

## **Impressions of an electric bike after 1000 miles** **by Michael Hemming (E-motion City 700 Deluxe)**

Firstly our background: we are old enough to qualify for a free television license (useful!). We have never owned a car but have a fleet of bicycles to get around and about and to bring home the shopping. We felt we now needed some help as we live on the side of a hill way up the Cotswold scarp.

So we contacted OnBike of Kidderminster as a company that specialise in electric assist bicycles and has an excellent range of different makes. We arranged to try some and arrived on a very wet day. This had the advantage of that all the bicycles were unaffected by the weather, which was encouraging. The riders on the other hand ....

We found there are two sorts of power control. One is a twist grip on the handlebars so the machine works without pedalling. The second, called pedelec , gives help when pedalled in proportion to your effort. We rode the bicycles both with and without power and this is how we ride them now. The principle being the better it suits you unaided the better the bicycle it is when unpowered.

We chose two E Motion City roadsters and very satisfactory they proved to be. They are stable and reasonably fast on the flat but come to a hill and put on power and they become great fun and still fast. A friend who is a bicycle enthusiast was doubtful when we told him of our purchase. He inspected them critically and exclaimed "Oh but these are seriously good bicycles!"

They are; what did he expect?

Our usage these days is modest and it has taken nine months and twenty charges to reach 1000 miles. Each bicycle has had one new set of brake blocks and each has suffered one rear wheel puncture. Otherwise they have been completely reliable. The derailleur gears have handled the extra power extremely well. We only use all eight gears when riding without power. It is the low gears that are most valuable here. The inevitable extra weight is a small price to pay for the help given.

So our electric bicycles are now our machine of choice for all purposes. They are keeping us on the road.

**M J Hemming**

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