



Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – January 2014

Editor: Philip Watts

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Future Events

MSWA Meetings

February 8th
Quentin Smith - How to use
marquetry to enhance turnings.
From a flat surface through to
compound curves.

March 7th
Paul Bellamy

Other Events

Club Competitions

February
Novice – A Bud Vase

March
Challenge – Offset Bowl

Chairman's Notes

At the Annual General Meeting, your committee raised the issue of the finances of the club and the thorny question of whether to increase the cost of attending meetings. This received the not unexpected unenthusiastic response from those members present and the question was postponed to a later meeting when “a more representative” group of members could be consulted. Putting to one side the comment that the A.G.M. is the time for members of the club to express their views and that the attendance should reflect those most active in the club's affairs, it is a question that will have to be considered at some time.

It is possible that we did not manage to put over a full view of the club's finances and that members were left with an impression that year on year balances were remaining fairly constant and that, on that basis, there was little to worry about. The facts are somewhat different.

We endeavour to provide a full programme of high class demonstrators. The fees that they charge are increasing and, in particular, travel costs are becoming more significant as fuel prices continue upwards.

Club income for the year was greater than normal due to pressure from the AWGB to pull in club subscriptions early. This meant that the year end balance included money that would normally have appeared in next year's finances.

Recent expenditure on club equipment has been minimal over the last few years. This situation may not continue. We have been looking to upgrade the club's camera and projection equipment. Any such action will not be cheap. We presently rely on club members to provide lathes for use at outside events such as the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. These lathes may not always be available and we should, perhaps, consider the purchase of a second smaller club lathe.

Lastly, club membership is not yet showing signs of an increase although we continue to promote club through our attendance at outside events. I would urge you to think seriously about the overall situation when the question is raised again.

Philip Watts Chairman



Editor's Scribblings

A senior member of the club surveyed the two competition tables at the A.G.M. and remarked on the significant improvement in the qualities of the turning that he had witnessed over the last ten years. A nice compliment to those that had entered.

This, after all, is the point of the competitions. Not just to provide material for the Newsletter but to provide an incentive to each member to improve in their turning skills. The message is simple for the non-participants. Join us and accept the challenges. Do not feel that it will always be the same people each time. A glance at the names on the trophies show that stars arise and wane. There is always room for a newcomer to appear and affect the apparent hierarchies as recent years have proved.

Philip Watts

News

Axminster Tools & Machinery is hosting a FREE major wood-turning event at its store in Nuneaton on Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd March, 10.00am to 4.00pm on both days.

The event, known as 10 Turners Turning, has recruited 10 top turners who will be demonstrating their skills and producing their trademark pieces of work. The 10 turners will also take part in a competition – Ready Steady Turn – over the two days. Visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite turner/favourite piece of work and, as a result of voting, will be entered into a prize draw for a £150 Axminster gift card. The turners taking part are Mark Baker, Richard Findley, Andrew Hall, Mark Hancock, Steve Heeley, Phil Irons, Stuart King, Stuart Mortimer, Gary Rance and Colwin Way.

The venue is Axminster Tools & Machinery, Bermuda Trade Park, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 7RA. It is literally 5 minutes from the M6. Details of our Nuneaton store can be found at www.axminster.co.uk/stores.

This really is a very unique event and a fantastic opportunity to see 10 top UK turners in action at one venue for free. More information about the event can be found at www.axminster.co.uk/blog.

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.



Club Annual General Meeting Minutes - Prepared by the Club Secretary

Friday January 10th 2014

1) **Apologies.** There were no apologies

2) **Chairman's report.**

"This is my first report to the club, having stepped into the position of Chairman last January. I have been well supported throughout the year by the committee, some of whom were equally finding their way into new positions.

Geoff Payne laid the foundations for the year's programme and remained on the committee long enough to provide a good handover to Ted Gill, before resigning to make way for Dawn Hopley. We were pleased to see her back in circulation and taking an active part in the club's activities.

We said good bye to John Smith, a former Chairman, who died in June. He had long been a very active member and will be missed.

The majority of the club's meetings were well received although a couple of demonstrators failed to live up to their reputations and our expectations. This is one of the trials for the Events Secretary in seeking to widen the range of our speakers. Attendance levels were mixed. The additional meeting laid on in August and featuring Curt Theobald, an eminent American turner attracted some visitors from other clubs but not in the numbers that we had hoped, the club attendance was also disappointingly low.

We attended Alrewas and Kings Bromley Shows, sweeping the board in the competitions at the latter show. Two visits to the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust took place. The first in February was marred by poor weather and attendance levels were low. The Christmas Fayre was far more successful and made contributions to the Trust, Club Funds and certain members also were able to sell some of their pieces. We take these opportunities to spread the word about MSWA and hope that they will translate into new members.

Overall, membership levels remain my greatest concern. The programmes that we endeavour to provide rely heavily on outside demonstrators and their costs increase, particularly if they have to travel significant distances. The Treasurer's Report will, I am sure, outline the financial issues that this may create over time.

Finally I must give my thanks for the support of all of the Committee and look forward to that continuing throughout 2014."

3) **Treasurer's report.** A full report will be provided later

Points arising from Treasurer's report:

- The cost of demonstrators is the biggest expenditure alongside insurances and hall hire.
- Concerns raised about the monthly attendance fee (currently £3.00) as this alongside members fees does not currently cover our annual costs at this moment in time. The committee would like to recommend a fee of £5.00 each month. This is to be raised at a meeting in the new year.
- It was decided that we will circulate demonstration details to other local clubs on a month by month basis.



4) Election of Officers and Committee Members.

The following members were re-elected:

Chair:	Philip Watts
Secretary:	John McElroy
Treasurer:	Vance Lupton
Events Secretary:	Ted Webster
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor:	Philip Watts
H & S Advisor & Assistant Treasurer	Hugh Field

Philip Watts invited other members to become involved with the committee if they wished to do so.

5) A.O.B.

- Members were advised of the passing of Ted Webster a former member of MSWA
- Ted Gill invited members to let him know of any possible demonstrators they would like to see, perhaps someone they have seen or heard of at another venue.
- Geoff Payne proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their work during the year.

Competition Results

Challenge Cup

1st Hugh Field

Novice Trophy

1st John McElroy

Premier Cup

1st Hugh Field

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Philip Watts

Bylines

I can assure you that the following lines do not apply to your present committee:

Committee: a group of men who individually can do nothing but as a group decide that nothing can be done.

How many committee members does it take to change a lightbulb?.....

"This topic was resumed from last week's discussion, but is incomplete pending resolution of some action items. It will be continued next week. Meanwhile ..."

The difference between a good committee member and a bad committee member is that a good one sleeps upright and a bad one sleeps horizontally.

To get something done, a committee should consist of no more than three people, two of whom are absent"



Club Competitions

The final round of the Challenge Trophy and the annual round of the Premier trophy took place during the Annual General Meeting, followed by the presentation of all of the trophies.



Entries in the final round of the 2013 Challenge Cup came from (left to right) Vance Lupton with an open spiral stained candlestick, Hugh Field with a very subtle piece of offset turning, a copy of a shielded candle holder from the Editor, a matching pair from Brian Shaw, and a crescent based triple holder from Ted Gill. Vance Came out the winner in this round.



Premier entries came from (left to right) on the back row, Geoff Payne, Editor, Vance Lupton, and on the front row, Hugh Field and Brian Smith. Hugh took the honours here.



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Overall winners for 2013 were John McElroy in the Novice Challenge.



Hugh Field took both the Challenge and Premier Trophies.



A close up of Hugh's winning abstract piece in the Premier competition





Club information

Your club committee for 2013 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

Albert Heath
Dawn Hopley
Peter Worrall

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 £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'DonnellID
- 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.

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

In Kingsbury Water Park they have created a log yard and have a large supply of various timbers. It would appear that they are bringing all the forestry felling for North Warwickshire to this site for disposal. They have large pieces down to branches and sections from Birch, Oak, Beech and other locally grown woods. Please note that these are "green", although some of the larger pieces have been there for a year or two. The only downside is that you have to pay £3.50 to get into the car park. Go to the Park shop and ask for James and they will radio for him to come to the yard. If he is not available, Fred will assist.

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