



## LETTER OF THE MONTH

### BCQ BY MTB

In the Dec/Jan issue, I read with interest about Steve and Janet Bailey completing the British Cycle Quest (BCQ) and receiving their medal from Stephen Dee. Hats off to them.

Their story created an itch in the back of my mind that I had to scratch. Seeing road bikes in the photo, I presumed they travelled by road to reach all of the checkpoints. But I ride a mountain bike. I still use roads but thought I could make it even more interesting by riding off road instead.

So I've been planning off-road routes to BCQ checkpoints in my local area. Sussex is a great place for mountain biking. There are many tracks, cycle paths, bridleways and National Trails, such as the South Downs Way. I have a long way to go to visit all 402 checkpoints but I've had fun planning and riding to ones nearby.

The Isle of Wight was mentioned by Steve. There are six checkpoints on the island. Could they all be reached off road and all in one day? After poring over island maps, I created a route that looked workable. I caught the ferry across the Solent from Portsmouth on a perfect Friday morning.

I had a great day's riding. Thank you for creating and managing the BCQ and thank you, Steve and Janet, for your inspiration.

**Fred Hill**



### WIN THREE HIPLOK JAW+ RACKS WORTH £113.97

**THE LETTER OF THE MONTH** wins three Jaw+ bike racks, worth £37.99 each, courtesy of Hiplok. These wall-mounted racks are adjustable to fit tyres from 20–75mm wide, and can be used in or outdoors. Each is supplied with fittings plus a lightweight Z Lok Combo, which can double as your café lock. For more about Hiplok storage and security, visit [hiplok.com](http://hiplok.com).

## Over to you Letters



### New-look Cycle ↑

The new-look mag is OK as far as content goes but I've only read half of it and normally read it all. The problems are orange text on white, grey text on a green tint, grey text on a darker grey background and fonts that don't help alleviate the lack of contrast. In terms of photos, a quick count reveals eight or nine normal, everyday, un-helmeted riders, mostly in the adverts, down from about twice that in the previous issue. The organisation for the everyday cyclist?

The unreadable soon becomes the unread. The end of my 47-year membership will surely follow.

**Alan Rogers**

A quick note to congratulate you on the redesign. Excellent work. A great improvement for me. Clean lines in the layout aid to an easier read.

**Mike Cowling**

I loved the new cover design and particularly the image. It's why I cycle. A real upgrade on its previous incarnation, which never quite exceeded the old CTC magazine (I am old school). The font sizes are an improvement, too. Well done to all involved. I have ordered a new jersey – the rebrand is that good.

**Charles Tapsen**

### Vehicle Excise Duty

Page 39 of the June/July issue refers to 'road tax', stating that as bicycles are zero-emission vehicles they

would have nothing to pay. This may be true prior to 1 April 2025 but since then there have been changes to Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) levels. I am an owner of an EV which is zero emission but now I am liable for VED at £195 per year. Strangely enough, my son owns an older vehicle and only pays £20 per year as it was registered before April 2017, despite it burning petrol with obvious emissions. In the future, who knows the government's plans for bicycles?

**David Keirs**

### Cycling for all

It's been fantastic to see representation of disabled people in Cycle magazine increasing over the past few years. But it was disappointing to get to the Cyclopedia section and read Dr Kate Brodie's advice that "in general, if you are advised not to drive a car then riding your bike is probably unwise as well".

At Wheels for Wellbeing, we know that many disabled people who are medically disqualified from driving are able to ride safely using a cycle type that suits them. For many of



Left: C Fernandes/Wheels For Wellbeing