

## Transport Solutions

I am trying to finance or install solar power in the Philippines and had the misfortune to spend weeks in Manila working on an investors' visa. I had the opportunity to witness the most insane traffic congestion I have seen anywhere in the world (over two hours to travel six kilometres very often in a normal taxi). This is partly because the Philippines Supreme Court has banned the Angkas on-demand app-based motorcycle taxi service, which actually worked.

Then one day I saw a handsome young Chinese couple sail past the congestion on a single Xiaomi M365 electric micro-scooter. She was standing on the front, while he stood behind steering with his arms round her. It was so elegant, romantic and graceful. Also cheap, fast and sustainable! Maybe not legal in the UK?

Jeremy Parsons

Berkhampsted, Hertfordshire

*Electric scooters are proving a huge hit in the territories where they are allowed on either public roads, pavements, cyclepaths, or a combination of the three, but they're banned entirely here in the UK other than by fiddly registration. However, there is so much pressure building up from the big money interests introducing them elsewhere, particularly on the US bike hire scene, that a way will no doubt be found to get them on the streets here. We're dead confident this is the way that personal transport needs to go, and hope to test one of the best 'uns in the next issue. (Ed)*

## A Bigger Brommie?

Partly wishful thinking on my part, but why doesn't Brompton build a 20-inch wheeled version around the superior 406mm tyre? The advantages probably outweigh the slightly larger folded size, indeed the unfolded size may better suit the taller rider too. Brompton Original and Brompton-20 would share many components, so I can imagine production line efficiencies. Brompton, of course, is the only manufacturer with all the patents available to try this out. Meantime, everyone else making a new 20-inch folder, has to invent ever-more inferior mechanisms to avoid all the current patents...

Howard Yeomans

Altena, Germany

*We looked into this years ago, when the lack of good 349mm tyres was a major issue. Our conclusion was that the same folding geometry around the bigger tyre produced a bike slightly over-scale for a typical adult. And of course the transport world is getting ever more congested. Even carrying a 16-inch Brompton on rush-hour trains can be quite fraught.*

*All other things being equal, a 20-inch bike would weigh more, as (oddly enough) does a 14-inch option because it needs a two-stage seat pillar and stem to fit an adult. Since then, tyre choice in the 349mm size has gradually improved, and the best don't feel so very different to a 406mm tyre. (Ed)*

