

Wakefield & District MAG

Minutes of the 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 20:00 on Tuesday 16th January 2024, at the Thatched House, Stanley, Wakefield

1) Welcome by chair and introduction of Yorkshire Region / National Observer

Steve Travis, Branch Chairman & Rep opened the meeting at 20:02 hrs. Gary Timms, Yorkshire Region Finance Officer introduced as the Region observer.

All members in the branch area had previously been notified via the December 2023 mailshot (emailed or posted), of the date, time, venue and agenda for the 2023 AGM. The details of the AGM were also publicised on the branch website (wakefield.mag-uk.org), the National MAG website (www.mag-uk.org) and the Branch Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/groups/wakefieldmag)

2) Apologies

Apologies received from Isobelle Huby and Sharon Scott.

3) Minutes of previous AGM and matters arising

The minutes of the previous AGM (for the 2022 year), held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 had been published on the branch website for the past year following the 2022 AGM.

Vote taken that the published minutes represented a true and accurate reflection of the meetings proceedings.

No Matters Arising.

4) Committee Reports

Branch Reps Report

FINANCIAL

Covered in Finance Officers Report

RUNS, RALLIES & OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS

- Hosted a Christmas Do at our HQ, the Thatched House in December
- Held a Christmas Toy collection for Wakefield based Charity Kidzaware
- Held 19th Wakefield MAG Biker Quiz Nite in November (which Leeds MAG won for a change)
- Held our 21st Birthday Bash in September at our HQ, the Thatched House in Stanley
- Three members had a rideout to Hornsea Bike Fest in August, meeting up with Ron and Jill who were manning the EY MAG stand at said event
- Members attended and marshalled the Yorkshire Pudding Rally in August
- Attended the South Yorkshire and Huddersfield MAG Market Top Box Sale and Bike Show in July
- Held an evening rideout to Sheffield Speedway in July
- Members attended and marshalled the 2022 Farmyard Party in June
- Held a Wakefield MAG Bike Show at the May Day Gala. Bike show was popular (40 odd bikes), Tombola 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.
- Held a Easter Egg Collection for Wakefield based Charity Kidzaware
- Members attended and marshalled the Into the Valley Rally
- Assisted Wakefield Hospice with Marshalling their 10K Race in March, providing 5 bike marshals (although we had to appeal to other branches to help us out)
- Held the 18th Post Christmas Auction in January which raised £387.60, beating the 2022 auction by nearly 50 quid !! MAG Fighting Fund received £260 (2/3 of the proceeds), and the remaining 1/3 (£130), was split equally between Yorkshire Air Ambulance (Registered Charity: 1084305) - £65 & WhiteKnights Yorkshire Blood Bikes (Registered Charity No. 1124510) - £65

POLITICAL

- Hosted the Wakefield MAG AGM in January
- Attended the Yorkshire Region AGM in September
- Attended the MAG AGC in September
- Supported National Campaigns by contacting MP's / signing petitions etc where requested by Central
- Ensured all 4 Wakefield district MP's were contacted as part of Operation Earthquake

MEMBERSHIP

- **2023 Membership (as @ y/e) was 90** (6% increase from 2022, and represents **largest WF membership over the past 10 years**)
- Previous stats:
 - 85 members in 2022
 - 86 members in 2021
 - no stats available for 2020
 - 78 current members in 2019
 - 78 members in 2018
 - 85 members in 2017
 - 85 members in 2016
 - 88 members in 2015
 - 82 members in 2014
 - 93 members in 2013
 - 83 members in 2012
 - 99 members in 2011
 - 105 members in 2010
 - 113 members in 2009
 - 116 in 2008 (highest ever membership)

Average membership over past 15 years: **91**

- **N.B. Membership retention figures no longer available**
- Av. Meeting attendance over the year is 8 (< 10% which is national average)
- 12 Monthly newsletters produced covering local, regional and national news & updates (published on the website and plugged on Facebook too (website stats show these are widely read))

- Annual mailshot letter sent in December to advertise AGM and plug membership renewal

OTHER ACTIVITY

- Website regularly maintained with current content & event reports for all of the events and activities we get involved with. Site is regularly looked at: 3,077 visits over the year (56,616 hits since visitor stats first maintained in July 2008). Site gets a lot of praise at the NC and is held up as a model MAG Branch web site
- Facebook site maintained with current content & currently 583 members of the Wakefield MAG Facebook Group (546 members last year – 7% increase)

ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST 2023 PLAN

- Continue to support the Operation Earthquake National Political Campaign to abolish / significantly postpone the ICE ban in seven years time **[ACHIEVED]**
- Continue to support Wakefield Hospice events:
 - Marshal Wakefield Hospice 10K road race **[ACHIEVED]**
 - Dark Sportif cycling event (if marshals requested) – **N/A event not held in 2023**
- Increase membership figures within WF postcode area, and encourage 'new-blood' to the meetings:
 - 5% membership increase i.e. 4 new MAG members in WF catchment area **[ACHIEVED – 6% increase]**
 - increase meeting attendance to pre-pandemic levels i.e. 10-15 average weekly attendance **[NOT ACHIEVED – Av. Meeting attendance = 8]**
- Forge stronger ties with Wakefield based Bike & Scooter groups (where possible – not many clubs in the WF postcode area) **[ACHIEVED – Wakefield groups invited to Branch events]**
- Maximise Fund raising for MAG fighting fund – Target: **£2,000 [NOT ACHIEVED]**
- Continue to look for new fundraising ideas and initiatives **[NOT ACHIEVED]**
- Continue to support other local MAG groups with their activities / events **[ACHIEVED]**
- Continue to host our annual events:
 - Post Christmas Auction **[ACHIEVED]**

- 21st Birthday Bash / MAG's 50th **[ACHIEVED]**
- Kidzaware Easter Egg Collection **[ACHIEVED]**
- Bike Show (at Wakefield Gala) **[ACHIEVED]**
- Bingo Night **[NOT ACHIEVED]**
- Remembrance Day Services / Parades **[ACHIEVED but most of members at other services other than Wakefield]**
- Biker Quiz Nite **[ACHIEVED]**
- Kidzaware Christmas Toy Collection **[ACHIEVED]**
- Christmas Hamper Raffle **[NOT ACHIEVED – voted to not hold in 2023]**
- Christmas Do **[ACHIEVED]**
- a.n.other (Introduce a New Event for 2023) **[NOT ACHIEVED]**
- Continue to support the major Yorkshire MAG rallies (ITV, FYP, YPR) – and increase marshalling done by Wakefield MAG members attending **[ACHIEVED for attendance but not for increase in marshals]**
- Hold formal organised rideouts:
 - monthly Sunday ride-outs (March-October) – (either organised by ourselves or tagging along on other rideouts)
 - Summer weekday evening ride-outs**[NOT ACHIEVED – no branch rideouts organised in 2023]**
- Get regular coverage in Wakefield Express and/or other local papers e.g. Cas & Ponte Express etc **[ACHIEVED – event details sent, although not sure if these were ever published]**

SUMMARY

We celebrated 21 consecutive years as an active MAG Branch in 2023 and 20 consecutive years with me as Branch Rep !!!!!

We have increased WF postcode Membership numbers by 6% which is brilliant but unfortunately this hasn't been reflected in increased meeting attendance (average attendance is now less than 10% of our membership base, the lowest meeting average since the branch was formed in 2002). Despite this, we have hosted some very successful events (Auction, May Day Bike Show, 21st Birthday Bash & Biker Quiz Nite). We are only a small branch, but it is fair to say, that in spite of our size, we have punched well above our weight in terms of the activities we hold and the funds we raise for MAG.

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, pool and darts competitions and quizzes etc)
- We don't hold monthly rideouts anymore as attendance on those had dropped right off, plus no one volunteered to be rideout co-ordinator for 2023 at the 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 six 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, 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 8 on average, which now represents less than 10% of our total membership (which is the National average); 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 and they need to make return visits and get involved.

Steve Travis

Branch Rep

97513

[Deputy Rep Report](#)

The past 12 months have been an interesting time for me been the first post I have held within MAG at a local level.

My focus has been and still will be group cohesion maintaining the established members while actively seeking new members.

This entails refreshing, revitalising the approach to meetings and participation of members.

The acquisition of a A frame display and MAG welcome poster to be placed in front of the meeting place to 'make aware and draw in passing bikers' is one example .

Placing or relevant information /posters at relevant places of upcoming events and promoting MAG meetings and the upkeep of the MAG notice board at Squires Café.

If re-elected I intend to continue this work along with relevant duties and further enhance any monthly social meetings again revitalising and making them more welcoming and enjoyable to all concerned.

I again support and recognise. The hard work carried out by both Steve and Marin in their roles respectively.

I am hopefully that this year (2024) will be a positive turning point for Wakefield MAG

Pete Huby

Deputy Branch Representative

[Finance Officer Report - Financial Report & Audited Accounts for 2023](#)

We started January 2023 with a healthy £1,005.25 (£52.05 in cash and £953.20 in our account).

A successful Post Christmas Auction raised £397.10 of which we divided £130.00 equally between Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikers charities.

Our attendance at the May Day Gala raised £71.93, but we had related expenses of £249.21.

On the face of it this looks bad but £161.21 was our sail banner and another £65.00 on replacement stickers to sell, so not that bad really.

We also started a 1 to 90 sheet which was drawn in June raising £40.00.

Our 21st 'Birthday Bash' had an income of £290.80 and a cost of £336.63 but the loss was cancelled by partial selling of our second 1 to 90 sheet, which we finished later in the year.

Following our Birthday Bash, we donated £684.50 to the Yorkshire MAG account (£500 of ours and £184.50 in collaboration with Huddersfield and their 'Top Box Sale' products which we'd sold at the Bash).

Our quiz was well attended and made a profit of nearly £9.00 (this usually loses a few quid) but more importantly we completed our 2nd 1 to 90 sheet.

Our weekly number draw raised a total of £227.00 throughout the year, which is down on last year for various reasons. This is something I think we can discuss maybe changing at a future meeting.

Other minor expenses throughout the year along with our weekly number draw saw us able to donate a further £600.00 to the Yorkshire account.

We currently sit with £20.66 in petty cash and £9.61 in our online bank account *.

On the face of things our accounts sheet and this report looks reasonable, however when we consider that we started the year with £1,005.25, we donated £1,100.00 plus £130.00 to charity and we've ended up with £30.27 it means we've only raised £255.02 throughout this year.

Personally, I feel this is an accurate reflection of our current low 'active' membership, something which we will need to address in 2024.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support financially through 2023 and I am willing to stand to be re-elected as Treasurer for 2024.

** Accounts have been independently checked by auditors Pete Taplin and Terry Scott and signed off as being a true and accurate reflection of the Branches financial position.*

Martin Burgess

Finance Officer

Press Officer

Contacted local newspapers and radio to advertise events.

Sharon Scott

Press Officer

Political Officer

No report submitted and not present.

Henry Grainger

Wakefield MAG Political Officer

Products Officer

- A few patches, sticker sales and bag sales made from existing stock at the May Day Gala and 21st Birthday Bash.
- New batch of stickers purchased as previous supply had been all sold.
- Products list maintained on branch website.
- Products stock includes Wakefield MAG Sticker (Yellow text/logo), Bike Flag, Books (Motorcycles Forever by Ian Mutch (signed by author), Low Rider by Ian Mutch (signed by author), Harley to Mali by Ian Mutch, Riding with the Beast by Ian Mutch), Wakefield MAG Shopping Bag, Assorted MAG stickers (MAG, Riders are Voters, Diesel Spills Kill - Don't Overfill!, Vote Riding, Get a Grip), MAG Pen, Think Bike Windscreen Sticker, Great Roads Great Rides DVD, The Commuter Survival Guide for Motorcyclists DVD, Yorkshire MAG Sticker, Yorkshire MAG Window Sticker, Yorkshire MAG Mug.
- Need to order a new batch of patches but no point ordering any clothing items as we won't have a big enough order to satisfy minimum order requirements, so they would be prohibitively expensive.

Steve Travis

Products Officer

Social Committee

- Helped to organise, run and collect donations for the Post Christmas Auction.
- Set up and clear up at the May Day Gala.
- Manning of the information stall.
- Collected and ticketed prizes for the tombola stall.
- Helped with the bike show.

Sharon Scott and Terry Scott

Social Committee

Rideout Coordinator's Report

Position vacant during 2023

MAP Consultative Committee Representative(s)

- Attended all MAP meetings held in 2023, giving feedback to the Wakefield MAG meetings as required.
- Attended and marshalled at ITV, FYP & YPR rallies

Steve Travis, MAP Consultative Committee Representative / Martin Burgess MAP Consultative Committee Representative (Deputy)

Auditors

Branch Financial Accounts for 2022 have been independently checked by auditors and signed off as being a true and accurate reflection of the Branches financial position at year end.

Pete Taplin (Auditor #1) / Terry Scott (Auditor #2)

Webmaster

Covered in Reps Report

5) Election / Re-election of branch officers for 2024

The following officers were elected / re-elected onto the 2024 branch committee, unanimously in all cases:

- Rep / Chair: **Steve Travis** [Proposed: Mick Culpan; Seconded: Terry Scott] (Re-elected)
- Deputy Rep / Secretary: **Pete Huby** [Proposed: Steve Travis; Seconded: John Vertigan] (Re-elected)
- Treasurer: **Martin Burgess** [Proposed: Chas Milner; Seconded: Pete Taplin] (Re-elected)
- Social Committee: **Terry Scott, Sharon Scott, Pete Huby** [Proposed: Martin Burgess; Seconded: Chas Milner] (Re-elected)
- Rideout Coordinator: **Vacant Position** (** *see below*)
- Products Officer: **Steve Travis** [Proposed: Mick Culpan; Seconded: Martin Burgess] (Re-elected)
- Political Officer: **Henry Grainger** * *Position vacant at the AGM but since contacted HG and he is willing to continue in the role for 2024*
- Auditor x 2: **Pete Taplin, Terry Scott** [Proposed: Martin Burgess, Seconded: Chas Milner] (Re-elected)
- Press Officer: **Sharon Scott** [Proposed: Terry Scott; Seconded: Pete Taplin] (Re-elected)
- MAP Consultative Committee - Wakefield Rep: **Steve Travis** [Proposed: Pete Huby; Seconded: Pete Taplin] (Re-elected)
- MAP Consultative Committee - Deputy Wakefield Rep: **Martin Burgess** [Proposed: Pete Huby; Seconded: Pete Taplin] (Re-elected)

**** Footnote on rideouts**

In the absence of an elected rideout co-ordinator, we agreed to attend rideouts organised by other groups, and advertise them on our website / Facebook page / WhatsApp group. This way, we still can offer a schedule of rideout events to our members, but no one within the branch has responsibility for organising them.

6) Motions

Motion 1 - Weekly Meetings

Background

We trialled a new format for the weekly meetings starting in 2022. As an attempt to boost meeting attendance, we have held business meetings every other week, with socials on the others, in case business meetings were too boring for some and affecting attendance. Prior to this, every week was a business meeting with the exception of the last Tuesday in the month, which was an organised social event.

The trial has lasted well over a year. However, as an exercise to boost meeting attendance, it hasn't worked as the socials are less well attended than the business meetings (the weekly attendance register proves this), and we've also stopped the monthly organised social events because they were so poorly attended. Curtailing social events as they are poorly attended and no longer feasible reduces the attraction to new members as you are seen to not do anything - it's a real Catch 22 situation.

Proposal

Revert back to the previous meeting format with a business meeting every week, and an organised and advertised social event (quizzes, darts and pool competitions, bingo etc) for the last Tuesday in every month (Pete Huby has offered to organise these social events every month). With weekly business meetings, some weeks there may not be much on the agenda so it will be a short business meeting with plenty of opportunity to socialise afterwards.

Proposer: Steve Travis

Seconder: Mick Culpan

Votes in favour of the motion: 7

Votes against the motion: 0

Abstentions: 2

Motion Carried.

Motion 2 – Meeting Venue

That we actively look to secure a new meeting venue as I feel that even though The Thatched House is a thoroughly decent pub with a most obliging landlord it just isn't recognised as a biker meeting place and is subsequently ignored by the majority of bikers. Therefore I feel it would be advantageous in an effort to increase membership to find a venue that was already frequently visited by the motorcycling community.

I would add the following caveats:

- Guaranteed Private 'free' meeting room, big enough to host events (able to hold 20 people as a minimum) and with no accessibility issues
- Secure car park (ideally visible from our meeting room)
- On a main thoroughfare in / into Wakefield (or as near as)

- In, or as close to as possible, Wakefield City Centre

Proposer: Mick Culpan

Seconded: Carrie Scott-Huby

Additional information: Steve the Thatched House Landlord is retiring in early 2024 and giving up the lease. The new publican (TBA) has agreed we can continue to meet at the venue. However, redecoration is planned and there is no guarantee we will be able to keep a guaranteed private 'free' meeting room going forward depending on the new landlords plans for the pub. Therefore, we may need to look for a new venue in the not too distant future regardless.

Votes in favour of the motion: 8

Votes against the motion: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion Carried.

7) Objectives and branch development plan for the forthcoming year (2024)

- Initiate a major recruitment campaign to increase membership figures within WF postcode area, and encourage 'new-blood' to the meetings. Increase attendance / membership by:
 - Continuing to host our flagship events:
 - Post Christmas Auction
 - Bike Show (at Wakefield Gala)
 - Biker Quiz Nite
 - Reinstating the monthly socials (which we will heavily advertise to try to attract new blood)
 - Reinstating (a few at least) rideouts
 - Getting regular coverage in Wakefield Express and/or other local papers e.g. Cas & Ponte Express etc plugging our forthcoming events / activities and articles covering events and activities
 - Reinstating Christmas Hamper Raffle for 2024
 - Hold an Easter Hamper Draw
 - Continuing to support other local MAG groups with their activities / events (which should result in reciprocal visits to our events)
 - Continue to support the Kidzaware charity by hosting:

- Easter Egg Collection
- Christmas Toy Collection

Targets:

5% membership increase i.e. 5 new MAG members in WF catchment area

increase meeting attendance to an average of 10 over the course of the year

- Support Operation Earthquake Phase II (vital campaigning activity in this General Election year)
- Continue to support Wakefield Hospice 10K road race (providing motorcycle race marshals)
- Beat fund raising (for MAG fighting fund) from 2023 amount – Target: **£500** (£255.02 in 2023)

8) Presentation to branch heroes

Awards were presented for the branch heroes of 2023, based on points accumulated by members for attendance/participation in MAG/Branch events over the course of the year.

Our branch heroes for 2022 were:

- Most attendances: **Martin Burgess** (580 points)
- Most attendances runner-up: **Pete Huby** (490 points)
- Charman's Award: Biggest contribution to the Branch: **Wakefield MAG Committee of 2023 for keeping the branch running in what was a challenging year**

9) Any other business

None raised

10) Date of Next AGM

The date of the next AGM was set for Tuesday 14th January 2025.

The meeting closed at 21:33 hrs.

Region Observer concurred the meeting had been run in an open, professional and democratic manner.

Steve Travis
Wakefield MAG Rep (since the early Carboniferous Period)
97513