time. “Until now, I have for over 30 years relied on the power and amplification of analogue aids to hear sounds. All of a sudden, my brain has had to adapt to hearing new sounds in a different way and admittedly, I found the initial transition difficult. Six months on and I have become accustomed to these aids sufficiently enough to say that they are **the most exciting and pleasant** I have personally encountered.”

His hearing aids are very discrete and have caused surprise and fascination from friends, colleagues and even strangers. These aids have a unique wire connection between the receiver and ear mould – “nothing like some of my earlier aids with plastic tubing that was prone to getting brittle and filling up with condensation”. Additionally, the new aids incorporate useful Bluetooth technology to provide links to mobile phone and audio/visual systems, which “really alters the image of hearing-aids and makes them **more appealing to today's younger generation**”.

Prior to discovering Cubex, Jonathan spent his first few years unable to hear and had limited speech but he was very much behind developmental milestones compared to non-hearing impaired children of similar age. Obtaining the ability to hear allowed him the chance to catch up with his colleagues and go through mainstream education with minimal effort. He is now 37 years of age, had graduated two university degrees and he is now working successfully as a Physiotherapist within the NHS. He is happily married and has two gorgeous daughters.

“I do not consider myself to be disabled and live life to the full. There is no doubt that my own personal characteristics, notably determination, perseverance and ambition, as well as some luck, has got me where I am today, but my life-long relationship with Cubex has been equally important.”