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## FROM THE EDITOR

**DIVERSITY: THAT'S** another of the great things about cycle-touring. You can do it how you like, on what you like, with the kit you prefer, and call it whatever you want – touring, bikepacking, adventure riding, or anything else. One consequence of this is more interesting bikes.

With racing, the tight rules and regulations and the single objective – to win – create convergent evolution. The bikes for any competitive discipline end up broadly the same. It can make some stands at bike shows rather dull. This bike is orange. That one has a frame that's 1% lighter. This one has a head angle half a degree slacker...

So it was refreshing to walk around both York Rally and the Cycle Touring Festival (where Technical Editor Richard Hallett and I were speakers) and look at the wider variety of bikes that visitors had turned up on. I saw a bells-and-whistles belt-drive German tourer parked near to a spartan road bike whose sole concession to touring was a Carradice saddlebag support. Both riders would rightly claim to be tourers.

Touring cyclists – and their bikes – don't fit homogenous stereotypes. They're not sitting in one pigeon-hole, easily counted. Bike owners and marketing departments might not even use the word touring. But in 25 years as a cycling journalist, I've never seen the industry take such an interest in getting away by bike.

**DAN JOYCE**  
Cycle editor



Clockwise from far left: Diva Creative, Josie Dew, Dan Joyce

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Harting Down on the South Downs Way. Photographed by Seb Rogers



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