

# SEAX

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

November 2017 Issue 262

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## *Centre 19 meeting's date*

### November 2017

North meeting

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

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

South meeting

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

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

### December 2017

North meeting

8pm Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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

South meeting

8pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 20

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

## Reps ramblings

### AGM of VSOC Essex Crusaders - Centre 19 19.30 – 15 October 2017

Those in attendance:

Centre Rep: Bruce Thompson (BT)  
 Club Treasurers: Paula Ferreira (PF)  
                           Bob Owen (BO)  
 Deputy Rep South: Trevor Lathrope (TL)  
 Deputy Ref North: Alan Ward (AW)  
 Seax: Peter Gauntlett (PG)

Welcome by BT.

**TL:** Thanked Alan, Bruce and Peter for all their help relating to the rally.

**1. AGM 2016 minutes to be approved.**

Approved - Yes.

**2. Apologies.**

Gary McHiggins

Denis Gale

Tracy Smith and

John Evans – who wanted to pass on his thanks for everyone who helped make the rally run so smoothly.

**3. Election of Club Officers:**

Position	Currently held by	Replacement	Voting
<b>Centre rep</b> Standing Down:	Bruce Thompson	Bruce “will do it again this year, but he <b>WON’T</b> be doing it again next year”.	
<b>Deputy Rep South</b> Standing Down:	Trevor Lathrope	Trevor Lathrope wanted to stand down but as there was no takers, he will stand again	
<b>Deputy Rep North</b> Willing to stand again:	Alan Ward	Alan Ward	
<b>Club Treasurer</b> Standing Down:	Paula Ferreira	PG will now be taking up the position.	

<b>Merchandising Officer:</b>	Vacant		
<b>SEAX Editor:</b> Standing Down	Peter Gauntlett	He said last year if things didn't change as far as contributions and enthusiasm were concerned, he won't be standing again. He has suggested that Seax is done every two months as it would be a shame to finish it altogether in view of the number of issues produced over the years  BT asked Peter to discuss this later.	Agreed
Rideouts and events: Willing to Stand Again	Alan Ward and Trevor Lathrope	Alan Ward and Trevor Lathrope	
Web Master: Willing to Stand Again	Bob Owen	Bob Owen	

#### 4. Presentation of Accounts - PF

PF said that the income is mainly raffles. We haven't spent a huge amount this year, aside from rally expenses. PG did a good job of selling 199 tickets in advance

The rally made a £300 profit and in line with rules and regulations £100 was given to the National We made a small profit on the raffle. We also still have some merchandise left.

#### 5. Merchandise – Election

We haven't sold any clothes this year. We have new tops in red and black/blue. Zip up fleeces and polo tops.

Sue Dear [ Haynes ] asked if we were doing a tour t-shirt next year and BT said that there were no plans to.

BT asked if anyone wanted to be the merchandise officer? There were no takers for the position.

BT asked for coffee requests for the late comers.

#### 6. SEAX - PG

PG said we have agreed from this month that after this month it will then be December and bi-monthly after that. We will send out a ride out list.

BT asked if everyone could give PF their money for the club xmas meal.

## **BREAK**

### **7. Events and rideouts 2017/party – TL & AW**

AW opened, and said the year started off quite well but throughout the year, the numbers dwindled. Trevor led most of the rideouts - and thanked Trevor for that – without him leading all of the time, there would not be so many rideouts. We need more support.

If anyone has any suggestions for rideouts then please send in your suggestions to Alan or Trevor who will be putting a ride out programme together early 2018

BT thanked both AW and TL for all that they do and getting us to our destinations – eventually.

### **8. Stop monthly raffles - PG**

PG said that we don't spend what we have in our account so it was suggested that we don't do them anymore. Alan, the north meeting is poorly attended so it is pointless.

AW said we don't do it for the money but it does bring some excitement to the meeting.

Fred suggested we keep the raffle and we send the money to a charity. It was therefore agreed that raffles would continue at centre meetings

### **8. Next year's rallies**

#### 2018 Rallies

Centre 15 – Kent

June 8-10 – International rally in Denmark

July 20-22 – Centre 7 – Not Tonna. Cardigan Bay.

August Bank Holiday – 3 day weekend – Centre 4. Redcar

27/28th April - £145 for a single or double room per person at the rally in a hotel and that includes – two breakfast and two evening meals plus evening entertainment/disco. Peter then explained that the people that went this year have first refusal for next years' rally – and then after the month (when the initial people have booked the hotel) anyone else can then book it. Anyone wanting to go should let Peter or Bruce know. Edit. Bookings now open to anyone that wants to go subject to numbers.

#### 2019 Rallies

If national decide on 3 or 4 rallies, it will be:-

Centre 5

Centre 12

Centre 14

Centre 18

### **10. Inter Centre Party for 2018/19 – BT**

This was discussed between PG and BT at an inter centre gathering between C13 and C10. A few years ago we did it twice at the Holiday Inn at the Eight Ash Green. And it was very successful

PG – We put it to the reps and unanimously, they said yes, can we book it. PG has provisionally booked it for 5 January 2019. A room will be £60 for a double or twin room. The meal will be £24.95. [ so £54.95 per person to include use of all the hotels leisure facilities ] We have our own room and own bar. PG will negotiate a reduction with the price of drinks. It can take up to 100 people. PG said that the disco was too noisy last time but up to partygoers to decide if they want a disco or band. C10 discussed it at their AGM, “but asked if will C19 come and support us when it’s our turn”. Will people do that? BT said he would and said that he has done that for C13 as well.

BT asked how that sits with everyone – and everyone agreed it was a good idea. PG said that he hopes we can fill the room!

BT will send out dates and prices when it’s all collated.

Terry asked if C19 will have a separate Xmas party as well as the joint party as well, and Peter said no. Centres will then take turns to host the xmas meals. That can be discussed if we have a rotation.

But, January 2019, C19 will be hosting this.

AW said that if we have this at the Holiday Inn, will other centres hold it in hotels as well otherwise we will have to find accommodation. BT said that will be discussed.

#### 11. **Rally 2017 – BT/All**

BT said he would like to thank everyone especially Alan for liaising on site, and Peter for selling the tickets. Everyone that helped with the night shifts for security. “It was 18 months in the planning but I had untold emails and messages saying everything was top”. 276 through the gate.

PG also said that despite a few ifs and buts with the venue management team we agreed to vary the contract slightly but nevertheless at the end of the rally I wrote and thanked them, and they were very happy overall and have invited us back for any future events we may want to host

AW said that everyone did a marvellous job with the putting up and taking down of everything for the rally.

#### 12. **Seax – Bi Monthly**

PG said that he will say no more on the matter. He will do November Seax and then every other month.

#### 13. **Any other business**

Sunday rideouts go to 10:30 on the first Sunday in December and back to 10:00 on 4 March. Membership stands at 50 – with 5 non-renewals.

PG suggested that we consider donating some money to a charity, as you can see from the financial statement we have a lot of money and nothing to spend it on. I am proposing that Centre 19 donates to a charity. He suggested we go on bikes to deliver the money. He suggested we do this annually. BT said we need to decide how much we donate. PG suggested it should be somewhere where there are kids. TL suggested “EACH” which is an East Anglican hospice. PF suggested a charity that donates equipment to the needy. BT said this is a charity where Katarina has personally had help. We could split money between charities.

BT suggested we vote via email to him which charity we donate to. We need to decide how much we are willing to donate. BT suggested £500. Who agrees with that?

AW asked why can’t we have our xmas meal for free? BT said that we have given everyone

£5 off the meal this year. AW said that it was £150 out of the £2,000 we have. We will carry on with the raffles and this money will go to charity.

Dawn said that why can't we advertise a meal by the club paid by the club to get members back? BT didn't agree with that.

PG said that in 2015 we went to Ireland and hired a 6 bed house. PG suggested that we have a holiday in Wales to coincide with the rally in Wales. The rally is 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018. There was a possible 6 that was interested.

BT asked if everyone has handed in their menus and paid for their meals?

AW said that if Bruce and Trevor are stepping down next year then someone needs to step up to the job. If no one does, we will be leaderless. Everything is left to BT, TL and AW. There are younger people that can do the job.

Dawn said that if we have longer rides where we want to spend the day there, can we go on a more direct route so we can stay there longer? It was noted.

BT thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.24pm

## *Cycling Southern Holland*

Whilst the three omigos (Terry, Trevor and Dennis) were on their adventure to Croatia, my cousin Tracy and I cycled over 150 miles in five days through Southern Holland. We were on a barge and bike holiday booked through Freewheel Travel.

Our itinerary was varied:

Sunday - Breukelen to Utrecht via the countryside and canals.

Monday we cycled from Rotterdam – Schiedam – Delft – Rotterdam. Unfortunately we lost the cycle path signs in Rotterdam but we caught up with 15 other people that had done the same and we all eventually got back to the barge.



Tuesday – Dordrecht – Kinderdijk – Schoonhoven . We went to the Unesco World Heritage site of the 19 windmills.

Wednesday – Schoonhoven – Oudewater – Utrecht. Today's highlight was the fairy tale castle De Haar.

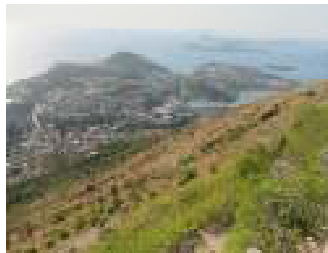
Thursday – Beverwijk – Haarlem – Beverwijk. This route took us through the National Park and we cycled through hilly dunes with Scottish Highlanders and horses running loose. It was hard

going cycling along the North sea coast line as there was a strong wind.

On the Friday torrential rain was forecast for the entire day so the Captain decided to take the barge back to Amsterdam, which meant we lost out on our last day of cycling but the right decision was made and Tracy and I visited the museum "Our Lord in the Attic". Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder is a 17th-century canal house, house church, and museum in the city centre of Amsterdam. The Catholic Church was built on the top three floors of the canal house during the 1660s. It is an example of a "schuilkerk", or "clandestine church" in which Catholics and other religious dissenters from the seventeenth century Dutch Reformed Church, unable to worship in public, held services. Since 28 April 1888, the church has been a museum. A very interesting museum and well worth the 10 euro entrance fee.

Christine

## *Dubrovnik & back*



6<sup>th</sup> September - Trevor, Dennis and myself left on the eight thirty Eurotunnel train from Folkestone to Calais (two bikes and one car). The beginning of our last long trip – Trevor and myself did our first ever overseas trip in 2002 – 15 years ago - so in a way it was good it be doing our last long trip together.

Overall we rode 3,013 miles through France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina (for 9 kilometres) and into Croatia. On route we stayed in some quaint B&Bs . Unfortunately when we got to Pag thunderstorms and torrential rain were forecast for the Monday when we were due to be riding to Camping Solitduo (near Dubrovnik) for four nights hence we decided to spend another night at Pag and shorten the number of days in Dubrovnik.

It was good to spend a few days in Dubrovnik without getting on the bike. We used the local buses. We went on the cable car to the top of Dubrovnik and visited the war museum which told the story of the 1991 conflict in Croatia, which was just as devastating as the second world war but on a smaller scale. Bullet ridden houses still exist in the community.



Our mobile home on the camp site was what I would call very cosy!! The site was clean and staff very helpful. We were going to ride into Montenegro but when I spoke to the reception lady she recommended leaving early because it could take up to two hours at the border – it was a no brainer – so we decided on a boat trip instead.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September we started on our return journey by taking a ferry from Dubrovnik to Bari (Italy). It was a ten hour crossing – luckily enough it was smooth so no travel sickness for Trevor. We had to park our bikes on the top deck of the boat and it was a bit worrying as to how we would drive off – but all came to light when we looked up and saw that a ramp was lowered down for us to ride off.

All the hotel staff and people we met were very friendly throughout the trip. Got chatting to a couple of German lads on a small ferry from mainland Croatia to the island of Pag. They were travelling on motorcross bikes and were camping. They both sat on my bike and agreed it was much more comfortable than what they were travelling on. Perhaps two more Yamaha members in Germany in the future !!!

Went to the Ferrari museum in Maranello – an interesting place. Walked round Bellagio on Lake Como.

Our ride from Lake Como to Stresa was only about 90 miles, which gave us the afternoon to spend on Isola Bella which is one of three magical islands on Lake Maggiore. Isola Bella charms visitors with its magnificent Baroque palace and terraced gardens with white peacocks.

The day we rode the Simplon Pass, the temperature dropped to 3 degrees but the ride was spectacular.

Whilst staying at the B&B Punto Magico (Offagna, Italy) I noticed that the owner had a magnificent record collection – blues, jazz and classical. His wife, like me, was an Eric Clapton fan – we listened to some music whilst having breakfast. This has inspired me to go out and buy an amplifier and speakers for my turntable so that I can listen to my collection of vinyls.

Terry

## *Welsh Holiday*

The C7 rally is in Aberaeron which is 315 miles from Colchester and as far to the West as you can go !! It seems a long way to go just for a rally so it set me thinking.



Some of you will remember the holiday I organised in Southern Ireland in 2015 taking in the Irish rally so I was wondering if there was any interest in a similar holiday in West Welsh Wales and again taking in the C7 rally which starts on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 . We can have the holiday before or after the rally

I have had a quick look at the properties for rental in the area which could be used as a base, all self catering as before and there are quite a few that would suit our needs.

I think a group of 10 is enough so if anyone is interested please let me know

If I dont get any interest from C19 members I am sure there are members in other centres will be interested

I know there will be a rush !! lol so first come first served

Part of the plan is that you must also attend the rally so we can support that centre who struggle with membership. Thank you

Mr K

### *October 8 Rideout - Clacton*

The ride out on Sunday 8th Oct was meant to be to Fossils Cafe on the St Osyth's Road, Clacton. When we arrived after a good ride unfortunately it was closed, although it had been checked on the website that it was open. So it was decided that we go on to Walton for Fish and Chips. After parking our bikes, Peter and Sue dived into the first take away cafe Whilst the rest of us ie Terry, Chris, Trevor, Alan, Dawn and Charlie went to the NICE cafe a bit further down the road. A good day.

### *Oct 15 Rideout - Finchingfield*

The ride out Sunday 15th Oct was to Finchingfield (which was open) there was seven bikes turn up, with eight people Bruce, Paula, Terry, Chris, Dave, Sue, Trevor and Peter. Good country route with a traffic diversion in Great Dunmow - had to be careful as roads still slightly damp and leaves about. All had something to eat and drink in the Bosworths Tearooms. Sue followed us home and the others took a different route.

The usual suspect.

Something to make you smile ..... maybe !!



## *From the Editor*

Please spare 5 minutes to take a look at the VSOC main site VSOC.org . The news page is very interesting with several videos taken at shows, lists of new members, 2018 rally details and other useful information

Bookings are now being taken for ' Rally in a hotel ' 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018, see details on the ' News page '

Update. 8 people have expressed an interest in an extended trip to the Welsh rally next year but another 2 maybe 4 people would be good from C19 before I open it up to members of other centres. Please think about it.

## *Rideouts*

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

Please note that Ride outs from Boreham will revert back to 10.30am from the 3<sup>rd</sup> December and back to 10am from the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018, if anyone is up for braving the weather of course !!