

# SEAX

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

December/January 2019 Issue 269

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## *Centre 19 meeting's date*

### **December 2018**

North meeting

8pm Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

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

### **January 2019**

North meeting

8pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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

## Reps ramblings

My first South meeting as Rep and not a bad turn out, usual suspects of course so would be good to see some others, nice to see Gary.

Not a lot to discuss really as it is the ' quiet ' time of year so I just went through all the events and rallies for 2019 [ a little prompting by my PA did help though ]

We have got 42 booked and paid for the Xmas party on the 5<sup>th</sup> January so not too bad in the end, any raffle prizes gratefully received .

Dont forget to let me know if you want to attend the German International rally as the hosts need to know numbers and arrangements are well in hand.

Rally in a hotel bookings still being taken, just give me a call if you need any help.

It is likely that I will be attending the YCCNL [ Dutch club ] 25yr rally 6<sup>th</sup> to 8th September and I believe, although not confirmed yet that it wont be too far from the Hook so an easy one to get to, anyone interested in a nice little bimbie to Holland for this one via Harwich and the Hook.

See below for issues raised at the National AGM which I also mentioned at this meeting, I think the important one is that renewal can be done from January 2019, one months grace, so renew by the end of April or you are no longer a member of the VSOC and membership is still £17.50 a year.

This is the last Seax before Xmas so just leaves me to say a Happy Christmas to all and a happy, healthy 2019, see you ALL in a field or drinking hole somewhere

Dave.

## AGM Minutes 21.10.2018

1. **2017 AGM minutes** to be approved. All approved.
2. **Apologies** – Dennis Gale, Nicky Harris, Clive Clark, Rob Tomlin, Dave Winning, Kevin Ward.,Chaz Cozens
3. **Election of club officers:**

Centre Rep Bruce Thompson - Standing down. Dave Enefer was willing to stand and was voted in.  
Deputy Rep South Trevor Lathrope - willing to stand again - agreed  
Deputy Rep North Alan Ward - Standing down. No-one was willing to stand. Dave and Peter will run the north.

Club Treasurer Peter Gauntlett - Willing to stand again- agreed.

Merchandise Officer – Vacant

SEAX Editor Peter Gauntlett - Willing to stand again- agreed

Rideouts and events Trevor Lathrope - Willing to stand again- agreed  
 Webmaster - Bob Owen - Willing to stand again- agreed

#### 4. **Presentation of accounts - Peter Gauntlett**

PG kept the accounts simple- just income and expenditure. One or two payments were from the previous years' accounts. He has kept a float for small things to pay out. Most of it went into raffles, printer ink etc. Peter offered the bank statements for all to see. We have £1,174.61. He also has £28 in the float. CH asked if the charity payment was a one off. Peter said that if we thought about doing it again this year it will eat into our money. We may choose to do a smaller one. 23 members went to the hospice to give the charity money. CH said that we had given £2,000 for Little Havens in the past – which was raised by a round the county ride. AW said that we should generate the money for ourselves not for charities. PG asked if there are any other questions. The charity payment would be covered in “Any other business”.

#### 5. **Merchandise - Bruce Thompson**

BT has been doing the merchandise but not much has been bought this year. We had just over the 10 items to get the discount. If anyone wants any merchandise then he will order it. He will do the merchandise for the next year. Dawn asked why we can't carry stock. It was agreed that it was a waste of money. PG said that he was happy to promote the merchandise. BT said that he has beanie hats, club patches and a flag left over if anyone wanted them. PG said that no-one wants the pin badges, so he will take the badges abroad and distribute to our foreign members who will appreciate them – if that's ok with everyone? BT said that he doesn't want any other spare merchandise. BT said that everyone is more than welcome to look through the “Screens” brochure and select clothing. Cheryl asked if you can still get the VSOC stickers. BT said that they were from the National Merchandise, not Centre 19. BT said that the National Merchandise is in Clatter.

SEAX - Peter Gauntlett

Peter is glad he only publishes the Seax every two months. It is a good way of communication, but Peter basically writes the articles himself – although he doesn't mind. It would be nice if someone else contributes to Seax. AW suggested that the emails that are generated to everyone could be part of Seax – Peter said that if they are relevant for that period, then they are.

## **BREAK**

**In the break, Bruce handed tokens of appreciation to Peter, Trevor and Alan for the work they have done for him over the years.**

#### 6. **New Rep to take over**

DE introduced himself and thanked BT. He thanked TL for staying as a rep.

#### 7. **Events and ride outs 2018 Trevor Lathrope and Alan Ward**

TL said it was same old. Same people that go and same people that don't. TL said that he was going to start a ride out committee. He suggested he might start organising rideouts on a 3 month basis. It would be nice to get a few more on rideouts. TL said that he might organise a weekend away in France. TL said about going on a Saturday and coming back on a Sunday. CH said that you can do 200 miles in 3 hours, but going off motorway, is a much slower ride. TL was discussing

to go to La Rochelle. CH said that it would be a 2 day ride just to get there. PG said that he had looked online when it was suggested - and he said he looked up in early July (if it was well supported) he said that finding accommodation for 20 people it would be hard. CH said that it was fine when we went to Amsterdam.

8. Change to the way ride out calendar is put together Trevor Lathrope

See above.

9. Bowling C13 - Bruce Thompson

BT said that it is back to Centre 13 next year. 17 February, but no location as of yet. DE will let everyone know when it has been arranged. 10 people put their names forward to be in the C19 team but we still need reserves and supporters to come.

10. Rally dates for 2019

Rally in a hotel – 26-28 April (the rally was then explained for new members, re. the difference between a hotel rally and a normal rally)

Belgium - May 10-12

**Centre 12** – 24-27 May – Thatcham Near Reading

International Rally In Germany – 7-9 June – Göttingen – 300 miles from the Hook of Holland. Leave on the night ferry on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. The flyer will be the VSOC website next week as will all the flyers for all the rallies and the C19 rally.

19-21 July – **Centre 14** Rally. East Grinstead in Sussex

23-26 August – **Centre 5** – Rally in Pontefract. Flyer will be on the national website next week.

Dutch rally – 6-8 September - To celebrate 25 years of them forming their club. YCCNL. It will be in Seax.

CH asked if we know about the Norway rally. PG said that it will be their first rally 2022 in Lillehammer . It was then agreed that Spain will host theirs in 2023 – 50k from Santander. C10 have expressed an interest in hosting the 2020 International rally which is to be discussed at the National AGM

Yorkies Dinner and Dance – 1-3 March and is not advertised on the national website.

11. Rally in a hotel update

See above

12. 2019/2020 Christmas party – Peter Gauntlett

It was put out the we would have a joint Xmas party a year ago. We have agreed the Holiday Inn on 5 January 2019. The meal is £20 a head. Peter has the menus with him today. Money and meal choices due by 10 November. We are hovering at 45 but we need 40 otherwise it will be cancelled – so the numbers can't drop. PG is deflated at the lack of numbers.

13. Any other business – All

CH asked current membership? It's floating around 47. TL said that the club is getting older and it's not being replenished with new blood. BT said that one gentleman will join in November for an 18, month membership. 4 joined Centre 10 at Copdock and Centre 19 had some interests. Museum of Power had one possibility. (CH) How many existing ones have we lost? PG said that we contact every person that hasn't renewed – no pressure. It's just for marketing purposes. They were genuine reasons.

AW said that C19 can keep all the picnic items that are in his shed.

AW said that the club money should be spent by C19 not to charity. BT said that last year it was because we had raffle funds from the rally. It was done as a one off at the time as a charitable gesture, as was agreed at that AGM. That was why it was done. PG asked AW what he wanted the money spent on. AW asked why we can't put the funds into a Xmas party. Not spending 25% on a charity. TL said if are talking about making a charity donations in the future, then we can talk about it then. It was also pointed out that the charity donation was discussed at the 2017 AGM, voted on and agreed

Carl asked how we raise the money. PG said at Xmas parties, raffles etc.

It was agreed that it was a one off.

BT said we have 48 current membership. Due to the new GDPR (Data Protection) rules BT can't keep old records. We can only keep the up to date list. CH said that we have a 20% reduction a year. Yamaha is almost the biggest reason as the Bolt (which comes under tradition) is the only star they supply now. They don't supply cruisers anymore.

TL handed AW a gift from C19 for his efforts towards the club and for being the North Rep. TL awarded BT a gift for his support and help as Centre Rep for the last 6 years.

The meeting was closed at 21.25

## Hi from Dave

Well everyone, I am Dave, some call me other things !! but I am your new Rep, voted in at the recent AGM.

I will do my best to follow Bruce's example but admit I have a lot to learn, so please treat me gently.

I attended my first National AGM near Kettering today [ up with the Big Boys lol ], a meeting that was well attended and with no real contentious issues so over by 3.30pm, an early finish by all accounts.

I have been in the club for several years now and belonging has taken me to places I would never have otherwise gone to, I do the International Rallies every year and have been to Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland

and all places in between, sometimes extending the trips for a week or more and visiting other places of interest within the country. I am just planning next years trip to Germany again so looking forward to that and an extended trip to Southern Germany close to Austria and the Czech Republic.

I also attend all the UK National rallies up and down the country and have got to know a lot of club members,

We sometimes have a centre holiday as part of attending the national rallies and this year we rented a bungalow in Wales for a week before the Welsh rally, it was mostly dry as well lol. 2015 saw us go to Southern Ireland, a place I have not been to before, it was mostly cold and wet !!

I have had a Yamaha Stryker [ XVS 1300 Custom ] since 2015 with no problems at all but just recently have bought a Yamaha Raider to run alongside the Stryker, it is going for a make over shortly and having new pull back drag bars fitted so will look better and be more comfortable.

**Edit** Pulling the wiring through the bars was a pain in the arse and had me using words I didn't know existed, walking away from the job several times before they got thrown through the window. Just saying !!

Not a lot more I can say really so hope to meet all you C19 members in due course, details of meetings are at the top of the page

Dave

## *National AGM 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018*

A few things that came out of the National AGM

When renewing your membership can you please ensure that all details are correct and not put something like ' same as last year ' without checking carefully, you may have changed your bike, if you have 2 bikes and one is non qualifying can you ensure that the qualifying bike is named on your renewal form. Stats are currently showing 23% of non qualifying bikes registered on the data base.

Membership is slightly up on this time last year and several new members have taken advantage of the 18 months membership for the price of 12

months, Copdock show saw 4 new members signed up.

The cost of membership to the VSOC is staying the same for another year. So membership costs have been the same for over 20 years.

The Editor of Clatter has stepped down so the job is now available if anyone is interested. Dont all rush at once lol EDIT. A new Clatter Editor has now been appointed, see website for details.

C19 will have 1 x 10 year member, 2 x 15 year members and 1 x 20 year member at renewal next time, all this on top of the existing long term members, a big thank you to those for supporting the VSOC and C19 during this time.

The MCN [ Motorcycle News ] show at Peterborough will be 18th/19th May 2019

Centres 10 and 17 have expressed an interest in hosting the 2021 International rally as it is the turn of the UK. The decision will be made at the first Reps meeting in May 2019 following a presentation by each centre Rep

Membership is due for renewal on the 1<sup>st</sup> April although a lot renew well before that date and renewal can in fact take place from 1<sup>st</sup> January . Flexibility was allowed in the past to the end of April then a further flexible period until the end of May with an additional £5 admin fee payable. The 2<sup>nd</sup> flexible period has now been cancelled so **renewal must be done by the end of April or you will be deemed ' no longer a member '** . This is now official and voted on at the AGM so now forms part of the VSOC Rules and Constitution.

As a mark of respect to Brian [ who tragically dies in the recent Greek fires ] Centre 2 [ Ireland ] of which he was the Rep and only member has now been erased from the list of centres. Should we get any new members from Ireland they will be allocated to Centre 20.

## Merchandise

Hi guys and gals,

Just to see if there is any interest for a tour t shirt for 2019, we haven't had one for a couple of years and it was mentioned at the AGM. As you know we will need at least 10 to get a discount.

Also if any other items are needed eg polo shirts, fleece zip ups, let me know. by 15th December 2018.

Edit for those of you that dont know the tour t shirt has a list of all rallies and some events printed on the back so very helpful to Joe public who may think that looks interesting and give us a call .

## HIGH CHAPARRAL

Having got re-booked onto The High Chaparral tour with HC Travel, we departed for Phoenix on 17<sup>th</sup> September. We decided to have an extra day in Phoenix to acclimatise before starting the tour – and awoke to the news that the temperature was going to be 41 degrees – beats our summer !!! We decided to visit the Heard Museum which houses one of the finest collections of Native American art and culture including exhibits from the Hopi, Navajo and Apache tribes.

At the welcome meal on the first day of the tour we met the other participants - 26 people in total. This consisted of the tour guide (Gary), the backup driver (Jeremy), four South Africans and twenty Brits - which included one celebrity – Henry Cole.

There were 17 bikes – 15 Harleys and two Indians which two of the South Africans owned. Unfortunately the number reduced to 16 on the fourth day of riding as one of the Indian bikes broke down and had to be recovered.

Our 12 day holiday took us through Arizona, Utah and Colorado with amazing vistas, breath-taking rides and sublime landscapes.

After collecting the rented Heritage Softail from Scottsdale we headed North from Phoenix to the beautiful small town of Sedona, set in a mesmerising red-rocked desert landscape.





We rode to the spectacle of Zion National Park – known by the native Americans as “The Land Straight Up” - and wound our way on the “switchbacks” through the exceptional landscape.

The highlights of the tour included Lake Powell and the Antelope Canyon cruise, Bryce Canyon, Arches National Park near Moab, the Million Dollar Highway which is a 12 mile gorge cliff pass, and Monument Valley.

The best day for me was the route from Moab to Durango which included the 12 mile million dollar highway.

In total we rode 1906 miles in 10 days. Unfortunately this Harley (which was a new model) was no where near as good as the other Harleys I have rented abroad. Had trouble selecting neutral – most of the time had to turn bike off and start again. The pillion seat was also very uncomfortable for Chris and the back rest was smaller than the previous models.

Good to be back riding my Yamaha XVS 950!

Terry

### *Handle bar renewal on Dave's Raider*

Somehow I got lumbered with the job of changing the bars on Dave's new to him Raider, a job I did last year on my own Raider so you would think I knew what I was doing !! I did a blog last time so printed it off and fixed it to the garage door near to where I was working.

Stripping the bike was a doddle, battery disconnected, ECU removed [ just in case eh Trevor !! ] fuel lines turned off, tank removed, 7 multi plugs disconnected on top of air box, air box removed to reveal the throttle cables and that was enough for day 1

Throttle cables removed, packaged up and sent with a covering letter to Venhills for all that was required to do the job, 2 new longer throttle cables, 3 longer brake lines and a longer clutch line plus all new stainless fittings.

All lines, electrics as necessary removed from the existing bars and the old bars removed and taken to the shed where master cylinders, grips and associated electrics were disconnected and the wiring looms from both sides of the bars were pulled through and set aside for installation in the new bars.

4 large multi plugs were 'unpinned' from the wiring loom making sure that I drew a diagram to show which wires went where, there were 4 wires in to 2 of the multi plugs and in 2 cases, 2 black wires, WHY !!

The came the task of pulling the wiring loom through the new bars and I decided to do it at the dining room table [ it was warmer in the house ] The new bars have the risers and bar all in one so there is a right angled bend where riser joins bar and I had to get a 'pull through' in the bars to attach the wiring to, I scratched my head a bit and after talking to Kev attached a 10mm nut to the end and it found its way round the right angle with no problem. I then attached the pull through to the wiring loom and started the pull, to cut a long story short I walked away from the job probably 4 times or they would have gone out the window, best thing to do under the circumstances, eventually I got both sets of wiring through the new bars, refixed the multi plugs and started the re assembly

Bars back on, airbox on, throttle cables connected, multi plugs connected and tested, indicators worked, horn worked, number plate light came on, no main lights as they come on when the engine is started, NO BRAKE LIGHT, did it work before, checked the fuses and found a 3A fuse blown, no spare so borrowed one from my bike [ note Dave, I only borrowed it ] made no difference anyway as still NO BRAKE LIGHT, a few swear words ensued and then it dawned on me, probably only half an hour but it seemed forever that I had the hand brake lever pulled in and secured with an elastic band [ for bleeding purposes ] which means the brake light was already on, I released the lever and all was good, felt a bit stupid but all good so far

Dave then brought over his heated grips [ wus ] on Saturday morning so I spent Sunday morning installing his new grips and not without issues as the plastic throttle thingy didnt fit, more swear words, so I mullered the original grip and removed the plastic thingy I knew would fit and it did so throttles

cables connected, heat controller connected and all wiring located under the tank [ which isnt on yet ] connected to the battery and he has heated grips. VOILA. That is where we are at present, I still have the brakes and clutch to bleed, the tank to put on and connect electrics to the speedo cluster and then wait for Dave to issue his next round of instructions of ' while you have it in the garage can you just do this', I dont like to ask but blah blah blah. I have just ordered more parts which will probably arrive whilst the bike is still in my garage, Dont worry Dave it is all going on the bill !!

The truth will be as and when all is complete will it start and will everything work, hmmm, I will let you know.

Today 19.11.18 PM, I bled the clutch, which I did with very little drama, then I tried bleeding the brakes and walked away after several attempts, tomorrow is another day lol !!

Today 20.11.18 too cold so I did nothing but got called out on Grandad duties anyway !!

Today 21.11.18 a bit warmer so made a start, bled the brakes so one job done, connected 3 multi plugs that serve the speedo cluster, refixed the cover over the steering lock located in front of the tank. Fixed the tank back on, turned the fuel valves back on, put some petrol in the tank, connected the ECU, went indoors and got the key and crossed my fingers.

It started on the button so one happy chappie.

I then fitted the new Ram mount for Dave's sat nav, checked all nuts and bolts, a few adjustments here and there, seat back on. Job done.

What's next on the agenda. !!!

Would I do it again ? Off course I would as it gets easier every time.

If you have got this far, congratulations.

Mr K.

## *My short ride out - September 30*

I have problems with getting to Boreham for 10:00. Morning duties with the livestock on our little farm conflict with leaving the property by 9:30 so I was pleased to see in SEAX that the ride-out on Sunday September 30 was a departure at 10:30. It was to be a scenic ride, presumably round the Dengie, finishing at Holly's Diner in Latchingdon.

Rushed round with the chicken feed, collected and boxed the eggs, got out of boiler suit and wellingtons, into motorcycle gear, and off to Boreham.

It was 23 miles and I arrived about 10:25, none of C19 there. Went and looked at a bloody great Mercedes truck with a vast heavy plant trailer and chatted with the driver. He was going to fetch a railway locomotive and was very proud of his modular trailer with five rear axles and an overall length (with the towing truck) of 29 meters. He could add length with up to three more axles and the width could go up from 3 to 5 meters. Would not want to meet it on an A road never mind a country lane. Now just gone 10:50 so set off home again, another 23 miles.

Back at home checked the time in SEAX again and sent Trevor a text "give me a call when you get to Holly's and I will join you". Immediate reply "have arrived". Back on the bike and I could now do a one man ride-out 3.2 miles to Latchingdon.

Six of C19 there, got a tea and standard breakfast. Great company and good food. Trevor asked where had I got to; I said Boreham for 10:30; he said no 10:00. Then it was 3.2 miles home again.

SEAX and the C19 web-site (copied from SEAX) both erroneously said 10:30; I must assume that no one else looked at either, or that they looked but did not read.

**Bob Owen.**

**Editor: Ride out details are copied and pasted from info supplied by Trevor,**

## *From the Editor*

Please note that all the National rally flyers are now on the VSOC website , pre purchased tickets help the organisers with cash flow and food so always very helpful. Details of 3 ' foreign ' rallies are also on the website for the more adventurous ones.

Please take time to read the minutes of the C19 AGM, above.

Please note that Clatter has got a new Editor , it is now Debbie Jones [clatter.editor@gmail.com](mailto:clatter.editor@gmail.com) or take a look at the National website under Clatter for another way of sending your articles to Debbie. **WeTransfer.com**, dont ask me how it works as I havnt tried it, It will however ensure that once she downloads whatever you send her you will be notified accordingly so nothing should be missed.

We have 42 booked and paid for the Xmas party on the 5<sup>th</sup> January but if anyone else has a burning desire to attend I can always squeeze you in, there is certainly room for a few more yet. Post Xmas blues when not a lot else is going on.

Also.... If anyone attending has anything that resembles a raffle prize, it would be gratefully received for the 5<sup>th</sup> January. Something you got for Xmas that you dont really want !! Thank you.

## *Ride outs*

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 1st December and back to 10am from the 1st March 2019, if anyone is up for braving the weather of course !!