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Founded in 1878



FROM THE EDITOR

YOU CAN'T BEAT a tandem for enabling riders of differing abilities to cycle together sociably and efficiently. While I've never owned an adult tandem, childback versions were how I used to cycle with my three boys. We had a Thorn Me 'n' U2, a double-childback triplet that towed first a child trailer and later a trailer-cycle. When the two eldest outgrew it, we downsized to a childback tandem.

The triplet was great. It was 'the family car', the vehicle we used to get about. We went on holiday with it too. When we lived in York, it was possible to take it on various trains: intercities that ran not just up and down the country but diagonally across it. Then the rolling stock and rules changed. You can still take tandems up and down the East Coast mainline, but the cross-country journey we made from York to Holyhead via Birmingham, for example, is impossible. You'd need a folding, separable or oddly compact tandem. Or a car.

Family cyclists can still travel by train, as the Clines family prove (p54, All aboard!). But you need bikes more compact than a standard tandem to do so, which is a shame as a tandem is such a good family vehicle. On the plus side, those bikes that are permitted seldom have to go in a box or bag – even if you're travelling by Eurostar (p8)...

Dan Joyce
EDITOR



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Clockwise from far left: Dan Joyce, Jeremy Clines, David Bradford

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On the cover
Ben Searle & Tamar Thompson, near Ronda, on tour from Sevilla to Granada, Spain.
© Ben Searle

CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX E: cycling@ctc.org.uk W: ctc.org.uk T: 0844 736 8450 or 01483 238300 (national office) 0844 736 8451 or 01483 238301 (membership dept)

Cycle promotes the work of CTC. Cycle's circulation is approx. 51,000. CTC is one of the UK's largest cycling membership organisations, with 67,000 members and affiliates. CTC Patron: Her Majesty the Queen. President: Jon Snow. CTC Council Chair: David Cox. Chief Executive: Paul Tuohy.

Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC) a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England No 25185, registered as a charity in England and Wales Charity No 1147607 and in Scotland No SC042541. Registered office: Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX.

CYCLE MAGAZINE: Editor: Dan Joyce e: editor@ctc.org.uk Designers: Mary Harris, Simon Goddard

Advertising: Anna Vassallo tel: 020 7079 9365 e: annav@jppublishing.co.uk Creative Director: James Houston
 Publisher: James Pembroke. Cycle is published six times per year on behalf of CTC by James Pembroke Publishing, 90 Walcot Street, Bath, BA1 5BG. Tel: 01225 337777. Cycle is copyright CTC, James Pembroke Publishing and individual contributors. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission from CTC and James Pembroke Publishing is forbidden. Views expressed in the magazine are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the policies of CTC. Advertising bookings are subject to availability, the terms and conditions of James Pembroke Publishing, and final approval by CTC.

PRINTED BY: Precision Colour Printing, Haldane, Halesfield 1, Telford, TF7 4QQ. Tel: 01952 585585

