Letters

THIS MONTH E-BIKE BATTERIES, DANNY MACASKILL’S RAILINGS, BIKES ON TRAINS, MAPS, GENDER BIAS, AND HI-VIZ TOPS

Letter of the month

Burning issue

After three wonderful days e-biking in the wilds of Knoydart, I learned a salutary lesson about e-bike batteries. Back in Mallaig, my car burst into flames and the interior was destroyed by fire.

The fire brigade concluded that the source of the fire was probably the three e-bike batteries, which I had placed on the floor of the car to reduce the load on the tow-bar cycle rack – something I have done many times, without any adverse effect.

Shortly before this, the bikes had been sprayed with sea water during a very rough ferry crossing from Inverie, in Knoydart, to Mallaig. The most likely explanation for the fire was that residual seawater on the battery terminals must have caused a short circuit, which would have been enough to make one or more batteries to spontaneously combust.

It seems that e-bike battery terminals should be coated with dialectric grease, which repels water (whether from rain or sea). In any case, I would always rinse off any salt water and thoroughly dry batteries in future. An expensive lesson learned!

Michael Fearneyhough

Win a Green Oil bike care kit worth £64.99

The letter of the month wins an Eco Rider Deluxe set, courtesy of Green Oil. Green Oil’s plant-based lubes and cleaners are fully biodegradable and contain no PTFE. The kit comprises: Green Oil Wet Chain Lube; Ecogrease; Green Clean Bike Cleaner; Clean Chain Degreaser; FSC Drive Chain Brush; two Bike Armour cable-rub protectors; an EcoRag; a reusable plastic tub for water or storage; and some seeds to grow your own food! For details, or to order Green Oil products, visit green-oil.net

Sticky situation

Every time my daughter Ula and I pass a particular set of railings in Edinburgh we think of Danny MacAskill. For 12 years we have pointed them out to visitors and replayed them Danny’s video, now at 38 million hits. How could anyone ever cycle the tops of those railings?

Last week, we were sharing our pilgrimage with Savannah and, leaning against the rails, I felt a gritty patch on the very tips. Still there after 12 years are wee sticky grippers, like a skateboard surface, each the size of half a penny.

It’s great to have discovered these pieces of cycling archaeology. We are writing to Historic Environment Scotland to have the site listed.

Oliver Brookes

Wasp-proof helmet

Thought this might be helpful to members this summer. Weightless, simple to use, and costs pennies – it’s the most effective wasp-proofing I’ve ever used: a hairnet over my helmet!

Brenda Watson

Nice photo but... boring safety announcement: anything on a helmet’s surface that can ‘grab’ the road can make neck injuries or rotational brain injuries worse in a fall. See also p58.
Gender bias

The April/May issue was another lovely edition of your fab magazine for me to read. But sadly, yet again, a cluster of features seemed to forget that women’s bodies are a different shapes from men’s. The gear review of shoes didn’t give any women’s options and nor did the zip-off trousers review. It should be standard that you include 50/50 reviews of women’s and men’s gear, and reviews by women writers. Or that you put women’s options in all of your reviews. C’mon, its the 21st century. Disappointed.

Abigail Elce

Hi-viz tops

I asked Elaine, who replied: “Corporate Togs via Amazon (amzn.to/3Az1Ukj) did the hi-viz printing and we added ‘thank you’ in marker pen to make it seem more friendly. Glad people are asking because they really make a difference.”

Julie Bee

Hi-viz tops

On page 31 of the June/July issue there is a letter by Elaine Wright showing a hi-viz top with “Give Cyclists 1.5m” on it. Please can you give me information on where to purchase one.

Julie Bee

Bikes on trains – just

I suspect this will be one of many letters responding to Adrian Williams (Letters, June/July). I’ve just got back from cycling in Scotland with a friend. We travelled by train from Leicester to Aberdeen and back. Privatisation has split the journey into three companies, all releasing bike reservations at different times and limiting bikes to two per train. Booking was risky because some sections had to be booked before others were available.

On the trains, LNER required us to lift our bikes vertically and hang the them from a hook. I am reasonably fit and found this very difficult: what do older cyclists do? East Midlands Railways had a simple side-by-side solution but the restraining straps were frayed and would not pass through the buckles.

Irregular usage by cyclists?
Usage by passengers is irregular too: some trains are nearly empty, others overcrowded. Seats are still provided. There is no case for making life so difficult for rail users with bikes, particularly now when we should be encouraging sustainable onward travel.

John Morfey

Put routes on the map

I’ve been meaning to write for some time but the latest, otherwise excellent issue of Cycle was the last straw, and I can contain myself no longer. What have you got against maps?! Time after time you have these longer. What have you got against maps? This time, the Cantii Way: no maps. Paul Rogers’ article is the one shining light. C’m全身田 maps. NC500: no map. Paul Rogers’ article where a route or maps a standard for any route, even if I need a magnifier to read it). Please make a cluster for any article where a route or location is involved.

Andrew Kelly

Photo of the month

Space for cyclists

Among the various cycle-friendly pieces of infrastructure I came across in rural Brittany, this well-adhered-to highway measure worked well. If only we could develop such traffic calming on the many busy and fast two-lane B-roads in the UK.

Robin Bevis

Obituaries

Are published online at cyclinguk.org/obituaries. Contact publicity@cyclinguk.org