

## Your opinions

## LETTERS

**THIS MONTH** HORSE SENSE, ELECTRIC BIKES, MOSQUITOS, BIKES ON TRAINS, LUGGAGE STRATEGIES, AND SHOES FOR COLD FEET



Left: British Horse Society

## Rider etiquette

## BEING NICE &amp; SAYING HI

Last year I wrote to you about cyclists and horse riders. Chatting to an injured horse rider (I work in A&E), it had come as a revelation to me that horses may be scared by cyclists, and I passed this on to you.

Having embraced your recent campaign with the British Horse Society, I spoke to another horsewoman to ask her opinion of said campaign. I was equally surprised by her response, and I quote: 'All those lovely cyclists now slow down, chat, wave, and make friends wherever we go on horseback.'

Brilliant, just brilliant! Another barrier broken down and more allies gained in one easy campaign. Chapeau to everyone who is supporting it.

Please all keep up the goodwill to help make the roads a bit safer for all of us.

Peter James

For those of you who haven't seen it so far, you can find more details, a video, and a downloadable leaflet on the Cycling UK website. Visit [cyclinguk.org/horses](http://cyclinguk.org/horses).



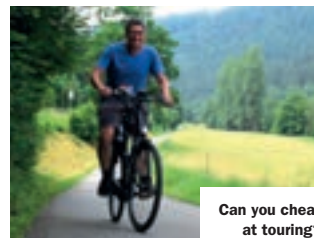
Letter of the month

## Write to Cycle

Cycle, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ. Or email

[cycle@jamespembrokemedia.co.uk](mailto:cycle@jamespembrokemedia.co.uk)

The star letter wins a pair of Compass tyres, courtesy of Sven Cycles, worth up to £116! These lightweight, supple tyres will transform the ride feel of your bike. They're available in a range of designs and widths in 700C, 650B and 26in diameters, and particularly suit touring bikes, gravel bikes, and road-plus bikes. For more information about these plush, easy-rolling tyres, or to purchase a set of your own, go online to [svencycles.com](http://svencycles.com)



Can you cheat at touring?

## ...INNOCENT AS CHARGED

In the Oct/Nov issue of Cycle, there was a lovely article by Rob Ainsley, Piece of Cake. I too ride an e-bike, a Giant Road E+1, and it's brilliant. I'm 72 and can happily ride 50-60 quite hilly miles, with battery to spare for another 30 miles or so.

My problem with the bike is that there are no mounts for bottle cages. My Camelbak is fine, apart from the resulting sweaty back. The main picture of the article showed a bottle cage mounted on the top of the stem – what a good idea! Where I can get hold of one?

Barrie Robertshaw

The latest Road E+1 version has bottle cage mounts on the seat tube. On your bike, you could fit band-on cage mounts there, e.g. the SKS Anywhere Bottle Cage Adapter. For the stem cap mount, you want the KlickFix Bottlefix Ahead Adaptor – try Practical Cycles: [bit.ly/cycle-bottlefix](http://bit.ly/cycle-bottlefix).

Old Road E+1 models lacked bottle bosses



## POWER CORRUPTS...

In the article Piece of Cake, the author writes: 'They say power corrupts. Not with e-bikes.' Mankind has a gift for corrupting things, including the bicycle. I was aghast to see huge numbers of e-bikes along the flat cycleways in Munich by the Isar, and along the Danube. I was surprised how warmly riders were dressed; e-biking provided more breeze with less effort, so they were cold.

My relatives tell me that they can enjoy cycling again, after missing out for decades due to their own – and society's – fault. Now they're corrupting the simplicity of the bike. Most importantly, they're corrupting the idea of cycling as zero fuel and emissions transport. I've read in this magazine about members explaining how e-bikes have helped them. An e-bike should be reserved for those few, as a last resort. For many it has become the first choice.

Matthias Bunte

## MOSQUITO MENACE

Just finished the Q&A article, Mosquito Menace. These have been a plague through all my walking/camping/cycling adventures. Our cycling group, The Lost Boys, all now follow the mantra that a mosquito can only fly at 8mph so we have to do nine! Has no one mentioned Avon Skin So Soft, which apparently is used by the SAS as a deterrent? I cover myself liberally before wandering in long grass. I'm sure it works, and I have very soft skin and smell nice!

Ian Rigg

Ian Kinloch, meanwhile, recommends ZapIt, if you do get bitten. See myzapit.com for details. It's available online in the UK.



## TRAVELLING LIGHT

I read the Baggage Check article in the last edition of Cycle with interest. Many years ago, I tried cycle-camping using panniers and a saddlebag. I can't say that it was particularly enjoyable due to the sheer weight of bags and gear I was hauling up the hills. Since then I have just done lightweight touring with a saddlebag and handlebar bag, staying in hostels and B&Bs.

Recently I purchased a bikepacking seatpack. On the first weekend in September, I took off for a two-night trip on the Welsh Borders. I took a two-man tent, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, full set of off-the-bike clothes, tools, toiletries, towel, reading matter, torch, and spare glasses. Total luggage weight was just 4kg. It was a great success. The bike handled well, and long steep hills such as the climb to the Kerry Ridgeway out of Bishop's Castle were not a problem. Roll on next summer!

Andrew White

## LUGGAGE WHEELS

I was interested in your Baggage Check article. A couple of years ago, I cycled from Madrid to Javia in Spain – about 500km. Being a bit old (72), I picked a route that wasn't far from a railway as a back-up. And being sceptical about bikes on trains, I used my folding bike and a Travoy trailer.

It was a revelation. On arrival at a B&B, I could lock up the bike, unhook the trailer, and wheel my one bag to the room. Usually, I'd struggle with a minimum of two panniers, a backpack, and a bar bag. The trailer had more room than panniers, less bike weight, and no handling issues other than remembering the width.

Ben Morris



## Photo of the month



Photo: Roger Grosvenor

I spotted this sign on my travels recently. It's presumably designed purely to provide amusement for Dutch and Belgian visitors. Roger Grosvenor



## CZECH BIKE CARRIAGE

We took our touring bikes to South Bohemia in the Czech Republic recently. Our campsite was close to a station on a line that went up into the picturesque Sumava mountains. Imagine our delight on seeing this beauty roll into the station! There was ample room for bikes in the bike carriage, and a person was employed to put them on and off. Having locked the bikes in place he handed over numbered keys, which you gave back to him for unloading.

Garry Booth

## OBITUARIES

Are now being published online at [cyclinguk.org/obituaries](http://cyclinguk.org/obituaries). Send obituaries, with a digital photo if you wish, to [publicity@cyclinguk.org](mailto:publicity@cyclinguk.org).

## Join the conversation

### CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other Cycling UK members on the Cycling UK forum: [forum.cyclinguk.org](http://forum.cyclinguk.org). Here's an abridged extract from a recent thread: [bit.ly/cycleforum-wintershoes](http://bit.ly/cycleforum-wintershoes)

#### CYCLING SHOES FOR COLD/WINTER USE

**carlisleMike:** In chilly weather, my feet become freezing after 30+ miles. My current shoes have a mesh surface. I need something closed to the wind and rain. Any suggestions?  
**tatanab:** Exustar Stelvio are my spring and autumn shoes.  
**cycleruk:** Have you thought about overshoes? I use them when the weather turns cold and they certainly make a difference. You can get some that are just windproof or others

that are waterproof.  
**pete75:** If you don't want to fit cleats, any warm and waterproof footwear with a reasonably rigid sole should do.

**MrsHJ:** +1 for overshoes. I have great ones we got in the Netherlands when touring in daily downpours. My shoes aren't mesh though – just regular Shimano ones.

**NUKE:** If you can afford them, winter-specific shoes such as Specialized Defroster. Northwave and Shimano do similar shoes, generally mountain bike style. Shimano



also do a hiking boot. The main thing about the winter boots is the cleat plate is outside the boot so lessens heat loss.

**cyclemad:** Sealskinz socks, Northwave winter mtb boots, Castelli Diluvio Overboots, or plastic bags gaffer-taped over your shoes – a work colleague who has a reputation for being the tightest person in the world swears by the latter!  
**britishjasper:** Tin foil! Wrap your feet (over your socks) in foil then slide them into regular shoes!

How to contact Cycle



LETTERS are edited for space (especially if above 150 words), clarity, and, if necessary, legality. Please note that if you have specific complaint or query about Cycling UK policy, you should address it to the relevant national office staff member. Letters & emails for the Feb/Mar issue must arrive by 24 December. Write to: [cycle@jamespembroke.co.uk](mailto:cycle@jamespembroke.co.uk) or Cycle, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ

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