

mag-yorkshire-region-list@mag-uk.org

Yorkshire MAG newsletter Autumn 2022

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the Yorkshire MAG newsletter for Autumn.

Yorkshire Region AGM

The Yorkshire MAG Annual General Meeting was held at 7pm on Wednesday 10th August at Squires Cafe.

Elections were held for the 2022-23 Yorkshire MAG Committee and the following officers were elected/re-elected:

Regional Rep: [Steve Travis](#) (Wakefield MAG)

Vice Rep: Martin Burgess (Wakefield MAG)

Political Officer: [Tom Lonsdale](#) (Huddersfield MAG)

Secretary: Marcus Houlden (Leeds MAG)

Web/Social Officer: Marcus Houlden (Leeds MAG)

Treasurer: Garry Timms (South Yorkshire MAG)

Press/Media Officer: John Nettleship (Leeds MAG)

A huge thanks to [Richard Manny Manton](#), who has been the Yorkshire Regional Rep for many years, and will be a very tough act to follow. Manny won the Tony Berry Memorial Trophy, which is a Yorkshire Region award for outstanding services to the region - well done and much deserved !!!

A huge thank you to all the Yorkshire MAG members who attended the AGM, and there were a lot of you as the room was packed

MAG Annual General Conference

MAG's Annual General Conference for 2022 was held on Saturday 24th September at the Edward VII Working Men's Club, Allerton Bywater, Castleford, West Yorkshire.

This years AGC was quite poorly attended, with only just enough to form a quorum - No idea why, although possibly the lack of an evening post AGC party and nearby accommodation / camping may have put people off coming (the majority of attendee's were from Yorkshire, whereas there is usually a very good representation from all regions of the UK).

The attendees were '*treated*' to presentations from Lembit Opik (Director of Communications and Public Affairs), Colin Brown (MAG's Director of Campaigns and Political Engagement), Ian Churchlow (FEMA / Climate Fundamentalism), Neil Liversedge (Operation Earthquake) and MAG El Presidente, Ian Mutch. Election wise, all the National

Officers and Directors up for election / re-election were unopposed so were elected / returned unopposed.

Finance wise, MAG has had more income from membership fees as membership has increased by 16% but donations are down from pre-covid levels as is insurance commission. However, costs have gone up without increased usage, which in the current climate is no surprise. Paper and postage costs have skyrocketed making producing the members magazine Open Road that much more expensive. The Central office lease has increased by 32%. Net result is MAG has made a loss this last year.

Work is ongoing to contain costs but the difficult decision has had to be made to increase the annual membership fees, which was ratified by the conference delegates. Individual membership will now be £30 and joint membership £45. The last time membership costs were increased was 2014, so one could argue it was somewhat overdue.

Finally, the Awards, in which Yorkshire MAG was well represented.

- **Media Award:** Stuart Fillingham
- **Certificates of Merit:**
 - Weeble (Of Weeble's World Graphic Design)
 - Sandy Moon of Brighton MAG
 - Sally Johnson of Leeds and Bradford MAG
 - Carol Ferrari of MAG Central
- **Honorary Life Membership:**
 - Selina Lavender
 - Linz Foody of Huddersfield MAG
 - Kevin 'Kev-Kev' Winship of York MAG
- **The Steve Tannock Teamwork Award:** Richard Suddaby, Richard Thompson, Charlie Cleeve, Dan Pingstone, Liam Wilson and Patrick Meagher (The York MAG Committee)
- **The Bald Eagle Award For The Biggest Increase in Membership:** Northern Ireland Region for a 58.7% Increase
- **The Richard Tegg award:** Julian Jc Quinton (Southeast MAG Deputy Rep)
- **The Fred Hill Freedom Award:** George Legg, Research Volunteer, Western Region
- **The Chairman's Award:** Michael Armstrong, Cumbria Regional Rep, and National Political Officer

Anne Gale was elected as Joint Vice-President for Life to sit with Vice President Colin Ives.

Yorkshire Region Meeting

The next Yorkshire Region meeting will be held on Monday 17th October at 19:30 in the Thatched House, 434 Aberford Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4AA. The meeting will finish by 21:00 given it's a school night.

The Yorkshire Committee decided on evening meetings, one a quarter, so that they don't cut into precious weekends and Monday's given no Yorkshire MAG branch meets on a Monday.

Every Yorkshire MAG member is very welcome to attend and have a say in how your region is run. Hope to see you there.

Accident Data

An excellent relationship exists between MAG and key officers at Calderdale Council, which has proved itself pro-bike recently with opening of all bus lanes to PTW access along with a positive statement about encouraging modal shift away from cars. Calderdale's Road Safety Officer, Ian Turner, is particularly helpful and feeds lots of useful information through to me. A recent example is the PTW casualty data for the last year, which makes interesting and slightly depressing reading! Two things stand out::

1. By far the majority of PTW riders injured are either definitely or probably quite inexperienced and predominantly on small capacity machines
2. Regardless of blame apportionment the PTW rider always comes off worst in terms of injuries, both in collisions with other vehicles and as sole vehicle involved

There is the usual crop of SMIDSY collisions caused by car drivers but they don't dominate. Regardless of circumstance the biker still comes off worst.

One is left thinking that most injuries could be avoided if the rider were to have better judgement but, sadly, that only comes with experience and some don't survive long enough to gain that experience.

The other conclusion is that it emphasises the vulnerability of motorcyclists, making it all the more frustrating that the recent Highway Code rewrite virtually failed to mention our presence in that list, let alone make any specific recommendations. Until that changes we have to accept the reality that the most important single aspect of motorcycling is to anticipate all eventualities and take preemptive avoiding action: e.g. slow down and prepare to react, even when you have the right of way, as if every other driver cannot see you until you are certain they have.

The data included two serious injury cases involving young males on stolen bikes but I do not categorise them as 'motorcyclists': what they steal is more likely to be as much down to chance as a liking for motorbikes. If they do choose a motorbike to steal they are voluntarily increasing the risk to themselves and the main source of what sympathy I have for them is to do with the nature of their upbringing that turns them to crime. For us we have the other reality to address, which is that nowhere near enough is yet being done to eliminate bike theft and, until it is, we have to accept the injustice of spending extra money on deterrents and maintaining vigilance.

Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations (FEMA) Press Release

British riders oppose the ban of new petrol-powered motorcycles.

After the British government recently proposed to stop the sale of new non-zero emission motorcycles from 2035, both British motorcyclists' organisations – Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) and British Motorcyclists Federation (BMF) have clearly expressed their views.

Read the full article > www.femamotorcycling.eu/brits-oppose-ban-on-petrol-bikes

MAG's stance is taken from a survey asking riders views on the subject. The vast majority of responders to the survey (which included MAG and non-MAG members) were against the ban, which will contribute nothing to net zero, but will severely curtail bikers chosen way of life and freedom of choice. Interestingly, FEMA also did a survey of European motorcyclists which showed the exact same result as the UK survey i.e. no to a ICE ban for bikes and scooters. FEMA, for the moment at least, are very much sitting on the fence and falling short of opposing a Europe wide ban, and therefore, not really representing the views of European motorcyclists. Time will tell if their position will change.

Magic Action Promotions (MAP) Annual General Meeting

The MAP AGM will be held on Saturday the 15th of October 2022 starting at 1PM at The Market Inn, Wentworth Road, Elsecar, Barnsley, S748EP.

MAP is the Limited Company, formed by Yorkshire MAG which runs the three Yorkshire rallies – Into the Valley, Farmyard Party and Yorkshire Pudding Rally.

At 1PM the company AGM will take place where the company finances will be discussed, and the directors can be ratified, and the MD can be voted for. After the company AGM there will be a short break and then a rundown about the three 2022 rallies and ideas for the rallies in 2023.

N.B. Attendance at the MAP AGM is restricted to MAP rally marshals.

Link to The Network MAG activists newsletter

https://wiki.mag-uk.org/images/4/47/Network_2022-10.pdf

The November and December editions of Network will be published at the start of each month and can be accessed with the above link (substitute the 10 (for October) with 11 & 12 for November and December respectively).

Branch Reports:

Garry Williams - East Yorkshire Rep

Over in East Yorkshire, things remain quiet, meetings continue twice a month with a healthy attendance, but we could really do with seeing some new faces every now and again.

I finally got a response from Humberside Police in respect of the status of Operation Yellowfin given the level of bike theft in Hull and the East Riding which remains rife in the area.

The police indicated Yellowfin was still operational, stressing visibility was only one part of the operation which also includes intelligence gathering and analysis, complex investigations, targeting offenders and locations, supported by colleagues in CID, traffic and patrol. When teams are deployed, it is done so on a place based and intelligence led basis, and we have to ensure the efficient use of resources and deploy these where intelligence and information states the offenders are likely to be.

Whilst there is some comfort that the police do appear to be actively trying to tackle the problem, it is clear that the effectiveness is limited with countless bikes continuing to be stolen. The onus really is on us as riders to do all we can to make our bikes as secure as possible.

Over the weekend of 16th to 18th September, the branch hosted the annual Spat rally at the Breigton Ferry. The rally was again a great success, with around 350 people in attendance and allowed the branch to make a donation of £5,000 to the MAG fighting fund at the recent AGC. Particular thanks have to go to Lauren and Megan Roche, along with their dad Paddy for the organisation of the event and sorting the marshal rota. Thanks also to those of you who gave up part of your weekend to marshal the gate or help clear the site on Sunday. Firm arrangements have yet to be made for 2023, but you may want to keep your diary clear for the same weekend next year....

The East Yorkshire MAG AGM is scheduled to take place following our regular meeting on Thursday 27th October. It would be great to see as many of you at the meeting as possible to help shape the direction of the branch, or perhaps even get involved by volunteering for one of the officer roles. If you would like to know more about any of the roles, and what they entail, feel free to give current rep Garry a ring on 07572 103944. If you are planning to attend the meeting, don't forget to bring your current membership card to vote.

Glennys Scrivener - Huddersfield MAG rep

Huddersfield MAG held another famous PIE Night on 18th August. We raised £159.00 for MAG funds and it was great to see many friends from different MAG groups.

We were going to have a stall at the Friends of Tolson Museum Motorbike show on 10th September but due to the death of Her Majesty Queen this was called off due to the

period of National Mourning. A few people had been asking if this was to go ahead and we were advised that it would be rescheduled for Sunday 9th October .

Sunday morning dawned with a stiff breeze and the hardy bunch of Sal, Cam, Graeme, Mark, Linz, John & Pat braved an early start to put up the MAG stall at Tolson Museum. Many bikes old, new, even an ex BSB racing bike turned up (in a van as it still had its racing well-worn slicks on). Coffees, teas and hot chocolates were drunk, bacon butties and cheeseburgers were consumed, discussions on “should I buy a new battery as the wretched thing would start today ” along with “just come back from a trip round Europe and the bike didn’t miss a beat ” to “I have only been riding for 6 weeks & I love it” were a few snippets of overheard conversations during the day. Sal signed up a new member and we managed not to lose any leaflets when a sudden gust of wind upended the organisers gazebo, which hadn’t been fastened down, thanks to blue tac and strategically placed sweet tins. Thanks again to everyone who came down.

6 members of Huddersfield attended the AGC on the 25th and it would be remiss of me not to add the following comments which I have found hard to put into words.

Huddersfield MAG has had concerns over the recent publication that MAG put out The 2035 ban – MAG’s Fighting Response and the 29 page document that backed it up. The group had questions and wanted answers but we wanted to wait until we had attended the AGC

At the AGC in the response to the Chair’s speech on Operation Earthquake a question was asked by myself and the chair replied. As a result of the question and its response I felt that I had no option to walk out of the room and advise that I could no longer support MAG’s policies as a Rep and that I would be cancelling my membership - *This still stands and, as a result, Huddersfield MAG has called an emergency meeting on Wednesday 26th October where we will be asking for volunteers to stand as Rep & Treasurer.*

Such were our concerns from the AGC that our group sent a number of questions to the National Committee, via the Yorkshire Regional Rep, and at the time of writing this report we have had the courtesy of replies and we are in the process of working through the received responses.

Manny - Leeds and Bradford MAG rep

The Leeds and Bradford MAG annual toy run to Lineham Farm children’s centre will be happening again in early December. We are just awaiting confirmation of the actual date from the staff at the centre before publicising it.

This year we’re asking for a maximum cost of £8 per gift and if you can wrap them and mark as boy/girl/either, that would be appreciated. This year you can drop toys off at a LABMAG meeting, on the evening at the meeting point of Cardigan Fields car park (behind McDonalds on Kirkstall Road), at Leeds Motorcycle MOT Centre, where Roseanne will happily save your gifts to pass on to us, or join us on the night to ride up to Lineham Farm to deliver, hopefully, lots of prezziess to the kids.

The Leeds and Bradford MAG Christmas meal is planned for Friday 9th December from 7pm in the Cardigan Arms on Kirkstall Road. We'll then be going to the Sheesh Mahal Indian restaurant for 8.30 for a fantastic meal then back to The Cardi for post meal drinks. All MAG members welcome but we need numbers in advance so a £10 deposit at a LABMAG meeting is required to save your place.

We are having another Comedy Night in the upstairs room at The Royal hotel in Pudsey. This will be on Tuesday 24th January from 8pm and tickets will be on sale soon. It's always a great night and everyone will be welcome.

LABMAG are extremely concerned about the rise in motorcycle theft throughout Leeds and Bradford. We've just received the yearly theft figures and yet again it has risen year on year! We have approached the police for a meeting to discuss the problem but haven't heard back as this newsletter goes out. Watch this space!

Leeds and Bradford MAG AGM will be held on Thursday 16th February from 8pm at The Royal. After 13 years as rep, Manny is stepping down and we need someone to step up and take the group forward.

Stuart Hatfield - South Yorkshire rep

We are composing a letter to the South Yorkshire Police Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner stating our concern of the level of bike thefts in our region, and also highlighting that the gangs are now targeting the larger capacity motorcycles.

One of our members recently had his bike stolen from outside his work and was threatened with stabbing with a screwdriver when being confronted, which is a serious escalation in the level of crime.

We will also soon be announcing a date for our Annual General Meeting which is likely to be in November. We urge as many paid up MAG members residing in South Yorkshire to attend and have their say and also get involved in branch activities.

Steve Travis - Wakefield MAG rep

In addition to marshaling 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 Dark Peak Sportive cycle event which was held on Sunday 18th September. 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. We were certainly needed as the Holme Moss junction is at an extreme angle, making visibility onto the busy Woodhead pass difficult. You just know it is a bit of an accident blackspot when you look behind the dry stone wall and see a huge collection

of broken headlights, bumpers and other mangled car parts. This was also where the extreme route parted company (by turning right) from the hard route, who took a left turn. 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.

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 on Tuesday 20th September at 20:00 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 Happy 80th Birthday Chas, and I hope I'm still biking at 80 :-)

Wakefield MAG have a number of social and fundraising events this Autumn, including:

- **Bingo Night** - Eyes Down for another Fun Filled Night of Bingo !!! Cash and Prize Bingo, and lot's of hilarity guaranteed. All profits to the MAG Fighting Fund. The excitement starts at 20:00 at the Thatched House, Stanley, Wakefield, on Tuesday 25th October.
- **Christmas Hamper Raffle** - Following the undoubted success of our Christmas raffles in 2019 and 2021, we are hosting another Christmas Hamper Raffle for 2022 with the chance to win a luxury hamper plus other prizes. The tickets will be printed shortly and should be available to buy from mid-October. Tickets will be £1 each (although Chas prefers to sell a book at a time for £5 ;-) and will be drawn at the Wakefield MAG meeting on Tuesday 13th December at 20:00. All proceeds to the MAG Fighting Fund for the on-going protection of your freedom to ride your motorcycle. Please buy some and let's boost the MAG coffers.
- **Biker Quiz Nite** - The legendary and hugely popular annual Wakefield MAG Bikers Quiz Nite will be held at 20:00 on Tuesday 29th November 2022 at the Thatched House, 434 Aberford Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4AA. We are planning a few changes to the format this year but there will still be 60 questions, 30 of which will be motorcycle related and 30 will be general knowledge. The quiz is hotly contested throughout Yorkshire. Open to All. £1 entry fee p.p. Team (Max. 5) or individual entry. Great prizes for the winners (1st, 2nd & 3rd), plus booby prize for the least number of correct answers. And just for a change All proceeds to the MAG Fighting Fund ;-)
- **Christmas Do** - Saturday 3rd December. A Christmas Meal, proceeded and followed by several goblets of foaming ale, at the Thatched House
- **Tuesday 17th January 2023** - Wakefield Branch 21st AGM - The branch will be 21 years old !!!!
- **Tuesday 31st January 2023** - Post Christmas Auction. Got lots of unwanted Christmas presents ? Got items that are of use/value but you don't have the space for them any more ? Prepared to donate them for a good cause ? Bring them along to the Wakefield MAG 'Post Christmas Auction' where they will be raffled

off to the highest bidder, with all the proceeds being donated to MAG and other worthy causes. 20:00 in the Thatched House.

Richard Suddaby - York MAG rep

York MAG held a showcase on 26th August to help support Yorkshire Air Ambulance, White Knight blood bikers and a local charity Congenital myotonic Dystrophy aka Ride Of Hope. Also in attendance were Not Your Average Bikes showcasing some electric bikes. York MAG managed to raise £50 with a kind donation of £50 from Strawberry Fields cafe to total £100, YAA raised £128.12, White Knights raised £69 and CMD raised £110.

Upcoming events in York MAGs calendar York MAG Christmas Party will be held on 26th November at their local, The Black Swan Inn, Peasholme Green, York. There will be live music by Kelly Ann Bolland. For further information please check their social media.

Next year York MAG will be returning to Cropton for their micro rally Slaughtered In Cropton. The date to save 19th - 21st May 2023. Live music is an edition to this years event. Tickets to go on sale soon.

Other news York MAG have been in talks with City of York Council with regards to improvements to council owned carparks. Several carparks were highlighted that need better or some security such as a fixed rail, cctv and also some motorcycle bays that require reconfiguration to make them more suitable to encourage use especially since their council admitted they want cars out of the city centre in a previous meeting. These ideas were proposed to CYC Head of parking officer Graham Titchener. They await a solid answer.

York MAG host a monthly ride out on the first Sunday of each month throughout the year starting at Strawberry Fields cafe the next being 6th November.

Their monthly branch meeting is held at The Black Swan Inn every third Friday of each month the next being 21st October.

For further information on York MAGs events, outings or any other topic please check their Facebook - YorkMAGcommunity, their website York.mag-uk.org or attend one of their meetings.

2023 Yorkshire Rallies

The dates to nail into your diaries for next year are:

- 23rd Into The Valley – 28th - 30th April 2023. Venue To Be Confirmed
- 35th (YES 35th!!!!) Farmyard Party - 16th - 18th June . Duncombe Park, Helmsley
- 20th Yorkshire Pudding Rally - 4th - 6th August August . Escrick Park, Nr York

For any enquiries call 0800 988 3199.

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND TICKETS WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM TUES NOV 1st 2022 (www.magicactiononline.co.uk)

Local group meetings

Your local groups are the lifeblood of MAG and the best way for you to get the most from your MAG membership. All have a full calendar of meetings, ride outs and events and we all try to support each other, so come along and say hello. You'll be glad you did.

East Yorkshire MAG meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 8pm at The Forresters Arms HU17 0PR

Huddersfield MAG meet every Wednesday from 8.30pm at The Fieldhead HD3 4FB

Leeds and Bradford MAG meet every 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday from 8pm at The Royal Hotel LS28 8PR

South Yorkshire MAG meet every Thursday at The Market, 2 Wentworth Rd, Elsecar, Barnsley S74 8EP from 7pm

Wakefield MAG meet every Tuesday from 8.00 at The Thatched House, 434 Aberford Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4AA

York MAG - Third Friday of each month from 7:30pm at The Black Swan, Peasholme Green, YO1 7PR.