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

July 2017 Issue 258

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Centre 19 meeting's date

July 2017

North meeting

8pm Monday 3rd July 2017

The Crown, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Colchester CO7 7QR

South meeting

8pm Monday 17th July 2017

The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

August 2017

North meeting

8pm Monday 7th August 2017

The Crown, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Colchester CO7 7QR

South meeting

8pm Monday 21st August 2017

The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

Reps ramblings

Hi there gunslingers and showgirls, it's not long now, patches are in the process of being made, unfortunately Snakes Pix has had to pull out and sends his apologies. I have tried another firm who were at the St Ives show at the weekend but they are fully booked.

Write-ups are getting thin again, it is like we have said it doesn't have to be club related, it could be a trip you had or a show in a field somewhere.

C8 rally I will be leaving Takley rest area at 9am, stopping at the little chef at Kettering where we will meet up with Allan at about 1015 and have brekkie.

The International in Borcolo went well with 9 Crusaders.

Hats off to Peter for being the best pre rally ticket sales of 184 at the moment with a few days left at the bargain price.

I should be getting Christmas menus soon and then I will be taking bookings for the lodge inn. The picnic is coming up so I hope that sun shines for us, as I have just seen we have had six weeks of rain in the past 24hrs, better than having six weeks of the stuff.. Plus we have our stand at the museum of power and I am looking forward to Santa Pod ride out,
See you out there take care and ride safe

International rally 2017

As usual, a large amount of planning had gone in to this annual event and due to ferry bookings it was decided to go Dover /Dunkirk on Thursday 8th June so I left home at 6.15am to meet up with Dave on the A12 lay by and others at Thurrock

Six of us left Thurrock at 7.30 for a leisurely ride to Dover dropping Debbie off at the tunnel on the way down as that was her chosen method of travel, once in Dover we filled up and made our way to the port in plenty of time to catch the 10am ferry.

It was warm and dry so not bad so far.

There was 28 riders in our group on the other side as we picked up Debbie and Terry from C17 at a petrol station North of Dunkirk, all going to plan so far . A petrol and bum stop every 100 or so miles broke the journey up and on the last stop before Borcolo I decided to change my hoodie for something cooler,

All changed and bungied back on the bike, off we went to be stopped by Tim a few miles up the road to tell me I had lost 2 bags off the back, grr, water proofs, trainers and hoodie gone down the road, bungy still intact as my crocs were still on board, just one of those things and an omen maybe as I wouldn't have needed the waterproofs, trainers or hoodie for the rest of the trip as the weather apart from Friday was wall to wall sunshine

The mileage to Borcolo was 360 and apart from the lost luggage was done with no problems, I had made arrangements for us to pitch our tents before going through the booking in process which as you know can take a long time with greetings, shots, wrist bands, payment, kisses and cuddles etc.

Friday weather was wet, very wet, but it didn't last and the ground dried very quickly, no real damage done.

The hall was substantial, food adequate, drinks expensive but weather good so not too bad so far.

Saturday's ride out was picturesque and took us along some roads with grass up the middle, I heard there were 133 bikes on that ride but I now believe there were about 110, a substantial ride out by any standards and all arrived as planned in one piece, feeding us in a small village was a mission let me tell you and the planned stop was longer than intended.

The event was a chance to catch up with friends from different countries but lacked the 'wow' factor with nothing out of the ordinary planned, I will say no more.

26 of us had planned to go on our usual extended trip after the rally and this year it was to St Goar on the River Rhine, a camp site which had been used previously by some members, after some detours due to road works we got there and pitched our tents, booked in and went over the road for dinner, my first Snitzel with mushrooms in a sauce and the usual side bits, didn't do my diet any good with the banana long boat as pudding, sod it, I am on holiday. Several of us made bookings for breakfast in the hotel which was eat as much as you can buffet style, lovely !!

Monday was a chill day so we walked in to the town, had a drink or two and something to eat, evening meal again in the hotel over the road.

Tuesday some of us stayed fairly local whilst others went on a long ride planned by Kevin, we crossed the river on a ferry, went up some very steep roads with 180 degree bends and all got there in one piece. Stopped and ate and drank on the way like you do.

Wednesday 10 of us decided to go for a river boat cruise so caught the boat at 10.20 for a 3 hour cruise down the Rhine, passing our camp site on the way, stopped for a couple of hours and had lunch and an ice cream, beer or two then cruised back on a 104 year old paddle steamer, about 8 hours in all for the cost of 16 euros, good value.

Thursday, again our group stayed local and went the other way from the camp site, crossing the river on a bridge, stopping for a snack and drink, normal ride out stuff, on the way we were flagged down by Police on motorcycles so we stopped and saw the biggest ride out have seen in a while, mostly HD's but all waving and hooting, it must have taken 20 minutes to go past, very impressive, apparently there was a festival that attracts bikes from all over to take part.

Friday, 19 of us left the site at 10am for the 400+ mile ride home, 410 miles for me but all got there safely and in good time, catching the 6pm [5 pm UK time] ferry from Dunkirk, I arrived home at 9pm and probably first through the tunnel as I went A2, M2 [following Bruce and Paula, who stopped for fuel] instead of M20, please bear that in mind that M2 must be a shorter route than M20, Sally and Kev were surprised that I was in front of them approaching the A12 junction and they were first off the ferry in Dover and came up the M20 My new Raider stood the test, carried my luggage [most of the time !!] and performed very well, I will replace the handle bars in due course with some pull back bars as the stretch was niggling my wrists a bit, but no real issue

As always, a good trip, with good company and plans are already in place for the International in Denmark next year.

The view from our camp site beside the Rhine



Dave in thoughtful or lustful mood !!



18th June Rally ride out practice run

Ten of us went to the rugby club on a nice sunny father's day, hence the lack of members, and thanks to Martin from C10 who joined us. We went over a few things with the manager who could not answer a lot, so still needs to come back on a few things. We did a walk around working out what can go where and if we had enough room, once you get out there it is deceiving how much room there is. Unfortunately, we have lost another pitch due to it just being refurbished, and the view of most is that we should be ok. As time was moving on some went home and 6 of us continued to Southwold. where a sandwich and a brew went down a treat. Bruce

St Ives Motorcycle show 25th June

We were running a bit late so Paula decided to go straight there and I went to meet up with those at Boreham. We left prompt for a change as it was a bit of a trek, so with Trevor leading the way, off we set via the 120 and A10 with the last bit on the A14.

It was a good turn out, we were led into a car park and it was packed but we all managed to find a space, no time to hang about off to find a gents and who should be in there but Barney, of all places hehe.

Off to find Paula and the C10 stand. They had a great display of bikes and some interest, The town square was packed with stands, I was after a new helmet and found a nice one but what they had was it, yes you guessed it not my size in the colour I wanted, oh well. For you motorsport fans Steve Parrish was there, some good bands and a fly past by a spitfire? don't quote me on that one. We all had a good ride home with a few showers on the way, thanks Trevor for another good route. Bruce

From the Editor

Dont forget anything you have that may be useful as a raffle prize for our rally,

A final reminder, not that you need it, that rally tickets are still for sale at £14, just message me and I can put some aside for you for collection at rally reception, pay me online, no problem and save the postage !!

Just a reminder that the annual C19 picnic is on at East Mersea on the 9th July, tea, coffee and squash will be provided but bring your own food, raffle prizes gratefully received. It is always helpful if members could arrive earlyish to set up the gazebo etc. and stay behind at the end to clear up. Thank you.

Ride outs

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

As from April 2nd impromptu rides from Boreham 10.00

July 1st [Saturday]

Madingley American Cemetery memorial ride.

Make your own way to Cambridge services on the A14. The ride is due to start at 11.30. Check first.

July 2nd

Hendon Royal Air Force museum NW9 5LL

10.30 Brentwood services

July 9th

C19 Picnic East Mersea

10.00 Boreham - or make own way there.

July 16th-18th

C8 Rally

July 23rd

1066 bikers cafe A21 East Sussex TN32 5JH

July 30th

Inter centre meet up at the Silverball cafe, Royston, Cambs SG8 8BD

10.00 Boreham

August 6th Museum of power bike show [we have a stand] or Scrumpies party

August 13th Gorleston on sea, Norfolk

August 20th Santa Pod drag racing [Monster trucks]

August 25th-27th C19 rally

September 3rd Krazy Horse cafe and bike shop with C13

September 10th Ace to Brighton burn up

September 17th Log Cabin cafe, Abridge

September 23rd [Saturday] C10 charity party

September 24th Beccles, Norfolk

October 1st Copdock bike show

October 8th The Fossils cafe, St Osyth Road, Clacton

October 15th C19 AGM

December 2nd C19 Christmas Dinner – The Lodge Country Inn, SS11 7QT.