



Chair's Chatter

(photograph courtesy of Philip Watts)

A Very Happy New Year to all our club members and newsletter readers. I am absolutely buzzing with enthusiasm and positivity today after our wonderful AGM last night. What a lovely evening it was indeed and attended by the majority of our current membership. I must thank you all for attending and for being so supportive and proactive. The lovely feedback, suggestions and ideas really did make all the hard work behind the scenes very worthwhile indeed and we are all very optimistic about the future of the club. In fact, I got quite emotional with pride at the meeting and can't wait till our next meeting in February.



For our absent friends that were unable to attend, below is a copy of my main report. The key results from the meeting were that we unanimously voted to accept a new Constitution. These new rules should help to secure the future running of the club for at least the next 12 months and beyond. We have reorganised the Committee members and various roles to allow for lower numbers, and secured more voluntary roles. I will be sending you all a copy of the minutes to ensure you are kept up to date.

Financially, the club is in a very strong position. In fact, the best it has been in over six years and our Treasurer is very optimistic for the coming year. With this in mind, we also voted unanimously to invest in a new Projector. This should enhance our superb camera system and improve picture quality for the audience. Hopefully a better projector will also negate the need to turn the lights off and on all of the time. We also generated some really good ideas and plans to recruit new members. The suggestion of a social day or event was also proposed by Ken Allen. This was very well received and something we will try to instigate. Talking of Ken, there was a unanimous vote to award him Honorary Membership in recognition of his long services to the club and woodturning. It was an absolute privilege to announce and present the award to Ken in person.

It was also an honour for me to be able to present the Annual Awards. John Meers won the Novice Cup series, Hugh Field won the Challenge Cup series and Hugh also won the annual Premier Cup. They were all very worthy winners and a credit to the club.

We also agreed to change the rules for the Novice completion series to make it fairer and hopefully attract more entrants. Previously rules stated that once you had won the cup that you could ever enter again. We all agreed that this was forcing many novice turners out of the competition. We are therefore changing the rules to say that once you have won the trophy Twice then you must bow out of the race. This means that all members who still class themselves as Novice Turners can now enter at their own discretion. Hopefully this will boost the number of entries each month and make the competition much fairer.

So once again, thank you all for the amazing support over the last few months and I really do look forwards to seeing you all again in February.

Dawn x



MSWA Chairs Report January 2018

- Firstly welcome to the AGM and Happy New Year. I am very pleased indeed to be here and to be able to welcome you all to another fully booked club year. The last few months have been a bit of a struggle, but I am now very proud to say that the club will continue for at least another 12 months and that we have a wonderful programme of events to look forwards to.
- Hopefully you have all now received a copy of the new monthly programme and are pleased with what your committee have put together. We have dropped the Hands On evenings as these were so poorly attended over the last few years. Instead, Hugh and I will be delivering two presentations and workshops looking at Decorating Techniques and Resin Casting. Just September is yet to be fully confirmed, but I am confident that Emma Cook is available. Sadly I was unable to make contact with Dave Hanlon who I understand had to cancel a couple of demonstrations last year due to ill health. I sincerely hope he is well, but if anyone has any information on Dave, then please do let me know.
- Following in Phillip Watts steps, I would now like to present a review of 2017 and give a quick reminder of what we achieved. Refer to separate PowerPoint Presentation and Notes.
- So we are now well and truly into a new year and looking forwards to another 12 months of meetings. But what about the long term future of the club? Last year we were faced with the harsh reality of folding the club. After a lot of soul searching though, we now have a plan to try and move things forwards. We have had to review how the club is organised and run, which we will look at later in the Agenda when we review the proposal for a new Constitution. Phil Williams is also developing a new website for us to hopefully raise our profile and public awareness. This is already proving some success with more hits and views than previous years.
- We will also be looking at new ideas for recruiting new members. I will be contacting local clubs and groups such as Scouts, Probus, Rotary, Art & Craft, Women's Institute etc. etc. with a view to giving talks about Woodturning and MSWA and hopefully "poaching" a few members. So if any of you know of any groups that would like a 60 minute guest speaker or presentation, then please do let me know. We are also considering staging a "Woodturning Experience" day to invite people to come and have a few free lessons and learn all about woodturning. This idea is very much in its infancy, so I will keep you posted at future club meetings.
- Finally, I would like to thank everyone for your contributions that made last year such a success. Everyone plays their part, even if it was just a case of turning up and paying the subscription fees, which in turn helps to fund the amazing demonstrators. However, there are a few that go above and beyond such as our wonderful committee members. I won't embarrass them all by naming individuals, but Hugh, John, Phil and Vance ... I really could not have done it without you! I also want to thank Jane Russell and Paul Bellamy for being such wonderful support at shows and events. Paul isn't even a club member, but he always seems to come to our rescue in times of need.

Talking of the February meeting, our demonstrator next month is local lad Mike Taylor. Mike is a Pole Lathe Turner from Cannock who some of you may know from local craft fairs and markets in the area. Mike owns his very own small woodland which he manages and maintains with his lovely wife Julie. Together they practice traditional green wood crafts such as Spoon Carving and Woodturning. Mike is coming along to give us a talk about Woodland Management, Coppicing and Pole Lathe Turning. Mike is a traditional "Bodger" and will be bringing one of his home made pole lathes to give us a demonstration. I am certainly looking forwards to Mike's visit and the chance to learn something new.



Editors Scribblings

Well, we start the new year with a “slimmed down” committee, but without a Newsletter Editor, as this will be my last issue. The role will stay open and is now a voluntary one rather than a committee position as established at the AGM, so maybe someone will come forward and resume publication. In the absence of the familiar format there will hopefully be a section of the website detailing the latest news. Thank you to those who have contributed to and commented on my efforts over the past two years.

I was an honour to win both the Challenge and Premier Trophies this year, not for the first time in both cases, so thank you to all of you who voted for my entries – as Dawn has already said, “I couldn’t have done it without you”! Whilst on the subject of competitions, Dawn has already mentioned some changes to the Novice Competition rules which will hopefully encourage more members to enter. I am in no doubt, from my experience, that entering competitions is of great importance in progressing with the hobby of woodturning. I have only been turning wood since late in 2010 and it was purely by chance that I bumped into a MSWA member the day before the club meeting in March 2011 and was invited to come along. Immediately I was “hooked” and quickly realised that entering the competitions would provide an incentive to improve and also provide ideas for projects that I could really spend time on rather than just churning out bowls and things and having to find homes for them. Prior to that time I had never felt that I was a “club” person, and certainly not competitive. Despite only competing for the remainder of 2011 I was proud to be the winner of the Novice Trophy and also the Premier Trophy for that year. I didn’t quite get the “hat trick”, coming second to Ted Gill in the Challenge. That certainly encouraged me to strive for better things, so, forgive me if I do tend to get a bit impatient with members who have probably been turning for longer than I have but don’t share my views on competing. So, if you are hesitating about entering any of the competitions, then please just give it a try – it’s the only way to find out if you enjoy it; you might just be surprised! I’m sure that if I can succeed with my limited experience then others can.

I have included the 2018 monthly programme of events at the end of this newsletter. This information is also available from the website mswa.co.uk.

Hugh Field

For those who are interested, this is a record of Trophy winners to date (Earlier Novice winners names are not available as the original trophy was not engraved).

MSWA PREMIER TROPHY WINNERS

1996 A. EVANS
1997 K. ALLEN
1998 G. FRADLEY
1999 A. EVANS
2000 G. DAWSON
2001 P. WORRALL
2002 P. WORRALL
2003 P. WORRALL
2004 P. POWELL
2005 T. WEBSTER
2006 T. HULBERT
2007 N. ARMSTRONG
2008 P.WORRALL
2009 T.WEBSTER
2010 G.PAYNE
2011 G.PAYNE
2012 H.FIELD
2013 A.HEATH
2014 H. FIELD
2015 V. LUPTON
2016 G. PAYNE
2017 J. RUSSELL
2018 H. FIELD

MSWA CHALLENGE TROPHY WINNERS

1996 M. BENNETT
1997 S. DALE
1998 T. WEBSTER
1999 A. EVANS
2000 L. ALDRIDGE
2001 G. DAWSON
2002 P. WORRALL
2003 P. WORRALL
2004 T. WEBSTER
2005 T. WEBSTER
2006 T. WEBSTER
2007 G. PAYNE
2008 G. PAYNE & P. WORRALL
2009 T. WEBSTER
2010 G. PAYNE
2011 T. GRAY
2012 T. GILL
2013 H. FIELD
2014 H. FIELD
2015 T. GILL
2016 V. LUPTON
2017 H. FIELD
2018 H. FIELD

NOVICE TROPHY

1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010 D. DAWES
2011 T. GILL
2012 H. FIELD
2013 B. SMITH
2014 J. McELROY
2015 J. RUSSELL
2016 S. KING
2017 G. MASSEY
2018 J. MEERS

January Competition

This month featured the final entry for the Challenge Trophy which was an offset turned candle stick and for which there were 5 entries; and the annual Premier competition for a decorated hollow form, for which there were 3 entries. The results were as follows:

Challenge Trophy



1st place – Hugh Field 2nd place – Philip Watts 3rd place – Jane Russell John Meers John McElroy

Premier Trophy



The winning entry (left) by Hugh Field, inspired by Mark Sanger.

Bleached sycamore with opalescent and gold in-filled crazed finish, African black wood and gold leaf finial lid.

Other entries by Geoff Payne and Jane Russell with painted chaffinch design.



Award of Trophies

The Gordon Fradley Novice Trophy was awarded to John Meers. Hugh Field was awarded the Annual Trophy for the Challenge series, and also the Premier Trophy.



John Meers receiving the Novice Trophy from Dawn Hopley



Hugh Field receiving the Challenge Trophy



Hugh Field receiving the Premier Trophy

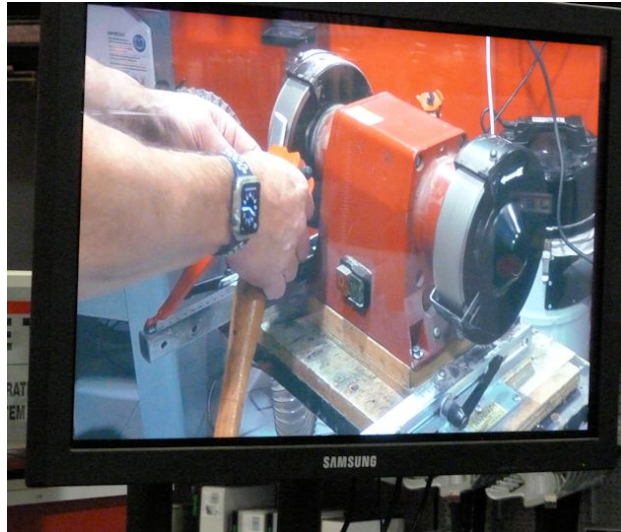
(Photographs courtesy of Philip Watts)

[An article detailing the history of the Novice Trophy, written by Gordon Fradley was reprinted in the January 2017 issue of the Newsletter, available from the website]

Phil Irons at Axminster, Nuneaton - 13th January

Phil was busy demonstrating some of the Woodcut range of products – Bowsaver MAX3 (with laser setting gauge), Trugrind sharpening system, CBN grinding wheels, and Pro-Forme hollowing tools. Those of you who have seen Phil demonstrate will not be surprised to be told that this was a really entertaining day. He interspersed his demonstration with showing videos and photographs on his iPad, and gave many hints and tips on turning and finishing in general. The event was reasonably well attended and Axminster's hospitality included excellent free coffee from their new Nespresso Vertuo machine!





The next event at this store will be a Tormek sharpening system demonstration on Saturday 27th January from 10am – 4pm, and Chris Fisher, the blind woodturner, will be demonstrating on Saturday 17th February from 10am – 4pm.

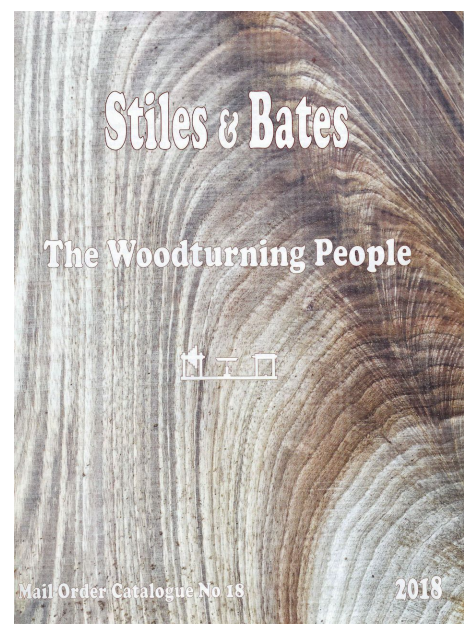
2018 Stiles & Bates Catalogue now out!

Always a welcome arrival through the letterbox! Full of nice tempting things and worth reading carefully for its humorous content. It's a pity they are so far away!

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A Christmas Rocket – a project by Philip Watts

A downside of taking my good wife up to the Christmas Fair at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust was that she spotted a wooden stacking toy in the Gift Shop. “That would make an ideal Christmas present for the new Grandchild, but not at that price and, anyway, you could make one of those”. And thus, the requirement was identified. One rocket ship stackable toy in wood, turned.

It would have been easier if I had invested in a planer thicknesser but space is always a problem. If somebody would buy my circular saw table then I could find the room. The solution was to cut the slices from a piece of Beech brought back from Anglesey as accurately as possible, clean down one side on a belt sander, drill a hole in the middle and then face off the other side with each piece in turn mounted on a short mandrel. I did try just sanding both sides on the belt sander but keeping the thickness of the slabs consistent across them is not easy.

The base of the rocket was made from a block of mahogany. The Gift Shop example had the fins made from short lengths of dowel set into the base. My version has flat fins so the slots were routed into the block before turning.

For turning the base and individual slices, but not the top, the pieces were mounted on a length of the dowel that would be used as the spine of the stacking toy. This is not ideal because the fit needs to be relatively slack as a toy but even a small movement on the mandrel can produce problems when turning. The only alternative would be to use a separate mandrel, or to use one closely matching the hole diameter and to reduce the diameter by turning or sanding at the end.

The top was similarly prepared whilst still a square block by drilling a hole through to take a piece of contrasting wood to represent the portholes or windows. In my case, another piece of the backbone dowel was used. A hole was drilled partway through on the centreline to allow the small blank to be mounted on a short stub mandrel for turning.

Finally the fins were cut from Beech. It is best to think about the orientation of the grain for strength when cutting these or to use very good quality plywood.

A final paint job. The colours just happened to be the ones in stock in spray cans and not from any patriotic leanings.

Philip Watts





Club information

Your club committee for 2018 is:-

Main committee members

Chairman - Dawn Hopley chairman@mswa.co.uk
Tel: 07860 501 379

Secretary - Will Rose secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer - Phil Williams treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Ordinary member - Hugh Field

Non-executive voluntary positions:

Events Secretary - Vacant events@mswa.co.uk

Membership Secretary - Vance Lupton

Competition co-ordinator - Ted Gill

Newsletter Editor - Vacant editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanagers - Philip Watts webman@mswa.co.uk
- Phil Williams

Other important people responsible for:-

Refreshments: David Neal, David Dawes & Ron Dixon

Equipment: John Meers, Ted Gill & Ivan Cotterill

Cameras: John Meers, Ted Gill, Hugh Field, Vance Lupton & Dawn Hopley

Please use phone numbers only if absolutely necessary.

MSWA Monthly Programme of Events 2018

Month	Date	Event	Club Competitions
January 2018	12 th	AGM and Annual Awards	Challenge Cup – Offset Candlestick Premier Cup – Decorated Hollow Form
February 2018	2 nd	Mike Taylor – Woodland Management and Pole Lathe Turning	Novice Cup - A Garden Dibber
March 2018	2 nd	Dawn Hopley – Totally Quackers Feathered Friends	Challenge Cup - A Vase
April 2018	6 th	Hugh Field – Decorating and Finishing Workshop	Novice Cup - A Spinning Top
May 2018	4 th	The World Wide Woodturning Web – Useful Websites and Online Turners. Video Evening.	Challenge Cup - A Toast Rack
June 2018	1 st	Steve Heeley – The Big Candlestick Episode 1	Novice Cup - An Acorn
July 2018	6 th	Steve Heeley – The Big Candlestick Episode 2	Challenge Cup - An Owl
August 2018	3 rd	Dawn Hopley - Casting and Turning Resin Blanks – Presentation & Workshop	Novice Cup - A Candlestick or Tea Light Holder
September 2018	7 th	To Be Confirmed - David Hanlon or Emma Cook AKA The Tiny Turner	Challenge Cup - A Paperweight
October 2018	5 th	Paul Bellamy – Sharpening Techniques	Novice Cup - An Apple or Pear
November 2018	2 nd	Robert Till – A Large Bird Box	Challenge Cup – A Christmas Lantern
December 2018	7 th	Dave Atkinson – Details TBC	Novice Cup – A Christmas Decoration
January 2019	11 th	Annual General Meeting and presentation of awards	Challenge Cup – An Apple Shaped Lidded Box Premier Cup – A Reconstructed Deconstructed Item!

Other 2018 Diary Dates:

Month	Date	Details
January	13 th	Axminster Tools Nuneaton – Woodturning Demonstrations with Phil Irons. Free event.
February	17 th	Axminster Tools Nuneaton – Woodturning Demonstrations with Chris Fisher, the blind woodturner. Free event.
March	10 th	Axminster Tools Nuneaton – Woodturning Demonstrations with Joey Richardson. Free event.
March	10 th & 11 th	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Spring Craft Fair.
March	11 th	Mother's Day
March	23 rd & 24 th	The Midlands Woodworking & Power Tool Show. Newark Showground, Nottingham.
April	1 st	Easter Sunday
May	11 th & 12 th	The Daventry Show hosted by Tudor Rose Woodturners.
May	19 th & 20 th	Weird & Wonderful Wood – Haughley Park, Wetherden IP14 3JY. Art and craft festival solely in wood. A celebration of wood and wood workers!
July	21 st	Kings Bromley Show (date to be confirmed)
July	28 th & 29 th	The Woodfest Country Show in North Wales. A55 Jct.31, Caerwys, Flintshire CH7 5BP.
August	27 th	Leicestershire Countryside Show – Beacon Hill Country Park, Loughborough.
September	22 nd & 23 rd	Derbyshire Woodland Festival 2018 – Elvaston Country Park. Traditional & Contemporary Woodland Crafts.
October	5 th to 7 th	The AWGB International Woodturning Seminar at Yarnfield near Stone, Staffordshire.
November	16 th to 18 th	The Harrogate Woodworking & Power Tool Show.
November	TBC	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Christmas Craft Fair.