



## Editor's Comments

The most important item for this month is the AGM in November! You will, I am sure, not mind being reminded of it.

You should already have or very soon will have the paperwork for the proposal of officers and committee members. I do hope that you have digested my comments in the August newsletter, and made some positive decisions about involvement in the running of our Association, and about the choice of your officers and committee members for the coming year. I cannot stress how important all this is to the running of our excellent organisation.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to share with Stuart King the judging of the August "Square and Pointy Things" competition. The standard of work presented was reassuringly high overall. The emphasis always put by the Association on high standards seems to have born fruit, especially amongst our less experienced members. The high standards also made judging quite difficult, and so we had to apply correspondingly exacting criteria. We hope that nobody was disappointed by our comments and decisions, and that everybody was able to benefit from them, which was always our intention.

*Alan.*

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## For your Diary

**8th November. Annual General Meeting, Plus another activity .**

**13th December. Christmas get together. Finger Buffet, Mince Pies etc.**

### A Note for Bone Turners

If you are amongst the few who turn bone, be aware that bone dust is thought by some to be as dangerous as the dust from some hardwoods. You have been warned. Take proper precautions!

# August Club Workshop

A variety of activities was on offer at the August Workshop. Several lathes were in operation, offering problem solving, information, instruction and hands on practice in a wide variety of turning operations and methods, including turning square bowls. We are very grateful to members who manned the lathes, and who were kept very busy throughout the evening. In addition there was sharpening, where members could have their tools reshaped and sharpened, and could also learn some useful hints & tips on tool maintenance generally. A first for a workshop evening was a demonstration by Christina Bishop of Pyrography applied to turned objects. And of course, there was plenty of time for a good old natter!

Also during the evening, there was an exhibition of members' excellent entries in the "Square and Pointy Things" competition. Stuart King and Alan Spargo teamed up to judge the entries. Pieces were entered by members of all levels of experience. The standard of work was high overall, and the judges had to apply exacting criteria. Two main areas where improvements could have been made were in finishing, and in dealing with the inevitable chucking recesses found on many entries.

Perhaps the greatest sin in finishing was trying to build up wax on a surface which had not been adequately sanded. It is not always realised that the final polish will highlight any deficiencies in preparation, which is why the finishing process often takes more time than the actual turning. A wax

finish, if used, should always be applied sparingly onto an already well prepared and sealed surface. A beautiful and very durable finish will then be the reward for the time spent on preparation.

Work has to be held in the lathe, and the self centring chuck is almost universally used today. If a dovetail recess is used, it does not have to be very deep. As little as three millimetres is ample for any but very soft wood. The secret of getting a secure grip is to match the diameter of the chucking recess (or spigot if used) to the stated working diameter of the chuck. Using the adjustment of the jaws to accommodate sizes widely differing from the stated size will lead to jaw marks on the work and a less secure grip. It pays to measure! Finally, it is now generally accepted that the chucking recess or spigot should either be incorporated into the design or removed completely.

Congratulations to winners Adrian Sussex and Ralph Pooley who each received a prize of a £15 voucher to spend in the MWA Shop, and congratulations also to all who took part in the competition for having a go, for working to such high standards, and for making the judges' job more difficult!

(An apology: I took many of photos, but lost the lot in a computer crash. It happens!! Ed.)

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## Live Crafts at Gt. Missenden

Coming so soon after the Chilterns Show, Live Crafts at the same venue offered a challenge to MWA members. Could we mount a good show so soon after the last one? Could we? Not half!

We had a much larger marquee than before, but enthusiastic members put on a stunning show which used all the available display space, and could have used more if we had it. Everything was there from light pulls to gallery standard pieces. Demonstrations of turning were almost continuous throughout the three days of the show, and served to keep some areas topped up as stuff sold. We were very busy indeed at times. Much interest was shown in our work, and sales were brisk. We were delighted to see that some of the larger and most highly priced items sold quickly, much to the pleasure of those who made them. Obviously people who live in the area have more space in their homes as well as more disposable cash. Worth remembering for the future. Thanks to commission charged on sales, the Shooting Star charity adopted by MWA did well. and sales from the "Charity" table also were good, thanks to members who donated attractive work to benefit the Charity.

Congratulations are due to Ralph Pooley and his colleagues who worked very hard over the three days of the show, and also on the set up day beforehand. The success of shows of this kind depends so much on good organisation behind the scenes. Thanks too are due to the members who patiently supervised the stands throughout the show, and to those who looked after the 'cash & wrap' department. As always, many photos were taken, and some are included on the 'Gallery' page of this Newsletter. (Remember, they look better in colour on our web site: [www.middxturners.com](http://www.middxturners.com))



# September Meeting with Ken Johnson

John is a Yorkshire man through and through, with a dry sense of humour which at times was lost on our Southern audience. He brought his own lathe, a Record DML24. This is an inexpensive starter lathe, basic, but well engineered. On it John would make and fully complete two projects.



John began by making a simple small bowl of half spherical outline. He started with a screw chuck to mount the blank, and roughed out to include a chucking spigot. He used a collet type chuck, which ran impressively truly, but required accurate measuring of spigots and recesses for secure gripping. John gave many hints and tips as he worked, including a valuable lesson on getting a true hemisphere of a specified size. It was a matter of careful measurement and turning reference diameters with a parting tool to guide the shaping. John used relatively small sharp spindle gouges, and light cuts in keeping with the modest power of the lathe motor, and maintained a fine finish from the tool.

John sanded carefully through all the grades down to beyond 600 grit, then moved straight to a finishing lacquer, which he de-nibbed before applying a very thin layer of hard wax. This burnished up to a superb satin gloss. As he said, the secret of the finish lies in the preparation, a point which is still not fully appreciated by some. The interior was removed with the job held by its spigot, again using small sharp tools, and keeping the wall thickness even throughout. The same finishing techniques were used. The bowl was mounted in a jam chuck for finishing. After his warm up piece

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John took a blank of Bubinga which had been pre-cut to suit the maximum 9 inches diameter for this lathe. It was destined to become a barometer. On the screw chuck, the blank was faced, a large but accurately sized chucking recess cut, and the shape of the back of the piece completed and finished. Using the largest chuck collet, the piece was remounted for the front to be detailed. John chose a complex profile, including provision for the mounting ring for the barometer movement. All this was carefully tooled mainly with small spindle gouges, and the whole thing carefully sanded and finished as before. It looked good! All that remained was to cut through the piece with a parting tool to remove the centre, and the job was done. The chucking recess was larger than the hole for the



barometer movement, which greatly facilitated the job. All that was left now was to fix the mounting ring in place and the brass fitting for hanging the barometer on the wall.

The quality of John's work was outstanding, and attracted much



interest and comment. His demonstration was accompanied by a stream of advice, and also a liberal sprinkling of Yorkshire jokes. Points of note were that John used a beginner's lathe to produce professional standard pieces. Aspiring novices should have learned much from his unhurried approach to using such a lathe. Also, John was one of the few demonstrators to produce completely finished pieces within the time available. This was a demonstration tailor made for those beginning in the art of turning, and with something for more experienced turners too.

**For Sale** Small Draper Bandsaw with Sanding Disc, accessories, and Instruction Book. £120. Bench Drill Press Stand for Power Drill. Bargain £10. Lever operated Nail Gun & Nails £10. More details & Pics on the Club Notice Board. See or phone Tony Brown on 030 8422 0195.