

# Letters

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**This month:** the high price of cycling products, **touring with a trailer**, mountain bike and road bike coverage in Cycle, **waterproof jackets**, step-through frames, **cycling in your seventies**, and charity ride organising

## Gear too dear

I don't know about other sections of CTC, but one thing we are short of in our member group is millionaires. Reading Gear Up in Cycle it seems that all cyclists now not only have to spend at least £1,000 on a reasonable bike but massive amounts for the kit to wear. Perhaps it's a case of the old north-south divide? I'm a Yorkshire cyclist.

Like many cyclists, I look out for the weeks when Aldi or Lidl have their cycling gear in. I have purchased a winter cycling jacket for £14.99 (Lidl), cycling shirts for £7.99 each (Aldi), winter cycling shoes for £19.99 (Aldi), cycling socks for £2.99 (Aldi) and many more items. All have been well designed, functional and hard wearing.

On some of our rides, we look like the Aldi-Lidl sponsored cycling club!

**John Gleadow**

We try to test a range of products at various prices in Cycle. We're never going to test only budget items or only expensive items. Different CTC members will have different definitions for budget and expensive, of course. You don't have to spend £1,000 on a bike (see, for example, page 56). That's just the average, roughly, that CTC members are spending, according to our most recent survey. There's another survey this issue, so if you think Cycle's coverage doesn't reflect your cycling or buying habits – or even if it does – do let us know. **DAN**



## Panniers or trailer?

I enjoy reading your magazine and always look forward to the next edition. I was particularly inspired by the articles on touring this summer, so much so that I took the plunge and did a little myself.

One problem I had was deciding whether to go for panniers or a trailer. Could you please do an article on that for others to read? In the end I decided on a Carry Freedom trailer – and believe I made a good decision – but it would have been nice to have had some independent guidance.

I actually went B&B touring but next summer I would like to try camping. Please could you do an article advising on what to take? I always take far, far too much.

**Maurice Manktelow**

A trailer is okay for touring if your bike type makes

panniers impractical or if the panniers you have are full to bursting already. But if you're using one for B&B touring, you're definitely taking more than you need! We'll likely run a what-to-take article before long. **DAN**

## Not enough X in cycle

I write in response to Jason Falkner's letter in the Oct/Nov issue of Cycle regarding the 'tiny amount' of coverage that mountain biking received in the Aug/Sep issue. As a keen cyclist who rides both on and off-road, I'd like to add that there are a number of cycling magazines that cater for mountain biking – I've subscribed to a number over the years. However, none of the current cycling magazines seems to cover the subject of cycle touring regularly. Cycle magazine does a good job.

I look forward to reading each issue and hope that the magazine continues to feature touring articles, whether on road or off-road, and remains true to the club's grassroots.

**Adrian Dunne**



Jason Falkner is annoyed about the lack of mountain bike coverage in our magazine. How does he think the racing fraternity feel? I believe that at least 50% of our members here in Bristol have racing interests that are completely ignored. We are a silent majority who have learned to accept this situation over a period of time. Until recently, CTC ran an annual Best All Rounder competition for time trials. Is there any hope of a return to former times?

**Brian Griffiths**

The best I can suggest for now is to fill in the survey that was sent with this issue of Cycle. The more complete the picture we have of what members want, the better position we'll be in to deliver it. **DAN**

Letter  
OF  
THE  
MONTH



## Charity begins

Earlier this year, BBC Lincolnshire contacted me about a fundraising event for Children in Need. The ride was 600 miles in eight days from Neustadt in Germany (Lincoln's twin town) to Lincoln. Breakfast radio show presenter Rod Whiting is a CTC member. He did the ride with producer Louise Wheeler and Lincolnshire Echo sports reporter John Pakey.

They did a series of reports about local CTC and cycling generally on the radio and in the Lincolnshire Echo, plus a TV report that went out on BBC Look North. They have taken part in several group rides too.

I think this is a great example of CTC working with local media, promoting what CTC does and helping other charitable causes on the way.

**Andy Townhill**

## On the cuff

I was interested in the recent article on waterproof jackets. There's also the question of compatibility with waterproof winter gloves. Do you wish to have the cuffs of your gloves over your jacket cuffs or underneath?

A jacket with narrow cuffs will suit the former, but there's presumably a risk that rain running down the outsides of the sleeves may flow into the insides of your gloves. Unfortunately, it seems difficult to find waterproof cycling jackets whose cuffs are wide enough to allow warm winter gloves to fit underneath.

**David Rhead**

## Young at heart

How refreshing and gratifying to read of others like me in



## Obituaries

### Derek Johnson

Died 3/8/11, aged 80. A draughtsman at Cammell Laird Shipyards in Birkenhead, Derek was always a keen cyclist. In 1985 he helped re-inaugurate the Birkenhead Cycling Club. He was time trial champion of the Liverpool Area and also West Cheshire in the late '60s and early '70s, and did a 53-minute 25 in his mid 50s. He put a lot back into the sport and was awarded the RTTC (now Cycling Time Trials) Gold Badge of Honour. He was a popular speaker at club dinners. **Brian Hadwin**

### Peter Robinson: 18/6/45-25/5/11

For more than 20 years, Peter was the admired, genial, and encouraging proprietor of Dorchester Cycles, which annually ran the Great Dorset Bike Ride. He was a keen sailor and he coped with MS for 12 years, adapting his boat for wheelchair access. He was pleased by the Connect 2 plan for a pedestrian, cycle, and wheelchair bridge over the awkward gap in the Rodwell trail, which will improve access Weymouth, but sadly died before its completion. **Malcolm Howell**

### Frank Butler

Died 27 August, aged 89, from lung cancer. Frank's first encounter with a bicycle was as a laundry delivery boy while at school. On leaving school he worked at an ironmongers and delivered orders on a tradesman's bike. He first started club cycling with the Young Communist League in 1933 and remained a lifelong cyclist up until his last four years. He was a member of the CTC, SVCC, VCC and PVCC. The funeral was on 9 September at Harwood Park, Stevenage. **Michael Francis**

### Peter Mitchell: 1934-2011

Died at home aged 77, after a life devoted to cycling. He formed The Ewell Touring Club aged just 15, and in 1949 joined the CTC South West London DA sections for Cheam and Morden and the Wayfarers and the Wanderers. He raced with, and became the backbone of, the Kingston Phoenix Road Club. Pete was a skilled tours organiser and leader, and his slide shows of his trips at home and abroad were well attended. In recent years Pete rode with the CTC Midweek Wayfarers section of the SW L. DA. Peter's funeral cortege was accompanied by 120 cyclists. **Clive Oxx**

your Young at Heart feature. At 74, having COPD (airways disease), I cannot ride hills without stopping for breathers. Fortified by inhalers, I'm comfortable doing about 20-25 miles. On the Birthday Rides this year, I managed 40 but I was exhausted.

I've cycled on and off ever since my first excursion on a kiddy trike at aged two, when I disappeared for hours with mum going frantic. I love cycling and am sure it is keeping me well. I can't do cold or wet weather, and local CTC group rides are too much. I ride with the U3A and sometimes alone. Why do some of my friends think I'm mad, and others worry about me? I'm doing fine.

**Yvonne Bland**



her a 1970 Coventry Eagle Elite, built from Reynolds 531 tubing, and upgraded it so that it weighs under 24lb, complete with mudguards, prop stand, rack, and 3-speed hub.

**Chris Bevis**

My wife Pat also required a step-through frame, as she was having problems getting on and off the bike. Although she can manage her Airnimal folder, after some thought we purchased a Dawes Mojave open-frame hybrid from Spa Cycles. We then built replacement lighter wheels and removed the pannier rack. To match its riding position to my wife's tourer, we substituted a pair of butterfly bars. It's comfortable and she finds getting on and off it very, very easy.

**Fred Lloyd**

## Step-through frames

I read with interest the query regarding ladies' lightweight step-through bicycles. My wife (over 70) had the same problem. Not now. I bought