



FROM THE EDITOR

SPRING SHOULD finally have sprung by the time you read this. I hope so: I'm riding (or have ridden, depending on when this lands on your doormat) the Cycling UK Two Mills (Wirral) Early Season Challenge Ride on 25 March. No such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing? Yeah, but it will be a lot nicer if we're *not* battered by Siberian winds.

That was bad enough when the Beast of the East was blowing, when the feels-like temperature around here fell to minus 12. Club rides were cancelled. My cycling horizons shrank to utility rides on a fixed-wheel 'fraudax' bike (bit.ly/cycle-fraudax) and short bike-hikes through woodland snowdrifts with a mountain bike.

Yet according to Strava, which 38% of you use (see p12), some of my cycling buddies were smashing out long road rides in the UK, Spain, and somewhere called Watopia. Except they weren't: they were doing virtual reality rides on Zwift, an ingenious invention that leaves me cold. I'm interested in where my friends have ridden, which Strava shows me. I'm not interested in rides they imagine they've done while sweating in their garages. Great training it may be; cycling it isn't. A bike is transport. If it's not transporting you anywhere, in a sense it's not a bike but gym equipment.

Getting out and riding when the weather's poor is tough – although there are rewards, as Ed Shoote shows (p36). Fingers crossed, we can now *all* get out there again... with a little less fortitude required.

DAN JOYCE
Cycle editor



CW from far left: Cycling UK, Ed Shoote, Steve Thomas

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ON THE COVER
Rothiemurchus Forest on the banks of Loch an Eilean, near Aviemore. By Andy McCandlish



Founded in 1878



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