

SEAX

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

February 2013 Issue 205 contents:

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1. | C19 Meeting Dates. | 2. | Rep's Rambling – C19 AGM. |
| 3. | AGM minutes | 4. | New driving laws in France |
| 5. | Burnham Motorcycle Centre | 6. | From the Editor |
| 7. | Xmas party 2013. | 8. | |

Centre 19 meeting's dates:

February

North meeting.

8 pm Monday 4th February 2013.
The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

South meeting.

8pm Monday 18th February 2013.
The Bell Inn, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RF.

March

North meeting.

8 pm Monday 4th March 2013.
The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

South meeting.

8pm Monday 18th March 2013.
The Rettendon Bell, Rettendon Common, Main Road, CM38DY

Rep's Rambling

Hi everyone, well here goes my first report as your new centre rep.

Firstly a big thanks to John who has done a great job over the years, the AGM minutes contains the new line up of the committee.

I would like to say thank you to those that kept their positions and welcome the new committee members.

Thank you also to Dawn for taking the notes and writing up the minutes.

I am sure like me most of you will be pleased to be getting a SEAX, how it is to be retired Peter, bet you wish you were at work sometimes.

Well I can't wait for the nicer weather and get out there and do some riding.

On Sunday Trevor and Gary met with myself and Paula at the Rettendon Bell, we spoke with the landlord Roy and he is quite happy for us to meet there on Monday's he has other clubs do the same on different nights, food is available as long as it is ordered before 8.30.

We all agreed that it was suitable and to give it a go and see how we get on.

As from Monday the 18th March the South meetings will be held at;

*The Rettendon Bell
Rettendon Common
Main Road
CM3 8DY
01245 400616*

that's all folks!

Bruce

ESSEX CRUSADERS CENTRE 19 A.G.M. MINUTES 21st January 2013

Top Table

Centre Rep: John Evans

Deputy Rep: North: Alan Ward

Deputy Rep South: Trevor Lathrope

Web Master: Bob Owen

Treasurer: Carol Evans

Members in attendance 20.

Meeting called to order at 8pm by John Evans.

JE thanked everyone for attending despite adverse weather, apologies from Dave Moore, Leigh Williams-Davies, Sean Davies, Cheryl Myhill and Gary McHiggins.

- **Election of officers.** JE stepped down from his role as centre rep, Bruce Thompson was proposed for this role, this was seconded Bruce accepted the position and was welcomed as Centre 19's new Rep.

Both Alan and Trevor were happy to continue in their roles as deputy reps, this was accepted by all in attendance.

Bob indicated he was also happy to continue as Webmaster, this being a technical role everyone was again more than happy with this decision, and he was subsequently re elected.

Carol stepped down as Treasurer, Paula Ferreira was prepared to take on this role, was proposed and seconded and was voted into this role.

Alan Ferry advised earlier in the year his intention to resign his role as SEAX editor, prompting much discussion in recent month over the future of SEAX in its current format, with a suggestion that it be absorbed into the web pages, fortunately Peter Gauntlett volunteered to take on this role to enable SEAX to continue, he was formally proposed and seconded, Many thanks Peter.

Merchandise had been looked after by Carol Evans, but she decided to relinquish this as well as the Treasurer position, although Gary McHiggins was absent from the meeting he had expressed his interest in this role previously, so was proposed and seconded in his absence, Gary had left a message with Pete, that although he is a relatively new member to C19, he has been made to feel so welcome and accepted by everyone that he wanted to take on this role as a way of giving something back to the centre.

- **Presentation of Club Accounts:** CE talked through the accounts for 2012; there were no issues raised and the accounts accepted.
- **Rideouts & Events:** AW and TL presented a list of proposed rideouts and dates for 2013, with the exception of some minor adjustments these were approved, so AW and TL will now meet with BT to formalise and publish the rideout calendar in the near future, Mileage and entry costs where applicable will also be included, as this allows people to make a decision to attend prior to the actual date.
- **Merchandise:** CE advised that the club does hold a limited stock of clothing, pennants; hats etc, which are available for immediate purchase, the new polo shirts have been well received and for those who hadn't seen these before, one was modelled very ably by Sue. Once the rideout calendar is published the C19 "tour" clothing will be available for order.
- **Centre Rep Handover:** JE formally handed over Centre Rep role to BT and invited him to join the Top Table. BT then handed the meeting to TL for presentation of service awards to Alan Ferry for SEAX and John and Carol for their service to C19 over the last 5 Years, Carol also received a lovely bouquet of flowers.
- AW thanked Peter Gauntlett for organising another very successful Xmas do at Eight Ash Green, leading on to discussions regarding the 2014 party, it was asked if C19 would be interested in holding a joint party with C10 as they only have a very small attendance, however general opinion was that we should continue with a C19 party but extend the invite to other centres once the

uptake from C19 has been established. Peter is happy to organise this again, but it was stressed that prompt payment was necessary as having to chase for payment is NOT acceptable.

- A suggestion of purchasing a new party tent was made, a Coleman Event Shelter is in mind, this would require transporting by car to venues but it was felt this would not cause an issue, the shelter would also be made available for members use for personal BBQ's or party's. This was voted on, 18 were in favour of this so this will be looked into further.
- BT suggested a change of C19 AGM date to before the National AGM, generally held in November, so that any issues that need raising at National level can be dealt with in a more timely fashion, it was felt that this would be a very good idea and a provisional date of 20th October has been suggested, this is a Sunday, the idea being that we could incorporate a Sunday Lunch into the day and also making it easier for those people who cannot attend an evening meeting due to home/work commitments.

The meeting was then opened to any other business, several points were raised which were:

First Aid Training, Tracy Bishop asked if people were interested in this, as she can arrange for the facilities, equipment and a date if this would have a good take up. She will write an article for SEAX giving full details

A winter activities calendar has been suggested and any ideas are welcome, the role of winter Activities organiser will be made available and voted for at the next AGM

Sunday Rideouts: Many people feel that the way the Sunday Rideouts are organised could do with some revision, i.e. the pre-rideout brief should be reinstated and the route roughly described so that in the event of being separated people know where to aim for, a tail end charlie should be nominated at the start of each ride, however this person should ideally have a faster bike to enable them to get to the leader if necessary. Chas Harris said that the "Rideout Rules" are in a back copy of SEAX and rather than completely re write the article it could be reprinted, Alan Ferry has hard copies of these for reference.

The final point of the meeting was a possible change of venue for the south meetings, The Rettendon Bell and The Carpenters Arms were both mentioned, BT and TL will make enquiries but other suggestions are welcome.

The meeting was closed at 10.25pm, with thanks to all attendees once again offered.

► ► *NEW driving rules & laws in France:*

1. ► ► **SPEED CAMERAS IN FRANCE 2013** . Things have changed..... See [Speed cameras](#) below

2. ► ► **French Breathalyzer law (the farce ends)**

24. Jan 2013. French interior minister Manuel Valls has announced that application of the controversial new breathalyzer law has been postponed *sine die* - i.e. indefinitely.

Supposedly it became obligatory, from last summer, for all vehicles (including motorbikes) driving in France to carry a breathalyzer or alcohol-level test. The law came into force on 1st July 2012. But no-one in authority had bothered to enquire whether the manufacturers of such kits could actually produce them

in time. They could not! Consequently, though the law is there, the introduction of on the spot fines for not having a breathalyzer in the car was delayed until Nov. 1st. then it was postponed until March 1st 2013. Now the issue has been quietly swept under the carpet. !

Single-use certified breathalyzers are now becoming available in supermarkets, chemists and garages throughout France, at a cost of about 1 €uro each. So the cost is minimal.

Contrary to information posted on some sites, the new law (Decree no 2012-284) does not oblige drivers to self-test after having a drink. But those who plan to self-test to be on the safe side should have at least two breathalyzers in the car, if not more.

▶ ▶ Beware of the "cheap ferries" scam

Some internet sites that announce "cheap" ferry prices are actually charging **more** than the Ferry companies themselves. When taking a car to France, avoid dodgy websites by booking directly with ferry companies

3. ▶ ▶ PHONING AT THE WHEEL **BEWARE....** Drivers caught using a mobile phone while on the road in France are liable to an on-the-spot fine of 130 Euros – and 3 penalty points if they have a French driving licence.

BEWARE.... **RADAR WARNING DEVICES** These have been banned in France since late 2011. Drivers using radar detectors (speed camera detectors) are liable for a fine of 1500 Euros and 6 points off their license. This applies to specific radar warning devices, such as the **Coyote**, which must have their software updated to remain legal.

With regard to **TomToms** and other **GPS** systems, which have speed camera locations programmed in to their software, the situation is confusing. These are not officially "radar detectors", but manufacturers are obliged to make new software available, and most have done so. Tomtoms and other GPS systems are technically in breach of the law if they still have radars listed in their Points of Interest software; and even if it is not clear how roadside police can stop and check for offending software, rather than hardware, drivers are warned to err on the side of precaution and download the latest map software for France. This is advisable anyway, since older software is not up to date with regard to new routes, new speed restrictions, and other changes.

For both existing radar warning devices and GPS devices, current radar information is being replaced with warnings to announce "danger zones", many of which will be areas with speed cameras.

Burnham Motorcycle Centre

Burnham motorcycle centre *powered by* Prospeed Performance was born out of the pure passion for motorcycling. We realised very early on that we could offer a motorcycle centre experience that would far surpass our own experiences of other motorcycle shops and repair facilities.

We are completely passionate about what we do and the bikes we ride. However, we have often experienced a much less enthusiastic attitude from other companies when dealing with them.

That's why Burnham Motorcycle Centre *powered by* Prospeed Performance exists. We offer a level of service and attention to detail that is rarely experienced in today's cut throat environment.

We understand the needs of our customers and place customer retention as our first priority.

If your motorcycling is a hobby or a means of commuting we understand your wants and needs.

We cater for all bikes from Sports to Cruisers to Adventure, Touring and Commuter. We really do love **ALL** bikes!!!

Our premises are modern, clean and tidy and also fully air conditioned. A 100% bike only zone!



Our cafe is opening spring 2013 so you can have a coffee and a bacon sandwich whilst we work on your bike. It's a great meeting place too, for ride outs and just relaxing with other likeminded people.

We are located just at the top of the challenging and famous Burnham Bends on the Springfield Industrial Estate CM0 8TE.

From the Editor

This is my first effort at doing SEAX so bare with me if I don't get it quite right.

I have always felt that a magazine is only as good as its content so am asking at this early stage if members can contribute, to make it more interesting, if you have anything that you would like included can you let me have it by the 25th of the month as a deadline.

It could be an article on a ride out or rally, items for sale or wanted, sharing experiences with bike repairs or maintenance, dealers/suppliers you have had a good experience with, anything of interest or help would be great.

I am using the same e mail address as previously so look forward to hearing from you by e mail to: seax2008@hotmail.com

As you will have seen from the AGM minutes I have been tasked with sorting out the Xmas meal/party for 2014, as everyone seems to be happy with the facilities at the Holiday Inn, Eight Ash Green, Colchester and voted at the AGM that we have it there again, I am pleased to say that it has been booked for the 18th January 2014

C19 Christmas Party 21st January 2013

Even though it snowed just prior to the party and the Hotel said it could be re scheduled if necessary there was no need, so it was 'party on'.

Those that had booked rooms for the night also had use of the hotel facilities so started arriving about 2pm to spend the afternoon in the swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna, or if really energetic the gymnasium !!

By 7pm the room was decorated in Christmas style, raffle prizes set out, disco set up and guests started arriving.

The 3 course meal was very good value for money and plenty of it to, the back ground music was just right !!.

Once the meal was over and the raffle done the disco ramped it up a bit, maybe a bit loud for some as guests started congregating in the communal area in the hotel reception. Something to consider for next time..

I understand that the breakfast on Sunday, eat as much as you like, went down well and the last guests left at about 11.30.

A few foot notes

Rideouts are still on at 1030am on a Sunday from Boreham Services, weather permitting.

A few of us have started having a meal before the North meeting, so if you fancy it, just after 7pm is the time.

If anyone fancies a night out, bowling, skating !!, a meal, dog racing, just put it to your Centre rep for discussion so things can be sorted, these Winter months are very long !!

Well, that's it from me for the time being.

Peter