



LETTER OF THE MONTH

Bass pedals

I read the recent letter of the month that mentioned carrying a trombone. The author states their concern for using the AirPannier. I just wanted to get in touch to say how much faith I have in mine. It's the ideal solution for carrying bulky items and still being able to get on ferries and so on, as it's so compact.

I've cycled more than 11,000km carrying a bass viol in mine, and I've only just had to repair one loop of its net. It's stood up to >60mph side winds and hailstorms on the Outer Hebrides, storms in France last September, and the recent January storms in south-west England. And it's held my precious instrument securely over the roughest roads.

Paul Martin, the inventor, is an incredible person – so generous and supportive. When I was on a concert tour of the UK by bike (sarahsmallviol.crd.co/#goodagaintour), I updated my route to reach him in Bangor. He came to cycle with me that day before my concert. He also tours with his guitar, composing as he goes.

Anyway, I just wanted to show my support for the AirPannier. I'll continue using mine and recommending it to fellow musicians to get more of us pedalling to performances and beyond.

Sarah Small

WIN AN ORTLIEB SEATPACK WORTH £115

THE LETTER OF THE MONTH wins a 7.5-litre Ortlieb Seat-Pack QR, courtesy of Lyon Cycle. We tested the 13L size (A/M 24), saying it was: "Very well designed and made, and typically Ortlieb tough and waterproof." It's stable in use and is compatible with a dropper post. For more about Ortlieb products, visit uk.ortlieb.com. And don't forget that, as a Cycling UK member, you get a 10% discount on Ortlieb products bought online. See cyclinguk.org/ortlieb for details.



Left: Pete – stock.adobe.com

Hole in argument ↑

I'd like to take exception to the advice in the first paragraph on page 41 of the Feb/Mar issue of *Cycle*, specifically that 'deep', 'hazardous', and 'dangerous' are clear words.

They are actually subjective terms, and my experience of watching local reports on FixMyStreet is that when people use such terms, the defect will, more often than not, end up as a low priority. I think the correct advice is always to include quantitative information, including the distance from the kerb (or, for right turns, the centre line).

The other important thing when reporting is to include at least two photographs. One to give a clear indication of the size, and the other to show the location in relation to easily identifiable, permanent, features. If someone is going to sue the council, they need to prove that the one that was previously reported is the same one that harmed them.

David Woolley

Short cranks

Just reading Dr Kate Brodie's article on cycling after a knee replacement. I'm a nurse practitioner in ED and had a hip replacement three years ago. To rehabilitate myself, I used a basic Bafang mid-drive kit to convert my best bike into an e-bike. As

there is no spider in the right-hand crank, both are effectively left-hand cranks with opposite pedal threats. This means you can order shorter unicycle cranks from someone like unicycle.co.uk at little cost. Static cycling was so boring! I started with 150mm cranks and worked my way back to 170mm.

Peter James

Trailer, articulated

After reading the letter about carrying a trombone on a bike, I thought I would share my experiences. I also tried the Mundo AirPannier for carrying my viola but found it tricky to use. On my road bike, it made it impossible to get my leg over the saddle. So I bought a Burley Travoy trailer, and it is fantastic. I can hardly tell it is attached. It is the perfect size for my instrument, and I can take a stand as well. I also use it for heavy shopping.

Kate Wishart

