



# Welcome

This is the bit where I'd normally comment on the issue's contents. But I'd like to use it instead to say farewell to cycling pioneer you may not have heard of: Geoff Apps, whom I worked with years ago on New Cyclist magazine.

Geoff passed away this summer aged 75. He was a bike designer whose influence doesn't do justice to his ideas. He was independently developing off-road bikes at the time of the Marin County clunkers, only his were for traversing muddy British countryside.

Some of his ideas were ahead of their time. His off-road bikes had 29er and 650B wheels, lower-pressure tyres, hub-based braking (drums rather than discs) and luggage capability decades before mainstream mountain and gravel bikes.

Some of his ideas still seem out there. A high bottom bracket. A rigid fork. An upright riding position with a shorter reach and a higher handlebar. Some of those features, however, are central to the designs of another maverick, Jeff Jones. I'd recently approached Geoff about running an article about the two of them, what they did differently and why.

Geoff's bikes weren't overlooked because they lacked potential but marketing. He was really building bikes for himself, ploughing his own furrow, whether or not the industry took notice.

Here's to doing things differently and following your own ideas, wherever they take you. For Geoff, that would be over loose rocks, through deep mud, across a stream and into the wilds beyond.

[clelandcycles.wordpress.com](http://clelandcycles.wordpress.com)

**DAN JOYCE**  
Editor

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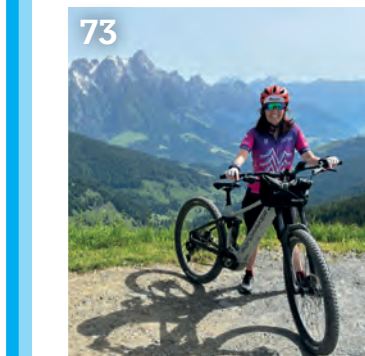
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**On the cover**  
Drone shot of Nick Sanders on Highway 10, east of Haradh, Saudi Arabia. Photo by Nick Sanders

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