

# SEAX

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

October 2013 Issue 213

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## *Centre 19 meeting's dates:*

### **October**

#### **North meeting.**

8pm Monday 7th October 2013.

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

**South meeting.** Cancelled due to AGM the day before

### **November**

#### **North meeting**

8pm Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

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

#### **South meeting.**

8pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

The Rettendon Bell, Rettendon Common, Main Road CM3 8DY

## Reps ramblings

Hi Crusaders

Well here we are again at the end of a very good season; we haven't missed any planned Sunday ride out. A good turn out for most but only 3 for the Ace café, with only Copdock and Brightona left let's hope it's a 100%.

I have had apologies from Janet for not including my notes in the latest issue of Clatter and mixing long service awards with C18.

Monday the 21st south meeting is cancelled due to the AGM on the Sunday. We are having a meal before hand at 5pm so anyone I don't have names for and wishes to eat please let me know so I can give numbers. The AGM will start at 7,30pm.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the rides and events this year.

See you at the AGM

tc ride safe Bruce

## A CAUTIONARY TALE OF PAINTED LINES ON THE ROAD

And so it came to pass that the Vikings (Centre 3) rally at Ellesmere Port came to an end on the morning of Sunday July 21 and bikers set off into the morning loaded up with camping paraphernalia, and in a few lucky cases, with raffle prizes from the rally. This scribe loaded his bike, consumed a hearty breakfast, and prepared for the 250 mile trip back to home in Essex.

Having a built-in aversion to both the M1 and to all toll roads I planned to head cross country by M53, A51, A500, M6 (old non-toll), and on to the A14 for home. Mrs Garmin set, full tank of fuel that should last me well onto the A14, and off I go.

The A51 is a good bike road, single carriageway in most places, but rather too many built up and speed limited bits to allow rapid progress. Quite pleasant to ride and time could be made up on the M6 further on. Then I caught up with the queue of cars behind a Land Rover Defender towing a double horse box. He bumbled along at around 45 regardless of 30 limits in villages but also stayed at 45 on the open 60 bits. No major problem on a bike, just slip down the middle, but with tent, chair and other things on the back I needed a bit more middle than was available. Moved up the

queue gradually, just three cars and the horse box left. Over a slight rise and a down and up again straight with a staggered cross-roads in the dip. White line split into two with a red tarmac chevron bit each side of the potential right turns. Nothing in either side road, down a gear and off past them all. Vague notice of one of the edging white lines to the chevron turn areas was not a dotted white line but a double continuous line for about 20 yards, then back onto my side of the road, shut the throttle back, and up to fifth gear. From the side road on the right emerged a BMW 5 series estate car in full Battenberg blue, yellow, and white livery with lots of blue lights. He had been parked several cars lengths back from the junction hidden from the main road by the trees. I stopped and he pulled up next to me with instructions to go to the next lay-by and park.

Constable Ford (3615) gave me an in-car lecture on why there were double white lines there to protect people turning right from motorcyclists and others overtaking through the junction. I was formally charged and cautioned for the offense of “contravening double white line system” He proceeded to check the bike and my licence with DVLA; the insurance with the national insurance data base; and even a phone call to HMRC to ensure that there was no import duty outstanding on my “grey” US import. A twenty minute delay throughout which he did it all by the book and was calm and polite, even put the air con on in the car as it was a warm day and I was in bike gear.. The form he gave me showed my speed at the time as 60 (limit for the road) which was rather kind – full tilt in fourth gear on a 1700 Roadstar is a lot more than 60. There were three potential options for punishment; fixed penalty of £60 plus three points; court summons with potential for large fine, costs, and points; or a pay for it yourself “Driver Education” course with no fine and no points. After a very brief inspection of the bike he said it was “lovely” and sent me on my way.

Five weeks, fixed penalty fine, and three points later I am in the process of informing the insurers of the bike and both cars that I have yet another offence to add to the driver details. I suspect that the increase in insurance premiums will make the £60 fine seem quite cheap. Impatience by me has no place on the public road - there was a short length of dual carriageway only a mile down the road.

**Bob Owen**

Essex Crusaders – Centre 19

## *Breaking Point*

The ‘North’s’ biggest bike breaker with 300 tons of bike salvage and essential service and accessory items.

The e bay shop has over 3000 items for sale; see <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/breakingpoint> or e mail [dek@breakingpoint.co.uk](mailto:dek@breakingpoint.co.uk) also see [www.breakingpoint.co.uk](http://www.breakingpoint.co.uk)

## *For Sale*

Triumph America 2011 two tone crystal white sapphire blue.

2102 miles taxed to 05/2014

Full service history

Triumph hi flow short pipes + original pipes

Auxiliary light kit chrome visors on all lights

Auxiliary power socket

Chrome Axel nut covers

Bike in excellent condition

£4500

If interested or need more info Tel 07958984446 Bill Foxwell C13

## *Dutch national rally 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013*

I pondered about doing this one for a long time and as I missed out on Finland this year I decided I would. Booking late is not a good idea as the prices go up.

Angie from C13 accompanied me and after juggling about with our gear off we went to catch the day boat from Harwich to The Hook, it is the first time I have gone 2 up, fully loaded, so a bit of a test ! Passed with flying colours though. I even took my bed and chair. Amazing what you can get on a bike !!

A non eventful trip took us to Fred's in Rozenburg for the night and then the 3 of us left to meet up with others on a glorious Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Then there were 8. It was good to catch up with Nick from C14 , one of the original ' magnificent 7 ' !! I bought his bike in 2009 and he now has the same again, even the colour is the same.

There were 13 from the UK, slightly more Dutch !! and 3 Germans who are on the German International rally committee so good to catch up with them.

Friday night the rain came and stayed with us all day Saturday which affected the numbers as the Dutch don't come out if it threatens bad weather, don't blame them !!

The site had an indoor swimming pool which I was assured was 26 degrees, they lied, which I discovered after I jumped in, it was freezing, so after a brief spell in there I was out and in a warm shower.

Entertainment was by Disco, food was good and the site was more than acceptable, company was good and we had a laugh, what more do you want.

The ride back to Fred's on Sunday was dry and warm and once again we stayed the night and caught the day boat back on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, off the ferry at about 8.15pm and home by 8.45pm, cold but dry.

This was the last rally of the year so now time for a rest and to plan next year,

Don't forget the International rally in Germany, see national website for details, looks to be a good one.

Peter



## *Ride-out to Stratford upon Avon*

Seven bikes arrived at Brentwood services for the too long a ride to Stratford upon Avon, but it was decided to take a nice scenic ride to the Silverball café at Royston in Cambridgeshire. The A131 to the B1008 to Great Dunmow then the B184 all the way to Saffron Walden from there we took the B1039 through to the A10 and the Silverball is about 1/4 mile from there.

A lovely ride through some pretty villages and nice countryside. After a spot of brekkie and a cuppa it was then decided to move on to Finchingfield for ice cream. So back along the B1039 to Saffron Walden and then onto the B1053 for a very pleasant ride to Finchingfield.

When we arrived Paula, Katerina and Lucinda were waiting to greet us. Don't think anyone had any ice cream but Bob did have a chunk of cake,

We had nice chat on the grass before deciding to make our way home. Trevor

## *Air Ambulance ride to Harwich*

Was it six or seven bikes, can't remember, left Boreham for Harwich for the annual Air Ambulance run, couldn't be arsed with starting at Dunton. Pretty straight forward uneventful ride, A12/A120, got us to Harwich before the main contingent arrived from Dunton but they blocked the road along the front and diverted us into the town. Parking was a bit awkward but we managed to park up eventually, Bob, Laurie and Ray did find a car park but it was a bit of a walk to the festivities.

Bumped into Norm who made his own way there. Had a sausage roll and a drink then a stroll round the stands, got under a gazebo with about a hundred others to get out of a shower, another stroll through the streets looking at the bikes, and then Norm and I decided to get going before any more rain came. It's OK but too many food stands and not enough trade stands for me so maybe think about this one in the future.

Trevor

## *Ace Cafe and Greenford Motorcycle Museum*

The weather forecast wasn't good but three double hard b-----ds still turned up at Brentwood services, Tulip, Cougar and me. We thought it might be a good idea, as there was only three, to take a chance and go through London along the Embankment, and after realising it was the Ace to Brighton burn up, we also decided to go to the museum first.

Cougie led first, he new a back road route to the A13, then as Tulip worked in London and knew it better than us he would take us to the Embankment, then I got the easy bit to get us to the museum. When we got to London the wheels came off. Not only were there road works everywhere there was also a bloody World championship triathlon taking place which meant the embankment was closed, the traffic was horrendous. So what shall we do, I know we'll go over Tower bridge travel round the south side a bit and come back further up the river, cross back to the north and pick up the embankment then, bound to be clear now. The south was just as bad and I have no idea where we went, but after sitting at a set of traffic lights that seem to change every four hours or they were stuck.

Some bloke in a van behind got a bit annoyed so we carefully went across anyway into more traffic that eventually led us over Southwark bridge, only to find the Embankment was still closed. At this point it was decided to miss the museum and go straight to the Ace. Well after a bit of oky coky we ended up on the Farringdon Road which would lead us to A501 [Euston Road, Marylebone Road] and then the A40 which leads to Hanger Lane, the 406 North Circular Road, hooray! The Ace is only a mile or two from there.

Now I know Tulip is a big bloke but can he eat. At Brentwood he has two large Kit Kats then en route, 1/2 hour before the Ace I stopped at a pub for a pee he gets a pie and at the Ace he has the biggest breakfast they do plus chips, I asked him if he was having a roast dinner when he got home and he said YES. Sheesh!

By and large the rain held off, a couple of spots here and there but not too bad. But ten minutes after leaving the Ace for home it did start raining so we stopped to put water proofs on only for it to stop again. It was interesting and I have to say very enjoyable. Good company and had a laugh what more could you want.  
Trevor

Well done to Trevors Tours for these write ups.

## *Landguard Fort Rideout 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2013*

A misty start to the day saw 12 of us meet at Langham Services for the ride to Landguard Fort.

Before we began the ride a short briefing was held informing everyone of the destination and a basic description of the route given, everyone was then shown the destination on a large scale map in case we got separated en route. Wearing an orange hi vis Bruce was tail end Charlie and with Dawn and myself in yellow hi-vis we were leading. We used the second man system as no one had had any objection to this and each time I couldn't see Bruce in my mirrors at a change of direction a member was dropped off. Everybody operated this system really well I thought.

We took a meandering route through North Essex and Suffolk, riding along the north and south banks of the river Stour through many villages. The river Orwell was our next target, north and south banks.

We rode under the Orwell Bridge and over it with just a couple of miles on the A14/A12 before turning off through countryside again wending our way through to Felixstowe. We rode through the town and along the length of the seafront, ending up at Landguard viewing point right down next to the docks with Harwich and Dovercourt just across the estuary. Everybody arrived together with no-one getting lost or separated along the way, proving that the second man system is a simple and effective way of keeping everyone together.

First stop was the new café next to our destination, where we met up with Terry and Christine's father (in law) who was in his car. We all had refreshments before moving across to Landguard fort. This was primarily a Napoleonic fort which has had considerable restoration over the last few years. In addition to this there is a museum outside the fort which several people wandered round.

Time was ticking on now so most people headed home. I needed food by now so four of us, me Dawn Sue and Chris, went back along the prom where we had the biggest fish and chips I have ever seen!! You can imagine my delight. If anyone comes to Felixstowe again the Regal Fish and Chip bar is highly recommended by me. The sea was flat calm all day and the sun finally peeped though about 2.30pm making it a very pleasant day.

Many thanks to all who turned up and I hope you all enjoyed it

Regards Stainless

## *Jump Start 2014*

Hi All,

Golborne Revisited!!!!

Jumpstart 2014 is now booked and will be back at the old faithful Parkside Sports and Community Club. For those that do not know this is an excellent venue that we used for approx 5 years and we are going back!

Tickets will be on sale from October and Bob will have tickets at the National AGM so please ask your members if they wish to attend and you can buy your tickets there if that is easier. A flyer will be on the website very soon.

Tickets will be remaining at £8.00 per person. The date is 25th to 27th April 2014

(wrong dates printed in Clatter)

Caravans and Camper Vans are welcome but will need to be pre booked at no extra charge though but we need to know for space.

Thanks all

Jo Aldam  
Secretary Centre 6

## *October Ride outs*

6th Copdock Motorcycle Show, Suffolk  
Meet Boreham services 10:00, Langham services 10:45

13th Brightona Bike Show, Brighton  
Meet Marks Tey ( opposite the food hall ) 09:00, Thurrock  
services 10:00

Impromptu from then on, meet at Boreham 10:00. 10:30 from when  
the clocks go back.

## *Ride out list 2013*

November, Southend Firework Display

## *From the Editor*

**Now that the season is coming to an end it is time to think about next years ride outs, if there is anywhere you would like to go which maybe we haven't been before please let Bruce and or Trevor know so it can be slotted in to the calendar.**

**The position of Events Officer for the VSOC will be available from the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013 as the current holder is stepping down, please contact Bruce for further details if interested.**