



Future Events

MSWA Meetings

February 6th
Ken Allen – Involute Turning

March 6th
Paul Jones
Practicalities of Spindle Turning

Other Events

Club Competitions

February
Novice
Plain Bowl or Platter
under six inches in diameter

March
Challenge
A piece of involute turning

April
Novice
Honey Dipper

Chairman's Notes

The Annual General Meeting was a constructive and peaceful one. No counter revolutions or palace revolts with the Committee being returned without opposition.. This may mean that we are doing something right, or it might mean something else. Yours to wonder.

My Chairman's Report followed the same format as last year being a presentation of the meetings and demonstrations in the last season. The theme of this stemmed from the question "What is wood-turning" raised by a perusal of the Club's new Insurance Policy and showed the wide range of techniques that had been the subjects. My sign-off slide outlined what I believe to be the Committee's main objectives. These are:

- *Maintain and increase Membership*
- *Maintain Quality of Programme*
- *Operate within a sound Financial Framework*

These are obviously interlinked. The only way that we can maintain and potentially increase membership is to offer a quality programme that is attractive to you, the members. This has to be done within a sound financial framework if the club is to remain in existence for more than a few years. Charles Dickens' comments on the interdependence of income and expenditure come to mind here.

This slide was an excellent introduction to the Treasurer's Report that followed. Vance's clear and well structured presentation showed the challenges that face a small wood turning club. The costs of demonstrators and their travel have increased and do not vary with club size. The end result is that our present income does not cover our expenditure. We have been eating into our cash reserves for the last two years and this practice can only in the longer term have one end result.

Club membership has increased by about 10% this year but remains a long way below past levels. Attendance at club meetings, as a proportion of the total membership, is not particularly high with an average of 22.5 per meeting from a potential of 34. Only two members actually attended on every occasion, one of these being the Treasurer himself. To celebrate this achievement, he had produced certificates and badges for the Chairman to present to him and Ron Dixon, to applause from all. (Do you detect the hand of an ex-school teacher here?)



Vance proposed four measures that would go some way to restoring a degree of financial stability. These were debated and accepted with only minor modifications. They were:

A: The monthly meeting subscriptions is raised to £4 for members.

B: A £1 raffle to be introduced collected with the meeting fee, winner would receive £10 back. (i.e. £4 plus £1 raffle.)

C: The raffle should be for paid up members only.

D: Visitor fees – 1st meeting free, 2nd meeting £5.00, 3rd meeting join.

After discussion, these were amended. The precise details of the raffle will be refined before the next meeting. A visitor's fee will now be imposed from the beginning. (Some members also suggested that we consider imposing a higher fee for meetings with the more prestigious demonstrators attracting visitors from neighbouring clubs.)

The traditional break for tea and coffee followed, giving members the opportunity to vote on the final round of the Challenge series of bi-monthly competitions, and the annual one for the Premier Trophy. A short film down-loaded from YouTube was shown whilst counting of the votes took place. This was a German film made in 1926 and featured a production turner making a lidded bowl. A process both very similar to how it might be done today but with interesting differences. The point in the film that produced a smile from those present was when the turner donned a set of what used to be regarded as the standard NHS wire-framed spectacles, the only concession to modern emphasis on health and safety.

Presentation of the awards followed and the results are featured later in this newsletter.

So now, we commence a new season. Ted Gill has put together a programme that promises to be as varied as that from last year. I look forward to seeing you all at each meeting.

Philip Watts

Editor's Scribblings

I am presently building a lightweight wheelchair ramp for a REMAP Client and am using a combination of stripwood and plywood to form the structural components. Whilst I have a reasonable number of clamps, these are not always the answer when gluing up some large flat components. I remembered that Ted Gill had demonstrated the use of the vacuum bags during the demonstration by Quentin Smith but thought that I would also research what other people had done on the Internet. Feeding in search terms like "Vacuum bag, clamping wood, and Henry vacuum cleaners" produced a number of references, top of which was one the MSWA Newsletter for February of last year. So there you are then, the answer might be under your very nose. Just keep on reading and, even better, contributing to the club Newsletter.

Philip Watts

A Snippet for the Newsletter

[A note on an Internet Forum reads](#)

["The external diameter of a turned piece must always be greater than the internal diameter."](#)

Newsletter

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, I can accept photographs in both hard and soft copy, in many formats.



NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS?

This item appeared first in the West Midlands Woodturners Newsletter at the instigation of their Chairman, and I am indebted to them for their permission to reproduce it here. They can so equally apply to us so why not make them your New Year Resolutions!

- 1) Attend as many club meetings as possible.
- 2) Enter the club competitions.
- 3) Make something** to be donated to the club to sell at external events.
- 4) Show your work on the display table.

(This can be finished items or work in progress; jigs and devices you use, disasters even!

- 5) Write an article for the club newsletter.
- 6) Volunteer your help at external events the club is involved in.

** Most things will sell – if pitched at the right price! (But you can always leave the pricing up to someone else.) A few of the products that have sold well in the past are:

- Fruit – Apples/Pears
- Mushrooms/Toadstools
- Light pulls and curtain pulls
- Garden dibbers
- Spurtles (The traditional Scottish 'spoon' for stirring porridge)
- Letter openers/knives
- Bottle stoppers
- Salt and/or Pepper Grinders
- Candle holders – Tee light or standard candles.
- Goblets
- Easter Eggs
- Christmas decorations
- Clocks
- Earring stands
- Spinning tops
- Hollow vessels
- Lidded boxes, vessels and bowls
- Specimen flower vases
- Decorated/coloured bowls and platters
- Anything unusual, quirky or 'different' attracts the buyers.



Competitions

This month's competition was the last round in the Challenge series with the theme of "Square Dance". Three entries came from Vance Lupton, Ted Gill and myself. Ted took the honours. I came second in the rankings with Vance third.

Novice Series

Challenge

Field	Hugh							0				2	2	2	4	2		12
Gill	Edward							0				4	4	3	3	4	4	22
Hatton	Leslie	2						2										0
Hopley	Dawn							0				1	1					2
Lupton	Vance							0				3	3	4	3	3	2	18
McElroy	John							0				3	1					4
Neale	David					3		3										0
Payne	Geoff							0				1				1		2
Russell	Jane	3	4	2	3	4		16					1					1
Taylor	Robert						2	2										0
Tripp	Tony					1		1								1		1
Watts	Philip							0				1		1	1	1	3	7
Williams	Philip							0								1		1
Wood	Peter		3			4		7										0

This gave the overall series leadership to Ted with Jane Russell taking the Novice Trophy.





Last Round of Challenge – Square Dance



Ted Gill's Winning Entry – Square Dance



Second – Philip Watts



Third – Vance Lupton



Premier Trophy



First – Vance Lupton
Turned and textured.



Second – Philip Watts
Interlaced Veneers



Third – Ted Gill with this miniature bowl
about one and a half inches high



Club information

Your club committee for 2014 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanager – Philip Watts

Email: webman@mswa.co.uk

Committee Members

Dawn Hopley

Health and Safety Advisor

Hugh Field

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.

Merchandise



Abrasives

If you need that finishing touch, the club has packs of Abranet, recommended by demonstrators and other club members, at £1.40 for a set of 5 sheets-120 -400 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

Dawn Hopley has taken over the responsibility for these items and may be seen at Club Meetings



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.

A tree surgeon near Stafford has several tonnes of small diameter yew logs for sale.

Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeons can be contacted at 01785 284088 (Ask for Jack) or through the website

www.robkeyzor.co.uk.

Steve is a member of Coombe Abbey Turners and has a massive stock of timber which he is happy to sell to turners and woodworkers. The timber consists mostly of locally sourced native hardwoods, planked and kiln dried, and is available at great prices; some really lovely stuff. Steve lives in Sapcote in Leicestershire, not too far away, and close enough to Axminster in Nuneaton for a joint visit! Steve can be contacted on 01455 273894, and his website is www.woodcharm.co.uk

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

Axminster Jet Bench Top Circular Saw JTS-10

Assembled and complete with stand

Little used and taking up room £150

Ring Philip Watts on 0121 308 7838

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 on 01283 229072

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, e-mail him at

paul.bellamy@mswa.co.uk