

SEAX

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

October & November 2019 Issue 274

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Centre 19 meeting dates

October 2019

North meeting

8pm Tuesday 1st October 2019 [**Now Tuesday and not Monday**]
The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 14th October 2019
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

November 2019

North meeting

8pm Tuesday 5th November 2019
The Anchor, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW

South meeting

8pm Monday 18th November 2019
The Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase, Burnham Rd SS11 7QT

Reps Ramblings

A good turn out for the 16th Sept, nothing unusual to discuss, Copdock show on the 6th October, rally dates for next year, Give a thought to the inter centre bowling competition when C19 will be looking for a team about February time, C19 Xmas meal, money and meal choices to Mr K before the October South meeting when all orders have to be placed. Money can be paid on that night of the South meeting if all else fails. A few spaces still available for the Xmas meal, it would be good to fill the room.

The time is coming for bike winter maintenance so think about that, a reminder will be posted again in the new year with some tips.

Scrumpies wedding 3.8.2019

Dave and I had been invited to the wedding of Dawn and Becks [Dave] to be held in conjunction with Scrumpies annual party.

Dave had to work on the Friday so we were going after he finished and I must admit the thought of tackling the M25 at tea time didn't appeal, as it happened the M25, M4 and M5 were flowing very nicely and the 211 mile journey with a half hour stop for food took 4 hours, his car goes faster than mine or was it a heavier right foot, not too sure !!

We were booked in to a hotel courtesy of the bride and groom but went to the party site first to say hello etc. All was in full swing.

About 11pm ish we decided to go and find the hotel but a phone call first ensured that our 'cabin' door had been left open or it could have been awkward. Finding the hotel was a mission and to quote Dave's words " I am a lorry driver, I don't need a sat nav ". Not correct on this occasion.

Brekkie the next morning done and off to the party/wedding site where the barn was being decorated in wedding style and very nice it was to.

A mini bus was then provided to ferry guests to the church about 1pm as parking for cars was limited, they had thought of everything.

The vicar arrived 20 minutes late to start a very unusual service, a lot of clapping after each reading and then he produced some tambourines which were distributed to the congregation, some bubble making hoops for the kids to blow bubbles over the congregation, he also gave the bride and groom plastic musical instruments and sun glasses so they looked like the Blues Brothers, the service took nearly 2 hours but great fun. I did ask him later if he had to get permission to conduct a service like that and he replied that as he was a dinosaur he did what he wanted and guessed the congregation in biker gear wouldn't mind, he was right .

Service over and back to the reception, all tables had been laid out with bottles of wine and water and even a normal glass for me which I thought was very thoughtful. The food was very nice and plentiful, the vicar sat between Dave and myself and great company he was , not a typical vicar , he left asking that the next time we are down there could he join us for a drink.

The evening went very well and everyone seemed to have a good time.

Back to the hotel about midnight, brekkie done on Sunday and left about 8.50 for the journey home which was done in 3.5 hours and roads clear again.

All in all a very nice weekend spoilt by Becks ending up in hospital early Sunday morning with an inflamed gall bladder which he is waiting to have removed, he is out of hospital now although still in pain, Best wishes Becks

Peter

Ride out to Shotley Marina on Sunday 11th August

We met at Langham service station, 12 bikes and 15 people, must be a record lately or maybe the weather helped, whatever the reason it was nice to see everyone out including Rob and Grace [Sharon]

Off we went led by Alan who was taking us on a scenic route on ' small ' roads, through Stratford St Mary, Dedham, Ardleigh, Lawford, Manningtree, Hadleigh, Ipswich then on to the A14 very briefly, under the Orwell bridge and then Shotley Marina, it was 42 miles in all and a lovely ride,

There is a nice eaterie at Shotley which was used by us all I think, world put to rights, bit of banter, usual stuff and we left at varying times for the quicker ride home. 89 miles in all for me, much more for some but a nice way to spend a Sunday.

Mr K

C5 Yorkies rally

The last one of the year and we all made our own way there, I say all, there was only 8 from C19 so a poor turn out considering the weather prediction, even Trevor went so weather forecast must have been good !!

I left early and arrived 3 hours later after no traffic problems apart from 40mph at Cambridge road works. Others drifted in during the day with Bob the last to arrive complaining about traffic,

Unfortunately the weekend was marred a bit due to a nasty accident involving 2 members on one bike, as I write this 30.8.19 both are still in hospital, I won't go in to details.

The weather was perfect the whole weekend and the club event shelter was once again very useful as it shaded the sun, we didn't get a chance to test it for leaks having 'proofed' it the previous weekend, glad about that really,

Friday night's band was loud and heavy, as the weather was kind a lot spent time outside,

Saturday saw some of C19 go out on their bikes, Trevor started but had to return as a brake problem meant he couldn't ride, should have been picked up as part of the recent service but wasn't, I now hear that all has been resolved with Crazy Horse satisfactorily .

Saturday night was a tad quieter music wise and Julia [centre Rep] did a sterling job with presentations and speeches, it was dressing up night and some amazing costumes were on show, Lesley the joker was in full form with her tickling stick and just being Lesley, thankfully she doesn't get any better lol

As most of you know I am not good at staying up late but on Saturday night I

tried to be last man standing, I kept asking them to go to bed but they just wouldn't, so I didn't win that competition, still up late for me though.

Sunday was a further few miles up North for me to see family in Hexham, to the left of Newcastle on the A69, I came back on Wednesday, all the way without stopping 300 miles. Just made it !!

Food over the weekend was good and plentiful and the catering lady did very well having been let down at short notice.

It was a good rally, weather was perfect, company was good and banter at its best. That is it for 2019, I do hope that a few more from C19 will try to make these events next year, they are put on for your benefit and you may just have a good time.

Ta ta for now

Peter

YCCNL rally 6th to 8th September

Sitting here waiting. Drinking free coffee and getting bored with the sound of planet rock playing on the radio waiting for my bike to be serviced I thought I would write up my Dutch rally adventure. Good a time as any I suppose. To be honest I have not been feeling the rally vibe this year. Did the hotel rally and the Thatcham rally. But tenting is defo losing its shine. So when I saw it was the Dutch clubs 25 years and added bonus of sleeping in a bed, I thought sod it I will have some of that. So contacted our mate Peter to book it. Did cheat a bit, lol booked a cabin to myself going over and to be honest I would recommend this for the sake of a extra £20. Nice night's kip.. Let's back track a bit here to the Thursday night where I met up with the Dutch bound VSOC members at Peter's. Here I heard the sad news about our VSOC centre 10 members tragic accident on route to the Yorkshire rally and about our very own Tony's accident, get well mate. Back to story. Those at Peters were 4 guys from Scrumpies, sorry boys, remembering names not my strong point even if one of them is like me and embraced the dark side and rides a Harley. Chris from C10 was there, Clive and Tina, Dave the rep also attended. We headed off with plenty of time. Topped up at services then arrived at port. But had an extended wait on quay side due to ferry arriving late. Engine problems, like apparently our National Chairman who was there in a car. Perhaps the ferry engine is made by yamaha, lol. Sorry there for the little dig. **Did you forget about the Harley with no back light**

and almost failed to start at Peter's house, just saying . I get plenty on being on a Harley from you guys, lol. Anyway, back to my tale.

Eventually got on ferry, made sure my baby was safe and secure and off to bed. Experience has told me not to visit the bar as the lady on the ferry's speaker system wakes you up at silly o'clock and it's best to keep a clear head. Well up at silly o'clock, shower, dressed then up to bar deck for coffee and breakfast. Then back to room to collect gear and the wait to go down to bike deck. No dramas and we all pulled off ferry to go through passport control. We then gathered just outside port and when everyone was accounted for we were led to rally site by our Dutch friends. About a 20 minute ride, lol. And we where there. As I paid my money to the nice lady at rally gate I was left a bit worried. Your tenting she said. No I'm not I replied. Only brought sleeping bag. OK I think I can squeeze you in. My thought at this point was either that or I'm taking the ferry back home. Not sleeping outside in just a sleeping bag. But I was in. Picked my bed, bunk beds. Loads of them, it reminded me of some of the American prison wings I seen on TV. Anyway picked a bottom bunk. And wondered who would be my bunk mate. As it turned out it was Bruce.

Back to the rally, it was a fairly small affair. Don't know actual numbers but a good turn out nevertheless. And only 2 caravans and 1 motor home. Good number of bikes. Got the feeling that us Brits outnumbered our European brothers and sisters, but don't hold me to that. **We did, 60 from the UK** Food OK, and beer wise you had 2 choices Dutch lagerr or Dutch lager. But it was drinkable. The normal free tea and coffee available. Me and Dave walked out to a restaurant to have lunch and very nice it was. Can't remember exactly when it began to rain but man did it rain. Luckily I covered my bike so she she was all nice and cosy. So we sat around talked shit, drank beer. Then later after dinner the band come on. Just had a thought at this point. When did we start describing 2 guys on guitar's, a drummer and singer as a band and not a group. Just a thought. Well the band, lol was on. Not that bad but by 12.30 I had my fill of beer and rock so off to bed.

Trouble was where the band was banging out their tunes there was only a thin wall between them and the dorm. But eventually I drifted off to the land of nod. Next morning up with the lark. Showered, then breakfast. But more rain predicted so for me that meant that the ride out was a non starter.

After a discussion me, Dave Chris, Clive and Tina, and Cynthia headed off to visit The Hague. By tram of all things. After a bit of walking we eventually found the tram stop and got on. €7.50 for an all-day pass, not bad. We made our way to the city centre, walked round a bit but to me it started to feel we could have been walking round lakeside. We all agreed to visit the Dutch seaside which was at another end of line of the tram system. By this time

Cynthia had gone off to do her own thing, but we did bump into her every now and again. When we got to the coast and resort, can't remember name sorry. **[Scheveningen]** We made our way to the pier. Yes they had a pier. 2 levels normal pier theme top deck bottom deck shops and eating establishments. We did eat at one of these and again very nice except for poor old Dave's scampi salad. Dutch scampi not the same as ours by this turn out. After meal we wandered out and had a ice cream on the prom. Fighting off the local seagulls. We then decided we had had enough of the seaside and decided to visit the town at the complete other end of the tram line we were on. Guess what I remember this name, Delph. So we went there walked about had a beer walked about then we headed home. Via changing lines in city centre. But we eventually got back to site, not before I got absolutely soaked. More rain. I think it rained all night. Dinner, band, beer, you all know the routine. Again band not too bad they got Dave up strutting his stuff but it could have been the beer I suppose lol. Anyway this time I stayed up to the early hours . Next morning breakfast and getting ready for the ride back to the port. It seemed just as we set off for port we were there. **Only 8 miles** and we didn't have to wait to long to board either. Bike secured up we went to the bar decks to just hang around for 7 hours. Seemed longer grrr. Again no dramas and we all departed safely off the ferry to make our own ways home. So my tale is done and here I wait for my beloved. In other words I'm still sitting here waiting for them to finish the service on my bike. Tales from the dark side.

A good write up Gary, you may get a permanent job lol

40 Days and 40 Nights

Calais, Le Mans, Bordeaux (France), Alceda, Tordesillas (Spain), Aguas de Moura, Gois, Porto (Portugal), back through Spain, France, Belgium and finish at YCCNL Dutch rally.

Wednesday 31st July

An early start to a long day, traffic, rain, made us late and had to wait 2 hours to set sail on the good train Folkestone burrowing its way to Calais.

A good trip, quiet roads but windy as a night after a meal at the Taj Mahal and bit of rain too 365 miles later (100 miles home side), we arrived at Le Mans. Dumped our gear off and straight round to the local trough for steak, fries and a bottle of vino. Then back to relax ready for a ride of 360 miles to Bordeaux the next day.

After a stop the next night at Bordeaux, dinner and bed at Le Grangousier hotel, we packed the next morning...going to be one of many.

Friday 2nd Aug

We arrived at Alceda to our apartment for the weekend to attend the YCCE rally, Spain.

We had read on reviews it was an awkward road to this accommodation, but this was a SHEER drop!! After Paula having a meltdown...LOL... we carefully rode down fully loaded, where we were shown the apartment (well worth the trip down the slope), unloaded the bikes and off for a 4 mile ride to the park to visit the guys at YCCE.

Fernando, their liaison, turned up as we did. He looked after us as he spoke English, as well as Dutch, German, Spanish and some Italian (show off!) We then later returned the bikes to our stop over and took a cab (who refused to come down the sheer slope to get us, making us walk up the hill) back to the rally site to enjoy a few drinks.

Although the rally officially started on the Saturday, so it was quiet, I met a few friends Paula had made when she was there last year, going for a drink and nibbles to the local bar with a Fernando and a few others.

On Saturday we rode to the rally site and Fernando raving about this place he knew, took us to lunch, only a 25 mile ride via some amazing Cantabrian scenery and an Indiana Jones rickety wooden bridge, finishing at Saint Illana del Mar (known as the 3 lies, 1. not holy, 2. not flat, 3. not seaside - name translation), very historic and picturesque and many tourists milling around. Met an American teacher on her holidays who had walked as much as we had ridden...near enough! After a traditional lunch in the square we headed back and more people arriving for the ride out, mid afternoon, We rode only few miles as the roads were small and windy with many bikes, approx 100, and a stop had been arranged for all of us at a café with Tapas and drinks. After a long stop and chat with others, we took an alternative route again around very windy roads back to the rally site, where Paula and I rode our bikes back to our digs and cabbied it back to rally site for another evening with the troops.

Sunday 4th Aug

Packed and ready to head for our next stop in Spain, Tordesillas, what a pleasure it was to do only 150 miles for that day round the mountains taking in the scenery with a stop for lunch beside a huge lake. Arriving at the hotel with a pool waiting for us to cool off, funnily enough, it was wine o'clock! Gear unloaded and up to the room, leaving the bikes tucked away in the hotels private garage for the night, we headed to the pool. Cocktails before dinner and a chat with an English family and a good laugh, we found he also used to ride a 535. The only thing that bugs me about being abroad is the late restaurant opening hours! Starving! Finally, dinner was worth waiting for and we had a good excuse of more aperitifs while waiting.

Earlyish night as we needed to do 350 miles to our next stop, Paulas mums, Aguas de Moura, Portugal.

Monday 5th Aug

I love these roads, no traffic all day until we got to the main town in Portugal called Evora even then it was minimal by our standards. We knew then that we only had 50 miles left to go. So after 1475 miles, we arrived at our base for 2 and a half weeks around 5pm. Pan of home cooked soup awaited us and catching up with Katarina who had already been then for 2 weeks, she was pleased to see her mum.

Tuesday was a chill out day, the bikes got treated to a wash and a day of rest.

A week or so after going back and forth on a fact finding mission about relocating legalities, pools, lunches, dinners, more wine.....we sorted out quite a bit but not always in our favour, but this is what we were partly here for.

Friday 16th – Sunday 18th Aug – GOIS

Friday morning we headed up to GOIS in the middle of the country in the Coimbra area for the annual bike fest! It was like tent city with thousands of bikes coming and going all weekend. Masses of stalls selling all sorts from leather goods to T shirts, machinist stalls sewing on patches and embroidery, food and drinks stall (best of all!) yummmmmmm!

What are the chances of standing in a food queue and get two Manchester lads behind you? And guess what their names were..... Dave and Peter, cant get away from them, LOL! Enjoyed a good Argentinean meal and a drink or two... walking over to where the stage area I finally managed to get an IPA. Also Paula couldn't resist getting two sangrias made from a local bevy called Ginja, a must have at one euro each, well, had to balance out both hands didn't she?!

Gois is set over a large area across a river, having to cross each time we wanted to get to another area, disco on the river beach, people sunbathing during the day and dancing at night before the main acts came

on , starting late near 10pm with a warm up band and ending around 4am. It was no problem as we had arranged a b&b up the road with taxi running us backwards and forwards in the evenings. Even a bit of excitement with the services called to a car fire on the Saturday in the car park across the road...15 cars up in smoke but one person badly hurt. Minimal for the amount of vehicles and people there!

On Saturday after a nice breakfast we went for a ride around the mountains with some great views and also viewing one of our several houses around the area that weekend. Then back to the Fest and evening of fun. All in all a great experience.

Sunday, we had a 140 miles to get back to base, viewing some more houses before leaving and with the petrol drivers on strike (sorry forgot to mention), the garages were running low and the motorways services were completely dry. So after 30-40 miles we would top up so we knew we would make it back and closer to home and cutting it close, we topped up again getting to 120 miles on the clock before finding a station to fuel up at. I was now thinking that if the strike did not come to a close it would spoil the rest of our plans in Portugal but on Mondays talks they came to an agreement and the drivers were back on the road after nearly 2 weeks....well if that wasn't going to spoil it the infamous Ryanair would try their damndest as the pilots in the UK and Portuguese cabin crew were going on strike around the time Katarina was due to fly back.... TBC.....did they or didn't they??? Thankfully nothing affected the flights and Katarina got home on time!

Saturday 24th Aug

Off to Maia, Porto for the weekend to see our friends of the Star Riders Portugal. Arrived in good time, about 4pm, where after unloading and a freshen up, it had been arranged to meet up with a few SRP in Porto docks for a drink at 7pm followed by a ride to restaurant to meet up with the others for dinner at 9pm. Mane and Helder who kindly put us up for the weekend were great hosts for making a great Saturday night and arranging a Sunday ride out with Yolanda and Miguel Miguel, where we met up with the lads again at a big meet for bikers near the sea for morning coffee. Both our Raiders got lots of attention as we were told the number plates being yellow create a stir and these bikes are nearly non-existent over there. After everyone left 6 of us walked to a nice restaurant on the beach front for a great seafood lunch. M&H before we left theirs failed to mention to us to pack our beach gear. We then rode to a beachfront area further up the coast for a walk, pancakes and ice-cream shop. We then lay on the beach and had a dip in the ocean for the afternoon. It was a great day out. We were watching the sun setting high in the sky from the beach when BANG! 'oh its fireworks' said one, 'NO, its thunder' says I. And more thunder, sky not looking too good, these Portuguese can move when they want to. Never seen them get dressed so quick! Dressed and back on the bikes we headed back to M&Hs. Got back in the dry. It was discussed that we would stay an extra night and day as we had time.

Monday, Barcelos up the road, as Paula had wanted to go and also take me up there for ages. A nice hours ride. Loads of cobbled streets (did I mention, I HATE cobbles!) we arrived, parked up, boots off, shorts and trainers on, we headed for a café (obviously). One thing, if you don't know, is there are a load of Cocks in this town. Some big, some small. Nearly every roundabout, turn a corner, oh look.... Another cock! Having toured the town we found an old ruin dating back 15th century. This was where the history of the Portuguese cockerel began:

Legend of the Senhor Do Galo's Cruz (Sir of the Cockerel's Cross)

A story of a vindictive woman who planted a silver cup in the bag of a traveller because he did not notice her advances due to being on a pious journey. He was arrested and due to hang after being brought before the judge, the man suddenly inspired by divine intervention said to the judge ' I am innocent and the proof is that this roasted rooster (the judges dinner) will sing my innocence'.

As he was hung the rooster stood up and sang! The judge hurried to the gallows and found the pilgrim hanging by the neck but the bond was limp because St James held the hangman by the feet!

And this is what legends are made of people!



September

We arrived at Nuno and Wendys in Holland just after 3pm where we stayed for 3 nights. They took us to an all you can eat Sushi restaurant one evening. Wendy drove us to two great wilderness spots where we walked Mel their rottweiler and had lunches the next couple of days and waited for Nuno to finish his weeks work before heading out to the 25th Anniversary YCCNL rally. The bikes got a thorough clean while there, even though it rained for a long spell afterwards. Luckily we rode out to the rally in the dry. We stopped at a riverside café for fish and chip lunch on our leisurely ride of



about 80 odd miles avoiding motorways. A short hop ferry saw us close to The Hague and the rally site. We arrived about 2.30pm to our third rally of our trip with the usual welcome snifter. Parked up the bikes and dumped our gear in the room where we bunked up with about 50 others, lots of snoring...glad we had our ear plugs! A nice cold Guinness I had brought with me went down well...although it doesn't travel well. Catching up with old friends, going over our trip, and planning the next days jollies. It was very wet in the evenings but the weather did not dampen our time.

Saturday 13 of us took a bus and trams to Den Haag led by our own tour guide Nuno who grew up in the area. A nice lady bus driver who was unable to work out fares due to systems over there let us all on for free. The sun came out to warm us up from the cold that had seemed to follow us from France. Walking through the town some knob heads shouted out 'look Hells Angels'. Seeing the government offices set in the square and walked through to an open square where we had a leisurely lunch. We then proceeded to walk to and through a street market along the river and a tram ride later arriving at a mall which led to the beach and the pier. A few had ice creams – too cold for us. Stroll on the pier where we were joined by Nunos sister who kindly took back the old 'uns so they didn't have to walk back to the site. After another two tram rides (7 euros for hop on hop off) we walked a fair distance back to the rally site. The bands were good and not too loud,

They also had the bike awards, Best Dragstar going to Harley Geoff C10, Nuno won Best 1900 Midnight NL and Walter won best Virago B, Overall best bike was won by our very own C19 Doris!

Sunday brought us to the end of our 40 day honeymoon (with not a cross word, until we wrote this) with a 7 mile ride to the Hoek and 7 hours on the boat to Harwich, 4160 miles later arriving at home to A DECENT CUPPA!!!

And our very own bed zzzzzzz

Bruce and Paula

From the Editor

Just a bit of info for you all which may help although didn't help me as I got 2 in one day !!!

Spy cameras are being installed, it seems all over the place .

They have got one at Macdonalds, Stansted managed by MET Parking services and I can understand why, but I didn't spot it on entry and as the plane was late, I overstayed by a few minutes so received a ticket for £100 reduced to £50 if paid in 14 days, I was caught bang to rights so paid it, I have heard all the smart Alecs saying don't pay it, is not legal, but for everyone who says that I have also heard them that adopted that attitude got clobbered when the company took action. Peace of mind for me so my fine collection box will be at the next meetings or on my Just Giving page lol

I then picked one up at Holiday Inn, Colchester, I got a call from a mate who was staying there to join him for a drink, it was dark and I didn't see any signs or cameras, that was also £100 reduced to £60 if paid early, lucky I know someone who works there so didn't pay that one, this camera is a recent installation so unknown to me and I lived next door for 41 years !!. This was a Parking Eye fine. The machine to register your registration is at the reception, fat lot of good when most people go to the bar/restaurant and the staff don't remind you to register and also no notices reminding you to register.

Just be warned as this seems to be the latest way to scam the motorist.

Don't forget the Copdock bike show on the 6th October in Ipswich, a great day for bikers.

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 2020, if anyone is up for braving the weather of course !!

October

6th Copdock bike show, Ipswich, Suffolk. 10am Boreham, 10.45 Langham or make your own way there

13th Brightona, Brighton, East Sussex 10am Thurrock services

20th C19 AGM

December

7th C19 Christmas dinner at The Lodge, Rettendon.