



Yorkshire MAG newsletter Autumn 2023

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 Yorkshire MAG newsletter.

Contents

Yorkshire Region AGM

MAG Annual Group Conference

Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) Ban – Operation Earthquake

MAG's Position Statement on the Climate Change Debate

Blanket Speed Restrictions

Riding Schools Initiative

Link to The Network MAG activists newsletter

Fight Motorcycle Theft Roadshow comes to God's Own County

MAG Podcasts

Yorkshire MAG Rally Dates

Branch Reports

Local group meetings

Lot's has been happening in the region and nationally since the last newsletter in the summer. Read on

Yorkshire Region AGM

The Yorkshire Region AGM was held on Wednesday 6th September (19:30 - 21:00) at Squires Cafe, Newthorpe Lane, Newthorpe, Leeds LS25 5LX. A fantastic turnout for the Yorkshire AGM and the function room at Squires was pretty much full. The Region officers and Branch Reps gave their respective reports (see minutes on the Yorkshire MAG website - <https://yorkshire.mag-uk.org/resources/>) then it was time for the nominations and election of Regional Officers for 2023/24. Your Yorkshire MAG committee for 2023/24 is, cue drum roll:

- Yorkshire Regional Rep - Steve Travis
- Yorkshire Vice Rep - Martin Burgess
- Yorkshire Political Officer - Tom Lonsdale
- Yorkshire Secretary - Oliver Rose
- Web / Social Media officer - Marcus Houlden
- Treasurer - Garry Timms

- Press and Media Officer - Vacant (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)

This is virtually unchanged from last year with the exception of Secretary - many thanks to Marcus Houlden who held this role in 2022/23, and thanks to Oliver Rose who has stepped into the breach for 2023/24.

Thank you for your trust in me by re-electing me as Regional Rep. I did say at the AGM that you have a golden opportunity to get rid of me if you thought I was the shittest regional rep in living memory and you still voted for me LOL

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 !!!

In Any Other Business (AOB) it was agreed how much would be donated to Central at the forthcoming MAG AGC. It was agreed to leave £1,000 in the Yorkshire MAG account, and donate the remainder, which was due to be boosted by donations from Wakefield MAG and £500 from Huddersfield MAG which was donated at the AGM itself. In the end we were able to make a £3,200 donation to Central on behalf of Yorkshire MAG (See below).

MAG Annual Group Conference

MAG's 2023 Annual Group Conference (AGC) was held on Saturday 23rd September at Balliol Hall, West Huntspill in deepest Somerset, hosted by Sarah Poole and Taunton MAG. A good turnout at this years AGC, more were there than at last year's AGC in Allerton Bywater, which was held right on our doorstep.

Bit of a killer trip to get there with lengthy hold ups on the M42 and M5, taking 6 hours to get there (Sat Nav had estimated 4 !!!), but sensibly, most of us had opted to come the day before and stay locally overnight. Five Yorkshire MAG members made the trip south for what was MAG's 50th Annual Group Conference.

Everyone present contributed thoughtfully and played a full part in our policymaking. I am sincerely grateful to all our members and extend my warmest congratulations to all those whose efforts were acknowledged in the awards ceremony, in which Yorkshire featured heavily:

- Yorkshire MAG received a Certificate of Merit



- no less than three Yorkshire MAG members received honorary life membership
- Chas Milner of Wakefield MAG member was awarded the Fred Hill Freedom Award

As Yorkshire Region Rep, I was also pleased to make a £3,200 donation to Central on behalf of Yorkshire MAG, as voted on at our recent Yorkshire MAG AGM.

Way to go Yorkshire MAG !!!!

You can watch the highlights at this link: <https://fb.watch/nIV2jsQp-K/>

Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) Ban – Operation Earthquake

A huge **THANK YOU** to all the Yorkshire MAG members who have written to their MP's following the appeal in the June region newsletter. We have gone from 34.5% of the regions MP's lobbied to **76%** !!! This is a tremendous response to a MAG lobby appeal !!!

Nationally, we are second only to Cumbria (at 83%) in terms of MP's lobbied in the region – To put it in perspective however, Cumbria has only 6 MP's whereas Yorkshire has 54 !!! Yorkshire MAG members are awesome !!!!

You may have seen the recent government announcement that the Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) ban on new vehicles has been delayed from 2030 to 2035 !!! Has Operation Earthquake Phase 1 been a success ? well, we did lobby the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as he is an MP in our region, amongst many many others did he (and others) listen to our very valid concerns ? I'd very much like to think so. However, scratch the surface and you'll see the recent announcement is all smoke and mirrors.

The Government published it's response to the Zero Emmission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate on the 28th September 2023 confirming that it will go through as proposed but with a minor tweak for vans. This is despite the headline announcements of the 2030 date being delayed to 2035.

The quotas for cars and vans are as follows:

Table 1: annual targets for ZEV sales shares from 2024 to 2035 for cars

Year	Target
2024	22%
2025	28%
2026	33%
2027	38%
2028	52%
2029	66%
2030	80%
2031	84% (*)
2032	88% (*)
2033	92% (*)
2034	96% (*)
2035	100% (*)

Table 2: annual targets for ZEV sales shares from 2024 to 2035 for vans

Year	Target
2024	10%
2025	16%
2026	24%
2027	34%
2028	46%
2029	58%
2030	70%
2031	76% (*)
2032	82% (*)
2033	88% (*)
2034	94% (*)
2035	100% (*)

(*) Target will be set out in future legislation later in the decade.

This applies to cars and vans from 2024, but not yet motorcycles. Manufacturers will face hefty fines if they fail to meet the sales quotas, effectively enforcing electric vehicles on us. The announced delay of the ban to 2035 is largely immaterial in the face of the ZEV mandate, and it is feared that motorcycles will have a similar mandate applied when they finally announce the outcome allegedly this autumn.

It is felt likely that they will stick with 2035 as the date for all motorcycles dropping the 2030 date for smaller bikes, but in the face of the ZEV mandate manufacturers will be **forced** to phase out the petrol models up to 125cc simply to meet the quota obligations. This will effectively force the removal of choice for 125cc sooner than 2030 which would be a dramatically worse outcome than a straight ban in 2030. Learners will be learning on twist and go electric but how will they then transition to geared bikes? Sales of illegal e-bikes, and no doubt increased levels of associated antisocial behaviour by unlicensed riders will further diminish the public perception of motorcycling and we will face ever more calls for restriction of our freedoms.

Most members of the public are blissfully unaware of the ZEV mandate - **we all need to shine a light on it, at least in the riding community so that they wake up to the implications.** This is **NOT GOOD NEWS** at all. Currently, the cheapest new ICE car in the UK is £12,500, whereas the cheapest new BEV is £20,000. A mid-size 600cc ICE bike starts at around £6,500 whereas a Zero SR/S (fully faired 600cc 'equivalent' electric bike) is nearly £24,000 (and this is before the market is artificially restricted). Anyone got a spare 24 grand for a 600cc 'equivalent' electric motorbike !?!?!?!? No, me neither.

Also, the ZEV mandate effectively stifles the development and use of alternative fuels. The EU have recently compromised on their 2035 ban by allowing internal combustion engines as long as they burn carbon-neutral petrol 'e-fuel' alternatives. This is a significant development and means existing vehicles and re-fuelling infrastructure can be utilised, which will obviously save billions of Euros in the transition to greener transport. An eminently sensible compromise. The UK must follow the lead set by the EU.

Also worthy of note, the Labour Party at their recent annual conference announced that it was to reverse the Government's decision and reinstate the 2030 ban for new ICE vehicle sales, should it become the governing party in next years General Election. Oh dear.

Next Steps

Phase 2 of Operation Earthquake will be announced shortly and will focus on party pledges and policy for the forthcoming UK General Election in a years time. MAG, together with our lobbying partners, will make ICE an election issue. Enforced electrification of personal transport will hit everyone very very hard in the pocket. Whatever the outcome of next years General Election, MAG is fighting to maintain your freedom of choice for the power train of new motorcycles, from 2030 onwards.

Keep the lines of communication open with your MP and ask them to support no ZEV quotas for motorcycles and to follow the EU lead and allow carbon-neutral petrol 'e-fuel' alternatives for new ICE vehicle sales going forward.

Published results of the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-zero-emission-vehicle-zev-mandate-and-co2-emissions-regulation-for-new-cars-and-vans-in-the-uk/outcome/zero-emission-vehicle-zev-mandate-consultation-summary-of-responses-and-joint-government-response#joint-response-to-summary-of-responses>

MAG's Position Statement on the Climate Change Debate

MAG has been accused of being a climate change denier through it's campaigning activity opposing the Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) ban. This is an attempt to close down rational debate (which is very dangerous in a democratic society) and is akin to labelling someone as a racist if they speak out about illegal economic migration. It's a lazy counter-argument, and one thrown out to try and discredit anyone who dares to question the flimsy basis on which flawed policy decisions are being made.

However, to set the case straight, MAG's National Committee has agreed the following Position Statement on the Climate Change Debate:

MAG accepts Earth's climate is changing and has been since the planet formed. With the population growth of modern times, it would be surprising if humanity had not contributed to that change. The resulting issues must be thoroughly considered, and the policies developed in response should be based on sound information. All legitimate interests must also be given fair consideration. That can only happen if the debate is free, open, fair, and honest. Suppressing free speech, as some parties are attempting, is unacceptable in a democratic society, and in practical terms, rushing to a conclusion and then attempting to close down the debate, is not the best way to identify or solve any problem. Indeed, it is likely to result in worse outcomes. The Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change (IPCC) itself has stated that there is considerable uncertainty as to what difference human activity has made to the climate and has warned against narratives exaggerating the anthropogenic effect.

MAG's Position

- MAG believes that choice in personal and public transport is an essential element of a free society and opposes any measures that restrict or have the effect of restricting that choice to any form of elite.
- MAG supports investment in and improvement of public transport systems to encourage a voluntary reduction in the use of private vehicles. Specifically, MAG calls for the construction of a nationwide 24/7 fully electrified public transport system (trains trams and trolleybuses) and investment in the new infrastructure required to support the same, including, specifically, a fixed bridge and/or tunnel link to Northern Ireland.
- MAG considers that the threatened ban removes the commercial incentive for development of new/improved internal combustion engine (ICE) technology and synthetic fuels, thereby effectively halting development of the ICE.
- MAG welcomes developments in green propulsion technology and fuels, believing that more choice allows society to select the vehicle and fuel source appropriate to their individual needs. MAG says, 'Let the free market work.'
- MAG opposes the forced scrapping of serviceable vehicles, either by legislation or financial coercion as is currently being practiced by London's Mayor, as counterproductive, discriminatory, and hostile to those on lower incomes.
- MAG holds that internal combustion engine-powered vehicles (ICEVs) should continue to be freely available for purchase so long as there is a market for them. Motorcycling is arguably the most efficient and least polluting way of using fossil fuel power, and it should therefore be encouraged by policymakers.
- MAG holds that motorcycles are part of the solution to the environmental challenges we face. As a single-track vehicle that takes up little road space, produces a negligible proportion of overall emissions, and with a relatively modest price point, the motorcycle offers enormous advantages and efficiencies. Just a 10% switch of users from cars to motorcycles would reduce congestion by 40% with a commensurate overall reduction in emissions of all pollutants (Source - The Belgian Transport & Mobility Leuven Study).

UK National Security and that of the Free Liberal Democracies

Forcing a wholesale shift to battery electric power threatens the UK's national security along with that of the entire free world, by giving countries that are both aggressive and expansionist the added advantage of tremendous economic savings, at the same time as they themselves refuse to adopt economically crippling emissions reduction targets.

Conclusion

MAG has never denied that climate change is a reality. Earth's climate has changed constantly and will no doubt continue to do so. However, how our modern way of life has contributed to this change over the last 250 years is a legitimate subject for debate, as is the degree to which change can be ameliorated by abandoning an energy source that has been of enormous benefit to humanity. It is perfectly legitimate for us to engage in the climate debate, and we shall continue to do so, however loudly the enemies of free speech, reasoned argument, and critical thinking may protest.

Blanket Speed Restrictions

You will no doubt have heard of the blanket speed restriction of 20MPH recently imposed across all villages, town and cities throughout Wales. Next is the Wirral and coming soon to a town near you !!!!

You may want to sign the Welsh Government petition to overturn this ban:

<https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/245548>. This has nearly half a million signatures and is the fastest growing petition ever to be launched, such is the opposition to the 20MPH limit across Wales.

These limits will sneak in everywhere if we do not oppose them, despite whatever the Prime Minister has to say about stopping the war on the motorist (as can be seen above he may have moved the ICE ban date to 2035, but the ZEV mandate will still force you into an electric vehicle against your will, much sooner than you may think).

Watch the Youtube video at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPRYOVzu06A>

This video uncovers the scam behind the speed restrictions being imposed against our will - and it's NOT just about the 20mph limit - watch it right to the end, it's thought provoking stuff.

Riding Schools Initiative

Yorkshire MAG are trialling a new rider recruitment initiative with participating riding schools. New riders will be offered a 50% discount (for one year only) for a MAG membership upon a test pass (CBT or A/A1/A2) – A 'Welcome to the world of motorcycling with MAG'. They will receive the digital version of the Open Road magazine as part of this deal, although they can upgrade to the printed magazine if they contribute the other 50% of the membership fee should they so wish. The training schools would either fund this

themselves (via a modest hike in the training cost), or it's paid for by the fledgling rider themselves.

Selected training schools only will be targeted with this initiative - these will be those who have a very enthusiastic MAG member trainer who will be prepared to actively push this deal to prospective members. This is to avoid the stack of flyers in the corner of the office actively gathering dust because no one is pushing it.

Participating training schools will receive lots of publicity and promotion through Social Media and MAG websites. MAG will also provide guidance to new riders on these platforms as the licencing process isn't particularly straightforward and it is a bit of a minefield if you are new to biking and don't know who to ask. Learn to ride with these MAG supporting training schools, 'Welcome to the world of motorcycling with MAG', with 50% off your first year of MAG membership, which brings all these membership benefits and discounts

This initiative is the brainchild of York MAG Rep, Richard Suddaby. He's contacted three local bike schools who have all agreed to participate. In fact, one of those immediately offered a 10% discount for MAG members on their training courses and another already offers a discount for members.

Richard recently attended a York University Motorcycle Society meeting where this new rider scheme was outlined. The members, who were all either new licence holders or going through training, all said they would definitely join MAG at the new rider discount of 50% / £15. There certainly does seem to be enthusiasm from riding schools and new riders to adopt this new rider MAG membership initiative.

Request for help

Richard is looking for details of riding schools throughout the region, so we can contact them and hopefully secure their participation in the scheme – if you are on friendly terms with your local riding school, please mention it to them and pass the response onto Richard, or, send Richard the contact details of the riding school and we will contact them directly.

Richard's email address is: rsuddaby@mag-uk.org

Details of four riding schools in East Yorkshire have already been passed to Richard but we need lots more. The '*what's in it for them*' is all the publicity and promotion they will receive for participating in this scheme, which to a small business is absolutely invaluable.

If you could please take the time to help out with this initiative it would be greatly appreciated!

Many Thanks

Link to The Network MAG activists newsletter

https://wiki.mag-uk.org/index.php/Editions_of_Network#2023

The MAG activists newsletter, Network is published at the start of each month and can be accessed with the above link.

Fight Motorcycle Theft Roadshow comes to God's Own County

Motorcycle theft is a major issue in our region (and nationally). West Yorkshire consistently shows the worst levels of motorcycle theft outside of London. Nationally motorcyclists are victims of approximately 25% of all vehicle theft, despite representing only 3% of the potential vehicle theft targets. Several Yorkshire MAG members have had their bikes stolen recently. This is often perpetrated by armed gangs with links to organised crime. The stolen bikes are either used to commit other crimes or moved out of the area and likely stripped for parts. The thieves are quite blatant and have been seen using angle grinders in broad daylight to cut through chains and locks. They often carry knives and/or other weapons to deter anyone who challenges them. There are also reported instances of bike jackings at junctions and traffic lights, again when the rider is threatened with weapons. Riders have been followed by other bikes and/or scooters with a view to stealing the bike.

Over in the East Riding, Hull has seen more than its fair share of motorcycle theft and related antisocial riding. Motorcycle thefts increased 58% in 2022 compared to the previous year. The legitimate, law-abiding riding community is being grossly over-impacted by vehicle theft compared to other road user groups and we need the authorities to recognise this.

Motorcycle theft is a major issue for motorcyclists with the average motorcycle **eleven times** more likely to be stolen than the average car.

Enough is enough !!!

To help address this, MAG has been holding a number of Fight Motorcycle Theft Roadshows nationally. To date, events have been held in Kent, Birmingham, Hertfordshire, and Manchester. This Autumn, we have two roadshows in Yorkshire (Hull and Leeds). Further events are planned for Nottingham, London, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

These roadshow meetings all follow an established format – the speakers (Police and Crime Commissioners, Senior Police Officers, MP's / Councillors (where in attendance) and MAG) outline what they are doing to help tackle the problem, then the floor is open with the audience Q&A session being the main event.

Previous roadshows have seen very tangible outcomes, and we need the Yorkshire roadshows to follow suit - The meetings are free to attend and open to all (you do not have to be a MAG member to attend these events). MAG encourages as many riders as possible to attend to raise their specific questions and concerns. We need to push home the message that we want to see the tide turn against this increasing criminality.

We need a big turnout to make these events a success. Bums on seats really do make a difference. Hope to see you there !!!

Hull Fight Motorcycle Theft Roadshow



**FIGHT
MOTORCYCLE
THEFT!**

Kent ✓
Birmingham ✓
Hertfordshire ✓
Manchester
Hull
Nottingham
Leeds
London
Cardiff
Edinburgh

Alexandra Pub Function Room
69 Hessle Road
Hull
HU3 2AB

**1-3pm Saturday
21st October**

Marshalled motorcycle
parking
Refreshments available

Confirmed speakers are:
Humberside Police and Crimes Commissioner, Jonathan Evison
Police Officers from the Humberside Force
Colin Brown, Director of Campaigns and Political Engagement, MAG
Further Speakers TBC

All enquiries: central-office@mag-uk.org

Leeds Fight Motorcycle Theft Roadshow

**FIGHT
MOTORCYCLE
THEFT!**

Kent ✓
Birmingham ✓
Hertfordshire ✓
Manchester ✓
Hull
Nottingham
Leeds
London
Cardiff
Edinburgh

**The Royal
30 Station Street
Pudsey
LS28 8PR**

**1pm Saturday
11th November**

Refreshments available

Confirmed speakers are:
West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe
West Yorkshire Police (speaker to be announced)
MAG Director of Campaigns and Political Engagement, Colin Brown

All enquiries: central-office@mag-uk.org

If you have questions and points you would like to raise but can't attend these events in person, please email these in advance to stravis@mag-uk.org and we will raise these on your behalf at the meeting.

MAG Podcasts

The MAG podcasts are being produced on a monthly basis and feature MAG's Colin Brown, Director of Campaigns and Political Engagement, recapping and discussing the most recent news and events with a variety of guests.

You can find the Podcasts on the MAG Youtube channel:
www.youtube.com/@MotorcycleActionGroupMAG.

Please like and subscribe.

Yorkshire MAG Rally Dates



These are the confirmed dates, venues and ticket prices for the 2024 Yorkshire MAG rallies:

- **Into the Valley:** 3 - 5 May, Driffield Showground, Driffield. Pre-Book Only £30 (Saturday ticket £20)
- **Farmyard Party:** 21 - 23 June, Duncombe Park, Helmsley. £50 Pre-book; £60 OTG (Saturday ticket £35)
- **Yorkshire Pudding Rally:** 2 - 4 August, Escrick Park, Nr York. Pre-Book Only £35 (Saturday ticket £25)

TICKET PRICES HELD FOR ALL 2024 EVENTS

On Sale from 1st November (Online & Telephone) and from your local MAG branch early in the new year (Remember, if you buy your tickets directly from your local MAG branch, you save on the on-line booking fee (which are per ticket not per transaction !!!) and postage more money in your pocket = more beer money what more of an incentive could you possibly want !!!)

For all enquiries call 0800 988 3199.

Branch Reports

Garry Williams - East Yorkshire Rep

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.

SallyAnne Slater - Huddersfield MAG rep

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.

Keith Maven (interim contact) - Leeds and Bradford MAG

The group still remains without a formal MAG Rep but seems to be still functioning with the various roles being carried out by several people and only one business meeting and one social meeting each month on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays.

Marcus is still doing a sterling job of chasing up Leeds Council regarding the future of the bikes in bus lanes trial which is coming to the end of its 12 month trial and pushing for it to now cover all bus lanes, no news yet though.

Finally managed to secure the attendance of the West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe, so the Leeds Fight Motorcycle Theft meeting will be held at 1pm on Saturday the 11th of November, at The Royal, 30 Station St, Pudsey LS28 8PR.

Stuart Hatfield - South Yorkshire rep

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.

Steve Travis - Wakefield MAG rep

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 won't 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, preceded 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.

Richard Suddaby - York MAG rep

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

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. MAG, since it's inception 50 years ago, has always been an active grass roots organisation. However, a few of the regions groups are suffering from apathy, reduced numbers and poorly attended events. This isn't unique to MAG by any stretch of

the imagination, voluntary organisations across all spectrums seem to be suffering from apathy, which seems to have crept in since the Covid lockdowns. However, this is a trend we must reverse.

Please support your local MAG group as without active members they will wither and die use them or lose them !!!!

We do not want Yorkshire to be like some other regions where there are no active MAG groups, or, groups which operate on-line only. So, come along to your local MAG group meeting 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 and 3rd Tuesdays 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.

Steve Travis
Yorkshire Regional Rep
yorkshire-rep@mag-uk.org