

# SEAX

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

March 2017 Issue 254

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## *Centre 19 meeting's date*

### **March 2017**

North meeting

8pm Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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

South meeting

8pm Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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

### **April 2017**

North meeting

8pm Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

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

South meeting

8pm Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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

## *Reps ramblings*

### Hello Crusaders

I hope you are all doing well, hopefully we can start to say goodbye to winter and get those bikes on the road where they belong.

The ride out list is complete and on the website as well as in here, hopefully something for everyone. At the meeting on Monday there was a lot of worry if Southend was on, off, or who was doing it etc, well it has been confirmed that it is on 17<sup>th</sup> April as it was published in the local paper and I believe the traders are putting up the cash again, so lets hope the weather is on our side and we can support them.

There is still room at the inn for the rally in a hotel so if things have changed with you and you can make it let me know and I will give you the details but be quick.

Raffle prizes for our rally are going to start to be collected/bought, if you can scrounge anything from your local dealer, or have something at home then bring it along to a meeting and Clive or myself will take it off you or if at the North I am sure Alan will do the honours.

Please, I know its repetitive but this is your newsletter and its only as good as the info Peter gets, so if you haven't written anything before or you are a new member then now is the chance to introduce yourself and maybe send a pic of you and your ride for here or send to our webmaster Bob to go on the website.

see you all soon .

## *Rally raffle prizes*

Could I please ask has anyone got any unwanted Christmas presents or items that would be suitable for our Raffles Prizes that they can donate ready for C19's Rally. We are collecting them any time soon so if you can help in any way it would be much appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Also is there anyone willing to go to bike shops etc. to ask for donations for prizes as I am not confident enough to do this but I know others have done this in the past! Thank you.

Tina and Clive

## Ten Pin bowling

Im one of your new members who joined at the very end of last year so I thought the yearly Inter centre bowling match would be an ideal opportunity for myself and the better half to meet up with some of the members.

The Bowling took place on the 5th of Feb at Stevenage so we trundled up there and soon got talking to everyone as we waited for the matches to start.

We were made to feel very welcome and soon got into the swing of things. we were all split into 4 groups and the bowling began with what can only be described as a mix of techniques and success but of course all done in high spirits and plenty of cheeky banter. Now personally I can't remember the last time I bowled and I thought I was doing a good job until someone pointed out that the idea of the game was to knock the pins down rather than avoiding them so after the fifth attempt I decided if I aimed at the gullies at the side then naturally the ball would end up more or less down the centre of the lane which to my surprise worked quite well. Sharon my wife kindly pointed out that my ball handling isn't what it used to be. "Thanks love but can we discuss this when we get home I'm trying to knock some pins down here." Talk about kick a man while he's down. Anyway I digress, although neither of us put in a very good performance lucky for C19 we had two little heroes in our midst. The one and only twinkle toes Peter Gauntlett & Sue Sullivan who were putting in a sterling effort for the Essex boys and for all their hard effort they made a place in the finals to get a chance of winning the Trophy back for C19.

It was a tense affair and the six players were all trying there utmost to win, plenty of lining up, concentration and sweaty palms. I must say Peter & Sue put in great performances and did C19 proud getting quite a few strikes, however it wasn't quite enough against very tough opposition from Jane in C13 who's European Ten Pin bowling championship standard of play was slowly wearing them down.

In the end Peter & Sue's superb bowling wasn't quite enough to get the win but Little Sue was a close runner up and although C19 didn't get the 2017 Bowling Trophy everyone had a great time and as for me and the missus we really enjoyed the day and we will certainly be coming back next year to give it another shot and I'll try to put some practise in before to help improve my standard of play from diabolical to the dizzy heights of poor. Thank you all for a great day and making myself and Sharon feel very welcome.

Since then we have had a ride out with Bruce and Paula to Finchingfield and had a great time chatting away in the tearooms about up and coming events which we are very much looking forward to attend and to meet more of C19 members. Hope to see you all soon. Spring is just round the corner.  
Ride Safe

Rob Tomlin

Editor A great write up from a new member, thanks Rob, you may have noticed that I have edited it slightly, you will see what I mean.



## *Purchase of Yamaha Raider SCL*

I was browsing the internet/e bay one day and came across a 2013 Yamaha Raider SCL [ Star Custom Line ] in red, for sale in the USA, there are two orange ones in the UK, to my knowledge, both owned by club members and I had secretly always admired them but had done nothing about it until now.

I messaged the owner James about the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to ask if his bike was still for sale, his reply was something along the lines of ' wow, you in the UK and interested in my bike ' anyway a price was agreed and the process began

I had 2 cheques raised in \$ by Santander to cover the cost of his loan for the bike and a much lesser amount to cover the purchase of a screen which was advertised by James on Ebay, the cheques were sent via Royal Mail on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, tracked and signed for.

The cheques quickly found their way to Heathrow ready for the flight to USA and there they sat according to the tracking info for a week, phone calls to

RM customer services several times came up with all sorts of excuses like ‘ the tracking label fell off the bag containing your letters ‘ ‘ the tracking system has broken ‘ ‘ dont worry they are definitely on their way ‘ suffice to say one of the cheques has never arrived and it is now the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Eventually I stopped the cheque and started the process all over again, some time had been wasted already, the larger cheque which was to pay off the loan for the bike with a bank arrived [ eventually ] so something must have worked in my favour, it then took 10 days for the chq to clear and another 10 days for the ‘ title ‘ [ log book ] to be transferred to James and by this time it was New Years day.

I had commissioned Kingstown Shipping in Hull to arrange transport to the UK and all was arranged with lots of paperwork, customs work, and organising a boat, it was being shipped to Southampton and was taking 18 days.

As part of the agreement James had agreed to take the bike to Brunswick on a specific day for shipping and that was like ‘ comedy capers ‘ as he turned up at Brunswick port some 5 hours from his house with the bike on his truck and they wouldn’t let him in the port as he was carrying firearms, no surprise there !! he had to find somewhere to stash the guns which was problematic at such short notice so he wrapped them in a towel and put them in a ditch for safe keeping, hoping they would be there when he got back [ and they were, phew ] All this info was sent to me via text whilst at a C19 North meeting and caused a bit of a titter.

The boat was 2 days late leaving and made its way across the pond and it was interesting to see it within a few miles of Southampton, 2 days late !! it then made its way to Bremerhaven in Northern Germany, Gothenburg in Sweden, Zeebrugge, Calais and eventually Southampton , arriving on the 7<sup>th</sup> February.

I then had to pay the import costs which included shipping costs to Kingstown, 6% import tax and 20% VAT on the price of the bike and shipping costs, ouch £2850 in all, Still a cheap bike by UK standards though.

I picked the bike up on the 9<sup>th</sup> February with a trailer and it doest stop here as there is still the SVA test to be done which ensures it complies with the UK regulations [ I am still waiting for that appointment ] it has to have an MOT which is not done as part of the SVA test and then I have to register the bike,

so I reckon it will be the end of March before it is on the road.

It has been a long journey so I hope it is all worth it, the bike is in lovely condition as it has benefited from living in the South [ Alabama ] of the USA where the temperature is warm and dry most of the time, no road salt or crap to deal with.

Would I do it again, probably, if something I fancied came up, I know how it works now so next time maybe easier, If anyone is thinking of doing it give me a shout and I can help you.

Peter



Edit. Appointment for the SVA test has just been made for the 13<sup>th</sup> March, the first appointment apparently, maybe I will get to ride the bike sometime this year !!

## *FINCHINGFIELD*

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, Paula and myself went up to Boreham as it was meant to be a nice day, well the sun showed its head then went back in. We were met by new members Rob & Sharon who some of you met at the bowling competition a few weeks back, on their 1100 Dragstar Classic Trike, it looked like that was it so we decided to go to Finchingfield, led by Paula who took us on a nice scenic route and we actually arrived while they were still serving full breakfast which made a change, so I had a bacon sarnie, hehe. We had a good chat then Rob led us all back on a different route, it was good to get out.

Bruce

## *Bike Insurance*

I recently bought a Yamaha Raider and approached Carole Nash [ my current insurer ] to insure the new bike. I am sure a lot of you are also with CN so this is a bit of a warning really.

To add the new bike to my current policy they wanted £344 and to start a new policy £478, I have 16 years NCB , have been with them for 16 years and one claim in 2008 [ accident in Finland ] so there was no way I was paying that sort of premium.

No amount of discussion was going to alter things, they wouldn't give me a complimentary NCB, they wouldn't ' mirror ' my NCB on to the new bike, I spoke to a Team leader who was no help at all.

I spoke to others in the club with Raiders and a lot came back with Bikesure/Adrian Flux as their chosen insurers, to cut a long story short I paid £344 for both bikes, fully comprehensive, protected NCB on both bikes, recovery and breakdown in the UK and EUR countries. Legal protection etc etc etc. I cancelled my insurance with CN which cost me £50 but well worth it

A further discussion with them has revealed that I am not the only one moving away and it is causing a concern to them, maybe they have got too big now and the client has become less important.

If you are with CN now, just shop about when the time for renewal comes. You may get a pleasant surprise Peter

## *From the Editor*

Please note that the South meeting is on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and not the 17<sup>th</sup> April as the 17<sup>th</sup> is a Bank Holiday and the Southend Shakedown.

C19 Rally tickets now available from me at the bargain price of £14. Please get them NOW so you don't forget !! Price goes up in July to £20, early purchase also helps the organisers with cash flow. I will bring them to meetings/ride outs so you can save the postage costs. Thank you

16 tickets sold to C19 members so far, a good effort and thank you.  
58 tickets sold altogether which is excellent at this early stage and looking good for rally numbers.

24 new members have joined the VSOC during the months of December, January and February so looking good for the future.

Don't forget to renew your membership before the end of March, there is one month's grace until the end of April and after that, until the end of May an extra £5 will be payable, after the end of May you will be deemed no longer a member of the VSOC, Thank you.

## Ride outs

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

April 9<sup>th</sup> Joint ride with C13 to Comfort cafe or maybe The Red Lodge transport cafe about 18 miles further. To be confirmed

April 17<sup>th</sup> [EasterMonday] Southend shakedown

April 23<sup>rd</sup> C6 Jumpstart rally/ alternative to be arranged

April 30<sup>th</sup> North Weald airfield

May 5<sup>th</sup> Rally in a hotel

May 7<sup>th</sup> Yamaha day at The Ace Cafe.

May 14<sup>th</sup> Belgium rally/ alternative to be arranged

May 21<sup>st</sup> The Lollipop Diner, Norfolk

May 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> C3 Rally

June 3<sup>rd</sup> [Saturday] Charsfield fete, Suffolk

June 4<sup>th</sup> Hollyville cafe, Sevenoaks, Kent

June 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Dutch international rally

June 18<sup>th</sup> C19 rally ride out dummy run

June 25<sup>th</sup> St Ives Festival, Cambridgeshire

July 1<sup>st</sup> C10 bonding weekend

July 2<sup>nd</sup> Enfield air museum

July 9<sup>th</sup> C19 Picnic Mersea Island

July 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> C8 Rally

July 23<sup>rd</sup> If weather is inclement on the 18th June and are unable to do the rally dummy run the this the alternative, otherwise the Route 66 bikers cafe and Hastings

July 30<sup>th</sup> Inter centre meeting at the Silverball cafe or a weekend at the Calne bike show in Wiltshire

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

August 13<sup>th</sup> Gorleston on sea, Norfolk

August 20<sup>th</sup> Santa Pod drag racing [Monster trucks]

August 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> C19 rally

September 3<sup>rd</sup> Krazy Horse cafe and bike shop with C13

September 10<sup>th</sup> Ace to Brighton burn up

September 17<sup>th</sup> Log Cabin cafe, Abridge

September 23<sup>rd</sup> [Saturday] C10 charity party

September 24<sup>th</sup> Beccles, Norfolk

October 1<sup>st</sup> Copdock bike show

October 8<sup>th</sup> The Fossils cafe, St Osyth Road, Clacton

October 15<sup>th</sup> C19 AGM