

Ramsdale Seniors

Minutes Annual General Meeting held Monday 10th February 2025

Present at Meeting

Malcolm Voce (Secretary)
Christine West (Treasurer)
Dave Insley (Captain)
David Hawkins (Outgoing Captain)
Richard Hone (Competition Secretary)
David Costin (Website)
David Dandie (Monday Club)
Mark Fisher (Vice Captain)
Stuart Murry (Committee Member)
Mark Northern (Main Club Chairman)
Theresa Plimmer (Centre Manager)
Jonny Evans (Head Greenkeeper)
43 members present

Meeting Opened. 12:45

1. Apologies

- a. Trevor North, Terry Crofts, Steve Crawley, John Tyrrell, Bob Colson, Martin Crookes, Paul Felstead.

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. Centre Manager gave her in-depth report (See appendix 1)

5. Treasurer's Report

- a. The attached printed sheets are a summary record of all of the transactions made by the Senior Section for the Financial Year 1 January to 31 December 2024. 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. The Seniors Section has contributed £210 to the Main Club Charity Day and also contributes to the cost of the floral display at the front of the clubhouse.
- d. 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.
- e. Prize monies for competitions and 2s continue to be paid onto Member Levy cards. 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 £8,336 has been issued in prize monies plus £2,986 for the 2s.
- f. 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.
- g. Total income recorded for the year is £19,406 with a total expenditure of £19,866. The committee set a budget for expenditure again this year but unfortunately due to rising costs our reserves are now £460 lower than last year.
- h. The competition fees have remained unchanged for the past 10 years. The Committee have decided that the competition entry fees should rise from £4 to £5 from April 2025. This was not an easy decision; the Committee did consider it last year, but unfortunately rising costs have caught up with us. The Summer and Winter Series entry fees will remain at £3. 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. The Committee will continue to review all fees but hopes that they can be kept at this level for some time.
- i. The balance of £3,776.15 was brought forward from 2023 and this now gives a carry forward balance of £3,316.15 to 2025. The reconciliation page shows the current bank account balance total at 31.12.24 and how this reconciles with the balance carried forward.

Christine West, Treasurer

- 6. Outgoing Captain's Report**
 - a. David Hawkins gave his outgoing report
(See appendix 2)
- 7. Incoming Captain's Report for 2025**

Dave Insley, 2025 Captain, gave his report
(See appendix 3)
- 8. Committee members for 2025**
 - a. All current Committee members have agreed to continue in their roles for 2025.
- 9. Proposals for 2025**
 - a. No acceptable proposals had been submitted but there was a question from the floor as to why a proposal that was submitted was not read, Secretary responded that the proposer had been contacted and informed that his proposal of Winter Qualifiers could not be read or decided upon at this AGM due it being a main club ruling. Also Paul Hicking stated that he rescinded his seconder support to the proposal once he had been informed that the proposal was not appropriate. Mark Northern, main club chairman, kindly gave the meeting an explanation as to why qualifying rounds could not be played throughout the winter, i.e. course conditions along with poor weather.
- 10. Any Other business**
 - a. Patrick McDonough raised the point that the warning bell on the 14th hole was not being used by certain groups, As a reminder to all could you please ring the bell as you have advanced towards the 14th green to indicate to the group behind that it is reasonably safe to tee off.
- 11. Meeting closed. 13:34 hrs**

Date of next AGM

Monday 9th February 2026

*Malcolm Voce
Seniors Secretary*

Centre Managers Report

Good afternoon, Seniors Captain, committee members, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for inviting me to attend the Seniors AGM today.

2024 was one of the most challenging years I have faced as General Manager at this club. Although a very successful one, it certainly had its ups and downs!

One of my personal lows is the passing of too many amazing members in 2024, including my good friend Tony Best and of course Winston Jones, which really hit home. Then the very sad passing of John O'Neil just recently who has been Captain and President of this club. They will all be sadly missed.

On the course...

I'm sure you all remember this time last year having 2 flooded greens (5th and 6th) which is not something we had dealt with before! Johnny's team reacted very quickly with the temp green on the 6th, and we found an unbudgeted £18,000k to have extra drainage put in to stop this from happening in the future.

This is where I would like to thank the members for their patience throughout this time – it was appreciated!

Thankfully – we didn't have quite as much rain in 2024 at 939 mm – although a good chunk of that did come down in February – not helping our flooding issues!

We had the kitchen completely refurbished last January and it has made an outstanding difference to the food service.

The Greens Team completed quite a few projects on the course last year including

- Drainage to green surrounds – 5th, 6th & 10th. 10th not completed yet
- Path work on 3rd, 6th, 7th & 8th
- Pond overflow 6th, Clear out pond 6th tee
- Repair sinkholes
- Removal of bamboo which was starting to cause problems.
- Practise nets installed and will be ready for next week

We invested in some new kit totalling £195K with a further £378K set to invest in 2025.

Costs

As always, costs are spiking again with the Hospitality sector not coming out of the 2025 budget well. The decision of lowering the threshold of NI for employers' contribution, and increasing the tax - our biggest concern going into 2025 is our payroll cost.

We are relying on people to continue to spend time with us. I am fully aware that I have a fight with the cost of certain things in the bar – and I am working on a solution to make the basics – like a bacon and egg cob and coffee cheaper to our members. Stick with me on it!

Theresa Plimmer
General Manager

Outgoing Seniors Captain Speech

I'm not going to give a summary of the season as these have been well documented!

As I stated this time last year, I had no hesitation in taking on this role because I've been involved in 20 sports clubs in the past, covering 5 sports and Ramdale's Seniors Section is the best run sports organisation I have yet to encounter. Nothing has happened this year to change that view! I am deeply grateful for all the support I have received!

Before I left this room last year John O' Niell came up to me, shook my hand, added his congratulations and said "David always remember that the most important thing about next year are the friendships you will make! Have a great year"!

He was right!" It has been those connections, the sociability, the banter, the away experiences with new players I met and the general ambience which is this precious Ramsdale which will always linger in the memory and give me the most enjoyment!

As I stated last year, I wished to recognise achievement in particular the scoring of an 'eagle'!

Thanks to Richard's computer wizardry we've identified 4 worthy winners. So well done to Brian Bailey (5th hole), Robert Colson (5th hole), Brian McLellan (5th hole) and Kelvin Patterson (15th hole).

I wish to give my personal thanks to our exceptional leader Theresa. She has been a delight to work with and is so deserving of all the praise she receives!

Secondly there is an unsung hero who does not have to be here at all. Someone who beavers away in the background and ensures that the section remains a viable organisation. On behalf of myself and the Committee I would like to acknowledge and thank our Treasurer Christine West for all she does!

Finally, now to your new Captain Dave Insley. He's done a fantastic job as Vice Captain! I couldn't have asked for a better deputy!

I wish him every success this year!

AGM Incoming Captain's Speech 2025

I'd like to begin first by saying that I'm feeling a number of things about standing here as your 2025 Seniors Captain.

- I feel honoured by your trust and thank you for the opportunity to represent you all.
- I feel some responsibility for ensuring we maintain the busy, rewarding and seamless golf that the Seniors section enjoys year on year.
- I also feel a little nervous in letting my committee down, who perform tirelessly in the background ensuring this section is always running smoothly, there is so much happening behind the scenes.

At this point last year David said when asked to be Captain, he had no hesitation, I cannot say the same, I had to give some serious thought to it as I saw how much work and commitment is involved, even more so now after working alongside David as his VC for the last 12 months.

There was no single factor which pushed me across the line other than reflecting how lucky I am, I have managed to find a club that I feel thoroughly at home at, some say I do live here, especially our kids!!

- We have a diverse, eclectic and welcoming section • We have a diverse, eclectic and welcoming section
- We have a full and rich diary of events - competitions galore
- We have such a friendly vibe, there no such thing has a play and go game of golf here, every round is at least plus 1 hour for post round chats etc
- And most reassuringly, I have been a member of many sporting clubs, and I can honestly say the seniors section is the best run by far.
- So with this in mind and with the absolute support I have been given by the committee as a player, a VC, and now as your captain, I have no reservations and look forward to a very rewarding year.

I have mentioned our amazing committee who keep our section interesting and relevant so much so that we keep returning week on week throughout the year.

I think I should also give acknowledgement to **Theresa** and all her staff for providing the incredible backdrop of the Ramsdale Park GC for all this to take place in, the course is also a major piece in the ongoing success of the seniors section. So on behalf of Ramsdale Seniors I would like to thank you for your leadership and everything that is done by your team on our behalf.

I would now like to thank you **David** for your guidance last season, from day one you assured me we would be a collaborative team, allowing me to be as involved as I wanted, at times I may have overstepped the mark a bit, maybe a lot, if so my apologise, it was with good intent. It has certainly helped prepare me for what comes ahead, a sign of a good role model.

Success no 1

As with the changing of the guard you brought your own spin and style of leadership, which soon became the norm and you settled into your new role with ease, winning over and making many new friends along the way, probably the biggest reward of your tenure as captain because they will be new friends for life!!

Success no 2

Your 2024 mission statement and passion was "putting", I must admit I was concerned about the how, the when and more importantly the who, I should not have been too concerned, as usual the committee was supportive and quickly agreed the how and the when, and you managed to convince people to give it a go, it soon caught the interest of many to the point we were getting putting scores from people not entered the actual competition, a new side game called "snake", a new golfing term "fringe golf" and I firmly believe you created and uplift in putter purchases

Success no 3

I will also say it is fitting that during your captaincy you managed to get your first hole in one, and I was fortunate enough to be one of your playing partners at the time, the look, the smile it said all, what a year!!!

Success no 4

Once again thank you David for your undying enthusiasm, commitment and support as the 2024 seniors captain, which I am sure will continue into the future as a valued member of the seniors section. All in all a successful year both for yourself and the section.

My role this season as your Captain

My priority is to maintain all the great achievements in place to date, we focus on providing enjoyable, competitive and fun golf for all, but also recognising there is always room for improvement. With this in mind and recent comments received relating to more team events. We will be introducing more team events and looking at mixing up groups to introduce more people to each other

Team Matches

I am anticipating a good sign up for the team matches as usual, maybe even more than last year as a number of new potential players become available for our 20 matches.

One of the main headaches for the captain is team selection, with high numbers and expectations of players, combined with often smaller opponent team numbers, I expect places will be at a premium throughout.

The smaller opponent can only put out a team of 12 whereas we can usually play 16 every week.

I plan to identify one or two reserve players per match this season, please ensure you are happy to be a reserve when invited as a reserve to avoid disappointment, the plan will always be to not require a reserve.

You may notice small changes this year in regard to typical match days, we have avoided Wednesdays for home matches and we will be experimenting with one or two matches in regard to later start time also preceding with a pre round breakfast/brunch meal as opposed to a post round meal.

I will continue where predecessors left off in supporting players of all abilities having the experience of representing Ramsdale and will do my best to be as fair as possible, at the same time looking to be competitive for our opponents.

I will continue the approach of picking teams several weeks in advance and trying to ensure everyone plays in one of the first 4 fixtures.

First step is to register your availability for matches on the website as soon as it opens. Match dates are already available on the seniors website for your referral.

Events

The committee work very hard at ensuring we have a full and interesting section diary and this year will be no different, so a few comments regarding a taste of some of the events to come..

- The putting championship will continue but without the putt off event
- The Captains Clash will also take place again, this event will be open to those who have represented the seniors in a team competition
- The upcoming winter warmer team series commencing Thursday 20th Feb, details and registration now available on the website
- My Seniors Captains away day will take place on Thursday 17th July at Thonock Park GC (Ping Centre) in Gainsborough, approximately a one hour drive from the clubhouse. The club has two courses, the one I have chosen is the "Lakes Course", Full details will be posted on the website in the coming weeks.

All that remains is to confirm my 2025 Vice Captain. This individual is known to you all as an active club member entering as many competitions as he can, both weekday and weekends with varying degrees of success (like most of us), taking the rough with the smooth with the good grace of someone of his years.

He is also a committee member lending his time and thoughts freely with only positive input in keeping with the committee ethos.

It is no secret we play a round or two together each week and so well placed to be totally involved and up to speed with the captaincy going forwards and able to stand in for me as and when required and just as importantly prepared for his own 2026 captaincy, I give you **Mark Fisher**

Thank you for your attendance today! This has been my first step into the 2025 season which for me is both a little daunting and exciting. I wish you all a great 2025 season of Seniors golf and socialising