

FROM THE EDITOR

YOU CAN'T BEAT a tandem for enabling riders of differing abilities to cycle together sociably and efficiently. While I've never owned an adult tandem, childback versions were how I used to cycle with my three boys. We had a Thorn Me 'n' U2, a double-childback triplet that towed first a child trailer and later a trailer-cycle. When the two eldest outgrew it, we downsized to a childback tandem.

The triplet was great. It was 'the family car', the vehicle we used to get about. We went on holiday with it too. When we lived in York, it was possible to take it on various trains: intercities that ran not just up and down the country but diagonally across it. Then the rolling stock and rules changed. You can still take tandems up and down the East Coast mainline, but the cross-country journey we made from York to Holyhead via Birmingham, for example, is impossible. You'd need a folding, separable or oddly compact tandem. Or a car.

Family cyclists can still travel by train, as the Clines family prove (p54, All aboard!). But you need bikes more compact than a standard tandem to do so, which is a shame as a tandem is such a good family vehicle. On the plus side, those bikes that are permitted seldom have to go in a box or bag - even if you're travelling by Eurostar (p8)...



Dan Joyce

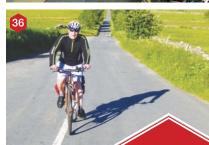
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Clockwise from far left: Dan







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On the cover Ben Searle & Tamar Thompson, near Ronda, on tour from Sevilla to Granada, Spain,



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