

Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

3rd March

Sally Burnett

Green Wood Open Form
with Decoration

7th April

Gary Rance

Three items including a
pepper mill

Club Competitions

March - Challenge

A Quaich

April - Novice

A ring stand

Other events

Friday 17th &
Saturday 18th February
**Colwyn Way at
Axminster, Nuneaton.**

2pm - 4pm

Free event!

Saturday 4th March
**Mark Sanger & Richard
Findley at
Axminster, Nuneaton.** 10am
- 4pm

Free event!

Friday 24th March & Saturday
25th March

**Midlands Woodworking and
Power Tool Show, Newark**

10am - 4pm

[Newark Show link](#)

Saturday 29th April
**Mark Baker at Cheshire
Guild of Woodturners**

Plumley Village Hall
WA16 0TR

10am - 4pm

(Contact John McElroy, if you
are interested in going to this)

Chairman's Notes

Familiar Faces

What a cracking start to the new year with Paul Bellamy back by popular demand. Please excuse the pun, but not only was it a fantastic demonstration but poor Paul was sporting a couple of cracked ribs after taking a recent tumble. He managed to struggle on quite admirably with just a few "ooches" and "ouches" here and there. Sadly I missed most of the best bits as I was trying to co-ordinate two call-outs for the Search and Rescue team and spent most of the night on the telephone. I then had to shoot off early to assist Staffordshire Police in Tamworth. This makes me realise how lucky we are to have a monthly newsletter and a volunteer to write up a summary of the demonstration. Hopefully I can catch up with what I missed in this edition.

It's always lovely to welcome back a familiar face to the club and Paul is definitely no stranger to most of us. As a former club member and committee member, Paul has helped the club an enormous amount in the past. It has also been a privilege to watch him develop from an amateur enthusiast into a professional turner and demonstrator. His demonstrations are always packed full of advice and new ideas such as new suppliers, sharpening techniques, hints and other tips that are usually new and refreshing. He is my kind of demonstrator in that he comes up with new ideas and projects that encourage you to experiment and try something different.

Talking of demonstrations, I am now following in Paul's footsteps and demonstrating at local clubs. In fact on Wednesday the 8th of Feb I paid a visit to the Chase Turners in Norton Canes. It brought back some very happy memories of when I lived in that area and first started woodturning. Chase Turners was the first club that I visited as a complete novice. It was and still is a very warm and welcoming club and it was good to see that it is still thriving. Sadly they meet on a Wednesday night, which is my training night with the Search and Rescue Team, so I had to look elsewhere. Luckily I then came across Mid Staffs Woodturners and the rest is history.

Back to my theme of familiar faces though and I have to admit that it felt like a case of déjà vu on Wednesday night. There were so many MSWA members and people from Stafford, Wolverhampton and Derwent turners that it felt like our own club. I didn't count numbers, but it seemed a good turn out and I felt quite honoured. I always get quite nervous before demonstrating at a new club, so it was really nice and reassuring to see you all at Norton Canes. I really enjoyed the evening and have received some lovely feedback. I thoroughly enjoy demonstrating as I get such a lot in return in the form of useful advice and hints. It is a real privilege to be able

to bounce ideas off the audience and learn from those who have been tuning far longer than me and have found the solutions to most of the problems that I am just encountering for the first time. I will be back at Norton Canes next month for a follow-on demonstration on incorporating weaving elements into woodturning. This will be very similar to the demonstration that I am booked to give at Etching Hill in July. So for those of you who are members of both clubs, I sincerely hope you don't start getting bored of seeing me so often.

Finally, I just want to thank those that stayed behind last Friday to help clear up at the end of the night. I understand that many of you have to rush off as I did, but it can be a bit frustrating when we have over 30 members yet it is the same 2 or 3 who always stay behind to tidy up. Don't worry too much though, it is exactly the same at all the other clubs that I have visited so far. I fully appreciate that most people do what they can and have other commitments.

We have a new demonstrator coming to us next month in the form of Sally Burnett from Newcastle-under-Lyme. She is a member of Staffordshire and South Cheshire Woodturners and is relatively new to demonstrating like myself. I am really looking forward to seeing a new face, especially after visiting her website and viewing some of her work. She produces some stunning pieces and even prepares her own timber straight from the felled tree. Her website is well worth a visit at the following address:

<http://www.sallyburnett.co.uk>

So until next month then!

Happy Turning!

Dawn xx

Editors Scribblings

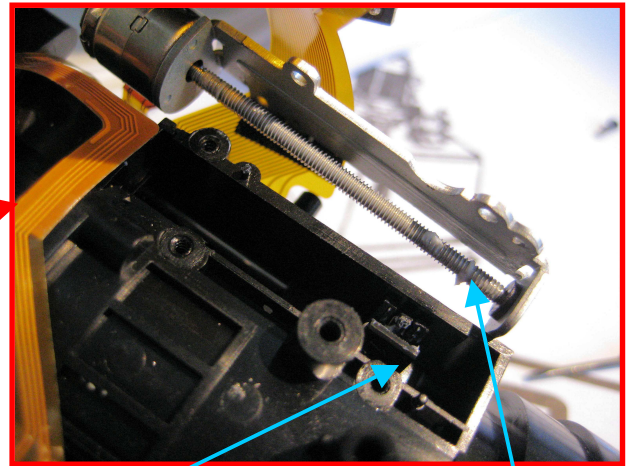
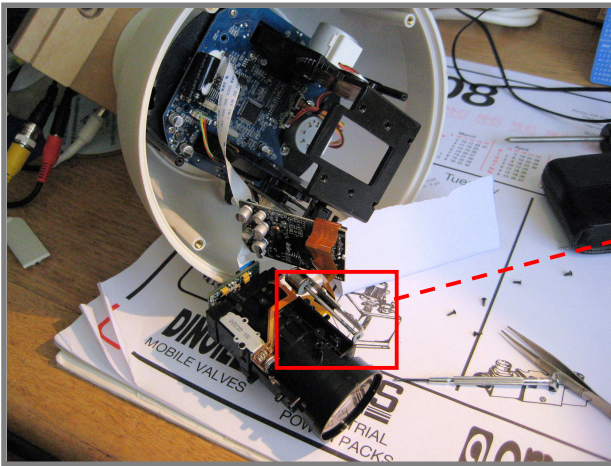
As Dawn has already said Paul Bellamy got the year off to a good start with his demonstration of how to turn a rugby ball shaped box. The meeting was reasonably well attended with 22 members and 3 visitors present.

Thanks go to Jane Russell for writing up the demonstration and to Philip Watts for providing the photographs this month, I was busy helping John Meers and Ted Gill to get used to using the CCTV camera system. More volunteers would be welcomed to learn how to set up and use the system. Let me know if you are interested and I'll provide you with a copy of the set up and operating instructions. The system is not difficult to set up and operate but practice does add to operator satisfaction and benefits the audience experience.

As you will know, we have been struggling with one of our PTZ cameras for the last few months. The lack of a zoom facility (probably the most useful feature!) has made placement of the "side" camera in relation to the lathe more critical and has limited the view at times. The original supplier was unable to repair it, and another CCTV installer also failed to find a solution the problem. Having convinced myself that it was a mechanical, rather than electronic, problem I decided to investigate further! I had



previously looked inside the camera unit for anything obvious but had not gone as far as dismantling the actual zoom camera module (where clearly the problem had to be). In the event the problem was not serious - the zoom mechanism was "stuck" and the stepper drive was not able to make it move.



This slider was stuck so the stepper motor drive could not move it.

Fortunately the drive is designed to slip if overloaded so no damage had resulted. The unit is now working correctly, but obviously the problem may recur. At least I will know what to do next time!

I am always glad to receive articles or even just ideas for future issues of the Newsletter. One thing that I thought might be of interest to members would be book reviews, probably of 300 words or so, not necessarily on woodturning, but in some way related to wood crafts. Any volunteers?

Hugh Field

February Competition

This month was the first one of the Novice competition series, for a pair of Bud Vases. Only one entry unfortunately, from John Meers. His segmented inlaid items were much admired.



Hugh Field



February Display Table

Simon King had three items on display, a lidded box in yew with finial, a small spalted beech bowl, and a larger bowl in sycamore and decorated with iridescent paint:-



February Demonstration

Nice Try!

Paul Bellamy's demonstration of a Rugby ball shaped box

On 3rd February we were delighted to welcome back former club member Paul Bellamy, who made his contribution to the rugby season by demonstrating how he turns a box shaped like a rugby ball. This was a challenge he had been given by a client, a local timber merchant.



Turning a hollow ellipse on a lathe is a tricky business, but Paul decided to make the ball segmented, which simplified the process. Starting with a square blank made up of two layers of 1" thick iroko, (scrap from a science lab work surface) he would turn the inside profile of a bowl, which he would then cut into three sections, scrapping the centre segment and rejoining the two outside pieces. Two shapes made in this way would then be joined to make the complete ball. There was clearly a design opportunity here, and Paul told us that he had it in mind to make one using black walnut and sycamore in a counterpoint arrangement, which would imitate the four-section construction of a leather ball, possibly even adding strips of dark wood to represent the lacing.

Paul had planed one edge of the block, which he later used as a reference when measuring and cutting the segments. For this reason, he explained, it is better to start from square cut timber than from a bowl



blank. He began by marking a 150mm diameter circle and defining it with a parting tool. Hollowing was done with a bowl gouge, using both cutting edges in turn to work from the outside and the centre alternately. A boss was left in the centre; this section would be scrapped so did not need to be hollowed, and in any case the long screw on which the blank was mounted had to be avoided. The join-line was a useful indicator of depth, and Paul reminded us that it is best to establish the shape you are aiming for right from the start and just follow this curve until the desired depth has been reached. – in this case about 40mm.

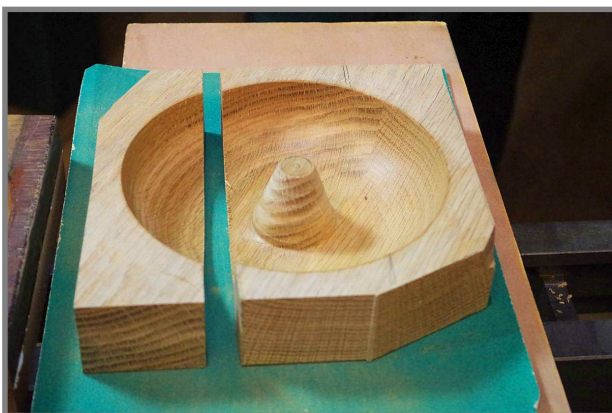


Where the shape of the quadrant was almost at right angles to the grain of the wood, the end grain could be rough, and Paul used both a freshly sharpened bowl gouge and a scraper in turn. A scraper can produce a good finish if it is really sharp with a good burr; success requires a fast speed and a light touch. You should get small shavings, not dust. He talked about sharpening tools, and suggested the scraper should be sharpened upside down to ensure the desired burr on the sharp edge. Scrapers lose their edge more quickly than cutting tools.

Coming to the sanding stage, Paul mentioned that iroko is a toxic timber, and in the workshop he would use a dust extractor as well as wearing a full face visor. As the lathe was designed to run in reverse, he used this feature to help remove any tear-out. Not all lathes have this facility, and of course it is important to remember which way the lathe is running – some lathes display this information.



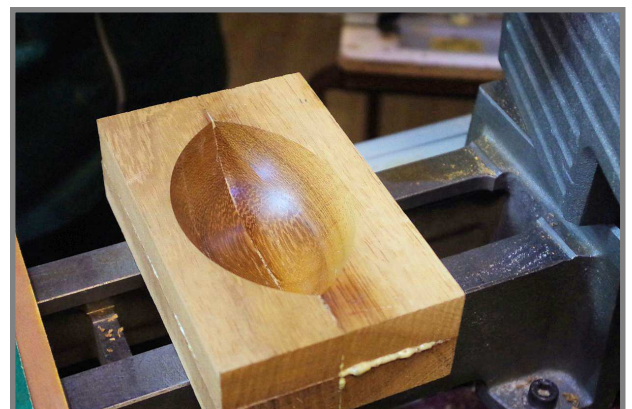
His chosen finish was two coats of melamine lacquer, which dries quickly and stands up to handling. Ideally each layer should be left to go off properly before the next is applied. Paul took a handful of shavings and used it to buff up the dry melamine surface. He then applied paste wax fairly thickly; this would protect the inside surface when the two halves were glued together, and would be buffed once the box was completed.



Paul then marked off the piece so as to have the same width of bowl as depth. At this point he would cut the piece on a bandsaw, using the flat planed edge as a reference along the fence. It was a good idea to make the cut with the bowl face down, using the central boss as support. This ensures greater accuracy and avoids the blade being deflected by the edges of the screw hole in the central boss. The first cut

segment was then placed on top of the remaining section and an identical segment marked and cut.

The cut surfaces needed to be cleaned up, using either a plane, a belt sander, or failing either of these, a piece of





abrasive on a reliably flat surface such as a piece of kitchen work-top or a granite kitchen chopping board. To glue the segments, Paul used a 'Five-minute' polyurethane glue, decanting a small amount and quickly re-closing the bottle to avoid it going off, as this substance reacts with damp. He advised us to wear gloves or to keep acetone handy to clean up the fingers, as the brown stain made by the glue takes weeks to wear off!

[I can confirm this from experience! - Editor]

The two segments, forming one half of the finished ball, were glued permanently and clamped. Then, using a 'Blue Peter' prepared piece, in which the two halves of the ball were temporarily joined by a paper glue joint, so that they could be separated into box and lid later, Paul mounted this between centres to shape the outside profile. A sharp pointed centre would be likely to split the paper joint so Paul used cone centres. An alternative would be to use the more expensive steb centres which have a retracting point.



Paul described the different methods he had so far tried for transferring the inside profile measurement to the outside after turning to a cylinder. His first idea had been to take typing paper and with a soft pencil make a rubbing of the outline of the shape, to use as a



template when shaping the outside. However, he thought that a traditional 'sizing in' method was preferable. He put the discarded waste sections together to form the ellipse shape, and took a series of measurements, at the centre and towards each end, using spring callipers (a Vernier calliper would be too small) and a ruler, and transferring these to the piece. He was careful to leave a reasonable margin for the thickness of the wall. With a parting tool he made grooves on the project to the measured depth, and then, as he quoted David Springett, 'joined the dots', using first a spindle roughing gouge, which had less tendency to drop into the

grooves, then a spindle gouge to shape the ellipse. Paul's favourite spindle roughing gouge is made by Ashley Iles* from 1/2" round bar and, not having a tang, has extra strength and is capable of removing surprisingly large amounts of material. However, it was important to go gently now, particularly in view of the paper joint which could become loose – and indeed did on this occasion, though not disastrously. Paul reminded us to listen as well as look – you can often hear when something is not right and stop in time, as he did. Paul worked on both ends alternately to ensure the shape would be well balanced. He turned as near to the ends as he could safely do, remembering that the ball was being held between centres. Gentle sanding and a melamine finish completed this stage.



What was that about iroko dust being toxic, Paul?!

Removed from the lathe, the ends would be carved and sanded to shape: for speed's sake Paul left this and went on to demonstrate how to split the glue joint – with an ordinary chisel, not too sharp (as a slip



would result in a cut in the wood) and clean up the surplus glue, which easily rubbed away from the waxed surface.

This surface would later be buffed to a shine. The flat edges were rubbed on abrasive on a flat surface to ensure a good closure.

The final stage was to add a form of fastening; the shape did not allow for hinges, so Paul borrowed an idea from Dave Springett and used small rare earth magnets, 6mm if available but he had used 10mm successfully. Although they are strong, a twist-and-slide action opens the box easily. The magnets are counter-sunk into drilled recesses. And to ensure these meet up, Paul demonstrated how to make two small holes with a bradawl, place a pin-head in each, then press the lid into place – this results in 2 pin-holes on the lid which give an accurate position for the drilled recess.



Paul commented that when he first turned this project, the ends were rather too pointed, resulting in an American football! Achieving a true rugby ball shape depends on the size of the segment you cut: the deeper and wider the segment, the more authentic the shape will be, but you may need to start with thicker blocks of wood.

Part of the challenge with this project is turning the two halves of the ball so the insides are as identical as possible; and turning the outside so the completed ball is symmetrical.

Paul ended this fascinating demonstration by assuring us that there is no right or perfect way to turn any project, and once you have worked out a way that suits you, you can still experiment with ways of improving on it.

Jane Russell

(Photos courtesy of Philip Watts)

***Ashley Iles:** Paul is hoping to organise a group visit to be shown round the Ashley Iles factory for the Derwent club, of which he is Secretary, and has extended the invitation to MSWA members. If you are interested, either let Paul know directly, paul@pnbellamy.co.uk, or let one of the MSWA committee know and we will pass your name on. There would just be a charge for a mini-bus, the factory visit itself is free.



Hints and tips

During his demonstration in February Paul Bellamy talked about cutting down sheets of kitchen roll to reduce the consumption of finish, a tip that we have heard before. As an experiment, I put a roll of kitchen towel through the bandsaw. The edges are a bit ragged but I now have two mini rolls to use.

Philip Watts

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This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. If you have discovered something you found useful, that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.

DVDs

The club has a selection of Woodturning DVD's for use by registered club members use only. You can borrow them for just £2 per month (some are free)! If any members have DVDs which are not on the list, but which they would like to donate to the Club, they would be most welcome.

David Brearley has taken over the responsibility for these items and may be seen at Club Meetings.



Abrasives and other items

Mirka Abranet 70 x 125mm Sheets:

5 x Mixed Grit Pack (120, 180, 240, 400 and 500) = £2.00 per pack

Mirka Abranet 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £1.50 per pack

Rhinogrip 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £0.90 per pack

Flexipad Sanding Pads (for above discs):

50mm Velcro Conical Spindle Pad with 6mm shaft = £8.82 each

J-Flex Sanding Paper:

5 x 1m lengths mixed grits 120, 180, 240, 320 & 400 = £9.50 per pack

Screwdrivers:

Various sizes donated to club = £1 each

BondFix Superglue:

50g Bottle of Medium Viscosity = £3 per bottle

Donated Items:

Various Books and Magazines = 50p to £2 each



Club information

Your club committee for 2017 is:-

Chairman – Dawn Hopley

chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel: 07860 501 379

Secretary – John McElroy

secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant Treasurer - Graham Massey

Events Secretary – Vacant

events@mswa.co.uk

Newsletter editor – Hugh Field

editor@mswa.co.uk

Tel: 0121 329 2911

Webmanager – Philip Watts

webman@mswa.co.uk

Health and Safety Advisor -

Hugh Field

health.safety@mswa.co.uk

Please use phone numbers only if absolutely necessary.