

Master Cutler in 2012/13

Neil MacDonald was born in Hampshire in 1956. He spent his early years in Scotland, before moving to Cheshire. He went to Manchester Grammar School in 1967, then came to Sheffield University in 1974. He graduated in 1977 with a 2.1 in Economics and Accounting and has been in Sheffield ever since!

He spent 10 years with KPMG, qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1980. From 1987 to 2006, he worked at Firth Rixson the International Aerospace Engineering Group, headquartered in Sheffield, being appointed Group Finance Director in 1994. At that time Firth Rixson was a public company and Neil oversaw a period of great expansion, including the acquisition of Aurora in 1999. He led the “public to private” transaction in 2003 and secured a successful exit for the private equity owner, Carlyle, in 2006.

After a brief “retirement” he returned to executive duties in 2007 when he joined AES Engineering, the Rotherham based mechanical seal manufacturer, as part time Group Finance Director, a role he stepped down from when he became Master Cutler.

Neil has extensive experience of non executive and trustee roles in the private, public and third sectors. Currently, he is chair of St Lukes Hospice in Sheffield, chair of Yorkshire Artspace and a trustee at Museums Sheffield. He is also a non executive director at Pressure Technologies plc and an independent governor and pro chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University. Neil has recently been appointed as a private sector board member of the Sheffield City region LEP.

He has been married to Julie for 40 years. They have two children, Robert (35) and Rachel (30) and three granddaughters. Interests include the theatre, good food and wine, travel and Sheffield Wednesday