Event DUNOON DASH
It’s not too early to be looking ahead to next year’s trips. The Dunoon Dash next October is a self-supported overnight bikepacking adventure on Cowal Peninsula near Glasgow, run by Cycling UK affiliate group Dirt Dash. It promises rough-stuff riding, camping, camaraderie, and castles. Bookings are open now and Cycling UK members get £5 off. entrycentral.com/dunoondirtdash

Jessie Stevens
Teenage climate activist

She made it! After ten days, 570 long miles, nine punctures and two amber weather warnings, Devon-based Cycling UK member Jessie Stevens arrived in Glasgow on 1 November, tired but relieved. “As we rolled into Glasgow, the feeling of pure elation came across the group,” she said. “Despite being wet, cold and tired, the last few miles were those of singing, giggles and relief that the end was in sight.”

Jessie’s journey began at home in Newton Abbot, when she decided to cycle to the COP26 climate summit to show world leaders that cycling is the original sustainable transport solution. With the support of The Adventure Syndicate, a group of adventurous female endurance cyclists, Jessie invited people to join her cargo bike ‘relay’ as she passed through their towns – and hundreds of people obliged.

Among the Cycling UK employees who showed up to support Jessie was Stewart Walsh, who joined the Northwich to Lancaster stretch along with Shropshire Cycle Hub, Aigburth CCC, and St Helens Pedal Power. He said: “It was fantastic to be a part of Jessie’s journey and great to see her have the support of community cycle clubs along the way.”

Classic tech

SKS Bluemels Longboard
Rebranded with the Bluemels name, like SKS’s Chromoplastics, the Longboard offers extensive splash protection: properly dry feet; no spray in the face for following riders. The 3mm stays are robust and the front set has safety releases. Available for 700C wheels in 35 and 45mm widths. £42.99, sks-germany.com

Really?

Tuck Bike
How do you make a bike with full-size wheels fold smaller? Here it’s by folding the wheels into thirds and ‘tucking’ them inside the frame. Those tyre segments are solid foam rather than pneumatic. For that reason, I’m out. But the Tuck Bike had good support on Kickstarter as Cycle went to press. $1,795, tuckbike.com

Jessie’s journey from Devon to Glasgow was 570 miles.
Why do you cycle?
Time outside, activity, time to hang out with my friends and family, opportunities to explore, the stimulus of racing and competition…

How far do you ride each week?
If I am training in the winter out in Spain, about 500-600km in a week. If I’m doing turbo sessions, it could be very little.

Which of your bikes is your favourite?
I get the most pleasure riding outside on my road bike.

What do you always take with you?
Snacks. Something like banana bread or a hot cross bun, which makes you look forward to munching.

Who mends your punctures?
Tempting fate but I very rarely puncture. Although I did in the last 15km of the road race at the world championships.

Lycra or normal clothes?
It depends. Cycling kit isn’t appropriate for a nice meal out in the same way a leather skirt is inadvisable when riding a TT bike.

If you had £100 to spend on cycling, what would you get?
A really comfortable, well-fitting pair of shorts. It is so important to be able to sit happily on the saddle.

What’s your favourite cycle journey?
From my old flat in south London down to Sussex to see my family. It went through the Kent hills and across the Ashdown Forest, which is stunning.

What single thing would most improve matters for UK cyclists?
Drivers actually understanding the rules around cyclists and how they ride on the road, and then for drivers to have more patience.