



Mid-Staffs Woodturners Association

www.mswa.co.uk



Members Handbook

An Affiliated Branch of
**The Association of Woodturners
of Great Britain**

Welcome to the

Mid-Staffs Woodturners Association

As a new or existing member, we hope you find this booklet useful in providing information relative to the Club's aims and activities.

History

The club was founded in 1990 by Ken Allen and Derek Pyatt who, having been members of the South Cheshire and Staffs Club, wished to foster an interest in woodturning nearer to the heart of the County. Ken and Derek are still active members of the club, and indeed Ken remained as Chairman until spring 1997.

AWGB Affiliation

The club has maintained close links with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB) since its inception. But in 1994, following radical changes in the structure of the AWGB, the club became an affiliated branch of this National Association. Such membership gives branches many advantages:-

- Each member receives the AWGB "REVOLUTIONS" magazine which is published quarterly.
- Each year, the branch can arrange a full day's demonstration by a registered professional woodturner which is subsidised by a grant from the AWGB.
- Public and product liability insurance is provided free to the club.
- An international week-end seminar is held every second year in August. These seminars give all members the opportunity to see many national and international figures
- In addition to this branch handbook, you should also receive a Member's Handbook from the AWGB which lists all Executive Committee Members along with details of all Affiliated Branches in the country.
- The AWGB also has its own Website which is very informative and well worth a visit. There you will find pages of information about the association along with a member's forum where you can discuss all of your woodturning questions, thoughts and ideas. Go to **www.woodturners.co.uk** for further details.
- Development grants and other schemes are also available via the AWGB to encourage members. These include free youth training days, subsidised training grants and even a loan a lathe scheme. Again, please visit their website for further details or contact your current club secretary for information.

Management of the Mid-Staffs Woodturners Association

The club is currently managed by an Executive Committee of existing club members who are elected annually at the AGM. This committee generally comprises a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Secretary, and Newsletter Editor. Other members are also encouraged to attend the meetings should they wish to be more involved. The affairs of the Association are managed in line with a written Constitution. A copy of the current Constitution is printed in its entirety at the end of this booklet.

Currently, the club meets at 7.00pm on the first Friday of each month at Etching Hill Village Hall. East Butts Road, Etching Hill, Rugeley, WS15 2LU. As a prospective new member, you are entitled to visit the club on three evenings as a visitor, after which we hope you will like the friendly atmosphere and camaraderie of like minded woodturners and become a full member.

Being an affiliated branch of the AWGB, all club members are required to pay the AWGB membership fee. Paying your annual subscription via the club will also gain you a discount on the normal AWGB annual fee.

Our Annual General Meeting is held as soon as is practical in the New Year, usually in January, at which time all subscription fees are due.

Any member joining the club in the second half of the year will only be required to pay a half-yearly fee for that year, both to the MSWA and the AWGB.

In fostering a greater awareness of the Turner's Art and Craft we also endeavour to encourage junior members and the subscription for anyone less than 18 years of age is currently paid in full by the club.

As a full member of the club, you will be issued with a Membership badge. Please do wear it at all club meetings so that we can all get to know you more quickly.

DVD Library: The club has purchased a number of good DVDs, which can be hired on a monthly basis and will be available on club nights.

Events and Demonstrations

Throughout the year we try to offer a varied programme of events, demonstrations, lectures and "hands on" experience for everyone. At all of our monthly meetings the club lathe will be available either to be used by visiting demonstrators as required, or on other occasions to be available to members for some "hands on" experience, tuition or problem-solving with other club members.

At each of our monthly meetings there will be a display table for members to show their latest creation or even a part finished piece of work. Members displaying their work may remain anonymous if they so wish, but alternatively they may want to discuss aspects of the exhibit and/or seek advice from other colleagues present. During the year, where possible, we try to hold events away from the club room with a view to promoting a greater awareness of woodturning. Such events would involve exhibiting members' work together with live demonstrations aimed at attracting the general public.

Woodturning Competitions

Competitions are regularly held and judged collectively by members. These give us all an opportunity, not only to compete against our fellow woodturners, but also to, perhaps, receive some constructive comments from the judges. After all we have joined because of our love of woodturning and we can all learn something from others, be it relating to methods, finishing or the more esoteric subjects of aesthetics and design.

There are three competition classes held within the club: Firstly, there is the Challenge Cup, which is aimed at the more experienced turner, but is open to all club members to enter. Then there is the Novice/Beginners Trophy to encourage new or the less experienced. These take place on alternate months throughout the year, with points being accumulated to decide the eventual overall winners. Finally, there is also the Premier Cup, which is open to all members. This annual trophy is for a single specified piece of work, and is normally held on the club's AGM night. The rules for the Novice competition are printed later in this booklet.

Many national competitions are held throughout the year and all members are encouraged to "try their hand" in the "big time". To date the club has had a number of successful members, which all adds to our status amongst affiliated branches.



Novice Competition Rules

Aims:

- The main aim of this competition is to encourage all of our members that have little or no woodturning experience, and who consider themselves to be a beginner or novice.
- This will allow people to compete with their equals in a spirit of fun, encouragement and involvement rather than serious competition.
- All members who submit a piece of their work are automatically awarded at least one point so that everyone has an opportunity to win a prize at the end of each year.

Rules:

- The competition is bi-monthly and alternates with the Challenge Cup on the following months:

February, April, June, August, October, and December

- For each month a theme or title will be set by the committee and all novices are invited to submit one entry per person.
- Judging will be on the basis of the quality of the turning, finishing, aesthetics and degree of skill shown. The decision of the judge(s) will be final.
- The competition is run over a 12 month period with a trophy awarded at the Annual General Meeting. The winner of the trophy will then automatically be barred from further entry to this competition and may then only compete in the Challenge and Premier competitions. Similarly, any other entrant who gains three or more first positions in a competition year will also be barred from entry to the Novice competition thereafter.
- No one piece of work may be entered more than once in the competition.
- Points will be awarded every month on the following basis:

1st Place = $\frac{3}{4}$ point

2nd Place = 2 points

3rd Place = 3 points

All other entries = 4 points

- At the end of each competition year, the points will be added up, and the entrant with the lowest number of accrued points will be declared the winner. The overall winner shall also be awarded the Novice Trophy at the Annual General Meeting in January. The trophy shall then be held by the winner for one year.

NB: Only one item per person per month!

Objectives, Constitution and Rules:

Objectives:

- a. To foster a greater awareness of the turner's craft.
- b. To promote woodturning amongst woodturners and the general public.
- c. To provide a forum for communication, exchange of views and information relevant to woodturning.
- d. To promote membership of the national body, the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB)

Membership:

- a. Membership of the MSWA is open to all and includes membership of the AWGB upon payment of the subscription. Subscriptions are due annually at the AGM.
- b. Members of the MSWA shall not use the names of the MSWA nor the AWGB for trade or promotional purposes.

Constitution:

- a. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a committee elected annually at the AGM and consisting of a Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Events Secretary, Newsletter Editor and four ordinary members. The maximum term of office shall normally be three years.
- b. All paid up members shall have the opportunity of entering the activities of the MSWA, to attend the Annual General Meeting, to vote on constitutional matters and to serve on the committee.
- c. The committee shall meet at intervals determined by the business of the Association and a quorum shall be three members plus either the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer.
- d. The committee shall be empowered to appoint sub committees and to co-opt members.
- e. There shall be a Bank or Building Society account and cheques shall be drawn on the signatures of the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer along with that of either the Secretary or the Chairperson.
- f. The AGM shall be held as close as is possible after the close of the Association's financial year with at least 30 days notice of the time and the place. The year end shall be on the 31st December each year.
- g. Nominations for committee posts, proposals for change to the constitution, or motions for debate, shall be received in writing by the Secretary prior to the AGM.
- h. The Association may have a President who shall be a life member. The retiring Chairperson may become Vice-President for a period of three years. No club subscriptions are due from the President or Vice-President, only AWGB subscriptions.

- i. No sales activity shall be allowed at club meetings other than those where all proceeds go to club funds. Special arrangements, agreed with the Chairperson at the time, shall be made with visiting demonstrators etc. who wish to sell their own items. Particular arrangements shall be made, agreed with the Chairperson at the time, when the Club attends local shows, or gives demonstrations etc. It being normal to donate part or all of the proceeds to a charity chosen by the committee.
- j. A Health and Safety Advisor shall be appointed at the AGM who shall provide advice to the committee to ensure Club equipment is safe for use and that meetings, demonstrations etc. are conducted in a safe manner. The committee collectively shall be responsible for all aspects of safety at Club events. Risk assessments, as necessary, shall be conducted and reviewed for adequacy annually.