

SEAX

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

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Seax Editor

Still vacant – I'm sure someone out there could do a great job!

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Reps Rambling.....

Hi all,

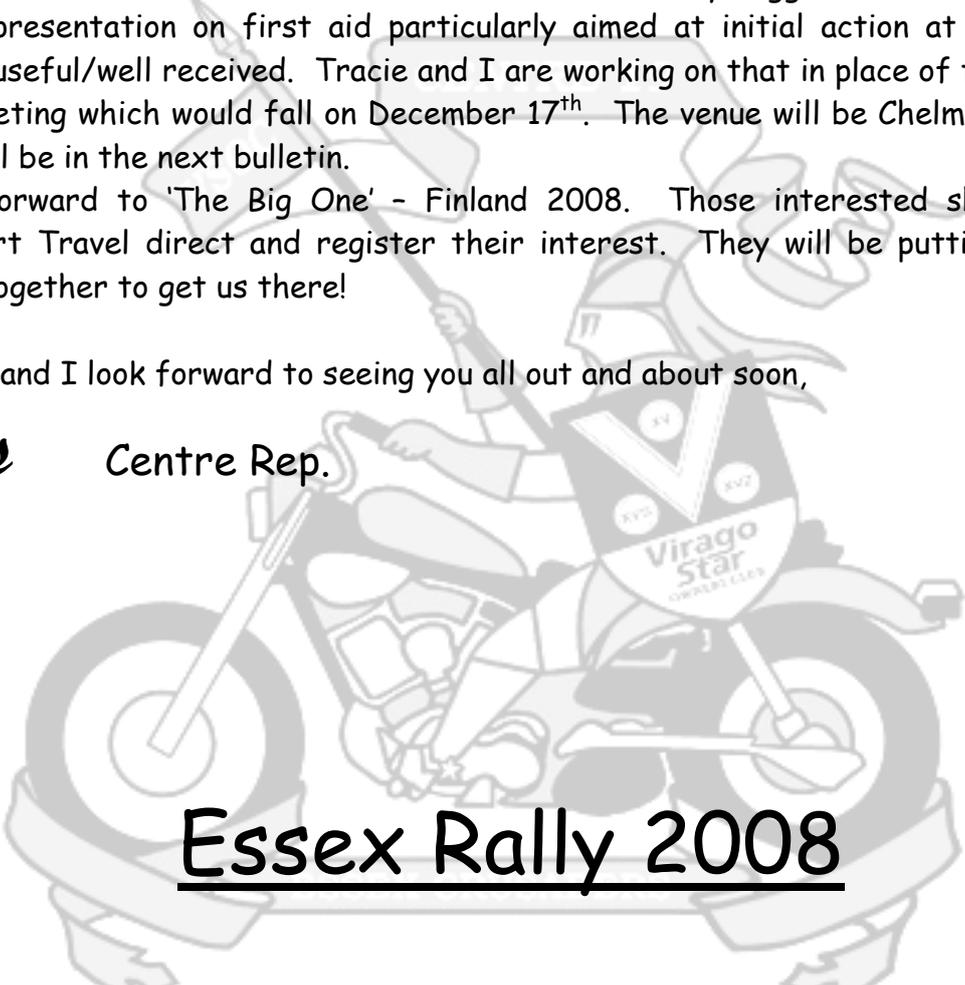
Just a short missive with details of the Christmas dinner and a few other bits and pieces. We really could do with someone who is able to have the time to cobble together Seax on a regular basis. With a healthy membership of over 70 it would be good if someone could pick it up through the relatively quiet winter period to be raring to go for the 2008 season.

In the pipeline to tide us over the winter it was recently suggested that some sort of informal presentation on first aid particularly aimed at initial action at road crashes might be useful/well received. Tracie and I are working on that in place of the December South meeting which would fall on December 17th. The venue will be Chelmsford and full details will be in the next bulletin.

Looking forward to 'The Big One' - Finland 2008. Those interested should contact Motorsport Travel direct and register their interest. They will be putting the travel package together to get us there!

Ride safe and I look forward to seeing you all out and about soon,

Chas Centre Rep.



Essex Rally 2008

Time is passing and we still need to need to firm up quite a few issues. In keeping with trying to keep things easy to remember the next Rally meeting will included with the **November South meeting at The Windmill on 19th November.**

By that time we should be in a position to start making some real progress.

Suggestion for Sunday November 4th.

A local bike Club that some of our members are involved with is organising a charity event on Sunday 4th Nov. I think it looks like fun and is certainly a worthy cause but unfortunately I'll be at the National AGM so will miss it.

It's a 'Poker Run' which I'm sure some of you will know about. It's a fun ride/drive event that you can do at any pace you fancy..... or by any route..... here are the details:

This is a charity event organised by the Dengie Hundred motorcycle club.

The money raised will be going to Breakthrough for breast cancer. The Dengie Hundred have already raised £470 towards this and would like to make it up to £1000 so that one of our members wives who has been diagnosed with the disease has her name on a plaque in the research centre.

This is a fun day out which is done at your own pace and your own route. Can be done on the bike or in inclement weather in the car and is just a bit of fun for a good cause. Part of the money raised will be the cash prize for the best hand...so everything to play for!!!

How it works is you have 5 checkpoints where you collect a card. At the last checkpoint you can 'buy' two further cards to make your hand better.

Three of the five checkpoints can be done in any order. There is no time limit...it is not a race.

The five checkpoints are;

1. START - Boreham services 10am where you will buy your 'hands' at £5 each.
Margaretting - Bull Public House
Braintree - Freeport - Outside Cineworld
Hatfield Peveler - Duke of Wellington Carpark
5. FINISH - Steeple - Star public house

The prizes will be given out at The Star at the end of the run...there will also be a raffle to raise extra funds. The pub does do lovely food so why not meet there for Sunday Lunch too!!

The more people we get doing this the more money we raise for a very worthy cause...and its a good day out too.

Ramblings Of A New Member

What a year!

I became the proud owner of Denzel my Yamaha Midnight Star in July 2006. I had previously met Mr K outside Bikeworld when he was buying his Wildy and he was waxing lyrical about the bike club he was in...and I have known Chas for more years than I would care to think about, so when I bought a qualifying bike I looked into the VSOC. I have been in bike clubs before but never a single make club so I thought it would be interesting to see what it was like.....

I went to the NEC and started talking to the guys at the stand there, and they seemed to be a good laugh so I joined there and then.

My first meeting was at the Paul Pry in November where I saw some familiar faces but unfortunately had to cut the visit short due to illness.....but what I saw I liked.

I have never met such a friendly and open bunch of people.....and there were bikes at the meeting which was a first for me!! Other clubs I belong to and have belonged to they all turn up in cars...Hello!!

I went to the AGM and met more people and got a feel of the politics of the club etc...and still I wasn't put off!!

Well my involvement went from strength to strength and my first ride out was in the January to the Oakdene where I met new faces and new friends.....and found out about the joys of Vance and Hynes exhausts thanks to Bruce and his 650 Dragstar!!

Due to the miserable winter weather I spent most of my time experiencing the joys of EBay and lots of shiny bits, loud exhausts and flashing LEDs later I was ready for the summer season.

As many of you know my personal life has been a shambles and the only thing that has kept me going at times is the club, the ride outs and the meetings.....then the rallies started!!

The first one was the Weak End Rally at Steeple and it was the way of things to come....it rained!

This was the first time I had been on a rally on my own and having to put up a brand new tent etc was an experience! But help from the other guys that were there I managed to do it and now everyone knows 'The Party Tent'. At this rally I was introduced to the delights of Black Pig and what rallies are all about. Nick, Chas, Ade, Jo, John, Carol, Sue, Paul, Julie, Grumpy, Sue, Fran and Ron and whoever else was there (sorry if I've forgotten you) had fun in the mud and we got the most represented club award. My best memory of this rally was the toilets.....posh toilets that I thought would be a good idea to camp beside until I realised that the soundtrack of 6 songs played all night long on a loop so at 6 in the morning and the song 'wait till the midnight hour' is on for the 27th time that night I knew action had to be taken. Being my first rally I had not found the joy earplugs so next best thing.....unplug the speakers in the toilets and a lovely peaceful nights sleep was had by all!!

The VSOC rally season then started...the first one was Doncaster. What wet and miserable weather but the rally was excellent. The venue was superb...they even had hairdryers!! (Yes, undoubtedly the best VSOC Rally venue found so far. Ed) The bands were good and I thought if this is the way all VSOC rallies are a good season will be had by all. Excellent advice by Gary to buy the fleece inner lining for my sleeping bag and handing me some tinfoil meant that again I had a decent nights sleep...I am learning as I go along!!

Two things I remember most about Doncaster... the three course Sunday carvery meal for a **five**...cheap as chips and edible.....and sampling vodka with Carol on the Sunday morning (!!!Ed)...mix and match for breakfast...only on a rally!!

The down point of the rally was getting off the field and the bike slipping on the mud which meant me taking a tumble. Only my pride was hurt but I was covered from head to foot in mud and no damage to the bike. It must have been a sight when we stopped at the nearest petrol station and after checking over the bike for damage, cleaning most of the mud off Chas then bent me over my bike and rubbed me down with a shammy to get the mud off of me!!! Needn't have bothered as the torrential rain on the way home washed the rest of it off!!

Lost Riders, Sherwood Shindig, Hoos Ready to Rock, Pirates and Holland all followed as did the rain..... apart from the last National event of the season at Camborne.

A few were able to go down several days early and I joined them on the Thursday after riding down with Trevor, Terry and Chris. Apologies to Terry for not being able to catch his tax disc as it flew past me on the motorway!!!

I also did a bit of a Trevor and had some baggage slippage on the way down but a good ride was had. It was lovely in Camborne...especially finding the cider farm! Lying on the beach for two days was great...nice to just chill out for a little while. I will never forget Paul's face and Sues screams as we went on Chas's magical SatNav mystery tour. We were riding down roads, sorry tracks, that had grass growing in the middle and stone walls either side covered by moss. We were met by tractors and farmers and sheep...it was a good education in slow riding!!! I know that Chas has just bought an off-road bike so I think he was just getting in practise!! (that which doesn't kill you makes you stronger!.....Ed) Well, we all got back in one piece and we saw some lovely scenery and came within 2 meters of an eagle of some description which was amazing.

I rode back with Mr K, Bruce and Steve and a pleasant journey it was until I got lost...then we followed Bruce's SatNav for a little while and got even more lost...3/4 hour later we found the motorway again and we were soon on our way home again. (It is true to say that discovering the best way to use Sat Navs has been a bit of a chore this season – still I think we've got it sussed now, Ed.)

Unfortunately due to lack of leave and funds I couldn't do Sweden but I have tried to get to as many Sunday ride outs as I could.

What I really like about this club is how I have been welcomed with open arms. From the first meeting I didn't feel as if I was a stranger... I felt like the people there were just friends I hadn't met yet. It is great to know that if you do brave the weather on a Sunday morning there will always be someone there to have a ride out with.

I am looking forward to another year of rallies, ride outs and fun times.

Big thanks to everyone who has made me so welcome and I am looking forward to next year. We have got a great club with great people and hopefully it will go from strength to strength.

Tracey



*Essex
Crusaders*



*Christmas
Dinner*

Saturday 1st December 2007

The Two Brewers, 80 Springfield Road, Chelmsford CM2 6JY

Starters

1. Yuletide Broth
2. Prawn Cocktail
3. Egg Marie Rose

Main Course

4. Roast Turkey with all the trimmings
5. Poached Salmon in white wine sauce
6. Mushroom Stroganoff with chive and mustard mash

Dessert

7. Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
8. Yuletide Chocolate log with fresh cream

Coffee and Mince Pies

3 courses £17.95 - 2 courses £12.95

Please note we are limited to 60 people so first come, first served ! We will require full payment to reserve places as soon as possible and in any event by Monday 19th November at the latest.

Please select choice of menu for starter, main and desert and specify numbers with payment.

Cheques to: Carol Evans, 10 Woodlow, Thundersley, SS7 3RL.

Centre 19 forthcoming dates - Diaries out NOW!

*All meetings are now on **MONDAYS** starting 8pm!*

November

North meeting

Monday 5th November 2007.
The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

West of A12, North of Colchester

South meeting – Including RALLY MEETING

MONDAY 19th August 2007.
The Windmill Tavern, The Tye, East Hanningfield, CM3 8AA, 01245 400315.

December

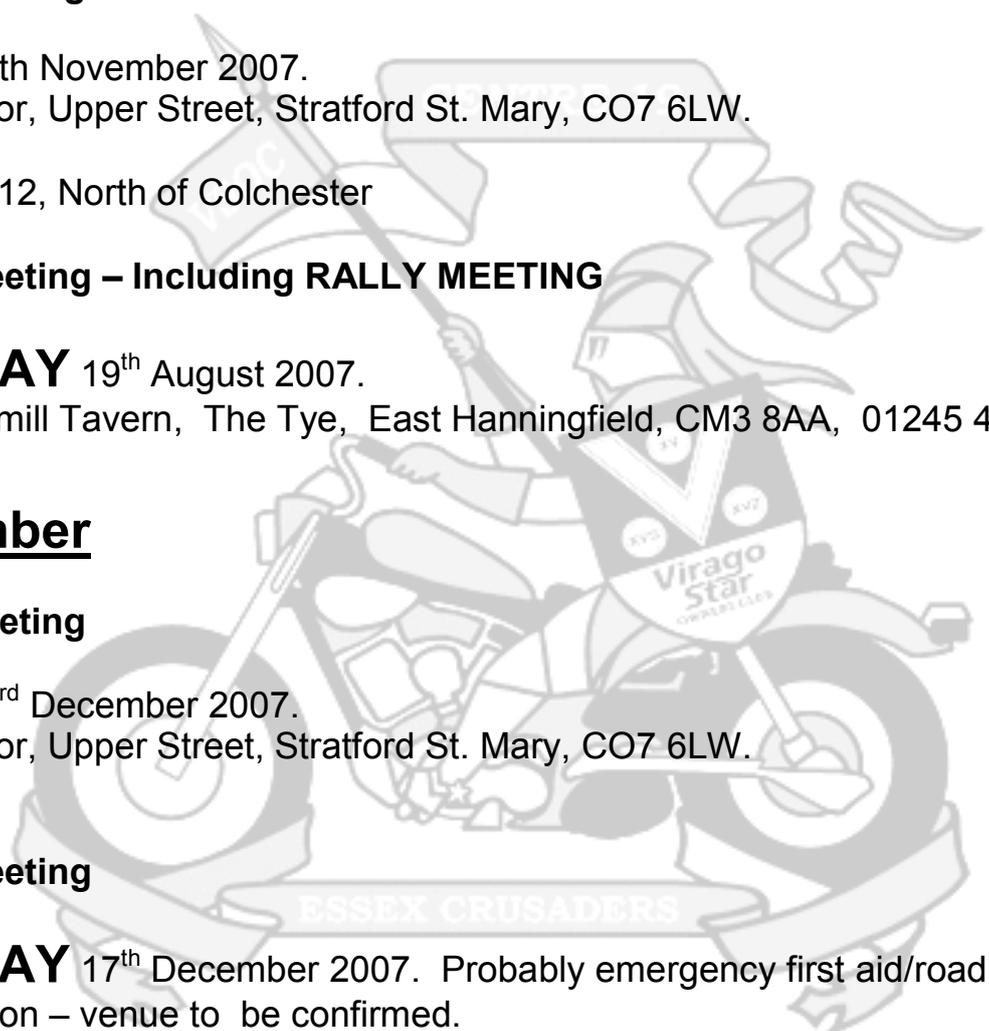
North meeting

Monday 3rd December 2007.
The Anchor, Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary, CO7 6LW.

South meeting

MONDAY 17th December 2007. Probably emergency first aid/road crash presentation – venue to be confirmed.

End



ESSEX CRUSADERS