

**MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7:30PM**



**Chairman Mr. Mark Northern**

Mark Northern opened the meeting by welcoming all who have attended at 7:30pm.

**Apologies**

Phil Abbott, Ian Riddell, Daryl Woolley.

**Minutes of 29th AGM**

Proposed: John Hilton

Seconded: Mick Bancroft

**Matters Arising**

No matters arising from the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM minutes.

**Treasurers Report – Hans Bauder**

Hans Bauder reported as follows.

You have with you copies of our accounts and financial activity generated through last year 2023. These have been fully audited and ratified by our independent accountant prior to this meeting.

The main summary sheet shows detailed month by month competition revenue and expenditure, charity money raised, and the usual costs incurred to run events through the year. You also have a comparison sheet for the previous year 2022, and a breakdown of where we subsidize certain events and competitions and try to improve the club in general.

It's been a busy year due to full membership and nearly always full competitions, turnover for comps being almost £2.5k higher than last year, and that's even with 8 comp cancellations due to poor weather. The financial highlight of the year being the amount raised for charity, just over £30k, which I'm sure the captain will say a little about later.

Those with a keen eye might notice that Comp Prize Levy awarded last year, £21k, is lower than the 2022 figure of £25k! This is because in 2022 we had to absorb a backlog of paper vouchers during the transition to the card levy system, and the Order of Merits & Eclectics prizes for 2021 were also issued late, ie 2022. Also, in 2023 there were a couple of competitions, like Capts. Invitation Day where prizes awarded were not voucher Levy but shoes, shirts, clothing etc. from the shop.

Other items on your income and expenditure sheets I think are pretty much self-explanatory.

One thing on the 'subsidized' sheet may puzzle you, the starter hut for Par 3! This was purchased so that Brian can have a nice place to sit in when we do Par 3 comps on cold rainy days and enhance the look of the first tee. Hopefully we can get some volunteers to help erect this, later this year.

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At the last AGM, we stated that the then Ramsdale bank balance of just over £15k would be a good figure to maintain and keep us safely in the 'black' in case of future eventualities. I'm happy to report, that due to careful management of costs for events etc. and co-operation with the Centre and other key spenders, our aim to achieve this £15k was met with an actual £60 increase over last year's balance (see bottom right of summary sheet where total includes £767 excess charity to go into this year's total). This means that every pound taken in competition entries last year was used as prizes or other benefits to the members of the club. I would like to think we could do the same in 2024, although I am aware there may be some extra expenditure required for an upgrade in our computer and touch screen hardware later this year, along with the usual annual increases we get from the likes of BT and Master scoreboard for the use of their Handicap Master software. Hopefully we can absorb these extra costs into the general expenditure and not end up with a great deficit.

Thank you for your attention, if anyone has any questions, I'll try to answer them now. Other than that, I wish everyone a successful golfing year.

Ian Saunders asked Hans if he felt the previous strategy regarding balancing subsidised events had worked.

Hans responded that he feels that as the books balanced to within a few pounds over the past year that the strategy to spend all of the annual income and maintain a fixed bank balance had worked and the committee would work to do the same in the coming year by reviewing each major event individually with regard to anticipated income and expenditure.

Mark Northern thanked Hans for all his hard work throughout the year both with the Treasurers job and his work with the Charity Committee.

### Centre Managers Report – Theresa Plimmer

Good evening, President, Chairman, Captain, Lady Captain club committee members, ladies and gentleman. Thank you very much for inviting me to attend the Club AGM tonight.

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 throughout 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

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2023 and we plan to continue that, and I would like to thank the members for their patience with this.

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. **6<sup>th</sup> Green and surrounding area** is still wet. It's 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 have 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 year's 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.

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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.
- Drainage 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
- Path improvement 8<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>! More time needed to find different solutions and a slow build investment.

**Heartfelt thanks to the committee and their efforts over the last 12 months. Danny and the charity team pulling in a tremendous amount for charity. A special thanks to Dene who has taken on Emmanuel House – the Nottinghamshire Homeless Charity again this year. I have personal links to this cause, and I am delighted this is one of his chosen charities this year.**

**Thank you, Sachin, 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**

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Mark Northern thanked Theresa and the whole team for all of their hard work and support for the golf club and gave a special mention to Johnny Evans and the green keeping staff who have managed to keep the course in such great condition through some extreme weather.

Chris Oakes asked if there would be an increase in membership fees.

Theresa responded that there had to be an increase which would be in the region of £6-£7 per month.

John Hilton asked if it would be possible to have new mats on the main course par 3's. and have the tree on the left cut down....

Theresa answered that regarding the mats this was a relatively simple request to fulfil and would look at this with Johnny Evans although the tree is a different matter.....

**Captain's Closing Statement – Sachin Kanaiya**

Sachin stood and gave the following speech.

I suppose one must start these things with an introduction, for those who are here for the annual free pint - I am the club captain for the next few mins before I hand this prestigious title to this fine young gentleman next to me.

Firstly, let's acknowledge the elephant in the rough, these past few weeks hasn't really been a hole-in-one for the tricky trees, they've won only one game of the last 6 games, 3 draws and 2 losses and I just want to wish them very best for the game with Bristol City tomorrow.

Now, onto to the serious stuff, *sip the whisky* ...Let's birdie this speech.

As stand I here, in the fading glow of this bloody good year, it reminds me... two years ago when Phil Abbott chose me as his vice-captain, I was fragile as a porcelain vase (vaaz) on a windy day. But for everyone in this room today and other members

- You may not have always hit the fairway,
- But you showed up, swung your clubs with reckless abandon.
- Supported every event! that this committee works tirelessly to organise,
- Many of you who volunteered,
- Your selfless donations to charity,
- Shared a few tipples,
- Trash talked how you the greatest golfer...
- But, most importantly, you had FUN.

And that, my friends, is what Ramsdale Park is all about. Having fun and the unwavering love for this crazy game.

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So, I want to start off with "Thanking all club members" for your support these past two years. Thank you.

I am going to sum up the year with thanking a few people and highlighting the role they played and making Dene & My year an absolute delight.

- **The Clubhouse crew / Bar & Catering Staff / Membership team in the office / Pro shop:** For keeping us fuelled, hydrated, and (sometimes) sane - Thank you
- **The Greenkeepers:** Johnny Evans and his team for their tireless work keeping our fairways tidy and the best greens in the county and all the hard work they are doing this winter and preparing for another fantastic next season.
- **Brian Bailey** at the starter hut who selflessly works towards giving us the insults we need before teeing off and all his efforts to raise money for our charities.
- **Summer League Team** - For supporting us through all the games in the league, we had many new faces which is terrific. Thank you.
- Special thank you to **Tom Wilson** in the office for ensuring all the home games meals and tee times are arranged - Thank you Tom.
- **Will Davies, Matt Buckley, Jack Stoppard** at the Pro Shop - Thank you for supporting all the summer league games, arranging prizes for all the events and bearing with me for all the last-minute requests - You are super stars. Thank you.
- Want to congratulate **our scratch team** for winning the 4th Division league and being undefeated - **Lee Bettison & Jabba** for leading the team and arranging the league games.
- **Our esteemed past captains**, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and wisdom - Thank you.
- Terry Croft **our Senior Captain, Richard Hone - Par 3 Club** organizer) and our **outgoing ladies Captain, Lyne Moon** - Thank you all for your support through year, you have been amazing.
- We had another **record-breaking charity year** and raised £35,000, and we wouldn't be here celebrating another successful year without the leadership, guidance, and passion of **Danny Harkin** for this cause. So, Danny - Thank you again for all your support and hard work.
- **Johnny Hilton**- You may be little, but you are explosive package of fun and have supported so much, all the work you on the raising money via the football cards - Thank you.
- Two other people who you don't see much - Is **Janet Bauder & Vicky Northern** who volunteer on charity day and many other events - Thank you so much for all your help this year.

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- Spending numerous hours balancing our books and counting the pennies we put in competition envelopes and keeping me entertained with his exploits as a young stud, the German, our Treasurer - **Mr. Hans Bauder - Thank you.**
- It's very difficult to not to mention one without the other - **John White & Mark Northern** - The amount of hard work they put in with running competitions, checking cards, ensuring the competitions are up on website - Battling the England Golf handicap system. For me personally, without your counsel and guidance I certainly would have been lost - so thank you for being there every time I needed you and everything you do.
- **Martin Bettison** - My dancing queen, my big brother - You have guided, supported, and navigated me through thick and thin - Love you and thank you for everything.

**Duchess**, you are the best club manager we have and will have, thank you for supporting the club and being that amazing partner, standing there for me, translating the words that are coming from my mouth, hand in hand - Whisky & Desperado. Thank you.

- I think it's time for me to close the book and do one final thing as your captain.
  - Lastly, the man, my partner, the star - Without him I don't think my year would have been so smooth, you're a true asset to the club, and I wouldn't have been able to discharge my duties without you. Thank you for being an amazing vice-captain. Wishing you the very best for the year ahead and I am looking forward to supporting you.

**Dene Parsons everyone!**

**Incoming Captains Statement – Dene Parsons**

Dene stood and gave the following speech.

Good evening, everyone and thank you for attending the AGM for 2024, great to see so many friends and members of the club.

Short introduction to myself, I am Dene Parsons, and I am wondering if you don't know me where have you been during 2023, as one of our fabulous scratch team and committee members James Abbot (JABBA) has said for many months now, Sach and I have been making a nuisance of ourselves for the last 12 months.

Before undertaking my role as Vice-captain in 2023, I had been on the committee for 2 years acting as Junior Organiser and with the help of Jack Stoppard I believe we are continuing to do our best to develop the future players and members here at Ramsdale Park, it is great to see Jimmy Masterton here tonight representing the Junior section.



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I live in the village with my Wife Michelle and daughter Abigayle and can occasionally be seen walking across the 9th fairway with friends and family after one or two of the clubs evening events held throughout the year. My son Elliot aka 'Jr' is a member here at Ramsdale and I cannot believe it myself, he beat me to getting his name on the boards downstairs even though mine is not there due to my golfing prowess but maybe this year.....

It is a huge honour and privilege to be Captain of this amazing club, and I am looking forward to 2024 immensely, though as many people have said over the last 6 months or so, it is going to be a very tough gig to improve on the reign of Sach, but I will give it my absolute best.

I echo all the thanks and praise that Sach has mentioned for our fantastic golf centre, green keeping staff and hard-working committee and I would like to thank a few people who have helped me during my vice-captaincy and offered me counsel and friendship which I am trusting will ensure we all have a fun and memorable 2024.

Firstly, our outgoing captain Sach - I have had a great time as Vice-captain and loved being your Byatch in 2023 – during his captaincy I would like to think we broke the mould of a stuffy old gentleman's golf club, not that Ramsdale Park has ever been one of those, and words such as Sexting, cute couple and bromance have been used on many occasions and Sach has shown his own unique way of doing things, always very generous with his time and drinks and always giving 110% as can be seen by this photo at one of our golfing weekends, 'I have no idea where my room is Deno' as he promptly made alternative arrangements about a foot from his door. The drinks vouchers for tonight will be the only free drink you will get on my watch so make the most of it. despite his best attempts, Viskey still remains most definitely 'Fire Water' and a tot to be avoided at all costs, but with aromas of panettone and candied lime, flavours of white chocolate and lemon truffles along with sweet citrus and a finish of blood orange, this small gift may just be the one Sach, maybe.

- Congratulations to our outgoing Ladies and Seniors Captains Lynne and Terry on their successful year and I look forward to working with the new section Captains throughout 2024.
- Thanks to Tom and Matt in the office and our fantastic team of professionals led by Will for all the support in organising summer league times and catering;
- The Summer league team who performed exceptionally well all year, just missing out on 3rd place but did us proud and something to build on, and as I have to mention it, beating Sach and his League of Gentlemen at the weekend in the Captain V Vice event. Thank you boys.
- And lastly thanks to John Hilton, Mick Greenwood and Dean Neville who have all offered advice for which I am grateful. The summary of which is have fun and be yourself.



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Please continue to support the committee, the centre and the green keepers who put in an awful lot of work so you can enjoy fantastic golf here at Ramsdale.

Away from Ramsdale, I hope you will be able to join me at the captains away day which will be at Lincoln (Torksey) Golf Club on Friday 24 May or the away weekend at Carden Park in July, details for both will be put up next week or so allowing you to register your interest and pay a deposit to secure your space. These are always very popular and would encourage any of you who have not yet attended one of these events to give them a go, they are a great way to get to know different people across the club and have fun whilst playing some great courses.

We are a golfing community of course, but we are also a very generous group of individuals who always give to those in need. In 2024 we will again support two Captains Charities, retaining Emmanuel House from 2023 and a second and new charity BASE51, who provide vital support to 11–25-year-olds in Nottingham to improve well-being through building life skills and resilience, hopefully avoiding young adults to need services of Emmanuel House. With our club President Danny leading the charity committee, we will be raising monies for these charities over the year in traditional ways including charity day auction and some new ways including 'Find the Captains Ball' in which you can pay a small amount and if you find one of my very uniquely marked balls that goes 'Missing In Action' you can return it for a new sleeve of premium balls. Lost and Found notices will be placed on the Unofficial Facebook page to inspire everyone to get involved and have a little fun. Despite what England Golf suggests with my handicap of 5.6, I estimate I went through in excess of 5 dozen yellow Titleist AVX last season so it is a bit of fun with the odds definitely on your side.

My first responsibility as 2024 Club Captain is to present the trophy for the 2023 Most Improved Player, reducing their handicap from 25.1 to 12.9, I have great pleasure to award the trophy to Jason Trafford, what a fantastic year and I hope to see you continue to improve.

My last task this evening is to introduce my Vice-Captain for 2024. He is a well-liked member of the prestigious group of golfers known as the Ramsdale Cartel, one of the very few of them who did NOT get their name on the boards in 2023, someone who has a thing for expensive golf attire and who could not be here tonight as he decided that playing crazy golf aboard a Caribbean cruise ship with a member of our ladies section was better for his 'well-being' than attending our AGM – and for those of us who know Ramuna we would probably have to agree..... I am delighted to introduce Daryl Woolley as Vice-Captain 2024, Daryl has asked James McLaren to read a few words on his behalf.

Thanks everybody and I look forward to celebrating good golf, fun and friendship with you all in 2024.

Jimmy, the floor is yours.....

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**Incoming Vice-Captains Statement – James McLaren on behalf of Daryl Woolley.**

Good evening, Everyone,

Please accept my sincere apologies for not being able to join you this evening. I couldn't resist some pre-season warm weather training and currently basking in over 30 Degrees of Caribbean Sun.

I would firstly like to thank Sach, Dene, Theresa and The Committee for a great 2023 season both on and off the course. Sach has definitely set the bar high with an extraordinary year, including raising a record-breaking amount for both Emmanuel House and Maggie's. Dene and myself are looking forward to seeing if we can break that record again with some exciting captain challenges to come.....

I would also like to thank Johnny for delivering an outstanding course, week-in, week-out, despite having such a monsoon of a summer last year..... which has continued throughout this winter!!! We are all lucky to have a great club on and off the course, which is supported by a superb group of members. Most recently, to the 300 members who paid their respect to the recent passing of one of our members - Tommy. I would like to take this opportunity to send my deepest condolences to Tommy's family.

I am honoured Dene asked me to support him as Vice-Captain for 2024, although I think he has doubted his choice on several occasions, including when I announced I couldn't be here at this evening's AGM.

I would also like to thank the Committee for endorsing Dene's selection for me to Support Dene as Vice-Captain throughout 2024, I believe I may become the club's youngest Captain in 2025 which will be a great honour. Sach's captaincy as some will know, was well supported with copious amounts of Whisky, I believe Dene's year will be endorsed by plenty of Port and Cigars!!!! 2024 will be a great season!!!

This will be my 5th year as a member of the club, roughly the same amount of time I have known Dene for. Myself and Dene started working for our previous employee at roughly the same time and quickly bonded over a game of golf, which then quickly evolved in getting a membership at Ramsdale, playing week-in, week-out, rain or shine. However, I must note, Dene's obsession for the game of golf cannot be matched and often Joke.... how has his Wife not divorced him yet!!

One final thing before I sign off... I have already mentioned that Dene loves a challenge and his love for all things golf orientated, which includes Acushnet.

Dene..... if we raise more money than last year for your selected Charities, will you get a 'Scotty Cameron' Tattoo by our very own Club President - Danny Harkin?

Lastly, on a serious note, I would like to wish you all the best for the 2024 season and welcome you all to join Dene and myself at the various events throughout the season.

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**Proposals and Nominations**

There were no nominations for committee and also no proposals for consideration at the AGM.

**To Appoint 3 tellers**

As there were no nominations or proposals there was no need to appoint three tellers as there wouldn't be a vote required and Phil Abbott has stood down from committee, but all other members agreed to remain.

**Election of new committee members**

As above.

**A.O.B.**

Mark Northern advised all of the forthcoming changes to the handicap system and noted that this would involve most handicaps changing in line with revised slope ratings and that the handicap boards would be replaced when this comes into force via England Golf.

Ian Saunders asked Mark if the changes would appear in individual's app with regard to their handicap.

Mark advised Ian that is exactly how it would appear.

Doreen Musgrove suggested a proposal with regard to ladies handicapping.  
Mark Northern agreed.

Ryan Beet asked if the slope ratings will be reassessed, and stroke indexes changed to suit.  
Mark Northern explained that this could be the case but it would seriously affect our "odds and evens" balance of stroke indexes for front and back nine holes which in turn would affect Matchplay situations and Mark will advise all of the EGU decision when this is discussed.

Jonathan Clarke asked if there could be more team games entered across the playing season.  
John White went on to explain that statistics showed that team games were more often than not very poorly supported although the ones held recently on the Par 3 course during the winter period had been reasonably successful so will continue to put these events on and look at others as the new fine system which had been issued to all on arrival may help to reduce the number of NTU's at weekends for such events.

Mark Northern thanked all in attendance for their time in supporting the AGM and the club in general. Note of the 900+ members 45 attended the meeting and this included the committee and centre staff.

**Meeting closed at 8:50pm**

**Mark Northern – Chairman**

*Mark Northern*