

Ebor Morris Bagmans report 2025/26

25/26 had most of the usual events with the curry at Kalpakavadi, carols in the Black Horse, New Year Dance Out at the Phoenix, Leicester Feast, Darlington in April in sunshine, Day of Dance, but no Walls Tour.

The weather forecast was very wet & windy, so by a majority vote the Officers cancelled it – most of our members these days want to dance, not sit in a pub all day, and it's unfair to the large number that don't live in York if we cancel at the last minute.

We didn't have enough available to do the tour the following day or the next Sunday.

Poppleton Sports decided to have Acorn for the second year running. I doubt we'll be invited again.

We had a trip to Sheffield for Harthill's 50th birthday, and to Hartlepool for the Headlands Festival.

We had a decent turn out for most Monday nights, despite me and some others absent for health reasons.

We were booked to dance at the York CAMRA beer festival in September, but had to cancel as 2 dropped out with health related reasons and 2 dropped out for other reasons, leaving us with too few to do it justice.

At last years AGM we all agreed with Tony's suggestion that anyone in the team could organise an outing, which might include dancing, or not. Nobody did anything.

Comings and goings

Richard joined us at the start of the practice season and has soon become a competent and reliable member.

Ian Conlan has joined us on a free transfer from Minster Strays.

Sadly Dave Mooring is hanging up his bells after decades of dedicated service, beer and curry. I hope he will still be a social member, as we will miss his company, and even his jokes.

WhatsApp

As all but two of you are now on WhatsApp, I used that as the main tool for bagging availability. It worked really well, with lots of prompt responses. That really helps when I get an enquiry for a booking – noting once again that event organisers all seem to be planning a long time in advance, and want a quick answer otherwise other teams get the booking.

With Dave's retirement, there's only one team member who isn't on WhatsApp. I'll let you guess who that is. So from now on I'll use WhatsApp, not email, for all availability requests. I'll still send emails out with info about danceouts / other events / late cancelations etc.

Numbers and commitment

On paper we now have 14 dancers (excluding country members), 2 "trainees", and 2 musicians. Many other sides are envious that we have so many members.

Monday nights were generally well attended, but we had nothing like those numbers for 'away' events, including Sheffield and Hartlepool. We were down to the bare minimum for both, and relied on Pete Moore, a country member.

As in previous years, some of you dropped out of dance outs that you'd previously committed to. Please, if you say "Yes" to an event, then barring health reasons it would be quite nice if you could honour your commitment.

Thanks

Thanks to my fellow officers for their support and to those of you who promptly responded to availability requests and who then turned up.

Kevin 'Pikey' Holland, Ebor Morris Bagman