

Your opinions

LETTERS

THIS MONTH TOURING WITH LESS, REPORTING BAD DRIVERS, ACRONYMS FOR OLDER CYCLISTS, CTC CYCLING HOLIDAYS, AND SINGLING-OUT ETIQUETTE



Letter
of the
month

Cycle touring

LESS IS MORE

I COMPLETELY AGREE that small panniers are the answer (Small Panniers, Dec/Jan issue). The question, of course, being: 'How can I travel lightest with just what I need?'.

I bought my small Carradice front panniers some years ago and haven't used my full-sized panniers since. Before touring, each item has to earn its place within this confined space. Items are thought through and often discarded before the final packing stage. Toiletries are travel-sized, while a combination of clothes and change of footwear are carefully chosen for being both light and compact, with a keen eye to the likely weather. With sufficient diligence, a choice of paperback books and even a dress and sandals for the evening can all be readily included. Combined with a front bar bag for money, camera and maps, why would you need anything larger?

Anne Doyle

For ideas on how to travel even lighter – for example, with just a saddlebag – see bit.ly/cyclinguk-lessismore and also cyclinguk.org/article/technical-guide/travelling-light.

Write to
Cycle

EMAIL: cyclinguk@jppublishing.co.uk **POST:** Cycle, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ.

The star letter wins a **£39.99** Altura Microlite, an ideal just-in-case jacket that's wind and showerproof yet packs down into its own rear pocket.

For more about this ultra-lightweight jacket, which comes in men's and women's designs, go online to altura.eu



ALTURA



Touring can be inexpensive

CYCLISTS WITH A SMALL 'C'

We are a family of cyclists. I have spent my life on a bike; it's just been a way of life since I was small. It is the same now that I have my own family: one car, but bikes for everyone. However, we are 'normal' cyclists. We have never donned any Lycra. We wear normal clothes, normal shoes and normal socks, normal waterproofs if needed. We have fairly inexpensive hybrid bikes – the cheaper Ridgeback and Dawes models. There seems to be a misconception that to be a serious cyclist, you have to wear particular (expensive!) clothes. However, we have toured Scotland, the Lake District and Northern England in normal clothes, doing up to 40-50 miles a day, with luggage in pannier bags. Cycling doesn't have to be expensive.

Hazel Maxwell

Turn to page 62 for more on budget bikes.

DRIVEN TO ACT

I was cycling to work the other day when I heard a loud horn followed

by a Hovis lorry passing me at about 50mph at a distance of about a foot. I was outraged that someone would do something so dangerous, so I made a mental note of the registration number. I sent an online complaint to Hovis, and within two hours received a phone call from one of their representatives who told me he would look into my complaint. Within another three hours, I received a call from the same gentleman informing me that he had reviewed the in-cab footage and agreed with my version of events. He apologised and said the driver was from an agency and that he has now been blacklisted and would never drive for Hovis again.

I had a similar incident with a Kings Ferry coach a few years ago, and since reporting that incident, all their coach drivers are courteous and give me a wide berth. I urge anyone experiencing similar inconsiderate, dangerous driving to report the incidents



If they don't, report them

Left: Paul Ridsdale / Alamy

to the firms involved and/or the police. They do listen.

Ian McCabe

DON'T BE A PILOC

Having read John Snowden's letter (Dec/Jan), I have decided to call myself a Pensioner in Lycra on Titanium. All John has to do is change his frame material to go from a PILOC to a PILOT.

Keith Hunter

David Hignett also suggested Pensioner In Lycra On Titanium. Other suggestions included: Old Man Not In Lycra (OMNIL) by David Naylor; variations around Old Gits/Guys In Lycra (OGIL), by Peter Hall, Edward Holt and Dean Evans; Wild Old Woman In Lycra (WOWIL), by Vicky Platt; Elderly MAN In Lycra (EMAIL), by Malcolm McGregor; Senior Citizen On Really Expensive Road-bike (SCORER) and Spent Kids' Inheritance on Dream-bike, Rides On Wednesdays (SKIDROW), both by David Rhead. Thanks to everyone else who wrote in.



Clare Farley and friends

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Gary Cummins' article 'Wish you were here?' struck a chord. In October 2016, I attended the 26th reunion of my first CTC holiday. I was 26 in 1989 and, inspired by photos of Nepal, went on a tour there led by Tom Race.

Several participants had been on CTC holidays before and many continued to holiday together. In 1990, ten of us cycle-camped the Golden Ring in Russia (Cycle Touring, Dec/Jan 1991) and the following year we hosted the Russians in the UK. In 1992, a small group of us went to China, which was an amazing experience



Two abreast is permitted

(Cycle Touring, Feb/Mar 1993).

For half my life, these cyclists (many now in their 70s-90s) have been my 'cycling family', with shared pleasures, triumphs, tribulations, and many, many miles of great cycling, and great friendship. Try a CTC holiday!

Clare Farley

SINGLING-OUT

When cycling two abreast along a quiet country road and a car approaches, is there a convention to say which cyclist should move ahead, the inside rider or the outside rider?

Richard Baker

The outside rider should brake and drop back while the inside rider moves ahead. It prevents wheels overlapping accidentally and causing a crash.

FOND FAREWELLS

The Suffolk CTC Group dedicated one of their regular Sunday Rides from Ipswich in November to say 'thank you' to life members Ken and Maureen Nichols. Both have led rides over many years for us but are moving away to Hadleigh, where they'll continue cycling. For more about Suffolk CTC rides, see greenlivingcentre.org.uk/ctc/

Paul Fenton



A farewell ride by Suffolk CTC

Obituaries

JACK HARRISON: 1931-2016

Following a long illness, Jack Harrison passed away in June. Jack was presented with a CTC Certificate of Merit for serving as a Section Treasurer for 52 consecutive years – an all-time record? Jack was also involved in time trials and road racing with Nelson Wheelers, and was an active mountaineer. He led by example. – Ian Lowcock

JOHN HOOPER

John passed away peacefully after a short illness on 28 August 2016, aged 70. John was well-known throughout cycling clubs in the West Midlands. He enjoyed racing and cycle touring and was known affectionately as 'Little Treasure'. He was a true cyclist all his life; he never learned to drive, but cycled or walked everywhere. – Chris Jeavons

PETER JOHNSON: 1932-2016

After a short illness, Peter died on 15 September. A lifelong cyclist, over the years he had played an active part within Oxfordshire DA, from leading club runs, being Secretary and at one time President. He was well-known as a competent tour leader, and was a familiar figure at the Birthday Rides. – Eileen Johnson

HARRY CHILD: 1931-2016

Harry Child, who organised the Meriden Memorial Service for many years, has died. Harry joined CTC in the early 1950s and with his wife Sheila rode regularly with the North Birmingham CTC Group. He toured extensively in the UK as well as Ireland, France and Holland. Harry had a long spell as Secretary for the Birmingham and Midland DA. – Anon.

Join the conversation

CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other Cycling UK members on the Cycling UK forum: forum.cyclinguk.org. Here's an abridged extract from one recent thread: bit.ly/cyclinguk-e2ewhatbike



LEJOG: WHAT BIKE?

matt2matt2002: I have one bike at the moment, a Thorn Raven that has served me well for long overseas tours. I hope to attempt LEJOG and am considering a new purchase.

Si: I went for the bike from my collection that was: comfortable; reliable/robust; could tote a moderate load; had the gears I wanted... which turned out to be a rigid MTB with slick tyres, rack, etcetera.

nosmarbaj: What do you expect to be different about LEJOG? Do you intend to travel faster/slower? Lighter/more luggage? If the answer is 'no', why not use your existing bike? **bikerta:** I used my Thorn Sherpa. Absolutely perfect for my 3-week scenic route trip. It meant I could take the forestry tracks to stay off the A82, and use canal paths when I wanted.

Spinner: Ribble 631 with one of them new fangled carbon forks ;-)

gogledd58: I rode on a steel Spa Touring, carrying two Ortlieb Roller Classic panniers and using YHAs/B&Bs. My friend did it on her Cannondale SuperSix Evo, with two 10ltr dry-bags attached to her seat stem and handlebars – I was impressed with how light she could travel!

Phil Chadwick: I rode a 1980s 531 fast touring bike with a bar bag and saddle bag and 18 gears. If I were to do it again I'd do it on fixed.

How to contact Cycle



LETTERS are edited for space (if above 150 words), clarity and, if necessary, legality. Please note that if you have specific complaint or query about Cycling UK policy, you should address it to the relevant national office staff member. Letters & emails for the April/May issue must arrive by 28 Feb. Write to: cyclinguk@jppublishing.co.uk or Cycle Letters, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ

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