



Chairman's Notes

Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

February 5th
Adam Stephens
Double reversible bowl,
with threads

March 4th
Dawn Hopley
Not a lot of bottle (?)

Club Competitions

February

Novices
Pair of matching light pulls

March

Challenge
Teacup and Saucer

April

Novices
Paper Knife

Other Events

Ten Turners Turning
Axminster Tools & Machinery,
Nuneaton

11th and 12th March

The Midlands Woodworking
and Power Tool Show
Newark Showground,
Nottingham

18th and 19th March

We held the MSWA Annual General Meeting on the 22nd January. Not in the most formal manner, perhaps, but we covered the necessary topics of the financial health of the club and the organisation for the next twelve months.

Our Treasurer, Vance Lupton, took the stage first and his report is summarised separately in this Newsletter. There are clear messages here of the need to maintain, if not increase, membership and for all members to support the club in their regular attendance at club meetings.

My now traditional presentation recalling the activities of the last year followed, highlighting the demonstrators and the successful entrants in the bi-monthly Challenge and Novice competitions. At the end, I thanked the members of the committee for their support and called for volunteers to provide fresh blood to the committee. None were forthcoming and the present committee will continue in their positions with one major change. Hugh Field will take over the roles of Editor and Website Manager from me. For this to work, he will need support in two ways. The first is in articles and demonstration reports, the second is for volunteers to assist in the assembly and control of the camera equipment that adds such a valuable element to the demonstrations.

The other members of the committee also deserve support and we are looking for volunteers to shadow both the Treasurer and Events Secretary in their work, with the long term possibility of taking over those roles.

We discussed the level of attendance at the Hands-on Evenings which was disappointingly low, particularly at the October session. A number of suggestions were put forward which we will take on board during this year. These include mini-demonstrations by some of the more experienced members, possibly aimed at the subsequent competition subjects, wood sales, maybe getting some demonstrations of equipment from the trade.

Ted Gill has put together a programme for the coming year with a wide range of demonstrators and techniques, some familiar, some less so. A copy of this is available on the club website and in the Newsletter. Why not print it out and stick it in the front of your diary, or programme whatever electronic device takes your fancy to remind you of the dates.

Finally, we came to the awards for the various competitions. I am sure that the Editor will give full coverage of the elsewhere in this Newsletter but it was gratifying to see the number and quality of the entries on the two tables.

I look forward to seeing you on many occasions over the coming months.

A belated Happy New Year, and Happy Turning.

Philip Watts



Editor's Scribblings

Well, you've got a new Editor! I feel I have a hard act to follow, as no doubt Philip felt when he took over from Paul Bellamy in 2011.

I'll do my best, but, as Philip implies, the clue is in the title, "Editor", not "Author"! Demonstration and competition write up's are my in remit (unless I am unable to attend a meeting, in which case I will ask for volunteers!), and I'll happily make other contributions; but, this is YOUR Newsletter and will need more than my jottings to make it interesting. I will be happy to receive any articles (not necessarily strictly about woodturning) for possible inclusion. For example if you go to an event it might interest other members if you do a write up on it. Or maybe you've read an interesting book, or watched a DVD to do with Woodturning that you could write a review on. It need only be brief with a few photo's. It can be very satisfying for you to see your contributions in print! Otherwise the Newsletter may get shorter and shorter.....

This issue will be a bit of a scramble, not only because I am new to the job, but because the lateness of the AGM means it's not long before the February Club meeting, so I have had to get my skates on.

Managing the website will be a whole new experience for me but as the publication of the Newsletter and notifications to members are linked via the website it seemed logical for me to take on the role of Webmanager as well. I will be heavily reliant on Phillip Watts whilst I get "up to speed" and my thanks also go to Philip Williams who has offered to help in this area.

Hugh Field

AGM - Treasurers Summary

The content of the Treasurers report has been sent by email to members rather than be included in this Newsletter which is available to anybody accessing the Club website. Copies of the accounts will be posted on the Club notice board [Editor]

The treasurer would like to place on record his thanks to member Tony Hulbert who has audited the club accounts - free of charge and with great hospitality – for the past few years. Sadly he is unable to continue this service due to personal reasons and the club must now seek another person who can continue his good work. Any volunteers?

Membership and attendance report.

Despite attempts by the committee to increase membership it remains fairly stable around the 34 to 36 mark. This does have implications when it comes to booking and arranging demonstrations as, quite understandably, demonstrators have a fixed fee which doesn't alter dependant on club size. The committee will continue its endeavours to increase membership.

Attendance at club evenings averaged 61% with our highest at 79% for our own Ken Allen's demonstration in February. The lowest attendance was for the October 'Hands On' evening where only 33% attended.

An honourable mention for excellent attendance goes to the following: Gerald Adderley, John McElroy, Jane Russell, Philip Watts, Ted Gill, Phil Williams and Vance Lupton.

Only one member managed 100% attendance, for at least the second year in succession, and that was Ron Dixon who was awarded his certificate and badge at the AGM.

Vance Lupton



January Competitions

This month saw the end of the Competition year and, of course, the annual Premier trophy entries.

Simon King emerged as the clear winner of the Gordon Fradley Novice Trophy. Unfortunately Simon was unable to attend the meeting to receive his trophy, so that will take place at a later date.

Congratulations to Simon on success with in his entries in his first year with the Club.

The final project for the Challenge Trophy was for a square or rectangular bowl. The six entries displayed a variety of styles and interpretations. Vance Lupton took first place with his manta ray bowl, affirming his clear overall winning of the Trophy, your "new" Editor was in second place with a square inside and out design, and Geoff Payne took third with his interestingly decorated entry. Other entries were a pair of multi-axis turned ones by Philip Watts, and very nicely executed rectangular designs from Jane Russell and John McElroy. Unfortunately the Challenge Trophy was not available for presentation to Vance at the meeting.



Vance's manta ray bowl (left)



Hugh's "square inside and out" bowl (above)

Geoff's elaborate design (right and below)





Wood 'n' things



Two Square Bowls turned as a pair on two axes and finished individually on the third axis

Philip's pair of bowls (above) and Jane's rectangular bowl (right)t



John's rectangular bowl (left)

There were four entries for the Premier Trophy competition which was for a tea or coffee pot. Geoff Payne was the overall winner with his impressive Moroccan coffee pot, complete with stand. Other entries were a traditional teapot design from your Editor, another nicely executed coffee pot from Vance Lupton, and an interesting tea pot and cup from Phillip Watts.



Geoff's winning Moroccan coffee pot... and receiving the Premier Trophy (for the third time!)





Vance and Hugh's entries



Philip's interesting teapot and cup

The **Competitions for 2016** are now finalised as below:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| Novice: | February: | Pair of matching light pulls |
| | April: | Paper knife |
| | June: | Pendant |
| | August: | Lidded Box with square features |
| | October: | Pair of matching tea light holders |
| | December: | Bowl |
| Challenge: | March: | Tea cup and saucer |
| | May: | Long stemmed goblet, minimum 12" (305mm) high |
| | July: | Pair of turned book ends |
| | September: | Bowl or platter with pierced features |
| | November: | Item assembled from at least three turned components |
| | January (2017): | Set of six coasters with holder |
| Premier: | January 2017: | Necklace or bracelet |

Plenty to get you thinking there!

2016 Programme

Ted gill has come up with an interesting programme for 2016 which includes some people we have previously seen, and a new face. It promises to be an interesting year!

The programme is available on the MSWA website but you will find a copy at the end of this Newsletter so you can print it out if you wish.



Have a Go – what have you got to lose?

Jane Russell, winner of the Novice Trophy for her entries in the 2014 competition year writes:

I always look forward to that humble sheet of A4 which is filled with so much potential – the list of competition titles for the coming year.

Without it, my turning days would be filled with doing what I've done before, staying safely in my comfort zone and commenting on demonstrations – *'Well, I might try it – some day...'*

The competitions during my short time of membership of two clubs have been a positive inspiration to branch out and have a go at something, not 'some day', but now – use some of that wood stock-piled for a rainy day and challenge myself to do things I never thought I could.

A cup-and-ball toy, a three-legged stool, fruit, a finial box – all within my capabilities but more challenging than a nice safe bowl – I might never have decided that now was the time to try, without that date on the calendar telling me to get on with it!

Without those competition titles I would never have even contemplated involuted turning, despite having attended an all-day demonstration by Sue Harker. I knew the theory, but I might never have tried it for myself.

Now the stool is there for my grandchildren to sit on, my grandson is getting the hang of the cup-and-ball toy, my rubber-bands are conveniently held in the finial box on my desk - and while the involuted candlestick is a bit on the aesthetically-challenged side, at least it's there, as a curiosity to interest friends and family, if nothing else, and a reminder of how far I have come since I first attempted a garden dibber!

Sometimes I seem to have struggled in vain, but I never allow myself to say *'It's not good enough for the competition'*. At worst, it may encourage other members who realise they could do better than that! And at best it may just appeal to enough people to win a handful of votes. Whatever the outcome, I have had the experience of trying something new, a challenge and a lot of fun.

Jane Russell

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For those members who have not been participating in the competitions, please consider Jane's suggestion to "have a go".

Prior to joining MSWA I had never considered myself to be a "competition person". After initial trepidation I soon realised how satisfying it is to win even at one meeting and what an incentive it provides to work to a specification and improve ones confidence and skills. Don't be frightened! It would be nice to see some new names on the trophies! As a reminder, the Challenge and Premier are open to all, including "novices". [Editor]



Club information

Your club committee for 2016 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

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Newsletter editor – Hugh Field

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

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Webmanager – Hugh Field

Email: webman@mswa.co.uk

Health and Safety Advisor - Hugh Field

Email: health.safety@mswa.co.uk

Dawn Hopley

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.



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.

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.

Items can also be brought to club evenings when donated to raise money for club funds. Please advise the Treasurer if you wish to do this.

For Sale

SIP 10" Table Saw 45 to 90 degree cutting angle

Also provision for mounting a router

Available to view in Barton under Needwood

Brian Smith Tel 01283 716566

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



2016 PROGRAMME

- February 5th : Adam Stephens - Reverse bowl involving screw threading.
- March 4th : Dawn Hopley (our very own!) - Not a lot of bottle.
- April 1st : Steve Heeley - Something else from his back catalogue.
- May 6th: Hands on/open evening - Displays, try a technique yourself, sharpening, wood sales etc.
- June 3rd : To be announced.
- July 1st : David Lowe - Zipped vase.
- August 5th : Internet Video evening - A selection of “how to do it”, and probably “how not to do” it clips!
- September 2nd : Richard Findley - A spindle turning masterclass.
- October 7th : Hands on/open evening - More in house activities and wood sales etc.
- November 4th : David Winter - Star bowl. A chance to see how to use one of David's prepared project kits.
- December 2nd : Mark Hancock - Flat work demonstration.
- January 2017: AGM and presentations.