

Ramsdale Seniors

Minutes Annual General Meeting held Monday 19th January 2024 at 12:45

Present at Meeting: Malcolm Voce(**Secretary**), Christine West (**Treasurer**), Terry Crofts(**Captain**), David Hawkins(**Vice Captain**), Richard Hone(**Competition Secretary**), David Costin(**Web- Site**) David Dandie(**Monday Club**), Mark Fisher(**Committee Member**) David Insley (**Committee Member**) Brian Stocks, Garth Hallam, Jim Bailey, John Chadwick, John Gardner, John Lowton, John O'Neil, Keith Hepworth, Kelvin Day, Kevin Till, Marco Keefer, Mick Gee, Neil Clark, Neil Harris, Paul Garton, Peter Brookes, Phil Rankin, Richard Wild, Rob MacDonald, Steve Duty, Steve Hicking, Steve Kerr, Steven Crawley, Tony lees, Tony Syme, Theresa Plimmer(**Centre Manager**) Mark Northern(**Main Club Chair**) Dave Clark, Adrian Horton.

Meeting Opened. 12:45

1. Apologies

- a. Patrick McDonough, Mike Woodhead, Stuart Murry(**Committee Member**), Paul Baranek, Tony Booth, John Smith, Paul Felstead, Trevor Holmes, Winston Jones, David Jacks.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- a. Passed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

- a. No matters arising.

4. Centre Manager's Report

- a. Theresa gave her in-depth report (See appendix 1)

5. Treasurer's Report

- a. The attached printed sheets are a summary record of all the transactions made by the Senior Section for the Financial Year 1st January to 31st December 2023. These have been verified by Hans Bauder, treasurer of the main Club.
- b. Our account remains with NatWest where we use Online Banking. All monies continue to be collected using the Square Terminals with Square charging 1.75% of each transaction before transferring the balance into our bank.

- c. Most of the income is from the Monday Club and Thursday competitions. The Home and Away match and Captain's Day income and expenditure continues to be administered through the accounts.
- d. The system of prize monies being paid onto Member Levy cards has gone well and in February the 2s prize money began to be paid in the same way. I thank Richard Hone, David Costin and Georgie and the accounts team for administering the updating of the Prize Levy on a weekly basis. A total of £7,607.50 has been issued in prize monies plus £2,900 for the 2s.
- e. The Monday Club continues to thrive with player numbers reaching 80 on occasion. This has the knock on effect of more prize money and a little more in the Senior Section coffers. Total income recorded for the year is £19,388 with a total expenditure of £18,511.61. Last year the committee set a budget for expenditure as our reserves were lower than previous years. I'm happy to report that we stuck to the budgeting and with the higher player numbers we have increased our reserves by £876.39. We do have unavoidable expenses that we need to cover and as has been experienced by the recent cancellations of matches this also reduces our income too.
- f. The balance of £2,899.76 was brought forward from 2022 and this now gives a carry forward balance of £3,776.15 to 2024. The reconciliation page shows the current bank account balance total at 31.12.23 and how this reconciles with the balance carried forward.
- g. The Seniors Section has contributed £348 to the Main Club Charity Day and £315 to their Charities. We also contribute to the floral display at the front of the clubhouse.

Christine West
Treasurer

6. Outgoing Captain's Report

- a. Terry Crofts gave his outgoing report (See appendix 2)

7. Incoming Captain's Report for 2024

- 2024 Captain David Hawkins gave his report (See appendix 3)

8. Committee members for 2024

- a. All current Committee members have agreed to continue in their roles for 2024.

9. Proposals for 2024

- a. No members put forward any proposals.

10. Any Other business

- a. Richard Hone (**Competitions Secretary**) gave a presentation on the upcoming changes to the WHS, details will be posted on the web site in due course.
- b. Mark Fisher asked about the mixed tee competitions, this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

11. **Meeting closed.** 13:45hrs

Date of next AGM

Monday 10th February 2025

*Malcolm Voce
Seniors Secretary*

Centre Managers Report

Another year that has seemingly flown by and was filled with ups, downs with all the trials and tribulations that come with that.

The biggest issue we faced this last year was the dramatic increase in rainfall year on year.

2023 was the wettest year on record at an outstanding 1,214 MM of rain (previous year we had 699mm. HALF of that came from September to December. **Here – I have to congratulate and thank the Green Keeping team who did everything in their power to keep the courses open as much as possible.** Whilst local courses to us were often closed – our team managed to keep play going.

Small things we can do to help the team is closing the front 9s, and back 9s of the courses through out the week over the year to allow them work on the greens in one go. We used to do this hole by hole – and meant a lot of stop starting. This worked tremendously well in 2023 and we plan to continue that and I would like to thank the members for their patience with this.

5th and 6th issues on the main course – I am sure you all saw the minis streams across these 2 greens. Both have always been wet holes – but with this year downfall – it is highlighted the need to put some drainage in here.

The 5th green had issues with the pond on the righthand side. It became blocked with debris and we believe the water was back filling an old clay pipe that opened up underneath the green. The team have cleared the outlet and we seem to have cracked that dilemma. **6th Green and surrounding area** is still wet. Its possible an underground spring has opened up. Regardless of the reason, we are in the process of getting quotes for drainage for both holes.

Other challenges for us has been the stark uplift in costs. Minimum wage increase last April by 10%, and it is due to increase by another 10% in April this year.

Over 60 members of the team – it will be a big increase in cost for us. Although the electricity hike reducing has really helped this year after last years extortion!

Despite the hikes we have had a great year and the range is really allowing us to re-invest into the course and clubhouse.

Over the last 3 years we have invested over £850,000 into Ramsdale with a further plan of £450,000 in 2024. This does not include the expenditure updating the range in 2020. Out of this year's Capital Investment - £270,000 is earmarked for the course. This includes some decent gear for Johnny and his team, moving to electrical vehicles where possible. Finally we have the leaf collector authorised! Along with the long awaited practise nets. We just need to figure out where to put them.

Kitchen – as you know the kitchen has been the same for 32 years and although we got the highest possible rating for food hygiene – EHO did tell us that without investment and upgrades – the result would not be the same on their next visit.

Hopefully, on Friday we take back our shiny new kitchen which will make service quicker and the chefs a nice fresh space to work in!

Members

Since the winter of 2020, we have had a closed 7 day membership category. We have operated a one in one out policy. This has been a subsequence of me keeping the subscription increases slightly lower than our competitors, the course being in such amazing condition and the team – and of course – the members.

The increase in June will again be lower than the 10% industry standard and likely to work out around £1.60 per week. Confirmation will be out once confirmed.

Again – despite pressure from competitors – I will NOT be introducing joining fees or administration fees.

Currently we are sitting at 923 members which includes all categories – juniors included. This time last year we had 952. The waiting list for 7 day remains full with about 42 people on the list waiting for a spot.

2024 – Plans

- New kitchen – nearly finished
- Seely course will be rerated this year and the Par 3 (for the first time) will also be rated

Appendix 1

- Drainage 5th and 6th
- Path improvement 8th tee
- Patch fencing and hedges around the courses
- Practise net
- Car park expansion
- Boiler replacement
- More tree work planned
- Quotes and project planning to start works on a buggy path on the back 9. This project will take a few years and certainly will not be a quick fix. A quote gained this year was £167K for 10th, 11th and 12th! More time needed to find different solutions and a slow build investment.

Heartfelt thanks to the Seniors for their efforts over the last 12 months.

Thank you Terry for being an absolutely top draw Captain – I have enjoyed with you and will miss you – but to be fair Dene did most of the work anyway.

Thank you once again to all my team who have worked incredibly hard this year driven by my Senior Managers, Tom, Will, Steve, Simon, Johnny and the new Ozzy bloke Josh. And lastly, thank you to the members who are constantly showing me and the club their unwavering support – your high feedback scores and friendly conversations in the clubhouse – makes it a pleasure to lead this club.

Thank you

**Theresa Plimmer
General Manager**

Outgoing Seniors Captain Speech

Firstly, I'd just like to say, this speech is going to be mostly to say thank you! It has been my privilege to have served you as your Senior Captain. I'd like to thank David my vice, along with all of our senior committee for their unwavering help, support and advise they have given me, when need this year. I'd especially like to thank **YOU!** our senior members, for your generosity & support, in all of our events this year.

My away day at Kirkby Muxloe being one of them. It was so generously supported by you all, a great fun day. We even managed to raise a little money along the way for our club charities. I would also like to thank the main club committee for supporting me.

I'd like to offer my congratulations to, Lynn - Ladies captain & Sachin main club Captain, for doing such a great job as captains this year, along with offering me help & support.

I Did say it is a speech of thank you lol.

I would also like to thank our multi award-winning manager, Theresa, and all of her wonderful staff, for help, support, with Match fixtures, food and events. They do not run themselves Not forgetting our greens staff, for delivering an excellent course throughout the year, at times in some of the most challenging of conditions.

I mentioned in my acceptance speech last year. I wanted to encourage & integrate new members or members that had never played in our program of friendly inter club matches, to give it a try. I'm pleased to say, We had 12 new players, that had never played in a competitive club match before. In fact, we had a total of 46 players sign up. Fantastic support... thank you guys... Ok some of our match results, could have been slightly better, of the 20 matches we played, we lost 10, won 7 matches, and drew 3 matches. I guess it is not so bad for a team with lots of newish players. I also wanted us, to continue to build on our relationships, with the different sections of our club. We enjoyed many successful events together, with all the different sections. Main club, ladies & the Par3 club. further strengthening our associations as one club. Hopefully this will continue.

Finally,

Before I hand David the coveted senior captains' jacket, I would personally like to present David with a handmade 2024 captains engraved Pen, made by my fair hands.

(I'll be taking orders after, only £20) I'd like to wish David all the best for his captaincy.

David was presented his jacket for 2024.

Congratulations David.

Appendix 3

(Incoming Captain's Speech 2024)

I'd like to begin by saying that I'm delighted to be standing here as your 2024 Captain. I am honoured by your trust and thank you for the opportunity. I can say that when asked last year to take on this role I had no hesitation. I've probably been involved in 20 sports clubs in the past, covering 5 sports and Ramsdale's Seniors Section is the best run sports organisation I have yet to encounter. It is a very enjoyable privilege to be serving alongside your committee, enthusiastic, dedicated, accomplished and hardworking clubmen and club lady all.

I should also add my acknowledgement to the fact that our section thrives not only because of you it's members but because of the fantastic team that is Theresa and all her 60 staff. On behalf of Ramsdale Seniors I would like to thank you for your amazing leadership and everything that is done by your team on our behalf. I would like to thank you Terry for your exemplary leadership last season, showing me the way, with your jolly, very efficient and unflappable style and ensuring along with Richard in particular, that this transition and handover is seamless. I know Terry will miss his designated parking space but that extra walk and disorientation might create sufficient fatigue to give us all, more of a chance of undoing his recent run of blistering form! He's set a real big bench mark for me this season, especially having recorded 2 holes in one. I hope however to quell the rumour that it's not possible for a Captain to play well during his year at the helm. Terry in recognition of your achievements and our new friendship I'd like to give you this memento!

Moving on ... a bit of background about me, so you know what you are getting..... I graduated from Loughborough University as a PE Teacher and taught physical education in 3 schools while playing mainly Rugby and Tennis, ending my rugby career as Captain of Market Rasen Rugby Club. I only took to golf in my 40s but recently had a long break from the game, when my second wife to be, Rosie said "You can have me and golf, me and music but not both"! My clubs duly went into the garage, only to re-emerge during lockdown when my son-in law wanted to start playing. I got out of teaching after 22 years when I saw an opportunity with a Sports Training company based over in Melton Mowbray. The successful Speed Agility Quickness Programme under-pinned the success of the England Rugby Team, World Cup winners in 2003 and all Premiership and League Football Teams. I discovered at Sunderland Football Club one day that I have a striking resemblance to their, then Manager Mick McCarthy, when the first team mistook me at a distance for him. I offered to be his stand in at Pro-Am golf days in Ireland, but he politely told me – "No"! The SAQ training method was also used by many other sports including golf, British Bob sleigh and even in Dog Agility Training. My main role was to run training courses and apply the Fundamental Movement programme to physical education in all schools both Primary and Secondary and Special. It was an experience that took me to every county in the UK and 12 different countries internationally. I once ran a rugby-based course in Bucharest, Romania for 30 coaches from 8 different East European nations. I didn't even know that Bosnia played rugby then, but it was a joy to be alongside Bosnian, Croat and Serb coaches who not many years before had been trying to blow each other to smithereens. All reunited again by the power of Sport! I'm proud to say that our legacy still remains because when you see a dynamic warm up, a run over mini hurdles or through fast foot ladders or performers being attached to elastic resistors you are witnessing SAQ Training. I have been privileged to work with Olympians, Internationals, performers across many sports and school children of all ages and abilities, but one of my most endearing memories was of enabling an 11-year boy with cerebral palsy to eventually walk and run without a limp! I finished my teaching/coaching career working 1-1 with children across Nottinghamshire who are unable to access mainstream education. Oh, the earlier mention of music or golf was because I'm also a semi-pro Jazz Saxophonist. So how do I see my role this season as your Captain? Well firstly I wish to play my part in something that you all contribute to already - that is the sociable, knowledgeable, and competitive atmosphere that is created in this clubhouse every week. With that in mind I wish to keep in touch and learn from your experiences, by playing my golf across as many groups as possible during the season. I hope this season I can contribute to the longevity and improved performance in your golf and use this year as an opportunity to give something back. This is because I have learned so much from so many of you in

Appendix 3

the last 3 years. 'Down the middle' from John Chadwick - excellence, course management and the rules from Mick Duffy - winning and losing at match play with my 2- time Pairs partner Neil Harris - playing every round with a smile on your face from Rob Macdonald-how to play alongside the ladies from Stuart Murray and how to make the most of a purple patch from that winning, winter phenomenon John Lowton. We cannot forget also how much John O'Neil and Garth Hallam inspire us every week. The list is endless. I am delighted therefore that many of you have registered your interest in my Captain's initiative to bring a focus to putting this season. I would suggest that there really is nothing more satisfying than sinking a difficult putt. It is the one place on the golf course we start as equals and the easiest way to progress our handicaps. I've been fascinated watching the numerous, different techniques, routines, clubs and resulting language used by you all. My only success last summer was to improve my best front 9 gross score because it included only 12 putts. I should have won that day but who put me into second place - Terry Crofts of course. All details are yet to be agreed but a special mention must be made to David Costin, Richard Hone and David Insley who have already done much work to ensure the smooth running of this project. A new bench mark has been thrown down by Mr Hone who only recorded 10 putts on the front 9 last week when the Committee took part in a trial run. The competition will be free to enter and you will sign up as you do on the website for the other rolling summer competitions. I hope to see you at some workshops, accessing some tips on the website, counting your scores on the green and pushing one or two deserving players to the title of Aggregate Putter of the Year and after a nail- biting final shoot out on the putting green Champion Putter of the Year. The special prizes will be hand -crafted with willing sponsors (hint hint) duly acknowledged)! To my main role as Captain in the Team Matches, I am anticipating a big sign up for the team, for which I am grateful. However once again places will be at a premium, because of opponents who can only put out a team of 12 whereas we can play 16 every week. I hope to continue where Terry left off in supporting players of all abilities and experience in representing Ramsdale and will do my best to be as fair as possible, at the same time keeping a close eye on current form. I will continue Terry's approach of picking teams several weeks in advance and trying to ensure everyone plays in one of the first 3 fixtures. Basically, let's all get ready for April 8th against College Pines so we can hit the ground running. My Senior Captain's Away Day is booked for Friday 12th July at Market Rasen in Lincolnshire. It's a Championship tree-lined, flat course and I feel sure you will all have a brilliant golfing day out. It's where I began my golfing life so I know for certain that you will enjoy much variety and challenge. As you heard at the beginning Mr Crofts is becoming a bit of an ACE. I don't yet have the satisfaction of scoring a whole in 1! However, those of you who have arrived on the 16th tee with me, know I am proud to recount (again and again) my only special golfing achievement - scoring an Eagle! I think it's an achievement amongst members worth highlighting and so I am putting up a Captain's prize to any of you who record an eagle during a competitive round recognised by the Senior Section. I still smile with admiration when I hear again about Will Davis's feat on the 3rd hole - his second shot a 186 yards iron that broke the cup with its direct entry. Lastly, I am pleased to announce one more Captain's initiative still very much in the discussion phase, which will be a one- day Mixed Pairs Competition organised in conjunction with the Ladies Captain Doreen Musgrove. To end - it now gives me great pleasure to announce who is our Senior Vice-Captain this year. He is gracing us with his presence today, having flown back early from a warm winter training camp. He has been preparing for the new season on not just one course but 4 golf courses. He has a glowing reputation particularly as a representative of that much maligned section of society - left handers. He is a multi-competition winner, plays more rounds of golf at Ramsdale than anyone else (there is no truth in the rumour that Theresa is about to impose a special levy on him for additional wear and tear on the course), He's a master of graphics as you've already witnessed and basically just a really great bloke to be around. We've already done much planning together and I'm looking forward very much to working alongside him this season. Your Senior Vice Captain Mr David Insley! Thank you for listening! This has been an insight into 2024 season which for me cannot come soon enough. I wish you, "All the best, your golf can bring you"!

David Hawkins
Captain 2024