



Editor's Comments

The AGM is almost upon us and by now everybody should have had the various documents relating to it. Please have a look at them and give some thought to who you want to work on your behalf in the coming year. While some members of the committee may be persuaded to serve again, it should not be assumed that they will do so.

There is a deadline by which properly seconded nominations must be in the the Secretary's hands. Who knows, there may be some amongst you who would like to join the committee. If so, just find two members to propose and second you, and you have a very good chance of being elected!

I am pleased to tell you the Adrian Needham has been adopted by the AWGB as its Southern Area Representative. Adrian will make just as good a job of this new responsibility as he has already done as Secretary of MWA. The Committee wholeheartedly endorses this appointment.

Internet enthusiasts will notice that a very full address for the MWA web site is now shown on this page. Don't be put off! You can still enter www.e-brimbles.com and then click on *Middlesex Woodturners Association* to get there. If you have yet to look at it, do log on, and see what Christina Bishop has done for us. I am hoping to enable her to show colour pictures in the online version of the newsletter soon.

Alan

Electrical Safety (N/Letter No 72)

I have been reminded that the term 'Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker' (ELCB) is out of date. We should now say 'Residual Current Device' (RCD) instead. *Sorry*, I must be out of date too! Perhaps that is why I still refer to 'Dustmen' when their new name is 'Refuse Operatives'!!

Alan

President

Stuart King

Chairman & Newsletter Editor

Alan Spargo

73 Park Lane
Harefield
Uxbridge, Middlesex
UB9 6BL

Tel. 01895 823159

Treasurer & Membership Sec.

Richard Bird

'Staffa' Back Lane
Chalfont St. Giles
Buckinghamshire
HP8 4PF

Tel. 01494 872503

Secretary

Adrian J. Needham

"Brimbles" 114 Slough Road
Datchet, Berkshire
SL3 9AF

Tel. 01753 593771

Committee members:

Ralph Pooley

Ken Horn

Mike Collas

Derek Pollecutt

(One committee vacancy remains)

Pearls of Wisdom

During his recent lecture/demonstration for MWA, Mark Baker gave out much valuable information. In particular he referred to the problem of dust when sanding. He wets the surface of the wood with oil when sanding. This eliminates dust altogether, forming a slurry with wood particles, but is not suitable for multicoloured woods because the slurry formed may stain the paler parts of the surface. Mark particularly pointed out that nut allergy is a very real threat to some people, and the once popular Walnut oil and other nut oils should never be used.

(Contd. overleaf)

Pearls of Wisdom Contd.

Sunflower oil is much safer, and very much cheaper than commercial food safe finishing oils. Other non nut cooking oils may be used, but avoid Olive oil, which becomes rancid, and remember that Rape Seed oil is banned in the United States. (Don't try to use white liquid paraffin as bought from the chemist. It will never dry. Ed).

The recommended method of using sunflower oil is first to wipe off the slurry formed when sanding, then apply four coats of oil within one hour, and burnish with paper. Put the article in a cool place for at least a week to harden. N.B. if the article is placed in a warm environment, the oil may exude. (Mark said that it is possible to apply a melamine finish, provided that all traces of oil on the surface are removed, but a wax finish would surely be much more compatible with the oil treatment. Ed)

Simon Hope Evening

We had booked Simon Hope for our September meeting. It was intended that Simon would demonstrate turning techniques appropriate for the Australian timbers he would bring with him and sell to the members. However, Nature intervened with the birth of his first child, and his first priorities were to his wife and new baby

In his place he sent Tony Walton, and alas the expected timber supplies had to wait until another time. Tony Walton looks after Trade and Business Liaison for the AWGB, and is responsible for obtaining concessions on sales to members among other duties. He also looks after the arrangements for the AWGB stands at national exhibitions

Tony did not have much time to prepare his evening, but he is a regular demonstrator to clubs. His intention was to demonstrate the production of a screw topped box made from Myrtle Burr. Tony is a man of very few words, but we gathered that chasing threads in most woods is not possible unless threaded inserts are glued into place. The inserts are commonly made from boxwood, which takes threads very well.

When making mating threaded parts, the female part should always be made first, as it is the more difficult to bring to size. The male part is then made to fit it. Tony had a short length of boxwood log, from which he made the threaded inserts. Unlike Bill Jones, the acknowledged expert in thread chasing, Tony did not use an armrest to steady the chaser for the internal thread.

He discussed briefly the choice of spindle speed for chasing, and was of the opinion that while a little fast, the usual lowest speed of 450 to 500 rpm found on many lathes could be used. Lower speeds as obtained on variable speed lathes make the job more easy. Like Bill Jones, Tony stressed the need for practice movements of the chaser before beginning the cut, and starting at a

slight angle to the axis of the thread in order to obtain a clean 'strike'. Should a 'drunken' start be made, the only option is to turn it away, and make a fresh start. It looks easy, but needs much practice!

The mating inserts made, Tony began the components of the box. It was notable that at no time during the whole demonstration did Tony take any measurements. This is not to be recommended, as many second attempts may be needed before things fit together correctly.

The parts for the box were made, with very few comments from Tony as he worked. We noticed that he used a narrow box scraper to take out much of the waste. This a comparatively new tool, pioneered by Gary Rance, and now adopted by other makers. It is simply a round bar ground to a flat across its diameter, with the end sharpened as a scraper, and it works a treat.

Tony did not fare very well in fitting the boxwood inserts. It turned out that the burr wood from which the parts of the box were made absorbed thin superglue like a sponge, and he just could not get the joints to hold. In the process of trying to assemble the parts, Tony broke one of the inserts, and had to quickly make another. In all it took three attempts before the box was successfully assembled. It was a classic case of once things begin to go wrong, even more disasters always seem to follow. Having had this happen to himself, your reporter understood the problem only too well!

The parts of the box were treated with sanding sealer, and the final finish was applied by a cloth buffing wheel and Carnuba wax. The box was of a very neat design., the threaded inserts forming an effective feature.

This was not the slickest of demonstrations, but observant people should have gleaned some useful knowledge from it, including a few things not to do.

GALLERY



**Hollow Form in Ash
By Harry Barnett**



**Candlesticks in Rosewood,
by Gary Rance
Vase in Sycamore , stained green.
By Harry Lintott**



**Bowl in Spalted Beech,
by Harry Barnett
Doughnut Bowl in Myrtle Burr
by Ralph Pooley**



**Lidded vessel in Acacia, and a
Shallow Bowl in Sycamore, Both
by Ralph Pooley**



**Some of the
bud vases
made for the
competition
in May 2004.
Photo by Ken
Horn**

**Apart from the
photo of the bud
vases, all pictures
on this page were
taken at the recent
Exhibition in the
Uxbridge Library
by Tony Brown.**

Finishing with Acrylic Lacquer

After over 15 years of daily handling, our Acacia condiment set was beginning to look and feel grotty; in short, it needed to be refinished. Its original finish was Craft Supplies cellulose lacquer, in the days before melamine. What to finish it with now, with so many new finishes on the market? Wooden floors are these days, given an incredibly durable Acrylic lacquer finish, but the thought of buying a litre of Acrylic floor lacquer just for a condiment set seemed rather extravagant. Then I remembered the spray can of Chestnut brand Gloss Acrylic Lacquer languishing on the shelf above the lathe. Just the thing!

The pepper mill was soon dismantled, and it was the work of a minute or two to make up a peg type jam chuck. With the parts of the set in turn on the jam chuck, a 100 grit abrasive soon removed the old finish, and some dents and dinges, followed by progression through the grades to 320 grit and a 'Scotchbrite' pad. The use of sanding sealer is essential. Two coats were brushed on, wiped off, and burnished with

paper, and things were beginning to look better. Spray lacquer is very thin, and it is quite slow drying, so how best to apply it?

After some experimenting, I found that running the lathe at its lowest speed of 450 rpm enabled me to evenly cover the work with thin coats of lacquer from a distance of about nine inches, then a gentle blast of warm air from an old hair dryer took away enough of the solvent to prevent runs. Then at least twenty minutes had to elapse before a gentle burnish with paper, and another coat could be applied. I found that three or four coats were needed to produce a hard finish which looks as if it will last for ever

The spray is very wasteful and there is a problem with over spray. A cardboard box held behind the work will catch most of it, but I came to the conclusion that the spray can is best suited to larger objects. Now for the final question. How good is the Acrylic finish? It looks and feels fine. I will tell you how it did in about 15 years time - if I last that long! Alan Spargo

More on Health & Safety

The Committee is much concerned with Health & Safety matters, and is currently compiling risk assessments concerning the conduct of our regular meetings. One of the most difficult matters to deal with is dust from turning, and in particular from sanding. We do ask our demonstrators to avoid power sanding in particular, and to limit the amount of hand sanding. As recorded in this issue, Mark Baker offers a solution, but with the disadvantage that it does to some extent limit choice of finishes. In order to offer some protection to members who are troubled by sanding dust, the Committee intends to provide throw away dust masks at every meeting, without charge, to those members who feel that they need them. The Committee wishes to make it clear to members that there is a small risk, and that it will discharge its responsibility by providing for members means of mitigating that risk.

In order to encourage members to use suitable protective equipment in their home workshops, the club Shop will in future stock higher quality dust masks, with exhalation valves, and also protective "over specs" goggles. Both of these will be moderately priced. It is worth observing that a good pair of prescription lenses in optical plastic costs up to at least £100. One splash of sanding sealer, solvent based finish, or super glue will etch into the plastic surface. There is no cure other than a new pair of specs, so a cheap pair of "over specs" goggles is worth using.

For Your Diary

November 11th. Branch A.G.M. Followed by demonstration by one of our members. This is an important meeting. Please do your best to attend.

December 9th Christmas club Night, with 'Hands On' activities, lots of chat, and mince pies too. do let us know of anything which you would like to see included in the activities.

More Pearls of Wisdom

- Sharp cutting edges occur only when two polished surfaces meet.
 - Maintain really sharp edges by frequent honing with diamond or ceramic hones.
 - Scrapers cut better than gouges on some woods.
 - A scraper cuts at its best for only about seven seconds!
- Mark Baker