

SEAX

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

February 2007 contents:

- | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-----|---|
| 2. | Reps Rambling / bike trailer | 3. | Situations Update – new – please read! |
| 4. | London bike show Ride-out | 5. | South Essex Dep. page & news |
| 6. | Documents checking issue | 7. | 2007 Rally T shirt |
| 8. | Winter ride-outs/2007 season renewals | 9. | North Essex Dep. page & news |
| 10-11. | C19 AGM minutes | 12. | Printable renewal form for completion |
| 13. | Forthcoming diary dates | | |

Contacts

Centre Rep.

Chas 'Bomber' Harris
12 Fillioll Close, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford, CM3 8UY.
Tel: Home 01245 400883 mobile 07824 337684
chas.harris@lineone.net (e/mail preferred)

Deputy Rep. (North)

Peter 'Mr. K' Gauntlett
Home 01206 570604 mobile 07967 692088
petergauntlett03@aol.com

Deputy Rep. (South)

Sue Haynes mobile 07930 150464
susanhaynes64@hotmail.co.uk

Seax Editor

Vacant – see page 3

Webperson

Ray Rawlings
Raymond@chatswell.fsbusiness.co.uk

Merchandiser

Gary Daisley
gdaisley@blueyonder.co.uk

Reps Rambling.....

Well, you certainly don't need much drivel from me this month! With 13 pages used I still have a couple of things held over for next month. Thanks to Adrian for taking the minutes at the AGM which was a useful evening. Thirty members were able to attend which is not at all bad. We made progress on some important issues.

Looking toward the new season, there is a renewal form at page 12 for those of you not using the block renewal system I am offering.

Whilst I know it's not easy for everyone to know what you're doing too far in advance, it does make things far easier for event organisers if you can apply for rally tickets early. To save pointless repetition I shall include the dates every other month - they're all available on the National site in any case. I would hope that we have a very good turn-out to the Centre 10 event being held at Royston at the end of July. We were certainly the best represented Centre at Centre 13's rally last year and I'd hope we can do the same for C10.

I know that John Evans is well on the way with compiling a ride-out schedule for the 2007 season but it's always good to try different places, so please don't forget to pass on anything new you might fancy as an event.

Whilst I have a couple of things for next month, contributions are *painfully* slow.... I know many of you could write something that would be good to see here pleeeeeease give it a go!

Perhaps someone will put finger to keyboard to give us a taste of the London show being held on Docklands next weekend. If you're up for a ride on Sunday 4th, take a look at page 4 for details of the ride to the event.

Right... time to hit the send key and warm up the printer..... Remember - if this drops through the door but you could have it by e/mail, **PLEASE** let me know!

If you're riding in the cold.... Ride safe!

Chas Centre Rep.

Bike trailer available

Glen reminds me that he has a bike trailer available should anyone have cause to need one.

He is willing to make this to members should they find themselves in need. If you find yourself needing a trailer to transport your beloved for surgery, give Glen a call on

07960 764454 or e/mail glendon.gilbert1@tesco.net

Situations Update!

Deputy Rep. (South)

I'm pleased to announce to those of you unable to make the recent AGM that Sue Haynes has stepped up to the plate to take the post of Deputy Rep. (South)

A number of you will know Sue as one of our lady members who is active in National VSOC events. I hope to coerce her into trying some of the International events in coming seasons as well. An all-year motorcyclist, I'm sure Sue will bring some useful ideas to the role. See elsewhere for her first - of many I'm sure article.

John Evans has agreed to give us the benefit of his experience in compiling the ride-out activities for the coming season as well as organising (I know a number of you will be relieved to hear, that C19 institution) the Ride to France for Sunday lunch!

SEAX compiler/editor.

This crucial role is not for the faint-hearted! I'll be frank, ever since I can remember, (and I think well before that!) it's always been easier to stop the tide than glean a healthy crop of articles to compile Seax from.

The ideal individual would have:

- a flair for composition (sounds like school - eek)
- the time to prepare it each month - although I could be persuaded bi-monthly could suffice through the winter
- Most importantly - a very big stick to beat us up with to keep to deadlines!

Joking aside, if this is a role that might be for you, please don't hesitate in contacting me. I can confirm that the task is becoming ever easier with copious cutting and pasting..... and less postal copies to produce, now down to 25!

Lastly, but very seriously, whilst we all might have views on who would be good in particular roles (and may be absolutely right!) I **will not** entertain people suggesting others, however well intentioned!

London Motorcycle Show 2007.



Click here to go to link <http://www.londonmotorcycleshow.com/>

Coogy and a party of other hardy winter activists are going by bike up to this event by way of a ride out on **Sunday 4th Feb 2007.**

They will be meeting at **Thurrock Services at 10 a.m.**

Parking is free for bikes whilst admission is £15.

Upgrade will be going by car (from Chelmsford) and has one space available if anyone wants to contact him direct. There will also be some boot space for larger goodies that need transport home. That's the rub of going to shows on a bike - but it saves you money! Just a nuisance if you see a real bargain.

Contact him on 07738371139 if you're interested in the seat in the car.

Details of National VSOC events

Will be included bi-monthly! For more details including local events, flyers etc. go to National web.

@

www.vsoc.org.uk

South Essex Deputy page and news.

Hi All,

I'd better start this by introducing myself.....I'm Sue, your new Deputy Rep for the South (I am stepping into John's well trodden shoes). I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and votes at the recent AGM. I hope I can do half a good a job as John and benefit the Club's members old and new. John will be shadowing me over the next few monthly meetings and guiding me in the right direction!

If anyone has any questions, queries etc please feel free to contact me and I will endeavour to give you a prompt and accurate answer.

My first meeting was taken on Tuesday 16th January 07. I was pleasantly surprised by the turnout - the weather was pretty grim! I think we numbered about 13 all told, including 2 new members as well as 2 interlopers from C13 Roadrunners (Grumpy and Sue).



*Caption
Comp
time??*

Various discussions arose from issues raised at the AGM, including how the National VSOC are going on into the future - with the lack of support from Yamaha and dwindling membership numbers - with the possibility of opening the club to all cruiser/V-twin bikes and a change in name. Most people's opinion was that this would be good in principle but had questions on how membership would be run. This will no doubt continue to be discussed over the next few meetings. John also ran through the rideout schedule for 2007 which still has a few gaps to fill and a few new venues were suggested. If anyone has any further suggestions please let John know.

Interest in the forthcoming new merchandise was high and Gary Daisley has further new ideas for the future months to come so watch out for details in SEAX. (See ads in this issue – Ed.)

The rally season will be upon us shortly and I look forward to seeing you at any one of these events. For those of you that haven't tried rallying then there are a couple of quite local events to support and a warm welcome always awaits you!

Well, that's enough from me for now

Take care all - ride safe

Sue

Document checking issue.

You will recall we have been mulling over, as a Centre, the issue of if or how to assure each other that we are all properly documented and legal.

This came to the fore nationally when C15 found that a Member had been riding unlicensed and un-insured. This caused a furore in Kent and they resolved that a full document checking system would be adopted in their Centre.

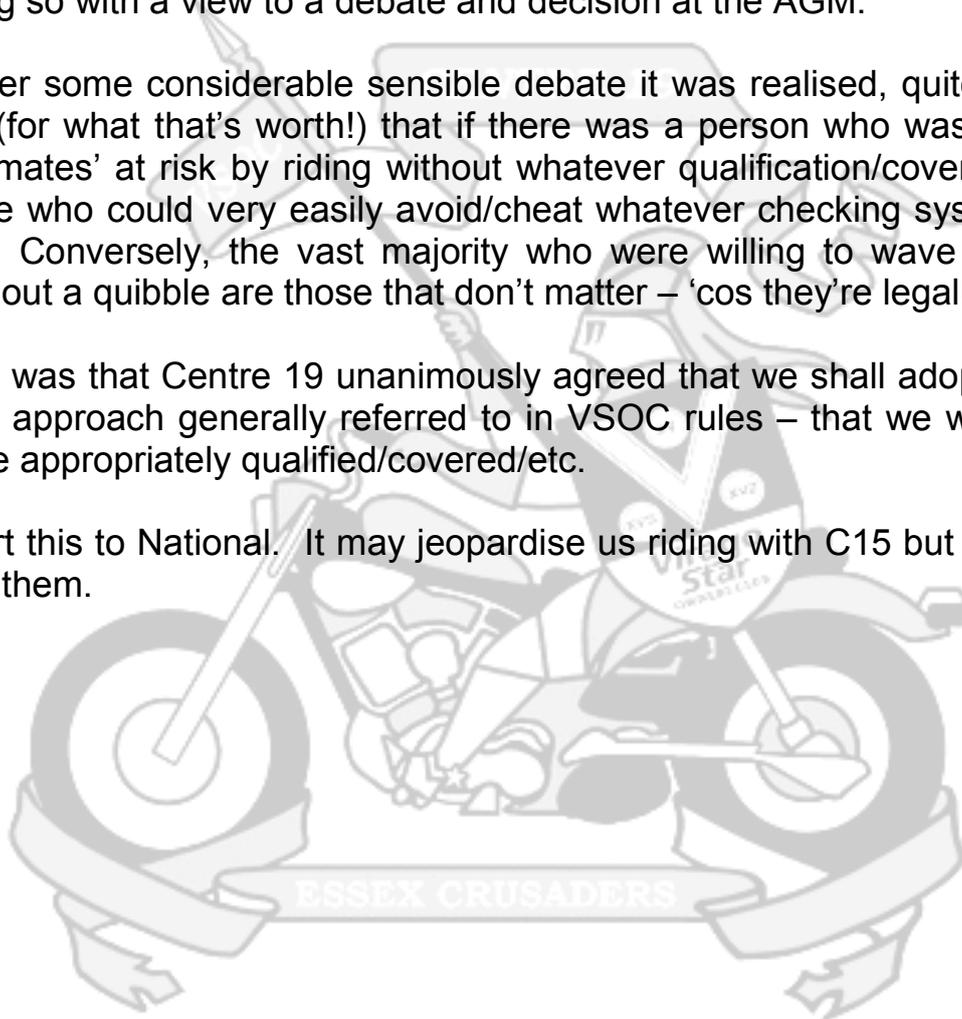
Nat. Comm. Responded by asking Centres to thrash this out locally and we've been doing so with a view to a debate and decision at the AGM.

Well!...after some considerable sensible debate it was realised, quite correctly in my view, (for what that's worth!) that if there was a person who was prepared to put their 'mates' at risk by riding without whatever qualification/cover, they would be the one who could very easily avoid/cheat whatever checking system we tried to adopt. Conversely, the vast majority who were willing to wave their papers about without a quibble are those that don't matter – 'cos they're legal!

The result was that Centre 19 unanimously agreed that we shall adopt the 'bound in honour' approach generally referred to in VSOC rules – that we will trust each other to be appropriately qualified/covered/etc.

I will report this to National. It may jeopardise us riding with C15 but that will be a matter for them.

Chas



ESSEX CRUSADER 2007 RALLY T-SHIRTS



Back by popular demand, at just £11 each.

If you're planning to attend any of this year's VSOC Rallies, Parties or Events, then this is the item of you! Fly the flag with our official Centre 19 merchandise and support the Essex Crusaders.

Black, red, green or blue "Gildan" T-Shirts with the colour Essex Crusader logo printed on the front and the 2007 VSOC Events List on the back. Become one of the first to own this very special, bespoke item. This season's must have – even BSH Magazine has copied the idea..!

Rally T-Shirts will be available for collection from your Local Centre Meeting, or delivered to your home address for £2.50 (per order) - please specify. This is a limited offer, and only available until 21st February 2007.

Order early to avoid disappointment!

Please send cheque payable to VSOC Essex Crusaders to:-
Centre 19 Merchandise, 10 Woodlow, Benfleet, Essex SS7 3RL

	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
BLACK						
RED						
GREEN						
BLUE						
Order value @ £11 each =						
P&P =						£2.50
2007 Rally T-Shirts						Total =

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____

Telephone: _____

Limited availability – Orders to be received by 21st February 2007

Winter ride-outs

The hardly souls who go out most reasonable Sundays from Boreham Services through the bleaker months have asked that the meet time is brought forward by half hour to 10.30.

When the new season begins the default time will be to leave Boreham at 10am unless arrangements dictate otherwise.

This will take effect from the first Sunday after the publication of this issue that there is an impromptu meet @ Boreham..... (which will be the 11th Feb as the ride on 4th Feb is to the Show which leaves Thurrock at 10!)

2007 Season renewals

To try to make it even easier for you this year, I have decided, in a moment of madness to offer a block renewal system for members wishing to use it.

The system will be that you give/send your renewal fee to me and I will collate them and send them off to Malcolm Bland in a block. This will avoid the filling of forms as details will be as those already held. Hopefully this may help some of you avoid the £5 late 'forgetting' fee that is incurred by late entries.

There has already been significant interest in this system with over 10% of the Centre having paid!

The book will close on Thursday 1st March and I will send those received in soon after. If you wish to take advantage of this system please get your cash/cheque to me in good time.

Chas

North Essex Deputy page and news.

C 19 North Meeting on the 8th January 2007

First of all let me say a very happy new year to you all and hope everyone had a great Christmas, I expect we are all back at work now and getting used to a normal life once again.

This meeting was put back for a week due to the first Monday being New Years day.

It was nice to see quite a few faces, some regular , some not to regular and one member who was there but attending an MG owners club meet, she still managed to spend a few minutes to chat and put the world to rights mind you and well done at becoming a fully fledged driving instructor. Welcome also to Joe who Andy brought along as a potential new member, he has just bought an XVS650 and both he and his wife are keen to ' get going ' so hopefully we will see them in the future.

By the time you read this the AGM will be done and dusted and there will be a few changes there as John Evans stepped down as Deputy Rep South after long service, well done and thank you John, you will be a hard act to follow, mind you, I think as Carol is staying on as Treasurer, we may see John a little more then anticipated and he has already agreed to arrange the French day trip and do the ride out calendar for this year at least. . Watch the press for details about the French trip as I believe the Eurostar is offering very favourable rates.

The ' meeting ' was not really a meeting this time, more of a social event and catch up,

I was thinking however, that the centre membership now stands at 77 plus a few associates and there are many of those members that we have never met, You religiously pay your membership money every year and thank you for that, so I assume you are happy with the way things are running. It would be really good to see some of you at a meeting or ride out or a C19 arranged event, you could always do an article for Seax or even Clatter if you feel so inclined, I will leave it up to you.

Suffice to say the bike season will soon be upon us and I know that several of us have already purchased tickets for the various rallies both here and abroad,

Till next time ta ta for now.

Peter Deputy Rep. North

Telephone 01206 570604

petergauntlett03@aol.com

C19 AGM

Centre 19 AGM Minutes

1. Opening

30 attended – thanks to all that did.

Special mention to Tracey, only one who turned up on a bike!

Apologies from those unable to attend

Stuart, Kevin, Leigh, Brian

2. Club officers

John has stepped down at deputy rep for south Essex. Chas presented an engraved tankard from the Centre as thanks for many years of hard work and dedication.

New Dept Rep. One Proposal for Sue Haynes. Proposed by Garry and seconded. Unanimous vote by all attending. Duly elected.

All other officers are remaining in their positions and continuing with their responsibilities

Seax.

No one has come forward to take this over full time. Do not want to brow beat anyone, so if anyone has any desire to take this over, please let Chas know.

Until then Chas will continue to put together and publish Seax. Any ideas to enter into Seax will be warmly welcomed by him.

3& 9. Membership & Associates

77 full members, which is slightly up on 2005.

7 associates (No change to their membership fee this year)

No representations having been made to Chas regarding the current Associates he will invite those to re-apply should they wish.

7. The future of the National Club

The view of the national committee is that we need to diversify to grow as a club now that Yamaha have withdrawn their funding and seem not to be interested in the cruiser market. Was agreed that we want to focus on the cruiser market and continue to attract that type of bike (and owner).

Suggested names for the club included: V Twin Cruiser Club & Cruiser Club.

Gary suggested that we work on endorsing the associate membership and attracting more qualifying members. A marketing strategy needs to be established by national and cascaded down to the centres. In the mean time we can contact the local bike dealers and make sure that our literature is on display.

4. Accounts

Carol review of the accounts of last year.

No questions. The accounts were proposed and accepted.

6. Website

Ray advised that he is very busy and asked for some help to update and maintain the site. Outside website design and management is very expensive so we need to keep it in the centre. Bob volunteered to work with Ray and help maintain the site.

8. 2006 Events

Peter reviewed the attended events last year

10. Merchandising

All agreed that Gary has been doing an outstanding job as the merchandising officer and we have had some fantastic items of club merchandising in 2006. All items produced were at cost and only a small number were held in stock to ensure no waste. The total cost for the merchandising last year was £289.93 (which included all of the proto types). This was mostly recouped through sales (£256.02) Gary is already working on new merchandising for 2007.

11. Rally banners.

John suggested that as we have surplus funds in the accounts for the centre we purchase a number of "logo flags" to help advertise who we are at local shows, events and rally's. Costs for these are: 5' x 5' @ £65 +vat and 3' x 3' @ £25 +vat. Was agreed that we purchase 1 large and 2 smaller flags. (All members present voted on this)

12. 2007 Events

Apart from the advertised national events Chas will find out if the accommodation at Bamford is available for a weekend there later in the year.

12. Issued Documents

Discussion over the problem that C15 had with a rider not having insurance or licence whilst riding with them. Discussions took place over what documents should be shown and when. Agreed that nothing will change and no documents will be shown.

13. C19 2008 Rally

Suggested location for the rally is the Marconi Club. Chas is trying to negotiate use of this at the moment. Volunteers for the committee were called for. (Limited numbers required)

14. AOB

New Clatter magazine. New format due to postal costs Most people found the font size too small to be able to read. Chas will ask if the font can be a size larger.

Membership renewals can be made on block this year. To do this your renewal money must be paid to Chas no later than 1st March. After this time, individual renewals must be made.

Chas Centre Rep.

Virago Star Owners Club

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone No: _____ Membership No: _____

E.Mail Number: _____

BIKE DETAILS

Model: _____ Year: _____ Reg: _____

Colour: _____ Chassis No: _____

Datitag: _____ Engine No: _____

Please indicate to which VSOC Centre you would like your renewal details sent.

Centre 19 Essex Crusaders VSOC

PLEASE RENEW BY 30th APRIL 2007 AS AFTER THIS DATE A REJOINING FEE OF £5.00 WILL BE CHARGED

Subscription for year ending 31st March 2008 remain at **£17.50**

Please make cheques payable to the

VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB and send to:-

MALCOLM BLAND (Membership Secretary)

103a Hunsworth Lane, Hunsworth, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire BD19 4DP

Remember that you do not have to leave the VSOC if choose to sell your Virago, Drag Star or Royal Star.

ONCE A MEMBER, ALWAYS A MEMBER!

Centre 19 forthcoming dates - Diaries out NOW!

February

Sunday 4th Rideout to London Bike show 10am Thurrock Page 4

Next North meeting

8 p.m. Monday 5th February 2007.

The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

West of A12, North of Colchester

Next South meeting

8 p.m. Tuesday 13th February 2007.

The Paul Pry, A129 High Road, Rayleigh, SS7.

Off the A127 into Rayleigh at the Rayleigh Weir junction with the A129.

March

Followed by;
North meeting

8 p.m. Monday 5th March 2007.

The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

West of A12, North of Colchester

End

SEAX