

# ESSEX

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

November 2015      Issue 238

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## *Centre 19 meeting's date*

### November 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015  
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd, SS117QT

### December 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

Cancelled

## Reps ramblings

Hi there to you all, I hope all is ok.

Firstly I would like to apologise to Bob Owen for leaving this article out of the AGM.

“ I would love to do a new members page for the web site but I need up to date pictures (not a little thumbnail from Facebook but a reasonable size photo by e-mail) plus the specific text to show below the picture. Is it “ Bob with his Roadstar “ or is it “Mr Bob Owen with his Yamaha XVS 1700 Roadstar ” etc and also at the last south meeting it was agreed that there will be no meeting on the 21st December as its a busy time for everybody.

We had 28 members and 2 guests at the AGM and 18 for the pre meal.

You will find the minutes further down. We still have a vacancy for merchandise Officer,all other positions no change.

National AGM is coming up so if you have anything for me then please let me know before the 10th November thank you.

Christmas meal is all booked and if you have any raffle prizes please bring them along, and as its before Xmas a snowman might make someone happy, to add to their decorations.

Don't forget clocks go back this weekend, and if you receive this after then who forgot to put their clocks back. ?

Bye for now see you at the next meeting...

**AGM of VSOC Essex Crusaders - Centre 19  
19.30 – 18 October 2015**

Those in attendance:

Bruce Thompson (BT)  
Paula Ferreira (PF)  
Trevor Lathrope (TL)  
Alan Ward (AW)  
Peter Gauntlett (PG) (Vice Chairman)  
Kevin Hoyte (KH) (Chairman)

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Welcome by BT. Thanks for to KH to his appearance

**1. AGM 2014 minutes to be approved.**

Approved - Yes.

**2. Apologies.**

Bob Owen  
 Dennis Gale  
 Alan Ferry  
 Cheryl Myhill  
 Gary McHiggins  
 Norman Collier  
 Chas and Nikki Harris

**3. Election of Club Officers:**

All willing to stand again.

|                        |                               |                            |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Centre rep:            | Bruce Thompson                | All in favour              |
| Deputy Rep South:      | Trevor Lathrope               | All in favour              |
| Deputy Rep North:      | Alan Ward                     | All in favour              |
| Club Treasurer:        | Paula Ferreira                | All in favour              |
| Merchandising Officer: | Vacant                        | No offers to take position |
| SEAX Editor:           | Peter Gauntlett               | All in favour              |
| Rideouts and events:   | Trevor Lathrope and Alan Ward | All in favour              |
| Web Master:            | Bob Owen                      | All in favour              |

Thanks was given to TL for organising the ride outs this year and to everyone else to make things run smoothly.

**4. Presentation of Accounts - PF**

There hasn't been much activity in the last year. We didn't have a BBQ this year, just a picnic which kept the overheads down.

The xmas meal is included in the accounts as the Centre is subsidising Centre 19 at £4.90 a head. We still have some of the merchandise, beanies etc. left which please feel free to purchase this evening.

We will break even by the time we get our xmas money back in. Deposits have been made for 22 members.

It was asked what the SEAX costs. The main costs are printer ink and paper for people that won't have it by email. Ink cartridges last for months and the recently purchased cartridges have not been installed yet. The costs will roll into next year.

Merchandise was rounded up to pay for postage. We are losing from round up on items. If anyone wants to take the post, please liaise with PF over cost.

BT discussing xmas meal. Please pay your balance today. Please see Tina and Clive.

**5. Merchandise – Election**

There was no takers for this position

**6. SEAX - PG**

No a lot to say. Still begging for contributions to enter into the magazine. Thanks was given to

those people that do. It's just a rolling program and is only just as good as its content. PG was happy to carry on with the position. Thanks was given to Peter for his help in this position.

### 2015 Rallies

Average turnout for rallies this year by C19:

| Rally         | C19 Attendance | Total Attendance |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Ireland       | 15             | 85               |
| International | 20             | 500              |
| Yorkies       | 15             | 280              |
| Scrumpies     | 18             | 280              |
|               |                |                  |

### Rallies for 2016

| Date   | Rally                   | Information   |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| 27 May   | Centre 9 – Sleaford     | £15 before Feb. Flyers will be out before the National AGM  |
| 17 June  | International in Sweden | KH said it's on the east coast, 200 miles from the ferry. Cabins have capacity for 472 people. If people want to go – there are 31 people going already. Click on Sweden picture on the new VSOC website.<br>PG said you can go Harwich – Hoek (PG said ferry getting full so please make your decision soon) or Dover – Calais |
| 15 July  | C6 Lytham St Annes      |   |
| 26 August  | C10 – Holt              | Chris Dear (CD) said £17.50 for early tickets. Price up by £2.50. £22.50 on the day.<br>The site will be open from 2pm on the Thursday.<br>Motorhomes will be down to a minimum. Motorhomes to be charged £22.50  |
| 22 May   | Belgium                 | 40 miles from Dunkirk   |
| <p>End of season in Holland clashes with Columbia. PG to elaborate. They have extended the invite to associated countries.</p> <p>KH is putting a list together. 20 from England going already. The date is 8-23 September (on new website). If you read it it's too good an opportunity to miss.</p> <p>They will be going to amazon jungle and to San Andreas and part of the cost of the trip. The only expensive bit will be the flight costing £700 return. It will be 15 days. KH wants numbers by 1/12.</p> |                         |   |

### C19 Renewals –

2014 – 62 with 7 non renewals

2015 – 58 – with 9 non renewals – 5 new members

1 associate.

### 7. Rideouts 2015 – TL and AW

AW said the rideouts went well, but we need more numbers. There were a couple of occasions where we could have spent more time. Perhaps if we are going to a café, then we could have a long ride. If it's a place of interest, it was agreed to go straight there. We also need suggestions for rideouts for next year (Air Ambulance in Suffolk ride, or a pub lunch in Suffolk

It was suggested to go onto the English Heritage site. TL said it was very expensive to get in.

TL suggested a weekend away to Warwick Castle next year. Tewkesbury was also suggested. BT said it might be hard due to people having annual leave for this.

AW asked again for suggestions for ride outs.

TL asked if people could do a write up for SEAX.

PG also said can people give ideas for rideouts.

TL said he will send out our ride out list to other centres as well.

## **8. Future on North Meeting**

The attendance low each month. Last month – Dave and AW attended. The month before Dave, AW and PG; and 10 the month before. Never regular numbers at meetings. AW said that he doesn't want close it down. It was suggested to run it through the summers months – AW said the summer made no difference. PG suggested the south members visiting the north meeting. PG was concerned that people from the south will get a nose bleed if they travel north. Suggestions will be made later on in the meeting.

BT asked if there was anything else.

KH said they had the same problem. Not to stagger as it will become confusing with everyone, not just your own centre. It needs to be simplified for new members.

## **9. Associate Members – BT**

AM rules have been changed. The control of Associate Members falls under the remit of the Centre rep and there are no written down rules and regs. It regularly comes up at the National AGM. We had 7 associate members at the start of this year but only 1 rejoined. The whole AM issue asked for by BT is to be discussed at the National AGM to agree a standard way forward.

Decided at National AGM:

Rule 1.9.2 Local Associate Member

Membership - £17.50 which is not automatically renewable. It's decided on a year to year basis and failure to comply with the rules will jeopardise membership.

1. To attend C19 AGM.
2. To attend at least two monthly meetings during the year.
3. To be more active in ride outs.

Membership will be from 1/4 to 31/3 each year.

You will pay slightly more at rallies.

It was discussed why associates never renewed. BT explained that he contacted all C19 AM's and didn't receive replies from most, one member took exception to the new rules and didn't rejoin which left one

KH – There are 14/15 Associate members nationally. KH said that if it was up to him there would not be any. The point is that being an AM is a privilege. There are so many full members that don't do anything, but their £17.50 keep the club going. C10 has no associates and has never had any. They have an opinion but don't have a say as they are associates. The C19's 7 associates represented 35% of the centres AM's. C19 has fallen in line with other centres that have associate members. We are looking to standardise the procedure throughout the country. Out of 18 centres, there are 10 or 11 centres that have no associate members. You should not fill up the centre with associate members. The VSOC used to have 1000/1100 members but we are now down to 800. It's not about quantity it's about quality

Barry Tinson raised a point about membership declining and suggested introducing other 'Cruiser clubs' age of members was mentioned by John Evans and it was explained that this matter is discussed at the national AGM every year but decided that as the VSOC was still solvent [ membership costs the same for the past 17 years ] there was no point in going down this route at the moment. Issues relating to change of club merchandise, management, badging was also mentioned as a cost prohibitive matter relating to a change.

PG said that bringing in other bikes and clubs was discussed every year. But It was never agreed.

#### **10. Rally 2017 Committee**

We have no date yet until the AGM. We will need to put a committee together. Please give BT names as soon as possible. At the moment we have one site. It's just out of Essex. It sounds like a good site. It's been refurbished. And is 3 miles from Woodbridge. There are a few people that have seen it. A rugby club. AW has all the information if anyone wants to see it. We need suggestions. BT asked again that people contact him if they wanted to be on the rally committee. KH suggested we might like to do a bank holiday. It will be agreed at the AGM on 22nd November. It was suggested that it may be a good idea to check with the Rugby club re the dates that could potentially be available eg May Bank holiday and August BH if there are to be 3 rallies that year, before the National AGM.

#### **11. Any other business:**

TL showed KH a poster that he had made to promote new members.

AW suggested making a poster with Yamaha cruisers not XV, XVS, etc. . KH said the club is for XV owners but he has no problem with advertising it like that – Maybe A3. Dealers will have no issue with putting a poster in the windows.

CD said that when you join you should get a handbook. KH said when you join you get one.

Harley gets first year membership for free. KH said we charge £17.50. It's surprising how many new members we get each year. Lost 115 members this year, but have 100 new members. £3,000 loss by offering the first year for free. You then might have to put the cost up. KH will put this forward at the AGM. BT and TL said to make A4 and A3 posters up.

AW asked what a National Associate Member is. KH said someone who has been in the club a while and gets involved by helping out, being a solid member in the centre. One is a Vice Rep. One is centre Treasurer It is someone who gives the centre a lot of support and is a very active member. Their membership is paid to the national club funds and they receive Clatter much the same as a full VSOC member.

BT – VSOC badge refresh. Is it a plan to refresh the design? KH said that Malcolm Bland said that the website is getting a refresh, then perhaps the badge and merchandise should do also.

If anyone wants to bring anything up at the AGM, then please email this to BT as soon as poss.

BH said the Mersea picnic went well. Other centres turned up and enjoyed it. Tea and coffee was supplied with cookers and kettles supplied by members. We are planning the same as next year as it was so much of a success. Everyone agreed.

BT said due to a rally, we missed our trip with a stand at the Museum of Power this year. We were planning on doing it next year – and everyone agreed. It's the first weekend in August.

BT thanked all for attending and closed the meeting

Meeting closed at 21.28.

**I'd like to thank Kevin Hoyte for attending our AGM** and for finally explaining about the associate members. As far as I can make out there is absolutely no benefit to the VSOC at all in having associate members apart from maybe attending the odd rally, with permission.

I would hazard a guess that the vast majority of centres share this view, fair enough. But C19 does have an associate policy, or at least we did, and I personally feel we gain from doing so. First we, C19, get £15-00 a year from each associate, we have lost £ 75-00 this year because five decided not to renew and second we have lost potentially five plus one full member from ride outs at a time when numbers for ride outs is dwindling, so lose lose then.

Over the last six or seven months I have spoken to quite a few members who have vehemently objected to these proposals regarding associates yet not one spoke up when the opportunity at the AGM came up, apart from Barry Tinson and myself, silence. Was it I wonder because Kevin Hoyte was in attendance, were we scared of him, I wonder because I'm pretty sure had he not been there a lot more people would have had something to say. Trevor

**Just to put the record straight.**

In response to Trevor's article about Associate member's I would like to comment as follows.

He is right, Associate membership has no advantage to the VSOC as their membership dues are paid to the centre.

C19 along with most other centres has never had an AM policy, the responsibility for AM's has always laid with the centre Rep and nothing was laid down in writing . Until now.

We now have a written down policy that an AM will

1. Attend the Centre AGM
2. Attend at least 2 centre meetings a year [ we have 24 so not hard to achieve ]
3. Attend some ride outs.
4. Associate membership of the centre will be on a year by year basis at the discretion of the Centre Rep and assuming the criteria in numbers 1 to 3 has been met. Not too much to ask .

The one full member referred to, I assume is Cougar who has moved to Yorkshire so there is not a lot we can do about that, our loss is another centres gain as he is still going to be a member of the VSOC

Once again Trevor is right as 5 AM's decided not to renew this year, their choice as no one pushed them away.

The AM issue has been rumbling on for some while now and in line with members requests it was an agenda item at the C19 AGM when everyone had an opportunity to express their views and once again Trevor was right, not many did, blaming the fact that Kevin Hoyte, Chairman was in attendance.

As Chairman, Kevin attends a lot of centre AGM's as it is part of his role within the club, our AGM is probably one of the closest he lives to, so it made sense for him to attend, If I remember rightly he has attended our AGM on many occasions so there was nothing new this time.

I would like to think that this subject can now be put to bed as far as C19 is concerned.

Peter Vice Chairman, VSOC.

Please see this below which has been taken from the Reps Ramblings

“ I would love to do a new members page for the web site but I need up to date pictures (not a little thumbnail from Facebook but a reasonable size photo by e-mail) plus the specific text to show below the picture. Is it “ Bob with his Roadstar “ or is it “Mr Bob Owen with his Yamaha XVS 1700 Roadstar ” etc

Most of the pictures on the website are probably out of date now so please give this some attention so Bob can update as appropriate, ask him nicely and he may take a suitable picture for you.

## *Wot no eggs, and why is Bob wearing a pirate eye patch?*

You may have noticed that I am now not attending monthly meetings, and that when I have been to recent rallies and ride-outs I have been wearing either an eye patch under my glasses or a pair of glasses with a blacked out right eye.

I have developed a condition referred to by medical practitioners as “binocular double vision”. Both of my eyes work normally and meet the standard for driving set out by the DVLA but my two eyes do not work properly together. They don’t both point at the same focal point so I get double vision.

First noticed that I had a problem back in April when I went on the retired (retarded) rider’s day out to Hastings. I was OK going there but on the way home, I got strange double vision problems. Follow a car and I got two images, a correct one and a fainter one that often put a “second” rear number plate in the top right corner of the car in front’s rear window. Very strange. Over the next couple of weeks, it got worse, ride down a flat but twisty road with a left bend coming up and I got two left bends, a correct sharp one and an image of an uphill but less sharp one. Take the wrong one and end up on the wrong half of the road. Problem seemed to be of limited impact first thing in the morning but got worse as the day progressed.

Went and saw my optician and had a full set of vision tests. Both eyes working OK individually but not together. Was referred to Broomfield Hospital department of ophthalmology and went along in May to be assessed and have loads of tests. Was told that I had minor damage to the right eye retina – a little crease in the back of the eye ball that distorted images of some horizontal features. However, on the double vision, no specific diagnosis. I’m 65 so it could just be age related with loss of the fine muscle control of where my eyes are pointing (just tough luck); could be related to an over active thyroid gland (wait for the result of blood tests); could just be a “novelty” item (give it time to see if fixes its self. For now cover one eye (hence the patch) but be very careful. You need two eyes to judge distances properly and don’t drive at night. Oh... you must inform Swansea DVLA and get a ruling on retaining or losing your licence. See you again in four months, or sooner if the blood tests come up with anything.

Shit – I live in a field over a mile from Maldon and motorized transport is essential. My main hobby is by bike and it’s not much use without a driving licence. DVLA assessed my medical reports and told me that I met the eyesight requirements and could keep both the car and motorcycle driving entitlement. Apparently, if you are born with only one eye, or lose one prior to getting a driving licence, you don’t even have to tell DVLA. However if you lose an eye, the relearning process of coping without the distance judgment that two

eyes gives means that you have to get DVLA approval to continue driving.  
So I await the follow up appointment; no night driving anymore; no eggs at meetings.

**Bob Owen**

**Sorry to hear this Bob and hope for a swift resolution.**

## *From the Editor*

When you have got nothing better to do, have a look on here at the MOT's for your vehicle/bike, interesting reading sometimes.

<https://mot-history.net>

I have received reports that some members are not receiving SEAX and on checking I find that e mail addresses have changed, please let me know if that is the case so I can alter the mailing list, also check your spam folder as it may be hiding in there !!

## *Rideouts*

If the weather is inclement can you phone the reps to see if the ride is still on,

There will still be impromptu ride outs during the cold weather, Boreham 10.30am unless otherwise stated, maybe best to check with someone before turning up, just in case, as you could be Billy no mates. !!