



## Future Events

### MSWA Meetings

**February 1<sup>st</sup> 2013**  
**Ken Allen**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Michael Bidney**  
**Bespoke Pens**

### Other Events

**Craft Fair**  
**Wolseley Bridge**  
**February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**

### Club Competitions

**February**

**Novice – A Tool Handle**

**March**

**Challenge – A Gavel and Block**

## Chairman's Notes

This is the first of the notes from me that you will read in my role as your new Chairman.

I am of the view that the popular acclaim that supported the proposal for my election came as much from a sense of relief from those who had escaped the position than from any great approbation. However, here I am and to use a computer expression WYSIWYG, or rather “what you see is what you get.”

It is my intention to rely heavily on the other members of the committee. In particular, I have to welcome to that august body John McElroy and Ted Gill who have volunteered to become Secretary and Events Secretary respectively.

At the meeting, I expressed the thanks of those who attended to John Smith who stepped into the breach when Dawn Hopley felt forced to resign, and continued in that role despite the stroke that he suffered. We thank him for that and are glad to see him recovering remarkably well.

Geoff Payne also deserves our thanks for leaving in place a programme for 2013 up to his normal standard and a good platform on which Ted Gill can build. Last but not least, thanks go to Jane Russell for stepping in as Secretary when Will Rose was forced to resign for domestic reasons.

A happy note also is that Dawn may be coming back into circulation although family illness prevented her from attending the AGM.

I think that one of the areas that we will have to concentrate on the forth coming year is to attempt to rebuild the membership base. We have lost members recently for a variety of reasons and these need to be replaced. Our attendance at outside events and occasions such as the Hands on Evening planned for May should be used as a medium for recruitment.

Philip Watts



## **Editor's Scribblings**

I will have to consider whether I continue to keep this slot although it provides the delightful possibility that I can argue and contradict myself in the dual roles of Chairman and Editor. The Editorial prerogative of independence has to be maintained.

No demonstration report this month. The formal minutes of the Annual General meeting will no doubt follow later. The club survives but there is still a marked reluctance from the majority of members to take a role in the running of the club. We have said it before and will, no doubt, say it again that the Club Committee is not some form of elite group divorced from the rest of the club but an essential part of the continuing survival of the MSA. We need to build up the club profile and gain more members if we are to support financially the programme of demonstrators that we presently enjoy.

The quality of the competition pieces on display shows that there is skill and experience within the club membership. Let us see how we can grow and extend that for the benefit of all.

On a totally different subject, many of our professional demonstrators are fond of encouraging us to take yet another cut if the previous "final cut" is not perfect. "It's only a piece of wood" they say, meaning that if the new "final" cut slices a big groove across the almost finished piece then it is no great problem to put another piece of wood on the lathe and start all over again from the very beginning.

But at that point, to us mere mortals, it is no longer just a piece of wood. It is something that has already taken time, possibly blood, sweat and even some tears to reach that stage. The possibility of throwing the investment already made away is probably what stops some of us from taking that potentially fatal cut. It is all a matter of confidence.

## **Philip Watts**

The Letters Column of the Daily Telegraph occasionally gets hooked on a particular topic, and not always one of any national significance. A recent thread concerned the uses made by readers of their microwave ovens. Bringing wine or brandy to the correct temperature were just two of the uses claimed by readers. Recipes for making porridge and scrambled eggs also featured.

Finally, a reader explained how he had rough turned a wooden bowl in the morning before passing it several times through the kitchen microwave to dry it fully before final turning later the same day. He did add that "the porridge tasted a bit woody the next morning".

So there you are. Our hobby of wood turning hits the daily news at last.

## **Newsletter**

A reminder is that the Newsletter is for your and the club's benefit. If you have something to say then write it and send it to me for inclusion. I can accept text in almost any format, although simple text files are the best. Similarly, image files as .jpeg, .tiff or .bmp files. In the extreme, I can even scan or photograph prints or negatives.

I will be looking for volunteers to write up the Demonstration Reports so the budding journalists amongst you should sharpen your pencils and charge the batteries on your digital cameras.



## January Competition and Overall Results for 2012

*The January meeting and AGM sees the last and final round of the Challenge Trophy and one-off competition for the Premier Trophy. Both competitions were well supported and the overall display was of a high standard, as indeed it should be.*

The final competition piece for the Challenge Trophy called for a full sized side table. There were five entries and a tour-de-force by Hugh Field took first position, cementing his overall lead in the year's competition.



Side view



View of the segmented table top.



The other entries for the final round of the Challenge Trophy.





## *Wood 'n' things*



The specification for the Premier trophy called for a vase with three turned flowers. There were a variety of approaches and designs but the final decision was a narrow victory by Albert Heath. His vase was the smallest of the display but appealed by the simplicity of the design, the quality of the finish and the delicacy of the flowers.



The trophies were presented by John Smith.



Left- Hugh Field receiving the Challenge trophy.

Right- Albert Heath accepting the Premier Trophy.



Below- Brian Smith, the Novice Trophy







## Programme and Competitions for 2013

The above should surely have whetted your appetite so here is a copy of the programme for demonstrations and competitions to pin up above your lathe.

## 2013 Programme

All meetings are on the first Friday of the month unless otherwise stated

| Month         | Demonstrator   | Competition  |
|---------------|--|--|
| January 11th  | Annual General Meeting   | Premier Competition 2012 Judging and Award of Prizes   |
| February 1st  | Ken Allen - One of our favourite regulars                                | Novice - A tool handle   |
| March 1st     | Michael Bidney - Bespoke Pens  | Challenge - A gavel and block  |
| April 5th     | Bob Chapman - Simple forms and Classical Shapes                          | Novice - An egg and egg cup  |
| May 3rd       | Hands On Evening   | Challenge - A clock  |
| June 7th      | Chris Eagles - A Master Class in Turning                                 | Novice - An apple or pear  |
| July 5th      | Frans Brown - Monkey Puzzle Bowls  | Challenge - A pair of King and Queen Chess Pieces  |
| August 2nd    | Steve White - Woodcarving  | Novice - A matching pair of light or curtain pulls   |
| September 6th | To be advised  | Challenge - A piece turned on two axes at right angles to each other                         |
| October 4th   | Joey Richardson - Decorations and Piercing                               | Novice - A lidded box with a square or rectangular profile                                   |
| November 1st  | Steve Healey - Another regular favourite and always a good demonstration | Challenge - A piece of involuted turning   |
| December 6th  | Andrew Hall - Wooden Hats  | Novice - A natural edged bowl or platter   |
| January       | Annual General Meeting - Date to be confirmed                            | Challenge - A tea light or candle holder<br>Premier Cup - An abstract piece based on turning |

Updated 31st December 2012



## **No chuck, no problem - Part 2**

*The MSWA membership hopefully covers a wide spectrum of membership, from beginners to very experienced. This article is aimed at the less experienced although it is hoped that the more experienced might find it useful as a review of techniques available.*

The first part of this article dealt with the use of screw chucks. A few words on that subject before moving onto the alternatives. Another way of making a simple screw chuck would be to mount a blank of hardwood on a face plate, face it off square as before and drill a central hole. However, unless the blank is very small, one might just as well use the face plate in the normal manner.

I must confess to often having problems with using a screw chuck, probably because I do not have the lightest touch with a chisel. One problem also is that the screw needs to be a precise fit in the simple screw chuck mounting directly onto the headstock spindle. A too small screw will be forced to one side of the hole by the clamping screw. This is not a problem if the blank remains in one position on the screw but eccentricities can occur if the blank moves round on the screw. In an attempt to avoid this, I recently skimmed down the outside of my Record screw chuck so that it has the same outside diameter as one of my Forstner bits. I now spot-face the blank with the Forstner bit before mounting the blank on the chuck.

If the design of the turned piece to be produced does not permit the use of a screw chuck, then consider the alternative of a glue chuck. The basis of this is a piece of wood mounted as above on the lathe, either screwed onto the headstock spindle thread or fitted into the Morse taper. Face the front face of the wood so that it is square to the lathe and glue the blank to be turned either directly to it or with a piece of newspaper between the two faces with glue on either side. Super glue can be used or standard PVA. The two pieces can be clamped together in the lathe using the tail-stock. Standard PVA glue needs to be left overnight to ensure that a proper bond has been achieved before turning commences.

The addition of face plates to the inventory of accessories increases the range of options available. Work can be screwed directly to the face plate or glued to an intermediate layer of wood if the blank to be turned is too thin to accept the screws. Glue can be used as described above but it is possible, with care and a light touch, to use double sided tape.

Jam chucking involves turning a recess in a wooden blank to accept the turned item for the purposes, say, of finishing the base of a box, or turning the inside of a lid. If you find this process too difficult, then consider the final alternative, that of making your own chuck! Screw a piece of fairly close grained wood onto a face plate with the grain running along the bed of the lathe. Turn out the centre to slightly above the diameter required. Then cut slots along the blank toward previously drilled holes, thus forming fingers or jaws into which a partially turned item may be inserted. There is one member of the MSWA who recommends that Royal Mail rubber bands discarded on the street and collected by a thrifty turner may be used by wrapping them around the outside of the chuck to ensure a firm grip. The Royal Mail now appear to be using biodegradable rubber bands so a more secure approach is to place a Jubilee clip around the chuck. The majority of such clips may be too short to go completely round so make a virtue out of a necessity by using two and linking them to make a single band and then claiming that this produces a better balance in the lathe. As a safety precaution I always wrap coloured insulation tape around the outside of the clips. It may not totally protect your hands but it does provide a positive reminder of the existence of the clips when the lathe is switched on.

So there you have it. A range of ideas that would enable you to tackle most jobs in a lathe without the expense of a chuck.







## Club information

Your club committee for 2013 is:-

**Chairman - Philip Watts**

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**Secretary – John McElroy**

Email: [secretary@mswa.co.uk](mailto:secretary@mswa.co.uk)

**Treasurer – Vance Lupton**

Email: [treasurer@mswa.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@mswa.co.uk)

**Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field**

**Events Secretary – Ted Gill**

Email: [events@mswa.co.uk](mailto:events@mswa.co.uk)

**Abrasives -**

**Newsletter editor – Philip Watts**

Email: [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk)

**Webmanager – Philip Watts**

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**Committee Members**

John Smith

Tel. 01889 577380

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Albert Heath

Geoff Payne

Peter Worrall

**Health and Safety Advisor**

Hugh Field

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.

## Merchandise



### Clothing

The club has a selection of items for sale, all featuring the club name on a blue background.

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Sweatshirts (dark blue)</b> | <b>£12.00</b> |
| <b>T-shirts (light blue)</b>   | <b>£7.00</b>  |
| <b>Baseball caps</b>           | <b>£6.00</b>  |

The sweatshirts are ideal for the workshop at this time of year; nice and warm, but they are also smart enough to wear down the high street, to woodturning shows, and to AWGB seminars.

See John Smith at the club meetings if you would like to purchase any item of club clothing.



### Abrasives

If you need that finishing touch, the club has packs of Abranet, recommended by demonstrators and other club members, at £2.20 for a set of 7 sheets - 120 -600 grit.



**Books and DVDs** The club has the following DVDs amongst others for hire.

### **MSWA DVD List**

- 1 AWGB Instant Gallery 1991-2003
- 2 Sharpening GMC
- 3 Turning Projects with Richard Raffan
- 4 Turning Wood with Alan Holtham – Table lamp
- 5 Colouring wood – Jan Sanders
- 6 3 Disc collection – Trent Bosch
- 7 Bowls for Beginners – Ray Jones
- 8 Course on Spindle Turning – Ray Jones
- 9 Making and Decorating Platters – Mick Hanbury
- 10 Making and Decorating Boxes – Mick Hanbury
- 11 Turn It On – Vol 1 – Jimmy Clewes
- 12 Turn It On – Vol 2 – Jimmy Clewes
- 13 Turn It On – Vol 3 – Jimmy Clewes
- 14 All Glued Up No1 – Sue Harker
- 15 Turned Out Nice Again – Sue Harker
- 16 Wood Turning with Steve Heeley – Steve Heeley
- 17 Woodcut Turning Tools
- 18 Robert Sorby Specialist Tools
- 19 Inlaid and Novelty Boxes – Chris Stott
- 20 Hope for us all – Simon Hope
- 21 Hope for us all – Vol2 – Simon Hope
- 22 Wet Turning With a Difference – Stuart Mortimer
- 23 AWGB Seminar 2011
- 24 Turning Green Wood – Michael O'Donnell
- 25 Woodturning, a craftsman's guide. - Mark Baker

**See John Smith at any club meeting if you want to borrow one of these.**



## Turning tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. It doesn't matter what it is, if you discovered something you found useful, that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.



## Useful websites and suppliers

There is a lot of information available on the internet but some is better than others. If you come across any useful sites, please let me know and I will publish them here.

## Questions and answers

This section is an opportunity for members to ask questions for other members to answer, primarily about wood-turning but I see no reason why this couldn't be extended further. There is a lot of knowledge in the club on many subjects and this should be an easy way to get answers.

## Items for sale or wanted

If you have any items for sale, or if you are trying to find something, send me the details and I will put it in the next issue.

## For Sale

## Custom toolrests – David Fields

David's grandson is able to make tool-rests, similar to the Robert Sorby system, out of round steel bar. These can be tailored to suit your requirements i.e. tool-post stem and length of the actual tool-rest. At the moment he is only doing straight tool-rests but bowl rests may be feasible in the future.

And if you have a Record lathe and do small spindles, he has developed a cranked tool-post, allowing the tool-rest to get close to the work, without the banjo dropping off the front bed bar.

If you would like to see one, or want to discuss your requirements, please have a chat with David at the club meetings.

## Carnauba wax polishes – Paul Bellamy

Following the favourable reaction to the polishing kits Paul started earlier this year, he has established a supply of carnauba wax flakes. These can be used to make your own 'sticks' or mixed with other components to make a range of polishes. He is selling these in 250g bags but could do larger quantities if you need it. He also has some ready-made wax blocks, comprising 60% beeswax/ 40% carnauba. These are softer than most 'wood-turning sticks' but he prefers this as it doesn't score your work.

He also has more of his 'Buffing kits', similar to Chestnut's system. For more details, see him at the club meetings.