

SEAX

The newsletter of the Essex Crusaders, Centre 19, Virago Star Owners Club.

December 2011 Issue 192

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COPY DATE FOR NEXT SEAX is TUESDAY 27th December.

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<http://www.vsoc.org.uk>

Rep's Rambling:

I would like to apologize for the lack of reps report in last month's SEAX. As some of you know Carol and I have had to spend some time in hospital over the last 5 weeks. The good news is that we are both on the mend and looking forward to 2012. We would like to thank everyone for the cards and get well wishes we received.

As from the **1st December 2011** the impromptu ride outs from Boreham services will start at **10-30am** weather permitting

Any ideas for ride outs or trips to events would be greatly appreciated for the 2012 ride out calendar.

As the Essex Crusaders Christmas dinner is in January and we need some Raffle prizes, why not recycle your unwanted prezzies by donating them towards a worthwhile cause, the Christmas Dinner.

Carol and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

John

Deputy Rep (North):

C19 North meeting 7th November 2011.

I suppose it is that time of year when it is cosier to stay indoors than to come out in the cold to a bike meeting, those of you that are working are forgiven but it would be nice to see a few more, makes the effort by those that do a little more worthwhile.

Just a couple of things:-

Xmas dinner money will be due shortly, thanks to those that have paid, I have started buying the raffle prizes with the extra money that members have donated, thanks for that, it just helps the centre funds a little. I have now e-mailed everyone so no excuses.

Rally arrangements are coming together but as always it is a joint effort so whilst the main arrangements are done by a few the more the merrier on the days of the

rally makes it easier. This seems a bit early I know but I won't be in the Deputy reps position by rally time so thought I would bung in a reminder now.

Sweden International next year is booked by those that are going so if there is anyone out there who thinks they may like to go it is essential that you express an interest now so that you can (hopefully) be slotted in to a cabin with others both on the boat and in Sweden, there are 4 members going from C19 and it looks like 100 members from the UK in all, so a really good effort all things taken in to consideration.

The centre AGM is on the 16th January 2012 at The Bell, Woodham Ferrers, more details in John's report, above.

A reminder that the Deputy Rep, North, position is up for grabs so I would ask that someone gives it consideration please, I will be happy to guide anyone who is interested,

The next North meeting is the last before Christmas so let's have a good turn out and maybe we could have a nibble or two.

Ta ta for now

Peter



Happy *0th Birthday - Mike

Four for Florence

On the 10/09/2011 four Centre 19ers [Phil, Terry, Barney and me] met at Thurrock services at 8 am for the start of a trip to Florence Italy and back. An uneventful dry ride to Folkestone for the channel tunnel saw us arrive at Calais at about 11-30 French time. The first night was to be a Formula1 at Troyes about 240 sunny miles from Calais, now the problem with having to do high miles in France is you really have to use motorways which of course are tolled, I go through the automatic barrier 20 euros the other three clever dicks go through the manned barrier 12 euros, lesson learned.

Second day started off with a raging thunder storm but before long we were back in sunshine for the 344 miles to the Formula1 at Orange, the first 200 motorway, 4hours with stops, the second 144 through the Rhone Corridor non-motorway, 5½ hours.



The next morning away by 9am to St Tropez, a true millionaires playground, there's even a shop that sells among other things open faced crash helmets at 880 euros. From St Tropez a bit of coast road and then a bit of hokey cokey inland to our third Formula1 at Roquebrune only to find we had booked for the 12/10 instead of the 12/9 so had to pay again, bollocks.

Day four to Cannes and then ride the French Riviera through Antibes, Nice, Monaco, Monte-Carlo and San Remo in Italy. All we had to do now was to find the hotel Respiro Del Tempo in Quiliano.



It was just an old converted house that looked like the Adams family lived in, with a big wooden entrance door that creaked open to a dark stairwell



that led to a hallway where we were greeted by a middle aged woman who couldn't speak a word of English. Mrs. Modo {widowed wife of Quasi} turned out to be a lovely lady who couldn't do enough for us, locked the bikes up behind an electric gate and then laid on fantastic three-course meal. Tried to fix her

up with Phil, felt he should take one for the team but she turned him down, he was a bit disappointed though because he thought she brushed up well once she'd had a shave.



After we said goodbye to Mrs. Modo we set off for Pisa. It was about 30 degrees and the world and his sister were there, so finding somewhere to park 4 bikes was difficult until some African street vendors showed us a couple of places and then wanted some money to watch the bikes. We decided against trusting them and split into pairs and took turns to watch the bikes and to go and see the leaning tower, very impressive.

From Pisa it was only about a 60mile ride to our home for the next 5 nights, a couple of static caravans at Norcenni Girasole Club about 25miles south of Florence. A nightmare at first, as they opened this electric gate to the parking area by the vans we were confronted with a rough concrete ramp about 25feet long with about a 1in3 slope and a 180 degree gravel turn in 12feet at the bottom. But never the less a fantastic place with 7 swimming pools, 2 supermarkets, 3-4 restaurants and bars, disco, tennis, crazy golf, horse riding and Sky sports on big screens



every night. On the first day we got the train to the beautiful city of Florence, lots of people and very hot. Apart from one ride through the Tuscany countryside we stayed in the camp had a BBQ {impressed with Barney's knowledge of 50s and early 60s music with name that artist from my ipod} and relaxed. The last night there was one mother of a thunderstorm, but by morning it was clear with a drop in temperature, just right for riding.

From Florence we headed north to Bologna and then northwest past Milan to Stresa on the fabulous Lake Maggiore for two nights, the highlight being a cable car ride 1500 feet up a mountain {Barney had a bit of a run in with a snobby woman from Cambridge} with fantastic views over 7 lakes, very nice.

Then it was north into Switzerland. The first 50 or so miles was the best ride any of us had ever done absolutely stunning scenery. Carried on up to lake Lemman {Geneva} then west south of the lake into France, after a bit of hokey cokey and twisties to a lovely alpine village called Saint-Paul-en-Chablais where we stayed in a delightful hotel



surrounded by timber alpine chalets. In the village there was a combined bar, restaurant and bowling ally, buy a pizza plus 2euros and have a game, which Terry and I did, all themed as a rock bar with memorabilia on the walls and a big screen with a concert with some big name stars on, it was great.

From here it was just a straightforward run for Calais over two days with a final stop at the Formula1 in Troyes.

Got home safe but tired after a great trip; 2600 miles had a good laugh no arguments and some great riding Brilliant.

Trevor Lathrope

Centre 19 meeting's dates:

December

North meeting.

8 pm Monday 5th December 2011.

The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

South meeting.

8pm Monday 19th December 2011

The Bell Inn, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RF.

January

North meeting.

8 pm Monday 9th January 2012. - (Monday 2nd is a Bank Holiday)

The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

South meeting.

8pm Monday 16th January 2012 **Centre 19 AGM**

V.S.O.C. CENTRE 19 A.G.M. 2011

MONDAY 16TH JANUARY 2012 08-00pm.

THE BELL INN, MAIN ROAD, WOODHAM FERRERS, CM3 8RF.

The meeting will be held in the hall, prompt start 08-00, with some light refreshments at the interval.

All positions will become vacant prior to the AGM, all existing officers have indicated they are willing to stand again for 2011, with the exception of the position Deputy Rep North. Peter, aka Mr. K. has decided to step down from this position after many years. If anyone is interested in applying for any position please let me know by December 31st. If you have anything you would like included in the AGM agenda please contact me by December 31st 2011.

Tailender

Essex Crusaders?

