



Editor's Comments

This is a rather better newsletter than those I have produced since December. It is always difficult when urgent matters arise which cannot wait until the usual publication date, so have had to produce smaller interim editions in December and January.

May I draw your attention to the note in this issue about the Competition to be held in April, on one of our Workshop Evenings. I said, in the last Newsletter, that the Competition was to be in March, not having picked up that later during the committee meeting, the date was changed to April to give members a little more time to make their competition entries. Sorry about that.

The AWGB Annual General Meeting is almost upon us. Remember that it is being hosted by MWA in the Village Halls at Great Kingshill, on April 1st (Yes really !!). We would be pleased if our members would come along and support our national organisation which works so hard on our behalf.

April 12th Meeting: A Workshop Evening with several lathes for 'hands on' work; a Clinic with Brian Wooldridge; Sharpening with Ralph Pooley, including a Tormek wet grinder with the latest gouge grinding fixture; and the Hand Mirror Competition. Please come prepared to take advantage of what is on offer, and ready to try out techniques, test your newly sharpened tools, get solutions to your problems etc. etc.

Programme change For the September meeting, John Johnson will replace Stuart King.

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MWA One Day Seminar on Sunday May 13th

The Big Event of the year for MWA. Renowned lady turner Julie Heryet will be in charge of the day, which starts at 9.30 am and runs until approximately 4.30 pm. The venue is the Village Hall in Great Kingshill, near High Wycombe, Bucks. Tickets cost only £12.50 per person, and this includes lunch, and tea, coffee, etc. during the day. Delegates are invited to show their work in the "Instant Gallery". Non members are welcome. Tickets from Richard Bird on 01494 872503 or e-mail richardwlbird@aol.com

The MWA Competition in April

Members are reminded that the subject of the Competition is the making of a small lady's hand mirror. Gary Rance, at our request, included making a simple hand mirror in his demonstration earlier in this year. The choice of timber, and method of decoration and refinement of the basic design is of course very much up to each individual maker. It would be very hard to judge the competition if everyone just produced a simple copy of Gary's example!

To help members in sourcing the specified mirror glass, MWA has purchased a stock of suitable glasses, which may be purchased from the club shop at £4.30 each. Remember, if you had to order one yourself, you would have had to add the cost of carriage to the price, making it an expensive item.

Gary Rance Demo

Gary Rance is one of the foremost British professional turners. If it is wood, and can be spun in a lathe, Gary can make it! He is also a most expert demonstrator, as we were to see in January.



Gary had intended, in addition to making a fob watchstand, to

make of a coffee mill. However, MWA had decided that there would be a club competition during the April Workshop Evening, and had asked him, instead to demonstrate the subject of the competition, which was a ladies hand mirror. The idea was to give members guidance on how to make one. This put Gary in difficulty, as there would be barely enough time in which to complete the two projects.

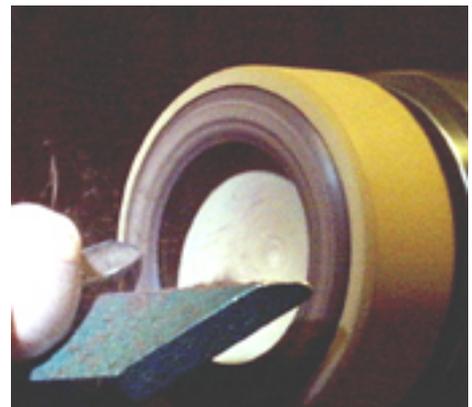
We need not have worried about that. Gary simply upped his speed and finished on time, but still found time to punctuate his work with many important teaching points about what he was doing, and good wood turning practice in general. It was a masterly performance, and an example to other demonstrators.

The base and pillars of the watch stand were simple faceplate and spindle turning jobs. The tricky part was the half ring for the top of the stand. From a blank of thickness a little greater than that of the finished ring, he turned first a disc, then a half section of a complete ring on the face of the disc. For this the blank could be mounted either on a

screw chuck or more accurately on a shallow chucking spigot let into the waste part of the wood. If the second method were to be used, then a second chucking spigot would be turned into the face or the blank on which the half formed ring was turned. While many people would use a suitable captive ring forming tool, Gary preferred to use conventional tools to achieve a better finish. Once the half section of the ring was turned, he simply reversed the blank on the chuck and turned the other side of the ring. To avoid the ring flying off the lathe and possibly being damaged, Gary cunningly cut through the blank at an angle to retain the ring as the tool broke through. The inside of the ring was finished in a purpose made jam chuck. It only remained to cut the ring in half to provide the basis for two watch stands. Assembly was by means of spigot joints on the ends of the pillars glued into the base, and headless brass screws and glue to link the half ring to the pillars. It all looked so simple!

The hand mirror was in two parts.

The blank for the head was pre drilled edgeways for the fitting of the handle. The handle was a simple spindle turning job, care being taken that the fixing spigot matched the hole in the edge of the blank for the head. The blank for the head was mounted on a



Gary Rance contd.

screw chuck and turned to the wanted diameter. The face of the disc was recessed to fit the mirror.



mirror to allow for shrinkage of the finished job.

Next the piece was reverse chucked by carefully expanding suitable chuck jaws into the recess, and the exterior turned to shape and finished. A recess was turned to take the coloured wood plug which was needed to disguise the hole left by the screw chuck. Finally, a plug was made from a

A bevelled edge mirror was used, and the recess was finished larger in diameter than the

scrap of timber to fit the recess, and glued in. It only remained to assemble the parts, and the job was complete. Gary pointed out that to fix the mirror in place a flexible method should be used, applied sparingly near to its edge. He has found double sided tape to work here. Others recommend silicone bathroom sealant or rubber based glues such as Uhu or Evostik. A hard setting glue will invariably lead to a cracked mirror if the wood moves.

For the competition, suitable mirrors may be purchased from the club shop. The shapes and decoration of the parts will be up to the competitors, as will the finish chosen. We hope to see a number of finished hand mirrors displayed in April during the Workshop Evening.

Shooting Star Hospice

Members will remember that the Charity which MWA supports is the Shooting Star Hospice for severely disabled and terminally ill children and their families. This is the second year in which Shooting Star has been our adopted charity, and total donations to date are £373. We would very much like to make the total up to £500 by the AGM in November. To this end, we will have a table for the Hospice in our display at the Chilterns Show and any other exhibitions we may be able to mount. We would also draw your attention to the Donation Box which sits on the Treasurer's table on club nights. Most people have a little loose change in their pockets which would not be missed if it found its way into the box. Do think about it.

The February Meeting



Dave Reeks made a welcome return in February. Many members will remember that Dave was one of the founder members of MWA. He is noted for turning large pieces,

almost always from wood which he has harvested and seasoned himself. His output is prodigious, and he shops. has a contract for supplying the National Trust. Because of the usual size of his pieces, he always brings his own large Poolwood lathe for his demonstrations. Ours is not big enough! As the lift was not working, we needed a team of hefty volunteers to manhandle the lathe parts up and down the stairs. (We are glad to say that the lift has now been repaired.)

Dave gave some interesting information on seasoning considerable quantities of green timber. He boils it in a forty gallon drum fitted with an immersion heater! This process removes all the sap from the cells of the wood, which he then allows to dry in paper sacks until

February Meeting contd.

two different bowl saving systems in operation. These allow nests of bowls to be produced from large blanks, instead of allowing 90% of the wood to end up on the floor in shavings. With large blanks of expensive timbers costing as much as £100, the bowl savers pay for themselves in quick time. The first demonstration was of the Kel McNaughton tools. These curved tools are guided through a "gate". There are three tools of different radius, but the system allows for some variation of shape by the operator. Setting up requires some skill and experience if bowls are to neatly separate



from the blank. The pictures give an indication of the size of the blank, and the bowl saver in action. From this blank, Dave could get as many as four sizeable bowls.

The second system was that marketed by Oneway.



The tools are massive, pivoted, and supported by a curved finger. Only fixed sizes of bowls can be made, but the system is easier to set up and use than the Kel McNaughton tools. For

this demonstration Dave used a very irregular burr. To produce an even edged bowl, he had first to determine where to cut the chucking spigot. This

was done by spinning the blank between centres, and moving the point of contact of the tailstock centre about until the burr part ran truly. The spigot was then cut, and the picture shows just how much on the skew this blank had to be. Other pictures show better than words how the Oneway system is set up and how the curved finger supports the tool.



Besides demonstrating the systems, Dave passed on a great deal of specialised advice drawn from his



experience, and which cannot be found anywhere else. Bowl saver systems, and there are several on the market, are expensive to

buy, but they are a must have for anyone producing work from large blanks on a commercial scale. During his demonstration, Dave displayed his characteristic down to earth approach, and dealt easily and effectively with the barracking he has come to expect from fellow professional turners in the audience. (The all do it to each other, and it brings light relief from the serious stuff in hand.)

Stuart King's Flowers

While I was at the National Woodworking Show at Alexandra Palace I took a look at Stuart King's stand. I was not surprised to find much material on old woodworking practices. He was of course selling and demonstrating his charming wooden flowers. To my delight, Stuart was selling a teaching DVD showing how the flowers should be made. so I bought a copy. It is a homely, almost rustic production by the King family, showing in detail how Stuart makes his flowers. The process looks disarmingly simple. Get a copy! Alan.

For Sale

De Walt BS1310 Bandsaw in good condition £50
 B&D Proline circular saw with Elu table saw conversion kit. £50
 Portable tool carrier on wheels. £10
 Redeye Mitre Saw used once. £70
 Peugeot DF55 1/4" Router £35

Apply Mike Humphreys

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