



Minutes of the
Yorkshire MAG Annual General Meeting
held 19:30 at Squires Café, Newthorpe on
Wednesday 6th September 2023.

1. Welcome to the 30 Yorkshire MAG members in attendance from Steve Travis, Yorkshire Regional Rep. Meeting opened at 19:34 once all attendees had signed in and received a voting slip
2. Apologies for non-attendance received from Keith Maven (Leeds & Bradford MAG contact), Garry Williams (East Yorkshire Rep), Glen Knight, Linz & Andy Foody and Barry Snowden
3. Appointment of Chair and minute taker. Ian Churchlow appointed to chair the meeting, Mike Jordan appointed as minute taker, unanimously agreed
4. Regional officer's reports. These were sent in as written reports (see Appendix A) and then spoke verbally to emphasis particular points:
 - a) Regional Rep, Steve Travis - agreed to continue quarterly region meetings, lobbied MPs regarding the ICE situation, Tracey Brabbin (West Yorkshire Mayor and Police & Crime Commissioner) is not engaging with regards hosting a Leeds Anti-Theft meeting;
 - b) Vice Regional Rep, Martin Burgess - back up to Steve and attended most branch meetings;
 - c) Political officer, Tom Lonsdale - deals with Huddersfield, Kirklees, Calderdale areas but happy to go anywhere. Operation Earthquake is ongoing and Yorkshire area has very good coverage of our MP's. MP Jason McCartney very positive. Prepared to work with all groups including cyclists. Mood is changing on ICE. Pressing hard on secure parking issues. Comments from Neil Liversedge regarding cyclists noted. There were then further comments from Sally-Ann Slater regarding the language used on Social Media platform by Neil Liversedge to which there was a robust response;
 - d) Secretary/Web/Social Media officer, Marcus Houlden - Acknowledges Andrew Meredith who sadly passed away recently. He is maintaining a few groups and region websites, together with Social Media;

- e) Treasurer, Gary Timms - all going OK. Thinks its fantastic the amount of money being brought in by small groups. Signatures to update on who does what and currently £2904 available with the potential for more this evening, some of which is to be donated to MAG Central;
 - f) Press and Media, John Nettleship - not in attendance and did not submit a report.
5. Branch Officer's annual reports. These were sent in as written reports (see Appendix B) and then spoke verbally to emphasis particular points:
- a) East Yorkshire, Gary Williams. Had a quiet year with 10-15 folk at most meetings. Made a £5k donation to central. Did the Fred Hill run. Theft event organised for October in Hull and their AGM in Beverley on Oct 26th;
 - b) Huddersfield, Sally Ann Slater - Busy, 30th Birthday celebrations. Held monthly business meetings and weekly social. Met members of Kirklees Council. Did a Tan Hill ride out. £1120 donated to Central;
 - c) Leeds and Bradford, Keith Maven - not present and no report submitted;
 - d) South Yorkshire, Stuart Hatfield - Have been lobbying about Operation Earthquake. Green agenda prominent there. Richard Vivien stepped down and Derrick taken up the political officers role locally. Made £500 donation;
 - e) Wakefield, Steve Travis - Held a number of events including an 80th surprise birthday party for Deputy Rep Chas, Bingo night, Remembrance, Quiz, Xmas Do and Raffle, Hospice Marshalling but not all rosy. Lost a few long term active members and struggled to replace them. Meeting numbers down on Pre Covid and monthly ride outs no longer held due to lack of interest, plus social events we have held have suffered from poor attendance to the extent that we no longer host many.
 - f) York, Richard Suddaby - Lots of activities despite only going 3 years, also a large number are young ones. Fred Hill run, Xmas party. Richard has taken on the political role as well as chief organiser. Xmas drinks on Dec 29th. Camping in Keswick this weekend. In touch with York Council about bike security in car parks. Trying to meet with local MP but her PA is not responding but they are now in the stakeholders group. No donations yet as building up the group.
6. Nominations and elections of regional officers
- a) **Yorkshire Rep** - Steve Travis - Proposed by Neil Liversedge; Seconded by Paul Kelsey; Re-elected unanimously
 - b) **Vice Rep** - Martin Burgess - Proposed by Oliver Rose; Seconded by Neil Liversedge; Re-elected unanimously
 - c) **Political Rep** - Tom Lonsdale - Proposed by Steve Travis; Seconded by Richard Suddaby; Re-elected unanimously
 - d) **Yorkshire Secretary** - Oliver Rose - Proposed by Martin Burgess; Seconded by Steve Travis; Elected unanimously
 - e) **Web/Social Media Officer** - Marcus Houlden - Proposed by Mike Jordan; Seconded by Steve Travis; Re-elected unanimously
 - f) **Treasurer** - Gary Timms - Proposed by Ian Churchlow; Seconded by Oliver Rose; Re-elected unanimously

- g) **Press and Media** – Vacant position (but it's a nice to have rather than an essential role as each branch has their own press officer, or, it's fulfilled by reps)
7. Tony Berry Memorial Award - this is for a member who has made an outstanding contribution within the region over the past year. No nominations had been received for this award so Steve Travis as Regional Rep made an executive decision (and one that wasn't particularly hard to make) - due to his efforts growing the branch and expanding it's influence into North Yorkshire, it would go to the **York Rep Richard Suddaby**, which was unanimously endorsed by all present - well done Spud !!!
8. AOB
- a) 28th June 2023 regional meeting minutes approval sought but as only sent out the day before the AGM, asked for any comments / approval via email instead;
 - b) The AGC for MAG was coming up soon so discussed how much Yorkshire should donate to Central at the AGC. Unanimously agreed that all but £1,000 be sent once all the promised donations had been transferred to the Yorkshire account. **UPDATE:** A £3,200 donation to Central was made at the MAG AGC on behalf of Yorkshire MAG;
 - c) Observer(s) requested for the Huddersfield MAG AGM on Wednesday 4th October. Steve Travis (Yorkshire RR) and/or Martin Burgess (Yorkshire VR) agreed to attend.
9. Meeting closed at 21:04. Steve Travis thanked the 30 MAG members for their attendance and for their trust in him by re-electing him as Regional Rep for a second term of office.

Minutes by Mike Jordan and Steve Travis

Appendix A – Region Officers Reports

Regional Rep (Steve Travis) (activities since election in August 2022):

- Sent out three Regional Newsletters for Autumn 2022, Q123 (March) & Q223 (June) to the Yorkshire members email list. Will be sending a Q323 newsletter following this AGM (if re-elected obviously)
- In support of Project Earthquake, sent a personal email to Yorkshire MAG members who live in the 30 MP constituencies who, according to records, had yet to be contacted to support overturning the ICE ban – Very pleased to report this direct approach to members gave an excellent result. We went from a 44% hit rate to a 76% hit rate (2nd only to Cumbria, although they only have 6 MP's compared to Yorkshire's 54). Only one negative email back accusing MAG of NIMBY'ism (by virtue of quoting that an ICE ban of PTW's in the UK would result in a global drop in CO2 emissions by 0.00003%). He also went on to state that he would gladly give up his petrol bike to save the planet !!! All the other emails received back were very positive indeed, thanking MAG for taking a stance on this and 'Great Work' etc etc. Even one from an Italian guy living in the UK saying he 100% supports MAG and was proud his 'mother country' was one of the one's who refused to sign off the EU ICE ban. I also made a point of replying to thank everyone who confirmed they had emailed their MP.
- Consulted Yorkshire MAG Committee for a consensus on Yorkshire Region meeting & newsletter frequency
- Attended MAG AGC in September
- Attended MAP AGM
- Attended five group AGM's within the Yorkshire Region: Huddersfield EGM (Wed 26th Oct), Wakefield (17th Jan), York (29th Jan), Leeds & Bradford (16th Feb) and South Yorkshire (19th Feb).
- Attended the Leeds MAG Fred Hill Memorial Run on Sunday 5th February
- Attended Huddersfield MAG's pie night on Wednesday 22nd March
- Attended ITV, FYP and YPR, marshalling at all three
- Attended the MAP training event at Driffield Showground in April (Event emergency planning)
- Commented / Voted on NC list where required
- Discussed York MAG's training school recruitment initiative on the NC list and at the June NC meeting – see 28th June Region Meeting Minutes for what was agreed & next steps
- Helped with the organisation (alongside Colin Brown, Keith Maven & Marcus Houlden) of the Leeds Anti Bike Theft event (which unfortunately had to be

postponed due to lack of key stakeholders able to attend – will be re-arranged shortly once we get confirmed dates from Police & Crime Commissioner / West Yorkshire Major, local MP's etc)

- Organised three Yorkshire Region meetings - October 22, March 23 & June 23
- Attended South Yorkshire MAG's Bike Show & Top Box Sale on Saturday 22nd July and judged the bike show
- Attended two NC meetings (Saturday 8th July in person; 25th February attended remotely)
- Attended Hornsea Bike Fest in August and had a good chat to Ron & Jill who were manning the EY MAG stand at the event
- Organised the Region AGM (Sept 23)
- Registered with the new Virgin Money Yorkshire MAG online account
- Since election last August, Myself and Martin Burgess (VR) pledged to attend at least one of every branches business meetings / AGM's – achieved this with the notable exception of East Yorkshire MAG (apologies to EY MAG, this will be rectified if re-elected)

Yorkshire Region Vice Rep (Martin Burgess)

I put myself forward as deputy rep at last year's AGM at the request of Steve Travis who was standing as Yorkshire Regional Rep.

Knowing Steve through our Wakefield Branch I figured it would be any easy collaboration. During the last 12 months I've mainly acted as a back up to Steve, which has been a very easy role as Steve has fulfilled his position effectively.

I have maintained my position as an active member of the Wakefield Group and as their Finance Officer.

I have attended various meetings including:

- Yorkshire regional meetings
- MAP meetings
- Huddersfield Emergency AGM
- York Branch meeting

It was our intention to attend every local region's meetings together, at least once or twice during the year.... this didn't quite happen, but will be pursued should we both be re-elected.

Other events attended:

South Yorkshire MAG Bike Show

Rallies attended and marshalled:

- Into the Valley
- Yorkshire Pudding
- Sorry.... NOT the Farmyard Party this year but Lanzarote was nice!

Finally I am willing to stand again for another 12 months as deputy to Steve.

Political Officers Report (Tom Lonsdale)

Operation Earthquake: - I have played a minor role in promoting this campaign but tempered by some unease about the language and tone adopted by our National Chair. My main contribution has therefore been to offer an alternative, more diplomatic template for submission to Members' MPs, based on my own letter to Jason McCartney, MP for Colne Valley: that letter produced a very helpful response from Jason, who has declared his support for the legislation being softened to enable ongoing research into other fuel sources.

Bus lanes: - A mixture of direct approaches to Councils in the region and liaison with local Political reps is slowly moving in the right direction but painfully slowly. Kirklees remain the only West Yorkshire Council not willing even to consider PTW access for the time being, whilst Calderdale have committed fully to all its bus lanes having PTW access at all times. Wakefield have confirmed that they have no plans to reverse the trial they introduced and Marcus Houlden advises that Bradford has committed to future new bus lanes including PTW access as a default. I have not proactively approached Councils in other parts of Yorkshire but am available to support local Political Reps as required.

Highway improvement and traffic management proposals: - Where either notified or made aware by my own investigations I have submitted comments on behalf of PTWs in many cases of highway change being developed by the Highway Authorities. Many of the proposals are geared to highway safety and with particular regard to improving pedestrian and cycling provision. With my professional training and experience in public realm design I am ethically motivated to support actions that enhance take up and safety of active modes but I also highlight the consequences for PTW usage: the reduction in vehicular carriageway space invariably impedes filtering and results in our journeys being longer. At the same time the congestion that results gives me justification to emphasise the positive impact of modal shift from cars to PTWs. It also adds weight to our call for access to bus lanes.

Relationship with cycling: - I am ethically aligned with Colin Brown in the belief that we have more in common with cycling than reasons for discord. I therefore sustain attendance at and contribution to forums in the region for cycling and encourage the cycling lobby to recognise us as being 'on the same side'. This is particularly successful in Calderdale but difficult in Kirklees, as is everything else in Kirklees.

Public information media: - I have been consulted by teams in Bradford and Leeds who are putting together public information films and radio programmes on road safety. Draft scripts

have been shared with other MAG members and discussed in groups, resulting in constructive comments being returned to appreciative producers.

Motorcycle thefts: - There is more to do on this topic but others seem to be more active than me, so I again offer to support any MAG reps already engaging with the authorities on the subject. Meanwhile I frequently add in comments on secure parking whenever commenting on proposals being developed by Councils.

If anyone would find my support helpful please feel free to contact me direct on tom.lonsdale@mag-org or 07968107270

Web / Social Media & Secretary Officers Report (Marcus Houlden)

I'm planning on continuing as web and social media rep but I'll be standing down as secretary due to time constraints.

Web and Social Media

My report has to begin by acknowledging the work done by Andrew Meredith. His technical skills and experience were the backbone of Yorkshire MAG's web presence and he will be sorely missed.

From a regional point of view the social media aspect of things has been quietly ticking over. Local groups tend to provide their own Facebook groups and pages but I can provide technical assistance if needed. I continue to maintain the Yorkshire MAG website. This is a mostly static page with links to other groups. I also have FTP accounts for the Leeds and Bradford, York and Yorkshire MAG websites. These have been migrated to a new server and I'm coming up to speed with how it works.

Secretary

This has been a pretty straightforward role. I collate minutes at each meeting (with the assistance of Steve Travis) and publish them on the Yorkshire MAG website after being approved at the following meeting.

Finance Officer (Garry Timms)

I'll keep it brief. Administered the account for receipts from local groups and donations to central.

Submitted paper work to allow online banking for the account. Obtained the paper work to change the account name to just Yorkshire MAG and update the signatories.

Current balance is £2493.74

I am willing to stand for office again.

Press and Media (John Nettleship)

not in attendance and did not submit a report

Appendix B – Branch Officers Reports

East Yorkshire MAG (Garry Williams)

Overall, it has been a relatively quiet year in terms of branch activity. Twice monthly meetings have continued, with general attendance of between 10 and 15 people. We need to consider ways to try and encourage more to attend, possibly look at alternative venues, meeting night and maybe frequency of meetings.

Last September, the branch held the ever popular Spat Rally at Brighton Ferry. Special thanks go to Lauren, Megan and Paddy Roach for all their hard work in organising the event which allowed the branch to make a donation of £5,000 to MAG.

At our AGM in October, all existing officers volunteered to continue in post for another year. Thanks go to Rich Suddaby and his group for travelling from York to observe the meeting.

With key members of the branch missing on holiday in New Zealand, we held a low key Fred Hill run in February this year, with nine bikes following the traditional route through Hull. Watch for details of the 2024 memorial ride in February, when we will be back to full strength.

The stand has had two outings this year, to the Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln as part of the InSpire event in May, and the regular pitch at the Hornsea Bike Event in August. Full credit to MAG stalwart Ron Gillard for continuing to take the time and effort to take the stand out and spread the word.

Social events have been few and far between this year. The branch put on a band for a farewell bash to thank the manager of the Foresters for her hospitality to MAG on her departure from the pub in June. Sadly, in common with other recent social nights, it wasn't particularly well supported, and the branch have decided pause these for the time being.

On Saturday October 21st, the branch is to host one of the national MAG Fight Motorcycle Theft Events in Hull. The event will start at 1pm at the Alexandra Pub function room, 69 Hessle Road, Hull. Speakers are Humberside PCC Jonathan Evison, senior officers from Humberside police and Colin Brown from MAG with a Q and A session to follow.

Other Forthcoming Events:

September 15th to 17th - Spat Back Outta Hull Rally. We return to the Brighton Ferry, some tickets still available at the time of writing, priced at £15. Paddy, Lauren and Megan have done all the hard work once again, even sorting some event T shirts to buy over the weekend.

October 26th - East Yorkshire MAG AGM. To follow on from the regular branch meeting, starting at 8pm at the Foresters Arms, Beverley.

Huddersfield MAG (SallyAnne Slater)

The last 12 months have been very busy for Huddersfield MAG, in the main around celebrating Huddersfield MAG 30th Birthday & Motorcycle Action Group 50th Anniversary.

We raised a few funds along the way. We continue to hold a monthly Business Meeting and meet socially on a weekly basis. Attendance numbers are low, including attendance at Fundraising Events. Use it or Lose it.

August 2022

Huddersfield MAG PIE night

September 2022

Attended Chas' 80th Birthday at Wakefield MAG

Attended MAG AGC

October 2022

Tolson Bike Show – MAG stand

Yorkshire Region meeting

Huddersfield MAG Emergency AGM – Glennys Scrivener stood down as Branch Rep, SallyAnne Slater was elected Branch Rep.

November 2022

Kirklees Council Cabinet meeting – regarding road speed reduction. Thank you to John Proctor for representing MAG.

Site visit in North Kirklees regarding secure motorcycle parking

Kirklees transportation meeting regarding the public transportation hub (online)

January 2023

Meeting with members of Kirklees Council to restore dialogue. Thank you, Tom Lonsdale, for pushing for this.

Huddersfield MAG Christmas Do

LABMAG Comedy Night

March 2023

Yorkshire Region Meeting – presented a cheque for £500

Another Huddersfield MAG Pie Night

April 2023

Motorbikes and Mountains – a presentation by Tom Lonsdale.

May 2023

Campout weekend at Tan Hill Inn. Live music and a fabulous rideout. This was my personal highlight of the year.

June 2023

Yorkshire Region meeting

July 2023

Elland Carnival – participated in the procession.

Huddersfield MAG Top Box on Tour at South Yorkshire MAG Bike Show

Today we present Yorkshire MAG with a cheque for £500, taking our total annual donations to £1120. Huddersfield MAG current bank balance £231.83

Huddersfield MAG continues to promote National Campaigns whilst being actively involved in local issues. Our members attend and support other MAG events. Grateful thanks to the core group of loyal supporters.

Leeds and Bradford MAG (Keith Maven)

Not present and did not submit a report.

South Yorkshire MAG (Stuart Hatfield)

South Yorkshire MAG members have continued to lobby MP's and counsellors via Operation Earthquake, but to be fair their responses have not been encouraging especially councils who all want to be seen as green and almost blind to accepting anything other than electrification.

After many years as a MAG member and activist Richard Vivian has stepped down as political rep due to ill health, I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him well.

Derek Hawkes has taken up the mantle and is doing great work in challenging MP's on various subjects.

Bike nights are currently being well attended and the sale of burgers are a nice little earner to the point we will be in the position to make a nice contribution to fighting fund.

Planning for the top box sale next year is falling into place, we can confirm the 20th July 2024 as the date. We have secured some vendors already as well as a band, Face the Strange, which are a Pudding and Market favourite. Looking to host the 50th anniversary bike show which was ruined by the weather this year.

Wakefield MAG (Steve Travis)

Wakefield MAG have held a number of social and fundraising events throughout the year, including:

- **Wakefield Hospice Dark Peak Sportive cycle event marshalling (18th September 2022)** - In addition to marshalling the Wakefield Hospice 10K race, which we have done for more years than we can remember, the fundraising event organisers at the Wakefield Hospice asked for our assistance for their inaugural Dark Peak Sportive cycle event. The event had 3 different routes - 40km (standard route), 78km (hard route) and 177km (extreme route) and we had been tasked with marshalling some tricky points on the route which presented the biggest danger to the cycling competitors. The marshalling did work well and there were no incidents and all the cyclists were very grateful for the support we were giving them. A huge thanks to our 4 marshals who helped make the event run smoothly and incident free.
- **Chas' surprise Birthday Party (20th September 2022)** - Wakefield MAG stalwart, Deputy Rep, champion fund raiser and all round fine upstanding pillar of society, Mr Charles Milner Esq, was 80 in early September. We organised a surprise birthday bash for him at the Thatched House. We organised it all in secret, so he thought it was just a normal meeting. We had a great turnout of past and present members, together with a contingent from Huddersfield MAG. Absolutely cracking night and so glad we were able to pull it off as a total surprise In his thank you speech Chas was a little bit lost for words.

- **Zero electric motorcycle test ride event (23rd September 2022)** - Rep Steve and Deputy Rep Chas went to the test event at Not Your Average Bikes in Ossett (sadly no longer trading). We both test rode a Zero SR/S (fully faired 600cc 'equivalent' bike) and we both really enjoyed the test ride and it was a very nice bike to ride. However, at nearly 24 thousand pounds, I wont be buying one.
- **Bingo Night (25th October 2022)** - delighted to report the bingo night raised a total of £73.10, all of which goes into the MAG Fighting Fund a great result considering the sparse attendance (only 13 attended) !!!
- **Remembrance Sunday (13th November 2022)** - For the fourteenth consecutive year, we attended the City of Wakefield Remembrance Sunday parade and wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial on Wood Street, to pay our respects. Twelve Wakefield MAG members attended this, with six then attending the Mirfield Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service. We were there at the invitation of the RBLR (for the tenth year running) and our attendance helped swell the number of bikes to twelve, plus a further twelve scooters from the Mirfield Scooter Club
- **Biker Quiz Nite (29th November 2022)** – This was the 18th Wakefield MAG Biker Quiz Nite attended by 17 quiz contestants, who formed multiple teams representing Leeds & Bradford MAG and Wakefield MAG. Leeds MAG won (as usual). The quiz returned a small loss after the cost of the prizes had been deducted, as numbers were down on previous years. However, we sold lots of Christmas raffle tickets, all of which goes towards the MAG Fighting fund, so all swings and roundabouts in the grand scheme of things.
- **Christmas Do (3rd December)** - A Christmas Meal, proceeded and followed by several goblets of foaming ale, at the Thatched House
- **Christmas Toy Appeal for Kidzaware (13th December 2022)** – had a Christmas toy collection for Kidzaware, a local Wakefield based charity that the Branch has been proud to support for a number of years. Had a huge amount of toys donated, which Deputy Rep Chas presented to Kidzaware after the collection deadline
- **Christmas Hamper Raffle (13th December 2022)** - Our Grand Christmas Raffle was drawn on Tuesday 13th December with 19 prizes in total up for grabs, including the luxury Christmas hamper top prize. The top prize of the Luxury Christmas Hamper was won by Sally Johnson of Leeds MAG, who was absolutely delighted with her box of goodies. The 2022 Christmas Raffle made a hefty profit of £203.01, all of which goes to the MAG fighting Fund - A huge thank you to everyone who bought and sold tickets!!!!
- **Wakefield Branch 21st AGM (17th January 2023)** - The Wakefield & District Motorcycle Action Group Branch AGM was held in the Thatched House, on Tuesday 17th January 2023. This was our 21st AGM (and birthday). Steve was voted in as Rep / Chairman again (for the 20th time)
- **Post Christmas Auction (31st January 2023)** - Hosted our 18th Post Christmas Auction. Numbers attending were down on previous years we had a good amount of items donated, lots of quality bike gear, tools and accessories, amongst other 'obscure' items. The auction raised £260 for MAG and £65 each for Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes.

- **Wakefield Hospice 10K Race Marshalling (19th March 2023)** - Wakefield MAG have helped to marshal this popular event for more years than we care to remember, and our role is as mobile race marshals, looking after those competitors at the tail end of the race. We had five bikes this year but it was a struggle getting enough marshals and had to appeal to other groups (thanks to Jay from Huddersfield MAG for helping us out)
- **Bike Show at the Wakefield Gala (1st May 2023)** - Our popular bike show, at the Wakefield Gala at Clarence Park Arena, was held on May Day Bank Holiday Monday (1st May). Our MAG stand had a prize game and 1-90 raffle (to win £50) in addition to the standard MAG 'bumpf'. The bike show entrants started to roll in from about 10:30 onwards, lots of coming and goings throughout the day and at one point we counted over 40 bikes in attendance. At the time of the judging we had 15 odd bikes, 3 motorcycle combinations and a trike to choose from. The game and 1-90 raffle raised £85, all of which goes towards the MAG fighting fund. MAG Product sales raised a further £6.50 and donations totalled £12.43. We also signed up 4 new MAG members. Not bad for a days work. Last years tombola raised £134.17 but we did have less 'non-biker' visitors to our stand this year - the burger van which always brings a lot of people up to the top part of the arena (as it has the smallest queues) was noticeably absent this year, and we believe that kept people in the main arena.
- **Hornsea Bike Fest (13th August 2023)** – Three members had a rideout to Hornsea Bike Fest, meeting up with Ron and Jill who were manning the EY MAG stand at said event.

Other Branch Activity:

- Members attended and marshalled at all three Yorkshire MAG rallies.
- Five Wakefield and District MP's (out of a total of six) have been contacted as part of Operation Earthquake, with some non-responses and others just toeing the party line and effectively supporting the ban, including the Shadow Transport Minister.
- Monthly newsletters produced and posted on the website
- 2023 is quite significant for Wakefield MAG for we are 21 years old !!!; Significant also for MAG nationally as MAG is 50 years old this year !!! To help celebrate this monumental anniversary, we are hosting a Saturday Bike Day on **Saturday 9th September (12:00 - 17:00)** at the Thatched House, with a bike display / show in the car park, Steve the Landlord is laying on food (BBQ pulled beef & spicy meatballs and chips), we'll have our Wakefield MAG stand and the legendary Huddersfield MAG Top Box Sale (on tour) will be joining us so lots of opportunities to bag some bargain bike gear. We'll also have a tombola and prize raffle. And to top it all off, we have live music by top covers band, the Interiorz.

Bank A/C balance is: £863.21

Summary

Although we have done a lot during the year and raised a lot of money for the MAG Fighting Fund, things are not all rosy at Wakefield MAG:

- We have lost a number of active members, mainly due to health reasons and hanging up their leathers. However, we have not been able to replace them with new active members, meaning all the organisational effort now falls down to three people, which is not sustainable and leads to burnout.
- As an attempt to boost meeting attendance, we now only hold business meetings every other week, with socials on the others, in case business meetings were too boring for some (it wasn't my idea as Rep but I lost the vote). However, that hasn't worked as the socials are less well attended than business meetings, and we've had to stop the monthly social events because they were so poorly attended (bye bye our Bingo nights and quizzes etc – although still want to host the Biker Quiz Nite if possible)
- We don't hold monthly rideouts anymore as attendance on those had dropped right off, plus no one volunteered to be rideout co-ordinator at the 2023 AGM.
- The events we have hosted (as covered above) have all been down on numbers (May Day Bike Show being a notable exception though)
- We have struggled to get marshals (Wakefield MAG used to marshal the Blues tent at FYP, both nights, with six (different) marshals each night; this year we had one, on one night only).
- We used to have dozens of members at the Yorkshire MAG rallies (remember the size of the Wakefield MAG village at the YPR) – this year it's been a handful at best.
- We have had a few new faces at meetings over the year but despite making a point of welcoming them and talking to them, not a single one has made a return visit. This isn't unique to Wakefield reading other branch reports, but it's certainly a worrying trend. In all the voluntary clubs / groups, most have seen membership decline and a general lack of people willing to put themselves forward for committee positions and get involved.
- Meeting attendance is 6-8 on average, which isn't bad (circa 10% of our total membership which is the National average; however, pre-covid lockdown(s) we were 20% and a few years back we had more than 20 at most meetings).
- We desperately need new faces / blood. Hoping our forthcoming 21st Birthday Bash will generate a few new active members.

York MAG (Richard Suddaby)

We had our AGM in January which Garry Williams observed and Steve Travis attended.

The committee had some minor changes. We said goodbye to our political officer. His role wasn't filled. I have absorbed this role. We created two new roles. Ride coordinator and Events coordinator. The remaining roles remained the same.

In February we hosted our first Fred Hill Run. It was well attended. Roughly about a dozen bikes.

In March our branch and our local café, Strawberry Fields hosted our first Egg Run to support the childrens ward at York District Hospital. We raised over £1000. We spent £200 on items to donate. Triumph A1 Moto kindly offered to be a drop-off point for the general public to donate eggs. We managed to raise 250 eggs from the public. Local businesses also donated money. In total, we donated 250 eggs, activity books and, £810.

There was roughly about 65 bikes involved in the run from Strawberry Fields café to the hospital. We've already started planning our egg run for 2024 with Y&S hospital charity.

In April, we hosted our start of season showcase. Although we didn't raise money for ourselves, we feel like this was very beneficial for our reputation and relationships with local businesses. We had a local training school turn up, Whiteknights blood bikes, an up-and-coming motorcycle clothing brand, local Hydrographics business, and a local charity CMD Ride of Hope who we work very closely with. We have realised that we have drastically outgrown the café and will need to find a larger premises to host any further showcases. The café totally sold out of food. There was a steady stream of people all day we roughly estimate 200 - 300 people.

In May we hosted our rally Slaughtered in Cropton. We originally were going to axe the rally the next year. We had such positive feedback that we will continue to host SIC. We were intending on moving the rally to another location. Instead we are contemplating host two micro rallies next year. We have 39 turn up. This made us a little money but with the price of the other rallies we couldn't put our price too high for what was on offer.

June, nothing major outside of attending Farmyard party.

July, we had to cancel an away camping trip because of the weather.

August, again had been wet. However we attended Yorkshire Pudding and had a blast.

Going forwards;

September, camping in the lakes at Stonethwaite. We have made it public. We hope to meet up with some of Cumbria MAG.

November, camping at cropton beer festival and our 'End of year party' that will be held at a Victoria Vaults music venue.

December, branch Christmas drinks.

Branch report.

Politically we had a slow start to the year however, since our political rep left, I've picked up the pieces. I've liaised with York council. We have managed to get the council to agree to fit fixed security into the car parks that are lacking any fixed security for Motorcycles. However, this is very recent and the proof is in the pudding. They have agreed to it and have said they will give me a date very soon when the installations will happen.

I've been in contact with our MP Rachel Maskel and used the Operation Earthquake template to contact her. However, she didn't reply. I sent her a personal email and she replied within 15 minutes. She is very keen to have a meeting however this needs setting up. I have been in contact with her PA and I'm waiting for availability.

Since York is quite small, I have sent out feelers into North Yorkshire. I've been liaising with the Executive for transport at the newly formed North Yorkshire Council. We have been invited to be a stakeholder within their working group. Again, this is very recent. The North Yorkshire council are still finding their feet. However, communication has been very fast so I feel this might be positive.

York has had a local election and there has been some big position changes. Our Executive for Transport has changed. I used the above to my advantage when requesting York MAG to be put on a comparable stakeholder group and to meet the executive. Conclusion was yes and yes.

How do I feel our branch is doing?

Well, I think we're doing quite well at the minute in the aspect of recruiting new members and raising our profile. Every time we have a meeting there is somebody new. We had a very impromptu meeting this month, even with the short notice we still had three new potential members turn up. Two of them signed up. I would probably say we have about 30 branch members half of them are under 30. I think our reputation is getting bigger and in time i think this will generate an into raising money. As it stands, our main objective is to grow the branch. Our monthly rides out are getting popular too.

We are looking to relocate our branch meeting venue to a different pub on a different day. Hopefully if we have a majority it will be the same venue as our 'End of year party'.

Bank balance - £148