



## FROM THE EDITOR

'Out!' A left hand gestures rightwards across the leader's lower back. With five of us on this mid-winter club ride, numbers diminished by seasonal germs, we move out past the parked car unspectacularly, more like ducks in a row than the starlings in flight that a big bunch of cyclists can resemble.

Communication is still important. It takes only one rider in front to obscure the view of a pothole, and we are passing some deep enough to stop any bike dead. Fingers point in warning.

There are still some surprises. Approaching a roundabout with visiting rider Stu, we both spot the car on it. 'Stopping,' we say. 'Take it easy,' we gesture. 'Stopping!' Stu shouts – at me.

'I thought you were going straight over,' he says. 'You kept pedalling.'

'I'm riding fixed-wheel, Stu.'

Even when you do know the habits of your fellow cyclists, the awareness is hardly ESP. You still have to talk, signal, look around, and ride predictably. If you're about to go on your first ride with a CTC member group (inspiration on page 18) or plan to enter your first sportive this summer, it's worth learning some group-riding ground rules (page 34). Then you can relax and fully enjoy the company of your fellow cyclists.

Dan Joyce



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Far left: Jon Sparks. Above: Phil O'Connor

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GET FIVE YEARS  
CTC MEMBERSHIP  
FOR THE PRICE  
OF FOUR.  
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