

# SEAX

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

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## Contacts

### Centre Rep.

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

### Deputy Rep. (North)

Peter 'Mr. K' Gauntlett  
Home 01206 570604                      mobile 07967 692088  
[petergauntlett03@aol.com](mailto:petergauntlett03@aol.com)

### Deputy Rep. (South)

Vacant – see page 3

### Seax Editor

Vacant – see page 3

### Webperson

Ray Rawlings  
[Raymond@chatswell.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:Raymond@chatswell.fsbusiness.co.uk)

### Merchandiser

Gary Daisley  
[gdaisley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gdaisley@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Reps Rambling.....

Where to start really.... Firstly, without doubt an apology is due to you all for the time its taken me to cobble together this latest edition (is that the right term for an e-blast... not sure, but it'll do!) of our monthly newsletter. A conspiracy of circumstances has engulfed me since the last issue and whilst I have no doubt that the e-blast will be easier to compile in the long run, it's certainly had some teething trouble! To be fair, I am extremely grateful to that C19 stalwart, Coogy Moore, who composed the formatted pages you see here. It was no fault of his that I ineptly managed to lose them having almost arrived at completion of this edition (still not sure it's the right word!) a while back. Anyway here it is now and feedback (hopefully for a proper Ed!) would be appreciated.

Those of you reading this from e-mail will be aware that we are generally changing to this mode of distribution. The primary reason for this is economy. Nationally, significant costs used to be incurred paying the postage of monthly Centre newsletters. Also, the Centre bears the cost of publishing and incurs time costs in preparation. With e-mail being so widespread most of these costs can be vastly reduced at a stroke (and isn't that a reference to writing - but this is trying - aaaagh! Ed.) Obviously, members without reliable e-mail can specify to have a hard copy sent by snail mail (sorry Bruce - but you must agree; e-mail is quick!) Also, particularly relevant when the riding season fires into life, the monthly rides will be published on their own page so they can be printed as one sheet for nailing to the fridge, inside the door of the loo or anything else you wish to do with it. To further ensure that this only goes to 'live' (again not sure that's an appropriate term - but I think we all get the idea!) e-mail addresses, a reply-requested check has been made of those already listed. All others will be sent. If you do get one sent but are 'e' available, please let me know for the future. I'll bet I still manage to miss someone!

On a linked topic, I've been genuinely surprised by the speed and volume of responses to the e-mail asking to verify addresses. That reminded me that those of you who aren't able to ride out often are still interested in getting a newsletter....(now and again anyway..... duck for incoming flack!)

Still managing to link a thread, I've just received the latest membership update which shows quite a healthy increase to 77 full members (although I think the new lady rider from Worcestershire might be a glitch by the Nat. Sec - If not, she'll be doing some fair mileage just getting to rideouts!) with 7 associates. This bodes well for the coming season and I look forward to seeing the new faces I've yet to meet.

*Chas* Centre Rep.

## Situations Vacant.

### Deputy Rep. (South)

Looking forward to next year, John Evans has decided to step down as deputy Rep. after years of very active (notwithstanding a few months here and there when he wimped out following minor ailments!!!) service. I'm sure everyone will echo my thanks for his work and enthusiasm over the years. John's will undoubtedly be a hard act to follow but I'm sure an equally enthusiastic individual out there somewhere will step up to the mark to lift the mantle! Passion for the Club and its aims are a necessity. Whilst I don't expect anyone to continue (I don't think anyone could!) the sterling presence John has maintained on your behalf at many bars and hostelrys around Europe at National and International events over the years, it is true to say that a certain amount of 'socialising' (hic!) seems to develop with the job! If anyone wants to know more about the role speak to me or John for an idea of what you would be getting into.

### 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. Whilst I can't promise it'll ever be *EASY* to gather material from members, I'm sure the e-mail format will prove much more manageable once the teething's sorted. (Much less printing and folding for envelopes!)

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. I will admit to (stupidly - {wait for the cracks - I can take it!}) falling into that trap before and it clearly puts undue pressure on people to do things that they may not otherwise wish to. So, if you feel it may be something you'd want to do - call me, but if you feel you just know someone who'd be good at it - DON'T!

## National AGM Report.

The National AGM was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November at Rugby. Here is a brief précis of the issues raised:

- 'Top table' posts were unchanged with the exception that the post of merchandiser/events co-coordinator is to be split with Rachel Atkinson resuming as merchandiser.
- The Club is showing signs of decline with numbers of members dwindling consistently over a number of years. The Secretary proposed and it was agreed to keep the subscription the same for the coming season to encourage existing members to renew. It was noted that our fees are the lowest anyone knows of for an owners Club. Accordingly the balance sheet has been healthier and anything that results in reduced costs would be of benefit.
- Suggestions were aired as to the direction our Club should take in coming years as Yamaha are increasing becoming an insignificant player in the custom/cruiser market. Various options were aired and the Chairman encouraged discussion amongst members at local level to find out how the members would like to see the Club develop.
- The perceived issue of local parties developing into multi night events in direct competition with National rallies was discussed. It was resolved that after the 2007 season local parties will not be held in the main rally season (between May and September) and all efforts are to be made to encourage members to attend the national events - as ultimately these are underwritten by National funds.
- An issue has arisen in a Centre where it was discovered that a Member who had been attending events and rides was disqualified from driving and had no insurance. Whilst crashes during events are thankfully rare as we take numerous precautions to avoid them (briefings, careful route-planning etc) there is always the possibility that one rider's error or incident could take out a number of surrounding machines. What if this happened and that person was not insured? It appears the trust we rely upon between each other may not be sufficient to guard against this eventuality. Various options are possible revolving around some sort of document checking process. While no system can be perfect it is an issue that can be resolved locally.

That took far longer than you'd ever imagine and we escaped just under six hours later!

## Ace Café, London.

Affectionately often referred to as “..Great place, but lousy journey!..”

There are some trips that a motorcyclist just has to make if they possibly can.

Even if it is just once in a lifetime, or perhaps now and again.

The destination in this case is an icon to the motorcycling world, The Ace Café.



With only 4 of us at Boreham, it was still the usual question. Where do you fancy going? Stuart's suggestion was rapidly adopted and off we set. We being Stuart, Steve, Brucey and myself (Coogy – Ed.)

There are many ways to get to the Ace, none of them very attractive. This time we followed Stuart along the A12, onto the M25, South down the M1 until we eventually pick up the North Circular. Head West and you pass Ikea on the right, two exits later and the Park Royal sign leads you off. If you reach the A40 you've gone too far! Right and right again and there is the Ace. The only café I know with a bike park attendant directing traffic on the site.

There is usually a good selection of bikes to look over. Today was no exception. Plenty of classic Brit. iron about, with BSA, Vincent, Velocette, AJS and Norton well represented. The atmosphere is tremendous. Lots of characters, and even a film crew doing an interview. Have you ever seen a full blown, rich black, Elvis like quaff with grey sideburns? Must have run out of the Grecian 2000!

So there is plenty to see, including the tut (souvenir) shop. What a selection of tut.....clothing, badges, patches mugs, plates, posters and books. (Was this 'tut' ... Yorkshire for toot? – Ed.)

As for the food, well considering it is London and it is very popular, it is also reasonably priced, with a varied menu to suit most tastes.

Then it is time for the ride home. The plan was to drop into central London, along the Embankment and onto the A13. Well it worked, sort of. I was interested in seeing the sights, and boy was there plenty. We passed through Earls Court, towards Knightsbridge and along Oxford Street. Could have done our Christmas shopping at Harrods, stayed at the Grosvenor and had tea at the Ritz. Then around Trafalgar Square, and somehow ending up at the Embankment.

It was a bit of a nightmare with the traffic and the pouring rain, but never mind, we made it eventually.

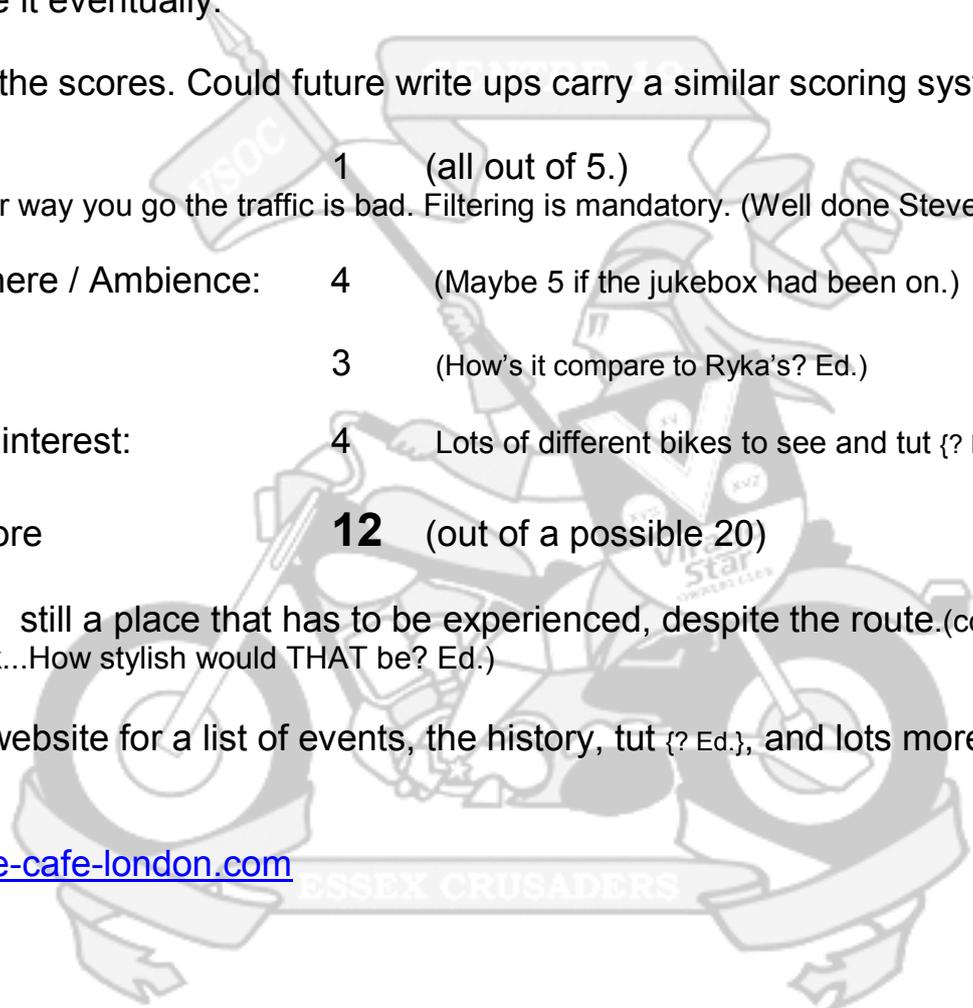
Now for the scores. Could future write ups carry a similar scoring system?

|  |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| Route:   | 1         | (all out of 5.)  |
| Whichever way you go the traffic is bad. Filtering is mandatory. (Well done Steve) |           |  |
| Atmosphere / Ambience:   | 4         | (Maybe 5 if the jukebox had been on.)                  |
| Food:  | 3         | (How's it compare to Ryka's? Ed.)                      |
| General interest:  | 4         | Lots of different bikes to see and tut {? Ed.} to buy. |
| Total score  | <b>12</b> | (out of a possible 20)                                 |

Overall - still a place that has to be experienced, despite the route.(could we hire a Chinook...How stylish would THAT be? Ed.)

Try the website for a list of events, the history, tut {? Ed.}, and lots more.

[www.ace-cafe-london.com](http://www.ace-cafe-london.com)



## Classic Gold Weekend March 2007

As discussed at meetings here are the details for the spring 2007 Classic Gold Weekend at Vauxhall Holiday Park, Gt. Yarmouth. Dates 23-25<sup>th</sup> March 2007. You can arrive Friday lunch and don't actually have to leave until the Monday morning but last year we left on the Sunday.

Accommodation is staying in mobile homes:

4 berth (top of the range) is £85 each.  
6 berth 'gold' if booked for 6 is £80 each.  
less posh ones are even cheaper. .(Eek! Ed.)



Artists are Marty Wilde and the Wildcats. Johnnie Leyton. The Dreamers, The Rolling Clones, Rockin Berries, Ivy League, Midnight Dynamos and lots of others, There is also another on site venue that is quieter but has a very good residential band.

All in all a good week end at reasonable cost and seems a fair bit of interest from C19 members.

If people want to make their own arrangements or get a leaflet they can phone Vauxhall direct on 01493 857231. Alternatively contact me for more details.

*Peter*

## National (and International) VSOC events 2007



### **VSOC Yorkie's Peacock II National Rally**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Doncaster Rugby Club.

Have you heard the peacocks?..... Join us for the first National get-together of the season.

### **VSOC International Rally 2007 Sweden**

Leave Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June – return Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>. Hanksville Farm,  
Skåne (near Malmo)

Approx 30Km east of Landskrona, between Svalöv & Torrlösa

We have a dozen Crusaders booked up for this one & there's still space on the boat so why not come with us. Its not as far as you'd think, unless you've been to Sweden on your bike....

### **VSOC Centre 9 Lost Riders National Rally.**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007

Alfreton Leisure Centre, Church st. Alfreton.

Have you been to this great venue... Neither have I, so lets go and have a look!

### **VSOC Centre 10 Saxon Warriors Fen Frolics 3 National Rally**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Eternit Sports Club, Whaddon, near Bassingbourn, Royston Cambs.

Have a look at the map...You could WALK there: No excuses for not supporting this event!

### **VSOC Centre 18 Pirates Swiggin' in the Rigg'in' 2 National Rally**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August bank holiday 2007.

Cambourn Rugby Club, deep in Cornwall.

You can arrive on site before the event and explore this lovely part of the country for a few more days!

For more details and flyers etc. go to National web.

@

[www.vsoc.org.uk](http://www.vsoc.org.uk)

## 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 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.

The book is already open as Gary Daisley gave me his 2007 subs in October (I think he was hoping to avoid a price increase!)

## Document vetting

As a result of an incident at another Centre, it has been suggested nationally that we consider a document checking system so we can all be sure those riding around us are legal. (most importantly – insured against 3<sup>rd</sup> party risks! Ed..) There are a number of ways we could achieve this, if, as a Centre, it's something we wish to do. I can understand valid arguments in favour of it. Please give the issue some thought as it will be an agenda item at the AGM.

## The future!

Of the VSOC!...could realistically be seen as a little uncertain. Clearly, Yamaha are not the force in the market that they once were as many other manufacturers have tapped in to this segment of the market. This is and will continue to affect our membership numbers as machines fall gracefully into retirement, not to mention the riders!

How would WE like to see the Club develop? Steadfastly cling on to V-S type qualification to the last member or opening horizons to embrace like minded riders of similar machines perhaps? Please give this some thought as our thoughts are required to guide the National Committee. We'll mull it over (briefly! Ed.) at the AGM.

## From the Northern Meeting

There were 14 attendees and it was nice to see Vicky and Jo whom we haven't seen at a North meeting for some time.

Carol was busily trying to finalise food orders for the Christmas bash on the 1st December so if anyone hasn't ordered can they please contact Carol ASAP.

Details of all next years rallies were passed round and the International was once again discussed, if anyone is interested please contact Bomber ASAP so that cabin arrangements can be finalised, girls seem a bit thin on the ground so if any of you are considering it please do so ASAP you can be assured of a fun time and hopefully good weather plus of course good company and scenery.

Consideration is being given to a C19 event at Yarmouth in March 2007 for a Classic Gold weekend, staying in mobile homes, non stop music and other interests, 12 people attended this event in 2006 and had a really good time.

Further details to follow.(see page 7. Ed.)

It was also a good turn out for the ride out to Walton on the Naze tea hut on the 29th October, I think there were 18 bikes and 2 x C19 support cars, funnily enough the cars got there first and did less mileage, Trev, were you leading ? wot no Sat Nav. hmm

To conclude, I still haven't got a bike to ride as mine is one of the Wildstars on the recall register and they are threatening to fix it by Christmas, we shall see !!

*Peter* Deputy Rep. North

Telephone 01206 570604

[petergauntlett03@aol.com](mailto:petergauntlett03@aol.com)

Northern Meetings

1<sup>ST</sup> Monday of each month, 8pm.

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

West of A12, North of Colchester.

## C19 AGM

### C19 AGM.

Its AGM time again! It would be good if a decent number can attend to air their views.

It will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007, commencing 8p.m. at the central venue of Essex Police Sports Club Pavilion, St Margaret's Road, Chelmsford Essex.

#### Directions:

At the Sandford Road traffic lights on the A138 turn into Sandford Road. Take the first on the right into St Margarets Road and follow all the way to the end (about 200 metres) by which point there will be a wall on your left. The entrance to the car park is at the far end of that wall also on the left. Follow the cark park around to the right and the pavilion is on your left.

My mobile is 07824 337684 if you've printed this page but still not found it!

As we've been underwhelmed by items for the agenda you can still contact me with anything you'd like included.

Any members unable to attend but with issues they wish to be raised at the AGM should contact the current me to discuss available options. One vote per Full Member or Associate shall apply to any issues that arise and become subject to a vote.

*Chas* Centre Rep.

## Centre 19 VSOC AGM 2006.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007 - Essex Police Sports Association Pavillion, Chelmsford.

### Agenda

- |    |                             |                |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Opening                     | Chas Harris    |
| 2. | Club officers               | CH             |
| 3. | Review of year - membership | CH             |
| 4. | Accounts                    | Carol Evans    |
| 6. | Web site proposal           | Pete Gauntlett |
| 7. | The future of the VSOC?     | CH             |
| 8. | 2006 events attended        | PG             |

### **Break**

- |     |  |              |              |                             |
|-----|--|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.  | Associates   | CH           |              |                             |
|     | Clive Clark  | Dawn Clark   | Dennis Gale  | Lynn                        |
|     | Jenny Pearson  | Barry Tinson | Fran Skinner | (moved away – not renewing) |
|     | Should any member have representations about any of them NOT being invited to renew they may contact me privately, should they wish, prior to the meeting. |              |              |                             |
| 10. | Merchandise  | Gary Daisley |              |                             |
| 11. | Purchase of banners/regalia  | John Evans   |              |                             |
| 12. | 2007 events proposals  | CH           |              |                             |
| 12. | Document issues.   | CH           |              |                             |
| 13. | Crusade III Rally 2007   | CH           |              |                             |
| 14. | Any Other Business   | CH           |              |                             |

If anyone has any burning issue that want to raise under 'AOB' please contact me beforehand.

The Club patch will be available at this meeting at £3.5 each.

Thank you

*Chas* Centre Rep.

## Centre 19 forthcoming dates - Diaries out NOW!

### **Next North meeting**

8 p.m. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007.  
The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

West of A12, North of Colchester

### **Next South meeting**

8 p.m. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007.  
The Paul Pry, A129 High Road, Rayleigh, SS7.

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

### **Followed by; North meeting**

8 p.m. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007.  
The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

West of A12, North of Colchester

End

**ESSEX**