

# Opinion Letters

**THIS MONTH** BIKES ON TRAINS, DOGS IN TRIKES, ISLABIKES, TANDEM TALES, DIY MUDFLAPS – AND MORE



Letter of the month

## RAIL AGAINST RESTRICTIONS

**W**hen I was a teenager you just wheeled your bike into a guard's van, whereas I've recently had another struggle to get my bicycle across country by train. Please can I beg Cycling UK to put further effort into this?

I recently travelled in Normandy in France, where in summer they expand their bicycle carrying capacity by covering vulnerable seating with thick plastic tarpaulin covers. There were even uniformed bike assistants on the train to assist with loading. They had liveried gilets and hats, and pockets stuffed with cycle maps to hand out to promote local tourism! It would be wonderful if such a service was available in the UK. Maybe we could get some of the regional tourism organisations on board to promote their area?

If trains cannot be set up to carry more bikes, what about coaches? The international bike bus service expired with Covid. Can we campaign with National Express or Megabus to have some coach departures with a bike trailer?

**Catherine Temple**

*The main problem with the UK's bikes-on-trains setup is that it only works if few people actually take their bikes on trains. As it's awkward, few do. Low demand, low supply – a circular argument. Note, however, that the European Bike Express is still advertising services for 2024. See [bike-express.co.uk](http://bike-express.co.uk).*

## Win a set of Exposure lights worth £85

The letter of the month wins a set of Trace and Tracer Mk2 DayBright lights, courtesy of Exposure Lights. These small (35g), rechargeable lights are ideal for urban riders or any cyclist wanting to be seen easily: the front emits up to 125 lumens, the rear up to 75. Conspicuity is boosted by excellent side visibility and an optional DayBright pulse pattern. The casing is durably made from CNC'd aluminium and is waterproof to IP65. For details, or to purchase Exposure lights, visit [exposure-use.com/Brands/Exposure-Lights](http://exposure-use.com/Brands/Exposure-Lights).

**EXPOSURE LIGHTS**



## Get in touch

**LETTERS** are edited for space, clarity and, if necessary, legality. The editor reads and automatically acknowledges all letters but publishes only a selection. Feedback for the next issue must arrive by 23 December. Please include your membership number.

**WRITE TO:** Letters, Cycle, Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Rd, Guildford, GU2 9JX or email [editor@cyclingsuk.org](mailto:editor@cyclingsuk.org)

## 'WAR ON MOTORISTS'



Cycling UK will of course get the support of the vast majority of regular cyclists in opposing the government's cynical pre-election attacks on cycling.

Luckily NGOs and charities are able to challenge governments on the issues they were created to champion. Or are they? Government figures have in recent times threatened that any charity opposing government policy, or promoting causes they castigate as 'woke', could lose its charitable status and therefore a large chunk of its income. The intention of this threat is clearly to stifle dissent.

I hope that Cycling UK will not acquiesce, and will continue your evidence-based and honest campaigning for a healthier and more eco-friendly Britain.

**Stephen Psallidas**

## DOGGY PEDALLING

The article on Lydia Maxwell's Dogboxx business was enjoyable. I too have a Christiania box trike used for transporting dogs. My two are almost at the 100kg load limit, and the electric assist comes in handy. Even with the motor, I had to swap the chainset for a triple with a 20-tooth inner for a local 20% incline. It was worth it for the smiles raised by the sight of doggy ears flapping in the wind on the way back down!

**David Sharp**



Canine cargo