

Cycling

WEEKLY

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bike magazine

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Castelli, Speedplay, Fizik, Lynskey & Continental

Becky James
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Islabikes kits out the kids

ISLABIKES has a well-deserved reputation for producing the best bikes for junior riders, but now the company has decided to branch out.

First is its six-item range of children-specific apparel, which covers everything from arm-warmers (£16.99) to thermal bib-tights (£39.99) and a rather fetching winter jacket (£59.99). Most of the clothes are available in sizes suitable for six to 11-year-olds, although there is also a short-sleeve jersey (£24.99) that will fit mini-Cavs as young as four.

We recently received a bundle of the kit and the quality can't be faulted. The seams on the shorts and tights are double stitched, and the pad insert is ergonomically shaped rather than just a slab of artificial chamois. The winter top even has a zip protector to stop it catching on little chins. In short, it's just like adult kit but shrunken down.

Contact www.islabikes.co.uk



Islabike's winter jacket

Chris King Ceramic BB

WITH Chris King himself telling us not so long ago that quality stainless bearings with proper lubrication were the way forward, rather than ceramic, we're not sure if his latest product is a change of heart or bowing to market demand? Regardless, what we're sure hasn't changed is the absolute highest quality manufacturing, resulting in a tip-top product. Twenty-four ceramic balls are squeezed into each stainless steel race, maximising strength and smoothness, plus it's fully serviceable too. The new BB costs £199, but is lighter and potentially even more durable than its predecessor, so could be a friend for life, with four models available offering compatibility with all major 24mm axle systems. Contact www.evolutionimports.co.uk



Tech shorts

FRENCH brand **Look** is as well known for its pedals as its frames, but the bike side of the business could become better known with the launch of complete bikes. The range starts at £2,200 for a Shimano 105-equipped 566, up to a seven grand SRAM Red and Zipp-smattered 695. www.fisher-outdoor.com will have the full dealer list.

At the other end of the market, London shop **Bobbin Bicycles** has decided that rather than supply London's stylish commuters with Dutch brands, it will sell its own bikes instead. And thanks to a distribution deal, many other bike shops will be able to offer one of the five models. To find one, check out www.bobbinbicycles.co.uk.

Correct tyre pressure saves wear, gives grip and reduces rolling resistance. If www.pumptime.com get the funding they're after, self-inflating tyres may be a step closer, improving life for every cyclist. Fingers crossed all round.

Colorado-based **Whistle Bikes** has signed an online-only distribution deal with Halfords. With an Ultegrahung carbon bike for under £2k, the six-bike road range promises value for money. Check www.halfords.com.



Le Col Arcus

YANTO Barker's range of cycle clothing continues to grow with the addition of the seductively stylish Arcus shorts and jersey.

As with the other garments in the range the Arcus jersey is very much a racing cut, although it's worth noting Le Col makes six sizes so most riders should be able to find a good fit.

The shorts look as though they have had a particularly long time spent on them, as the attention to

detail is excellent. The lightweight Lycra used has good elasticity and a soft touch, and the chamois is supremely comfortable — the result being you barely notice you are wearing them. Just as you'd expect on a £134.99 pair of shorts.

As for the tops, there's a short- and long-sleeve version — both have three traditional pockets and a zipped valuables pocket on the right plus simple detailing. The short-sleeve jersey is £109.99 and the long-sleeve version £129.99.

Contact www.lecol.net