

LETTERS

This month WW1 centenary, a fitting Tour legacy, Brompton camping, London touring, fat bikes on beaches, the winged wheel, and more

GET IN TOUCH

WRITE TO US: Cycle Letters, CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford GU2 9JX

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forum.ctc.org.uk

MERIDEN REMEMBRANCE

THE MERIDEN Memorial Service is the one occasion I have always been sure not to miss. Starting in 1955, I have attended every service up to and including this year, which makes it 60 years without missing any. In 1956, while cycling in Scotland, I met a London cyclist, Ron Martin, who also cycled to Meriden. We agreed we would meet up each year and go together. In the early years, I cycled 150 miles on the Saturday from Wareham, Dorset, meeting Ron for lunch in Bicester or Buckingham, and rode 150 miles home on the Sunday.

From 1967, the journey on the Saturday was partly car assisted, and after lunch we cycled the rest of the way. When we retired, we turned the Meriden weekend into a six-day tour, and on several occasions I cycled with Ron down to London, including some rough-stuff and canal towpaths.

Ron passed away in December 2008, but meeting with other cyclists at Meriden for the annual memorial service still gives me great pleasure. I continue to use this occasion to do several days of cycling.

— **John Sullivan**



LETTER OF THE MONTH



A GRAND LEGACY

Dave Barter's article highlights the problems we have in developing cycling as a normal everyday activity in Yorkshire and elsewhere in the UK. The Tour de France riders will have the road cleared – they will have their Space for Cycling. The rest of us, if we want to ride the Tour route, will have to put up with incessant traffic – not necessarily dangerous but certainly unpleasant. York may be a cycling city but Leeds, Ilkley and Ripon, to name but three places on the route, are distinctly hostile places to cycle through.

The Tour circus will come and go, with a carbon footprint I don't even want to think about. If there is to be a Tour legacy, it will depend on campaigners continuing to push for real Space for Cycling every day of the year.

— **Simon Geller**

BROMPTON CAMPING

On many occasions I have laid aside our great magazine with some sadness, feeling that those of us that cycle-camp with a Brompton appear to be a vanishing breed. Having just received the June/July issue, I am delighted to find that this is not so. I was cheered to read two articles – Calvin and Jon's

adventure, riding their Bromptons in the French Alps, and your review of solo tents suitable for touring. I write to encourage other members to consider the advantages of cycle-camping with a Brompton.

I have no difficulty in stowing all my gear for any length of tour in a front Brompton T-Bag and a Racksack on the rear carrier. My solo tent is a Hilleberg Akto, reviewed in your article. Expensive? Yes, but mine has been in regular use for 14 years and is as reliable as ever. The storage space under the Akto's flysheet is large enough to accommodate a folded Brompton too.

— **Mike Perrin**



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A CAPITAL ADVENTURE

Every year, CTC Cycling Holidays organises tours all over the world and many members make use of the expert leaders who lead them. Recently, I had the pleasure of joining one of these tours, The London Experience, led by Bernie Curtis. Bernie is an official London guide, both cycling and walking, and along with Alan, his right-hand man, he leads a fabulous four-day tour of the capital city.

Each day, Bernie takes the tour to different parts of London. »

» The tour I joined spent the first day seeing part of the beautiful county of Essex. It's not very often you hear Essex called beautiful but the route taken by Bernie shows how wrong we can be. The views over London at the vantage points were as good as anywhere in the country, the roads were undulating, and most of the time traffic was light. We must have seen everything and been everywhere. A big thank-you to Bernie and Alan.

— **Peter Brake**



FAT OFF THE LAND

As an all-round cyclist and keen mountain biker, I enjoyed the article on Coastal Cycling. I do feel, though, that the picture on page 46 gives the impression that Clive is riding through the sand dunes.

Sand dunes are a delicate and important environment. I know the bike featured has 4-inch tyres, which will have a lower impact than most, but even these are still likely to cause some damage. Perhaps the next Cycle could include a few words advising fat-bikers to avoid riding through dunes where possible, and to cross them carefully to access the beach?

— **Chris Reed**

MISSING WHEEL

I was disappointed and alarmed to notice that on the cover of latest issue (June/July 2014) of Cycle, the 'winged wheel' logo was not displayed alongside the current modern one. Is this a deliberate move to attempt to phase out our original logo, as has been attempted in the past, or was it an error in the printing?

As I have in the past fought to retain the original, may I reiterate my views. Don't delete by stealth. If Council wishes to disassociate

themselves from the original, then go to the membership with a resolution to delete the original logo.

— **Ted King MBE**

The winged wheel went missing during the re-design, but will appear in Cycle for the foreseeable future.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

When on an enjoyable CTC holiday recently in the Alpes Maritimes in France, I was very impressed by the road signs, and in particular by the regular waymarks that tell you how far it is to the summit of many of the cols. On some, like Mt Ventoux, the signs even tell you what gradient to expect for the next kilometre. This really helps you to time your 'big effort' to the top.

It's a shame that there is no similar signage in the UK, particularly where I live on the edge of the Lake District. It would be good too if the potholes on our hills were filled and the roads brought up to French standards!

— **Susan Lucas**



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3D-PRINTED PEDALS

I recently made some pedals for the kiddy-crankers on our tandem, using a 3D printer. The pedals have to be securely attached to the child's feet to avoid injury. The pedal bearing is simply a long shoulder screw. The blue piece is removable for when the child's feet grow. Each one took 24 hours to print.

— **Mark McClean**



Obituaries

► Ray Lowe

Lifetime cyclist Ray Lowe of CTC Wessex passed away on Thursday 15 May 2014, aged 84, a few weeks after suffering a stroke. He last rode the Gridiron event when he was 80, accompanied by his grandson. He was also a keen gardener. Ray's funeral was on 2 June, and many of his cycling friends were in attendance in full cycling gear, as requested by Ray's widow Sylvia. He was always a cheerful person, and will be missed by his many cycling friends. — *Keith Matthews*

► Peter Wilson

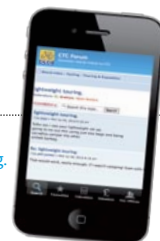
East Yorkshire CTC President Peter Wilson passed away on 22 March. Peter was a pioneering cyclist in the Fifties, exploring Continental Europe as well as Scotland and the Lake District with wife Maria. He maintained a loyalty to CTC, particularly in the clubroom and at social functions. His photos won him many prizes, and his slideshows enlivened the stories of his travels. He was our club chairman for 15 years and had been the social secretary. — *Sheila Sampson*

► Peter B Moore: 1934-2014

Passed away following a stroke in January. Peter joined CTC as a young man and never left. He cycled to work every day for 44 years and wore shorts year round. He toured from the 1950s onwards, and was still cycling up until his stroke. His second hobby was technology and gadgets. He had been a radar fitter, and also had a keen interest in steam engines. Peter ran and managed the easy riders Sunday events for older, less able cyclists, and was a local cycle campaigner. He received the CTC Certificate of Merit in 2010. Fifteen cyclists accompanied his hearse. — *Adrian Leeds*

Join the conversation

Get immediate feedback from other CTC members on the CTC forum: forum.ctc.org.uk. Here's an abridged extract from one popular thread before Cycle went to press (see bit.ly/1oHmstD)



DEALING WITH MOSQUITOES

randomblue: Any tips for keeping away the mozzies? I seem to be allergic to the bites: I end up with a big, red, raised area. I've tried a ton of mosquito repellents.

Furkuk: Try taking antihistamines. It won't stop them biting you but it will stop you coming out in big red bite marks.

Mistik-ka: Traditional wisdom from Saskatchewan, where the mozzies are so big we hunt them with shotguns: insect repellent with a high

DEET content. It is reputed to dissolve plastic...

bikerwaser: 2 things to try. 1, tea tree oil. I have a friend that swears by it, not only as a mozzie repellent but as a deodorant. 2, I've also heard a lot of good stuff about Avon Skin So Soft.

Neilo: What works for me is a combination. Repellent, cover up with long sleeves and long trousers, wear a mossie net, take antihistamines. Use an after-bite stick, burning mossie coils, camp where there is a breeze.

MarkF: The only thing that works for me is Autan. I only get bitten if I've forgotten to apply it. I once slept under the stars and thought I'd coated myself in Autan. The mozzies ravaged the soles of my feet.

cnb: I've heard that eating Marmite for a couple of weeks before your trip helps keep the dreaded midge at bay. Not sure about mozzies though...

skicat: I think I would rather have the midges than Marmite :-)



Letters are edited for space (if above 150 words), clarity and, if necessary, legality. Please note that if you have specific complaint or query about CTC policy, you should address it to your CTC Councillor or relevant national office staff member. Letters and emails for the October-November issue must arrive by 29 August. Write to us at: **Cycle Letters, CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford GU2 9JX**



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