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on p76

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Cover: Riders on the Snowdon Ranger Path, by Seb Rogers



{ F R O M }

THE EDITOR



'IS THIS YOUR CONCEPTION OF CYCLING?' Walter MacGregor Robinson, better known as Wayfarer, envisaged being asked this question in an article he wrote for Cycling magazine in 1919. That March he'd taken his bike over the rough Nant Rhyd Wylm pass in the Berwyn Mountains – a fixed-wheel bike, and through deep snow. He had walked quite a bit of the way but thought that yes, it was cycling. 'I fling wide the boundaries of that pastime,' he wrote. 'Some of the best of cycling would be missed if one always had to be in the saddle or on a hard road.'

Taking a mountain bike up and down Snowdon is in this same spirit of adventure cycling. Off-road cyclists in both CTC's distant and more recent past have enjoyed dragging bikes into the remote places. I remember reading about ex-CTC employee Nick Crane riding up Snowdon in October 1981, using the most appropriate technology available to him at that time: a Geoff Apps Range Rider.

I don't know if Wayfarer would have embraced today's technology or not. In my mind, I see him on a rigid singlespeed but see no reason why he wouldn't take advantage of something like the Orange Gyro (p64). For adventure cyclists of all kinds, it's not, as they say, about the bike. What matters is where the bike will take you.

Incidentally, to read more about Wayfarer's trip, go online: cyclingnorthwales.co.uk/pages/wayfarer.htm

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Left: courtesy Essex Legacy 2012