

Walking to work is normal. Running to work is weird: how could you not arrive exhausted and sweaty? Some people do it all the same, because they like it, it's good for their fitness, and it's free. But the average commuter is not going to run to work however good you tell them it is. Not ever. What's that got to do with cycling? In the eyes of many of our non-cycling colleagues, we're grouped with the runners: fitness fanatics.

Flick through the cycling media or visit certain bikeshops and it's not hard to see why. A fixed-wheel track bike with paper-thin clearances and no accessories is an ideal commuting bike? A budget racing bike would be just the thing for scorching across town? They're not bad choices; they're the choices of fitness fanatics.

I know: I am one too. I've ridden 15 miles each way to work and it was definitely more pleasant in full cycling kit, riding an efficient road bike. Most people aren't going to cycle 15 miles to work. Not ever.

For them, and the handful of miles they might consider riding, a different bike is required. A hybrid or a roadster, perhaps, or a folding bike that could do just the last leg of a longer journey. A bike on which you can 'walk', not 'run'.



Dan Joyce

Cycle is the magazine of CTC - the UK's national

cycles's organisation. The magazine of CIC and the CTC charitable Trust (Registered Charity No. 1104324). Formed in 1878, CTC is the UKs largest cycling membership organisation with 70,000 members and affiliates, To join CTC, turn to page 76 and contact the Membership Dept.

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CTC Patron: Her Majesty the Queen President: Jon Snow CTC Council Chair: David Cox Chief Executive: Kevin Mayne CTC (Cyclists' Touring Club) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England No. 25185

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Cycle is published six times per year on behalf of CTC
by James Pembroke Publishing, 90 Walcot Street, Bath,
BA1 5BG. Tel: 01225 337777. Cycle is copyright CTC,
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expressed in the magazine are those of the individual
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editor or the policies of CTC. Advertising bookings are
subject to availability, the terms and conditions of Ten
Alps PLC and final approval by CTC. Printed by St Ives
(Plymouth) Ltd, Eastem Wood Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7
5ET. Tel: 01752 349431

Cover: staged shot of commuters at Famborough

Cover: staged shot of commuters at Famborough business park, by Steve Behr/Stockfile







22 Long haul tour

2,500-mile trip from Greece back to Wales

30 A century and moor

The Ron Kitching Challenge & Sportive

34 Pedalling around Paris

Exploring the French capital on a hire bike

39 Ride and park

Cycling parking specialists Cycle-Works

Cover feature

42 Get to work

Encouraging co-workers to ride bikes

48 Nobody gets left behind

How not to lose anyone off-road

54 Compact folders

Brompton and Mezzo head to head

60 & 62 More bike tests

Cannondale road bike and Spa tourer

Regulars

- 04 CTC Shop
- 06 **News**
- 13 Events news
- 17 Your letters
- 20 **CTC & me**
- 28 Holiday guide
- 50 Cycling answers
- 66 Grouptest
- 68 **Gear reviews**
- 72 CTC member benefits
- 76 What's on
- 80 CTC contacts
- 81 CTC Prize Draw
- 82 **Travellers' Tales**
- 83 CTC Cycling Holidays

