



**Minutes of the AGM held at Mark Masons' Hall**  
**86 St James's London at 6.45pm on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Present**

Committee

Jason Wood – Captain  
Rob Seeley - Vice-Captain  
Nick Archer – Treasurer  
Neil Meixner – Secretary  
Ken Adams – President / Deputy Secretary  
Iain Stevenson– Committee / Past Captain  
Neil Blundy – Committee  
Malcolm Marshall – Committee / Deputy Treasurer  
Fiona Watson – Committee

Members in attendance were: - Steven Barker, Luke Croll, Terry Dobbins, Joel Evans, Raja Flora, Ben Hurworth, Geoff Green, Martin Howie, Matthew Jones, Jarlath Rooney, Christopher Sunderland, Michael Trott, Oliver Tobin, Gavin Tuck and David Wannerton.

Apologies were received from Ian Abley, Darrell Lewis, Paul Lewis, James Barrett, David Bennett, John Biscoe, John Bush, John Campbell, Jon Coles, Gary Dann, Steve Davies, David Dickinson, Richard Urquhart, Aidan Mahoney, Michael Foster, Matthew Friedlander, Delwyn Jacobs, Steve Haley, Digby Hebbard, Andrew Hardy, Michael Salmon, Graham Howe, Callum Howie, Aaron Hughes, Steve Hurworth, Paul Ibson, John Marsh, Bill Merry, Robert White, Chris Anderson and Danny Toseland.

The Secretary opened the meeting at 18.45.

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 were unanimously agreed.

**2. Matters arising**

None.

### **3. Captain's Report**

Jason Wood said he'd had a really good year and loved it!! The highlight was the 4-2 defeat of the BAGS who still haven't handed over the trophy!! Jason went on to describe the various events including the charity day where £21k was raised for the two charities Rosie's Rainbow Fund and Haven House and the tour to Vilamoura. He said he was very grateful for Rob Seeley's team selection for the tour and gloated about the thrashing the Captains' Team gave the Vices' Team!! Jason informed the meeting that this year's attendances had exceeded previous years and thanked all present for their support. He also thanked The Treasurer and Secretary for their support and wished the incoming Captain Rob Seeley all the best for the forthcoming year!!

If you'd like to see Jason's full report, use this link! [Captains Report](#)

### **4. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary offered his report as read, re-emphasising Jason's comment by saying that attendances had been up to 115 member attendances over the 5 major events excluding Letchworth against ~95 average in previous years. The Secretary highlighted Nick Archer (Finance), Aaron Hughes and Chris Sunderland (Social Media) and Digby Hebbard (Knock-out Competition) for their help this year and reminded members present of the need for prompt payment of their subscriptions and event fees.

If you'd like to see Neil's full report, use this link! [Secretary's Report](#)

### **5. Membership**

Membership stands at 64 after culling those who had not paid their subscriptions from 2022 despite numerous reminders. The Secretary informed the meeting of the 7 new members joining in 2022. A very warm welcome to Terry Dobbins, Raja Flora, Matthew Friedlander, Geoff Green, Aaron Hughes, Richard Hunt & Paul Lewis who all joined EPIC in 2022. Thanks also to the members who introduced them.

Terry Dobbins, Raja Flora and Geoff Green were welcomed in person and Messrs. Dobbins and Green stood and said a few words of introduction.

We have had several retirees (George Skinner, Jeff Lewis, Keith Everitt, David Bennison, Matthew Bowen, John Mitham, Lewis O'Donoghue & Bradley Taylor). We wish them well for the future.

## **6. Treasurer's Report, Charity & Accounts**

The Treasurer offered the Balance Sheet as issued but outlined the following key messages: - The finances were sound with a modest profit at the end of the year. The Charity Day had been the "best ever" with a record contribution of £26,440 being raised and shared by the two charities. Magnificent. Nick informed the meeting that over the Presidential tenure of Ken Adams a magnificent £21,155 had been raised for Rosie's Rainbow Fund and that he proposed that this be topped up out of EPIC funds to a round £22,000. This was unanimously carried by the members.

## **7. 2023 Subscription**

The committee suggested the annual subscription remain at £50. This motion was proposed by Chris Sunderland, seconded by Gavin Tuck, and carried by members unanimously.

**Members are reminded to send their payments to Nick Archer as soon as possible and to annotate them so we know what they were for and where they came from**

**ALL members should endeavour to introduce at least one, preferably young, new member to the Society.**

## **8. Outgoing President's Thoughts**

Ken Adams said "Thank you to everyone in EPIC for the magnificent £22k raised for Rosie's Rainbow Fund during my Presidency. I also congratulate all involved with the Charity Day headed up by Steven Barker and assisted by Ruth Mendis, Nick Archer, Jason Wood, Rob Seeley, Darrel Lewis and Ben Hurworth. I also thank the guests and EPIC members for their generosity in raising a magnificent £26k on the charity day which we divided between the two charities we were supporting in 2022. Steve was, as expected, brilliant as our Auctioneer. I also thank Ben for the magnificent ties and Jason for his generosity in sponsoring the Golf Tops and the "hole In One" along with Lifebuild. I thank the committee with particular reference to Nick Archer for supporting me on the Ball Sweep over the 5 years and massive thanks to Neil, they definitely "broke the mould" when Neil came along, his service to EPIC has been invaluable.

In summary it has been an honour and a privilege to have been the EPIC President and I wish Darrel Lewis every success for the next five years. I am looking forward to my new role "Succession Planning" bringing in young blood, assisting in the growth of EPIC, developing and finding our new Captains and making a difference. I will report to the committee on a regular basis and set targets, I will also choose a couple of members to support this initiative. My position will not be "Uncle Tom" as suggested by several members at the AGM. Please watch this space for further details"

## 9. Appointment of New President

The outgoing President nominated Darrell Lewis be the next president. This was proposed by David Wannerton and seconded by Matthew Jones and carried unanimously.

Darrell Lewis wasn't present, but Neil Blundy read out the following.

"Ladies and Gents.

Please accept my sincere apologies that I couldn't be there in person tonight but I received a last minute call up to represent Paul McGinley's amateur Ryder cup team in Portugal this week....it's a tough life but somebody's got to do it!!!

Also, a huge thanks to Mr. Blundy for stepping in at the last minute and conveying these brief words on my behalf, that said no ad libs please Neil as I still have my spies.

I would like to thank Ken for his excellent & gracious work as President of this great society over the last 5 years. The amazing sum of £26k that was raised for Rosie's during his 'REIGN' is testament to the man and his great love of EPIC's. (Please therefore be upstanding and give him a very loud round of applause)

Ken & I have been great friends for over 40 years, and it is him that is to blame for introducing me into EPICs 20 years ago. So it really is a very special honor for me to accept the role of President and hope that I will be able to follow in his huge footsteps. I'm also really looking forward to ensuring that our upcoming 50th anniversary charity day will be truly memorable during the final year of my tenure.

As you all know EPIC really does hold a special place in my heart, and this leads me very neatly onto my chosen charity for the next 5 years which is the British Heart Foundation.

I thought long and hard and they were several strong contenders but following my own personal experience 18 months ago, the BHF was the obvious choice. Although huge progress has been made over the last 50 years, unfortunately many of us will have friends or family both young & old that will be affected by heart disease. Hopefully ongoing support for the BHF will go some way to reducing the devastating impact that heart disease has on so many families.

The society would not be where it is today without the enduring hard work of our fantastic secretary, captains, and committee. I therefore urge all of you that have not already 'had a go' to consider putting yourselves forward for committee and promise that the rewards really do outweigh the effort.

I'm fully committed to ensuring that the great legacy of EPIC Golfing Society continues to thrive over the coming 5 years, and I very much look forward to supporting Rob, Neil and the committee over the next 12 months.

Finally, I thank all EPIC members for your continued support and remind everyone that the introduction of younger 'future presidents' is the life blood of our great society.

Thanks Darrell"

## **10. Appointment of Vice-Presidents, Officers and Committee**

The appointment of two Life Vice-Presidents was put forward by the Committee (following initial nomination by John Bush). This honour is given to members who have given outstanding service to EPIC over many years.

The motion that Steven Barker and Ben Hurworth be elevated to Vice-President status was proposed by Ken Adams seconded by Neil Blundy and carried unanimously.

The Committee proposed that the officers for 2023 be as follows: -

Robert Seeley - Captain  
Fiona Watson - Vice-Captain  
Darrell Lewis – President  
Nick Archer – Treasurer  
Neil Meixner – Secretary  
Malcolm Marshall – Committee / Deputy Treasurer  
Ken Adams – Committee/Deputy Secretary/Futureproofing Guru  
Neil Blundy – Committee/Informal Meetings  
Jason Wood – Committee/Past Captain  
Matthew Jones – Committee

The appointment of the Officers and Committee was proposed by Rob Seeley, seconded by Geoff Green and carried unanimously.

Ken Adams explained that he would like to take up the baton and explore maximising the society particularly in getting younger members to join up and participate in the running of the Society.

**Post Meeting Note:** - The Secretary should have informed the meeting that Iain Stevenson was standing down from committee after serving for many years and he should have been thanked for all he had done.

## **11. New Captains thoughts and Tour Update**

Robert Seeley said (or said something like this!!)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was thinking back to when I first played golf with EPIC. I have a couple of recollections the 1st being a round of golf with Andrew Archer at Woburn and the second was a charity day at Ashridge, I think again with Andrew where the shirt of the day was bright blue with yellow logos. I left Tesco in 2011 so I can only think that it must have been 15 years ago give or take.

Anyway, I joined fully as a member in 2011 they year that I started my own business and I have really enjoy the society, playing lots of different courses but more importantly making some great friends and contacts. There have been a couple of job's we have run almost entirely through the society, which after all is what this is all about.

Jason - I am sure everyone will agree - what a great year you had as captain. Our 1st full year back after the lost years of Covid. We have been spoilt with your enthusiasm and a genuine warm welcome to each event. I absolutely loved Portugal. So much so while lying in bed next to Mr Wannerton - just think Morecambe and Wise and you are almost there - I did actually say would it be bad form just to come back next year and do it all again. A really tough act to follow.

We are going to Lisbon in September. 3 great courses and already some great restaurants planned. Fiona, I promise not to stitch you up like Jason did me on a pleasant summer's morning.

It wouldn't be right not to congratulate Jason and Steve on the efforts on Captains Day. Not only a great day but a genuinely amazing sum of money for the two charities and Ken, I didn't know much about Rosie's Rainbow Trust 5 years ago but due to your hard work its certainly now a charity I will follow with interest.

Turning to next year we have a great program planned. Starting off at Woburn. I have been looking forward to the day since we put it in the diary so if I survive skiing, I can't wait. A recipe for a crap round of golf!!!

We have some old favourites as we return to Moor Park and Ashridge, and I am really looking forward to going back to Bishops Stortford now the works have finished and for another portion of ham egg and chips.

You will get to know Knebworth my home course this year. It would be great to host the society there in July!

Finally, I will do a note round for the BAGS match early as I want to keep out the now annual tradition of beating the BAGS alive. It might be the second even where I just copy Jason and pick the same team. I have been warned to expect a tough re match!!

A couple of thank yous, Neil, it's been really enjoyable getting to know you better over the last couple of years. The planning and work that goes into the society from you is quite amazing and while I know it doesn't go unnoticed it really does make a huge difference.

And finally to the society for allowing me to be your captain this year. Let's have a great one.

Cheers.

## **12. The Future of Charity Days**

The Secretary informed the meeting that this was no longer a relevant agenda item, and it was not discussed any further

## **13. 2023 Programme**

The Secretary noted the 2023 programme had been issued to all. For the sake of good order here is a link to [Programme 2023](#)

**Please put these dates in your diaries.**

## **14. AOB**

The Secretary raised the following items for consideration.

- a. WHS System Update – The secretary explained how the interim handicap was awarded until members obtained the 20 rounds necessary for a complete handicap.
  - i. Various clarification questions were asked by members and answered by the secretary.  
The proposal was then debated extensively with various views being expressed.
  - ii. Concern was voiced that the system allowed historic handicaps to be imported and that these may be very out of date.
  - iii. Concern was voiced that introduction might put off young and inexperienced golfers who might otherwise be very useful contacts.
  - iv. Ultimately Steven Barker proposed that we adopt the proposal and see what happens.

This suggestion was unanimously agreed.

Please see this link for full details of the WHS system as it will be applied to EPIC. [WHS Implementation](#)

- b. Website, social media
  - i. Chris Sunderland gave an overview of the Social Media paper issued to members with the agenda.

c. Succession Planning

- i. The Secretary indicated his willingness to continue for the time being in the role but asked members to consider if they would be willing to take over the role in the medium term.
- ii. The Secretary informed the meeting that as a result of COVID committee meeting had fallen by the wayside and that it was his intention to reinstate them this year so once again the EPIC GS would be run by committee and not the Secretary/Captain

d. Members AOB.

- i. Raja Flora asked why the knock-out wasn't better advertised and would it take place again this year. The Secretary responded that this was an oversight and information about the knock-out competition would be posted on the website and members informed.
- ii. Fiona Watson demonstrated the EPIC pin which is available at £10 each. The Secretary has the stock and will bring a few to each event for sale along with the more traditional ties.
- iii. Oliver Tobin asked whether the Jacket and Tie protocol would be relaxed as he felt this might be a barrier to younger members. The Secretary said he'd take it to committee, but that he was not in favour.

**There being no further business, the meeting was closed at approximately 20:15.**

Following the Dinner, Replica Trophies were presented to all winner's present by Captain Jason Wood (or to Jason by Secretary Neil Meixner.)

The Bush Trophy presented to Jason Wood by President Ken Adams.

**Spring Cup - Geoff Green**



**Finlinson Cup - Terry Dobbins**



**Presidents Cup - Neil Meixner**



**Jubilee Cup (Tour 2022 Algarve) - Jason Wood**



**Autumn Cup - David Wannerton**



**Knock-Out Shield - Matthew Jones**



## **Player of the Year - Geoff Green and Neil Meixner**

(111 points best 3 from 5 scores. Previous years were from 2013 to 2022 – 96 to 109)



## **Bush Trophy - Jason Wood was presented by President Ken Adams**

