



West Midlands Wood Turners

AUGUST 2014

Secretary & Editor: John Hooper
john@hooper25.plus.com Tel: 0121 354 8464

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PROGRAMME AND DIARY DATES

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Date	Event
17th August	Paul Jones Demonstration Day
13th September	Festival of Crafts Show at Coombe Abbey
21st September	25th Anniversary Open Day Hands On Day
5th October	Apple Day at Castle Bromwich
19th October	Mark Baker Demonstration Day
16th November	A.G.M. and Hands On Day
30th November	Christmas Event at Castle Bromwich
14th December	Greg Moreton Demonstration Day and Christmas Lunch
2015	
18th January	Hands On Day
15th February	Demonstration Day
8th March	Hands On Day
19th April	Demonstration Day
17th May	Hands On Day
14th June	Demonstration Day
19th July	Hands On Day
16th August	Demonstration Day
20th September	Hands On Day
18th October	Demonstration Day
15th November	A.G.M and Hands On Day
8th December	Demonstration Day and Christmas lunch

Chairman's Challenge
For August:

Candle Holder

YouTube videos for candle holders:
(click on the address to view in your browser)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wta2udW9pfc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGHZyku9sH4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBGaFR5ZxuE>

Demonstration days start at 9.15 am and conclude around 4.30 pm. (Setting up from 8.30 am)

Hands On days start at 9.30 am and conclude about 4.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

I always enjoy Hands - On days and our meeting on the 20th July was another busy and enjoyable day. There were 7 lathes set up and being used. It's good to see new faces doing some of the turning and getting involved in the day. The skills challenge has not yet come to an end, but I would like to thank Brian Goodall for coming up with the idea and organising each of the sessions, it is obvious from the number of you that took part that this has been a very popular part of recent meetings.

The Chairman's challenge had 9 entries and the standard, as we have come to expect, was very high. There were more votes than last month but not everyone voted so please take the time to look at the entries and cast your vote. If anyone is not sure what to look for when judging the pieces we have some notes that have been used in the past for marking competitions. I will put some out at the next meeting.

The display table was not as well supported as usual but I was very impressed with Dave Reynolds' carved rocking horse .

Bob Rimmer's grandson Ben did video interviews with some of our members so I look forward to seeing the results. Thanks Ben for spending the day with us.

One of our visitors on the day liked what he saw and decided to apply for membership there and then . Welcome Mark.

On July 9th I had the opportunity to visit Birstall Woodturners in Yorkshire. I always enjoy seeing how other clubs work but this one is totally different because it is one of the biggest clubs in the country. The club have their own fully equipped workshop which is open four days and one evening in the week plus Saturday mornings. They have 17 lathes, an extensive range of turning tools, band saws, a planer, drum sander, 3 sharpening stations and their own fully stocked wood store. Although this a large club everyone was very friendly and went out of their way to make me feel welcome. It's important for all clubs, large and small, to make visitors feel welcome, so if you see a new face at the club, go and say hello and introduce yourself.

A pirate walked into a bar and the bartender said, *"I haven't seen you in a while. What happened? You look terrible."* "What do you mean?" said the pirate, "I feel fine."

"Well, the nicely turned wooden leg, made from Yew if I am not mistaken?" "We were in a battle and I got hit by a cannon ball, but I'm fine now" replied the pirate.

"What about the hook, what happened to your hand?" "We were in another battle. I boarded a ship and got into a sword fight. My hand was cut off. I got fitted with this hook, cunningly forged from an old 'Henry Taylor' bowl gouge. I'm fine, really."

The bartender asked *"and the eye patch?"*, to which the pirate replied, "Oh, one day we were at sea and a flock of gulls flew over. I looked up and one of them pooped in my eye." *"You're kidding"* said the bartender, *"you lost an eye just from bird poo?"* "No" replied the pirate, "It was my first day with the hook".

Moral: Be careful where you point your turning tools, and wear good eye protection.

HANDS ON REPORT:

We had a busy Hands On Day with half a dozen lathes running and a high level of participation overall, thanks in no small part to the continued enthusiasm for the skills challenge. We made good progress on making items for sale at forthcoming external events, and it was great to see new(ish) members being shown the ropes and having a go at new techniques.



I know we have several members whose equipment, or lack of it, prevents them from practising at home, so our club facilities are ideal for trying, failing and ultimately succeeding!

Our For Sale table seems to be getting progressively more successful; a number of items were sold / recycled / smuggled home and some of us (i.e. me) managed to take home more than I brought!

Remember we have an excellent club sharpening station with first class jigs, etc. I spoke to several members about the difficulty of profiling their tools to their satisfaction, and our club equipment is ideal for this. Bring any gouges and chisels along and we can get the edge and shape you want; this will make it much easier to keep the correct profile at home.

Skills challenge results (to date)

Over the course of the last three 'Hands On' days we have been running a Skills Test based on Spindle Turning.

For the first test, entrants were provided with a spindle blank 9" long and 45mm. Square. The test was to turn the blank to a cylinder of maximum size and of a consistent diameter along the length using only a roughing gouge. No calipers, straight edges or sanding materials were allowed. There was no time limit.

A total of 18 members attempted this challenge and it was pleasing to see some new members having a go!

In order to find out the results of the test, each piece was marked at ½" intervals along the length. The diameter was then measured at each of these points and the results tabulated. The maximum value of the results was then calculated and points were awarded based on these values. To measure the consistency of the diameter the standard deviation of the results was calculated and points were awarded based on these calculations.

The Results of the first test.

Name	Diameter pts.	Std. Dev. Pts	Total Pts.
Steve Simmons	18	17	35
Ted Gill	15	18	33
Malcolm Robinson	14	14	28
Ken Perkins	10	16	26
Peter Hockley	16	10	26
Keith Lanchester	11	13	24
Brian Bateman	17	4	21
Les Wilkes	7	12	19
Phil Stevenson	3	15	18
Bill Finnigan	12	5	17
Malcolm Thorpe	9	8	17
Dave Nash	4	11	15
Les Saunby	13	2	15
Brian Massey	8	6	14
Bob Rimmer	5	7	12
X1	2	9	11
Dave Reynolds	6	3	9
Matthew L.	1	1	2

The second of the skills test was based on the use of the Skew Chisel.

In this test, members were given their piece from the first test and were asked to provide a taper from halfway along the length to finish at a fixed point at one end, the distance and diameter of this end being fixed by a wooden gauge which was provided. No callipers, straight edges or sanding materials were allowed. There was no time limit.

Several of the original 18 contestants were not at this 'Hands On' day so the number was reduced to 13.

The results were obtained by marking off, as previously, $\frac{1}{2}$ " intervals along the horizontal. The diameter of the taper was taken at these points and tabulated. The theoretical diameters at these points, based on the straight line from the measured maximum and minimum diameters, of each piece was calculated. The standard deviation was then calculated and points awarded based on these results.



Results of Second Test

Name	Points
Phil Stevenson	13
Malcolm Thorpe	12
Les Wilkes	11
Bill Finnegan	10
Malcolm Robinson	9
Ted Gill	8
Steve Simmonds	7
Brian Massey	6
Dave Reynolds	5
Brian Bateman	4
Bob Rimmer	3
Les Saunby	2
Dave Nash	1



Results to date after Second Test.

Name	Points-to-Date
Steve Simmons	42
Ted Gill	41
Malcolm Robinson	37
Phil Stevenson	31
Les Wilkes	30
Malcolm Thorpe	29
Bill Finnigan	27
Brian Bateman	25
Brian Massey	20
Les Saunby	17
Dave Nash	16
Bob Rimmer	15
Dave Reynolds	13



The third and final test was to use the spindle gouge.

The test was to turn a bead and an O-gee shape on the other end of the piece from the taper, i.e., to form a dibber. Members were asked to sand to a finish. There was no time limit.

Unfortunately another member was missing and so only 12 members took part. Members were given a free rein to express their own designs.

The results of the final test have yet to be compiled.

DISPLAY TABLE



CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE RESULTS: GAVEL AND BLOCK

Premier Group - 3 entries

1st Place
Tim Davies



2nd Place
Don Lawrence



3rd Place
Ted Gill



Basic Group - 6 entries

1st Place
Tom Badger



2nd Place
Steve Simmons



3rd Place
Dave Hobbs



Unplaced entries

Ken Beresford



Les Wilkes



Bill Finnigan



Volunteer Urgently needed:

Neither Keith Lanchester or Adam Stevens are available to operate the camera and projection system on 17th August - the Paul Jones demonstration day. Adam has said that he could be available to setup the equipment, but cannot stay for the demo, and clearly we do need someone to operate the cameras for the day.

If anyone is willing to do this, could you please let Cliff know as soon as possible.

(Perhaps we should bring binoculars, in case a volunteer is not found.)

Storeroom and Equipment.

Over the past few months, Ken Beresford has re-organised the store cupboard, placing small items in storage boxes, labelling them and allocating shelf space, making it much easier to control the storage of our equipment. There are still a few issues to resolve and Ken will be working through those over the next few months. Both Cliff and I would like to record our thanks to Ken for his efforts.

Tools and equipment are available for loan to members, but it has been difficult to keep track of who has borrowed what, and given our collective failing memories, I am told, it is reasonable to ask the members who wish to borrow items, to sign them out in the book that Ken has provided for this purpose. Items should be signed back in again on their return, and we will know where everything is. In addition to keeping track of equipment, this will also help us in keeping an up to date inventory for insurance purposes. No doubt there may be some teething problems, as there is with any new system, and if problems arise we can deal with them.

Sharp Tools

Steve Simmons (I hope that his arm has recovered from the twisting that it received) has volunteered to ensure that the club chisels are maintained in sharp and safe order. This will ensure that any guests who want to have a turn, will have appropriate club tools. Thanks to Steve for taking this job on.

Water Orton Primary School.

As we saw at the last meeting, there can be problems in gaining access to the premises. This has happened twice this year, and seems to be as a result of absence of Caretaker Steve, due to a serious illness and the ending of the contract with Rob, the stand in caretaker. We obviously have no control over the staff at the school, consequently we have had a discussion with Carl Lewis, the head teacher about our situation. What is proposed is that a member of the club becomes a key holder for the school. In order to achieve this, the member will have to be put on the key holder list held by the Police, and be approved by the "powers that be", so far as the school is concerned. Mr Lewis does not think that this will present any problems, but it may take some time to get the necessary agreements. In the meantime, we should be able to avoid the delays which we experienced at the last meeting by dealing directly with Mr Lewis. (Fingers crossed!)

Useful sites and information:

From Brian Goodall:

A Firm Foundation For Woodturning Success

The more woodturning symposiums and other woodturning events I intend, the push toward art as the end result becomes clearly more obvious. As this craft matures it's only logical that artisans would become more sophisticated in their technical skills and their creative expressions. No matter how artistic a turner may be, when they leave basic turning skills behind failure is the inevitable result.

When plotting the Turners path my suggestion is to master the basics as you go. With your spindle work, become an expert at rolling beads both with a spindle gouge and with a skew, possibly even a beating/parting tool. At the same time, master scooping out coves with things other than a carbide scraper. When turning bowls learn how to achieve a final inside pass or two with little or no torn grain. You will save yourself literally hours of sanding. That is a skill worth honing.

Nothing ruins a beautiful piece faster than obvious sanding scratches just under the finish. Learn how to sand properly and take the time to do it correctly. Do you really understand finishing the finish or do you just let the spray can do its thing? Are your tools as sharp as they should be? If you build a good foundation with solid skills that foundation will unleash your creativity. You won't be fighting the tools and the wood while you're trying to bring your creation to life. All winning professional sports teams drill and drill and drill on the basic skills because if they don't do the basics correctly they cannot hope to achieve their goals.

That old axiom "use it or lose it" is just as true with many of your turning skills. Although you may not lose a skill you certainly won't be as sharp unless you practice. I recently made another batch of lidded acorn boxes, and I've made thousands of them I just haven't made any for a while. It took two or three before I got back in the groove and they looked like I expected them to look. This time around I tried to do the vast majority of the work with a skew chisel including shaping the outside of the cap and the nut. Yep, I blew up a couple because I was out of practice.

Taking the time to master all of the basic turning skills will pay off big in enjoyment and superior pieces. Besides, you need to know how to do all of this stuff correctly so you can teach others.

Here's hoping you are always sharp,
Your Friend,
Ron Brown

(Ron Brown's site can be accessed here : www.ronbrownsbest.com)

Preparing blanks.

A few members have asked about the techniques for preparing blanks, especially how to choose what parts of the tree to use for best effect. The YouTube video below is useful, in this respect.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8kCjtLUqzY>

A book called “Turning Green Wood” by Michael O’Donnell has a reasonably good section on the preparation of blanks from logs and tree trunks, currently available on [Amazon UK](#) for £13.59 (new) or about £8.00 for a used copy. (ISBN 978-1-86108-089-9)

A YouTube search will reveal many similar videos about this and related topics.

Can you identify this tree?



**Deadline for inclusion in September Edition:
Friday 29th August 2014**

Please send materials for the newsletter to :
john@hooper25.plus.com

If you want to send paper based materials, give me a
ring on 0121 354 8464 to make arrangements.