

CAPE CRUSADING

Novice cycle tourist Rebecca Mitten wants to know what other female tourists do when nature calls because she feels pretty exposed with her shorts around her knees. Years ago one of our mature lady club members was explaining to me the many uses a good cape could be put to, in addition to keeping the rain off when cycling. Chief among the many uses were getting changed into your swimming gear on the beach and disguising yourself when nature calls.

John Holmes



HORSE SENSE

My horse-riding sister-in-law, Susan, recently had a fall that caused serious injuries to her skull and hip. She was riding on a quiet lane in full daylight when she met a friendly cyclist. She commented on his brilliant flashing headlamp. As he got nearer, all she could see was the flashing light. The next thing she knew, she was waking up in hospital.

Her horse had pirouetted and Susan slipped off backwards and hit the tarmac. The cyclist and a passing motorist called an ambulance, and fortunately someone arrived who could handle the horse. Susan is now at home but is in a poor way, facing weeks or months of recuperation.

An internet search showed me that this has happened before. I imagine you may have covered this topic in *Cycle* before, but if you could flag it up again to the members and ride leaders it could prevent another incident.

T. Andrew Haxell

*Best wishes to Susan for a swift recovery. The need for lights that don't dazzle is something we regular refer to in *Cycle* (see page 22). And *Cycling UK* has campaigned with the British Horse Society to 'Be nice, say hi' – see cyclinguk.org/be-nice-say-hi.*

Right: Andy Catlin



HAPPY FEET

Being a LOLITA (Little Old Lady in Tight Attire) and liking to cycle on my electric bike all year, warm feet are a priority. In Shop Window in the Oct/Nov issue, you mentioned Shimano's GF800 GTX mountain bike shoes for winter cycling. Ahhh! Sadly they are only in men's sizes but Scotby Cycles in Carlisle advised me the sizes are small. I can report that the smallest size shoes (40) are, with good thick socks, a treat for the feet!

Caroline Davies (nearly 70)

ERROR IN PROVENCE

It was fantastic to see our Provence trip featured in *Cycle's* Travellers' Tales section. There's just one correction I'd like noted: the cycling tour to get to Provence, which was described in the article, was the route taken by Seb O'Kelly, not me. He should take the credit for this!

Becci May

WORKING IN TANDEM

In the recent issue of *Cycle*, Graham Hewitt expressed his frustration with barriers that cause problems for non-standard cycles, and Catherine Temple railed against the difficulty of taking bikes on trains. Catherine's point about the policy of the UK TOCs (train operating companies) is something that the Tandem Club addresses head-on, as the club has a rail liaison officer working closely with the TOCs.

Our experience is that, to influence policy in areas like taking bikes on trains and removing badly designed barriers on cycle routes, there is no substitute for getting involved with the organisations who set the rules. We know that not every bicycle comes in a standard shape, with one rider and two wheels, but most people do not.

Scotrail is an example of an enlightened TOC when it comes to discussing taking bikes on trains.

Peter Weeks, Chair of the Tandem Club



Photo of the month



NIGHT RIDING

I took this action photo on a recent nighttime ride with some friends. We enjoy late-night MTB rides in winter, usually fuelled by a couple of beers at an en-route pub! **Stephen Psallidas**

CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other members at forum.cyclinguk.org. Here's an abridged extract from a recent thread: cyclinguk.org/gcn-alternatives



GCN+ CLOSES. WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

Paulatic: GCN+ ends on 19 December. It's been a great advert-free place to watch cycling of all disciplines. What are the alternatives going to be?
pjclinch: We watch on Eurosport, which seems heavily tied to GCN for its cycling offerings (in a good way).

TrevA: Discovery+ is £6.99 a month. Also advert free unless you pick the E1 or E2 feed. You get all of the Eurosport cycling coverage but you don't get the GCN documentaries. Discovery owns both Eurosport and GCN.

VinceLedge: Does Eurosport have races available for later watching or just live?
TrevA: You can watch them on catch-up on the Eurosport or Discovery+ apps. I often watch the Saturday 'cross when my

wife is watching Strictly Come Dancing.

rareposter: GCN (the YouTube channel and website) is continuing. GCN+ and the GCN app are being discontinued.
st599_uk: Not sure there is an alternative to the non-sports content GCN+ made.

Pendodave: Yep, this is the sadness, none of the travelogues, tech features and other interesting stuff.

MrsHJ: I'm going to miss the things like Jack's slow lanes and random interesting bike content.

deliquium: Discovery+ is providing three months free to ex GCN+ subscribers, so one will be able to decide whether one can hack whatever coverage comes under their banner.

CyberKnight: Those with Sky TV, check your package. I found I have Discovery Plus free.