

By **MARC FLETCHER**

I'VE forgotten how many times I've been through this routine in the past five days. Nappy off, swim nappy on, swim suit on, arm bands inflated, arm bands on.

Kye, my 19-month-old son, dashes to the edge of the pool. Dancing, he can barely contain himself as he waits for me to get in the water.

"OK, Kye! On three, jump! One two, three..." Kye launches himself off the pool edge and into my arms.

While Kye clambors out of the water to do it again, I steal a glance at youngsters whizzing down water slides as their parents enjoy a relaxing spa-bath.

We are staying at the five star Ribby Hall Village on Lancashire's Fylde coast, 10-minutes from Blackpool.

Ribby Hall Village has a choice of self catering and a fine hotel. Even my latte habit is sorted by Starbucks.

There are loads of activities - horse riding, cycling, fishing and canoeing. I even played a reasonable round for a change on the golf course. The

LANCS FOR THE MEMORY



▼ **PADDLING**
Kye wets his appetite

grounds are extensive and

long walks with the little ones are great. The spa, sauna and steam room will satisfy those who need to unwind.

Scotty G and the in-house entertainment keeps young and old occupied and a meal at the Bar & Grill is a must.

But you can't come to this part of Lancashire without

going to see Blackpool and the Pleasure Beach.

The UK's favourite holiday destination has had a revamp and has loads to offer. Walk on the promenade, catch a show at Blackpool Tower or ride one of the rumbling trams. It's what Blackpool is all about.

But if you want thrills, the Pleasure Beach is the place to go. The rides, including Europe's tallest rollercoaster The Big One - will satisfy adrenalin junkies.

Back at Ribby Hall we opened a bottle of wine in our Diamond class cottage. The kitchen had a dishwasher, cooker, microwave and washing machine, but if you prefer something rustic try a Pine Lodge with a hot tub.

Just as I picture myself settling into one of those hot tubs I'm brought back to reality by an excited scream. "OK, Kye! On three, jump! One, two, three!" SPLASH...

GET THERE



A **POPPY** Cottage at Ribby Hall sleeps six and costs from £12pppn. A **Diamond** Cottage sleeps six and costs from £13pppn. A **Pine Lodge** sleeps four or six and costs from £380 for four nights. The site is open all year and offers full weeks, weekend and four-night midweek breaks. The hotel is being refurbished and reopens this spring. Visit www.ribbyhall.co.uk.

BEST TIME TO GO: Year-round family fun