

# SEAX

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

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## *Centre 19 meeting's date*

### September 2015

North meeting

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

South meeting

8pm Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015  
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

### October 2015

North meeting

8pm Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
The Anchor, Upper St, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

## Reps Rambling

Hi there Crusaders

How are you all doing, well last night at the South meeting we said a farewell and good luck to Chas and Nikki who are now venturing on their next journey and have started a new life in France. Good luck.

**SCRUMPIES** the plan is to meet at Thurrock services at 10am where you can take a nice run down to sunny Bournemouth, I have seen a warning as you come off the M27 to the A31 through the new forest watch your speed as traps have been set up more so for bikes. I will see you all down there on Saturday as I have to work Friday night (tight buggers wont give me a night off)

As you all know Paula and myself took a road trip and it was brill, I wish I was still there, you can read about it in this issue..

Crusaders at rallies this year have been a bit low but we are still getting a good turn out with 14 at Doncaster lets see if we can get more down south, ride outs have took a tumble with only about 6 or 7 turning up lately, so its the same old question your thoughts please on this or is it just family taking over and that good old English weather putting you off leaving your snug warm beds??

### **CHRISTMAS MEAL**

In the last issue it was pencilled in to have the meal at the Lodge, last night I confirmed the booking so here are the details,

Date 19th December @7pm to be ready to sit down for 7.30pm

At The Lodge country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Road SS11 7QT

[www.lodge-inn.net](http://www.lodge-inn.net) 01245 320060

here you will find all details for rooms if you want to stay book this yourselves asap as there are only a few. also the menu for this is under the heading

**WHATS ON** then the drop down for Christmas scroll down for menu.

DEPOSIT £10 to be paid by 1st November with the full amount to be in by the 1st December, there will be no chasing up for this so PLEASE make sure you get payments in on time or your place will be lost and will go to the next person on list if overbooked, as we only have room for 50 people. Also your choice of food menu to be in by the 1st December

Saving the best for last it was agreed that the club will subsidise the meal, so you pay £17 a person instead of the £21.90, as there is a 10% surcharge on

top of the £19.95.

This is for members only and partners of course.

Please send all interests and monies to Clive Clarke ....

[fazerblue01@live.co.uk](mailto:fazerblue01@live.co.uk)

and he will give his address out to you, all cheques payable to VSOC Essex Crusaders

AGM 18<sup>th</sup> October at the Rettendon Bell, for anyone wanting to have pre meal please let me know so this can all be put in place by the 1st October.

Merchandise officer position is up for grabs as Sue has moved, and also any other position is always up if you wish to have a go. Anything you want to bring up please let me know.

## *Ride to Krazy Horse, Bury St Edmonds* *August 2nd.*

It was the weekend of the Yorkies Rally, I wasn't expecting too many to turn up at Boreham so sent a text to Barney and Shotgun, I knew they weren't going. On arriving at Boreham there was little Sue, quiet Sue you know who I mean.

"I have to be home by one" she said which meant she would have to turn round en route to where we decided to go which was at this point Potter Heigham, Norfolk. Barney suggested we could ride to Halstead for a cup of tea then Sue could go home from there. Good idea we thought but we would never get to Potter Heigham so we decide to go to Krazy Horse instead. So off we go through Boreham village then country route to Great Leighs, Great Notley through Braintree to High Garrett and on to Halstead. We parked the bikes and then tried to find a nice cafe, apart from a greasy spoon in the high street they were all shut. We did eventually, after some advice from a passerby, find a delightful little cafe just round the corner, new not been opened very long. We settled in a conservatory out the back round a table sat in very comfortable armchairs, ordered our tea, coffees and coke and relaxed, could have stayed there all day. We had to go, Sue had to be home by 1-0 remember. So after a wee made our way to the counter to pay, Barney was there first then me then Shotgun but no sign of Sue, where could she be? must still be in the loo we thought. "She's gone already' I said "Couldn't have done I've been here all the time and I haven't seen her pass" said Barney. So we asked the waitress if she had paid her bill, NO she hadn't and on checking the bikes she had gone, bunked out without paying 'tut' 'tut'.

Barney and I paid her bill and we made our way back to the bikes, it's 12-

30 and Barney has to eat at about 1-00 due to his diabetes.

“Should be alright till about 1-30 I’ve had a biscuit” he said. So we decided to take the more scenic route to Newmarket via Haverhill A14 to Bury. On arriving at Krazy Horse at 1-35 found the world and his dog was there, absolutely packed. On the counter was a sign “food will takes 1 hour” oh! shit what we gonna do “be alright I’ll have a biscuit and a coke that should keep alive” he said, phew!

Had our food, didn’t take an hour, had a look round the bikes and decided to make our way home. Uneventful ride A143 via Sudbury and Halstead, again, to Braintree, A120 to A131. Slight cock up at the roundabout where the A131 meets the A130, my mind was miles away and I went straight on towards Broomfield instead of left, Barney did turn left but Shotgun and I kept going, same difference. We all got home safely, a great ride and we all enjoyed it.

Sue has apologised profusely but I’m sorry the damage has been done, the name of C19 has been tainted. She’s not little Sue or quiet Sue anymore but SUE DON’T PAY.

Trev

## *Retarded Riders Group 6<sup>th</sup> August*

5 of us this time including SUE DONT PAY who doesn't work on a Thursday.

The decision had been made to go for pie and mash at Walton on the Naze so I was met in the lay by opposite Colchester zoo and as it was my neck of the woods, I led.

I took the old Clacton road through Alresford [ hi Leigh and Sean ] along Clacton sea front as far as it would go and then headed for Walton, parking up outside the biker cafe.

Trev and Terry had Pie and mash whilst the rest of us had fish and chips, well it is the seaside after all !

We then took the scenic route back through Tendring, Lawford, Ardleigh and only picked up a main road at Colchester when I branched off and the others went on home.

It was a lovely warm day and had to be taken advantage of.

Peter

PS When I am leading a ride out Trev you don't break ranks and muscle to the front on the last 200yds, Got it !!

## Brooklands & Mercedes Benz World - 9<sup>th</sup> August

Five bikes (6 people) left Thurrock and headed round the M25 to Brooklands – Trevor, Clive, Tina, Bruce and Chris and I. Brooklands was the world's first purpose-built motor circuit constructed at Weybridge, which was built in 1907.

Having had a cuppa and sandwich on arrival – we all wandered round the museum which had a wide range of motoring and aviation exhibits. The Era Shed had an impressive Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car and also housed ancient racing cars, motorbikes and cycles. It was an American Theme Day so there were plenty of cars to see – mustangs etc.

Having spent a couple of hours walking round Brooklands, Clive, Tina and Bruce decided to leave. Trevor, Chris and I went across to the Mercedes World. Very impressive – the highlight being the “view suspended” Formula 1 car, which comprised of 3,200 components hanging from the ceiling. Stood for a while watching the cars on the skid pads and circuit. Terry.



## GOING TO THE SUN!

When I heard there was a rally in Portugal this year, I was really excited as not only was it in the country I came from but the chance to meet Star riders

from all nations...and I spoke the language!

After many months and planning, hotels, routes etc, we were off! So on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July Bruce and I set off loaded...no tents....to spend a night in Plymouth before catching the 24h ferry to Santander in Spain the next day. 300 miles or so later - fair weather with only a spit of rain just before our destination- we arrived at Wellbeck Manor & Golf Course . A lovely picturesque hotel tucked away and pretty easy to find.



We had all of 3 miles to ride to the port the next day, phew! Hard bikers that we are!. Got up leisurely, breakfasted and got to the Port early but with the wait there was no restaurant open, not anywhere for a cuppa! We got chatting to a family and got a 'brew' out of their caravan. It wasn't that long before we boarded and got sitting eating in the restaurant. The journey on the boat was relaxing and the seas were calm. Entertainers galore for the kids including disco, magician and a clown. Face painted kids everywhere. Even a small swimming pool on board.

As we had been loaded in the 'Belly of the Beast' with all the other bikes, we waited about an hour and a half to unload on the other side, giving us a chance to chat to some of the other bikers. We came out to sunshine and finally a non-motorway road out of the port that lead us into the city. Leaving our bikes we went for a sandwich and a drink before heading on out to find our first of 2 hotels in Spain.

Finally getting out of the city on a country road, we passed through the middle of hills winding around beautiful scenery and nowhere to stop to take a photo. Arriving at our first destination, a converted convent in Santa Maria De Mave, we unpacked the bikes, explored the grounds with a drink in hand and had a quiet meal in their restaurant. The food was amazing and all in all, the hotel was very reasonable! The convent had been built around the 12<sup>th</sup> century with additions through the years. It had been modernised with glass and metallic door ways around its old 2ft thick stone walls. Bruce and I had a game of chess in their game and tv room as it was very quiet!!





Tuesday morning we packed up, loaded the bikes and set off again to our next location, Leon. Around 100 miles later we parked up at Hotel Camino Real. Ordered a taxi and we went for a wander around Leon. It was CLOSED! I kid you not....all the shops were closed. Very rarely was there anything open. A gift shop or two and some café/restaurants. We had a walk around enjoying lunch and dinner in the town.

Wednesday morning we set off again after another lazy evening in the bar. We had about 160 miles today to Chaves in the north of Portugal where we were meeting two of our members Joy and Dave Mellalieu. We all met up about 4pm for drinks in the sunshine and walked into the historic town over the town bridge built from 66 to 144 AD for dinner.



I have to say by this point I was getting used to using a full face helmet and leathers and I was still relatively cool. Temperatures were lovely in the late 20s, mostly sun, but some of you that don't like it too hot would have been quite comfortable.

The four of us set off from Hotel Brites Thursday morning to finally make our way to Star Riders Europe rally. We went around the mountains, so many twists and curves maybe even Cougar would have got fed up lol! The scenery was spectacular! We stopped a couple of times for refreshments, all in all, a great relaxed few days.

The organisers at the SREU had arranged a whole youth hostel and many of us got our own double room with ensuite...and a balcony. This overlooked the bands and general hang out area



On our arrival we were hosted with a glass of Port and a photo for the album. It was a great couple of days spending time with many Star riders from Europe, What with a boat trip down the Douro, a visit to Offley Port Caverns and a BBQ on Saturday near the beach. Shame it was the next day back home, with one stop overnight in Zamora Spain , 12 of us, dinner and drinks around town. Then to the ferry Monday with a lumpy crossing. Home to the rain! Am sure we all wanted to stay a lot longer ☐. Great holiday!

Paula Ferreira



## *Rideout to Aldeburgh 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015*

Only 6 of us left Langham, where were the rest ? Alan 'Stainless' Ward led and took us on a scenic route via the A140 Norwich Road and through Stonham, Yoxford, Thorpeness and a few other villages in between and we approached Aldeburgh from a different direction to the norm, very nice but a lot of traffic.

We parked on the sea front not far from the fish and chip shop and it was so nice to be able to park without any restrictions, cars and bikes, no charge and no grief,

We had the statutory F & C and whilst the others went for a walk I stayed behind and watched the bikes !! They attracted a lot of interest and I had some long conversations with onlookers, a lovely way to spend a warm Sunday.



We had a nice ride back via Snape Maltings and associated villages and I got home about 4.15pm, In the dry, result !!

Peter

## *From the Editor*

Hi everyone, the Scruppies are planning a second hand stall to beat all other second hand stalls and if you can fit it on the bike, you're welcome to bring your stuff along too!! We'll need it clearly labelled with your Name & Centre (a mobile number too) and a price that you want for it.

Leave it with us in our purpose built area and you'll be contacted when it's sold (or if anyone wants to haggle)...you just need to pop by and pick up the cash (simples) !!

Anything not sold or collected by the end of the rally will be donated to C17 or binned.

## *Ride outs - 2015*

Sept 6th

Peterborough Show [all kinds of bikes and cars]  
Embankment Road, Peterborough PE1 1EF  
Meet Boreham 9-30, Rest Area, Takely A120 10.45

Sept 13th

Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK3 6EB  
Was going to make a weekend of this but it was decided that if we make an early enough start one day would be fine.  
Therefore meet at Brentwood services A12/M25 8am sharp.

Sept 20th

Change from scheduled Leysdown, not much there. Herne Bay instead.  
Meet Thurrock Services 10-30

Sept 27th

Audley End Stately Home, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4JF

3rd October is the Ride To The Wall, if anybody is interested in doing this please look at the website for details and start point. It's a long day, you would need to start early, might be an idea to overnight it as Dave Wealthall is intending to, bearing in mind the Copdock Show is the next day [Sunday].

October 4th  
Copdock Bike Show

October 11th  
Brightona Bike Show, Brighton  
Meet Thurrock Services 10-00

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

October 18  
Centre 19 AGM at the Bell and Chimes, Rettendon.

December 18  
Centre 19 Christmas Dinner - The Lodge Country Inn.