

## 'BOWLed' over at Wembley

By Eric Ditchfield - AWGB Events Manager



*A selection of bowls*

Whether one is a hardened professional or a keen amateur there is always a thrill to be gained from touring the stands at woodworking exhibitions. A new gadget for the workshop, a new "high speed" gouge or a special piece of "exotic" for the next project. All these and a lot more were to be found at the recent Practical Woodworking Exhibition held at Wembley in March.



*Members turned work on display*

for display were asked if they would exhibit at the show. 23 members submitted a wide range of different styles of turned work.

Fine delicate spindle turning from Nick Perrin, Bob Weir and Mike Worley; inlaid boxes and containers from Richard Bew, Tim Beeching and Frank Clarke; natural forms from Helen Sanderson and Chris Stott; a pair of twisted stem standard lamps from Albert Lain; and a

*Continued on page 7*

As in previous years the AWGB was also in attendance at the exhibition. But this year it had a different image and message as well as a much bigger stand.

A list of members who had put forward their names offering work



*General view of the stand*

# Editorial

Hello. My name is Mike Dennis. I have been persuaded to volunteer for the job as editor of 'Revolutions'. My qualifications for taking on this task, apart from my enthusiasm for woodturning, are my background in printing and desktop publishing. I have been in, and connected with printing since I left school. Although I am now a Facilities Manager, part of my responsibilities is to manage Printing Services along with computer development including Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

I have been woodturning for about 15 years on and off. Four years ago I went with my wife to one of her Lace Group meetings. Mike Cripps was demonstrating the making of bobbins and other turned items. He had with him some application forms for the AWGB. About two months after joining the AWGB I received a letter from Mike to say that he was forming a local chapter and would I like to go to the inaugural meeting. That meeting saw the birth of the Middlesex Woodturners Association. A year later I was elected Secretary, a post I have held since. A lot of talk has taken place recently about improving communications within the AWGB. I am firmly of the



opinion that the newsletter is an important media as part of that communication process. To enable me to continue with the success of *Revolutions* I NEED articles, reports of events, stories (comical or serious), letters, tips and ideas, cartoons, drawings, photographs, anything connected with woodturning. I need articles that can be inserted at any time or run as a series. I also need titbits as fillers that can be inserted at any time to fill available gaps. I can accept your articles on 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" disks in most Word Processing formats to save me having to retype. I would like to include more photographs. They reproduce better if they have good contrast and not out of focus. Black and white give better results than colour. Pictures that have already been printed (halftoned) do not reproduce very well at all, especially if they have to be reduced in size.

I will endeavour to get the newsletter out regularly, but this will depend on events.

For example the August issue will be later than usual to enable details of the Loughborough Seminar to be included.

I also want to get the newsletter published as soon as possible after the closing date for submission of articles. Set out below are the proposed dates for the next twelve months

Last date for submission of articles

April 30th  
August 22nd  
November 15th  
February 15th

Publishing date

May 17th  
September 1st  
December 1st  
March 1st

As with most things in life everybody has different ideas on how things should be done. As you can see I have made alterations to the layout of *Revolutions*. I hope you like the new design, if you have any criticisms, good or bad, comments or helpful suggestions I will be only too pleased to receive them

I am sorry about the length of this editorial but as this was my first edition I thought it was important for you to know a bit about me.

*Mike Dennis*

# The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

## Chairmans notes

The fifth Annual General Meeting has just been held and a lively affair it was. Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter are the minutes of the AGM.

Has this Association really been going almost six years? Well it has and membership has grown from the initial two hundred to about eighteen hundred at the close of 1992. This growth has had a noticeable impact on the running of the AWGB and it is important that the AWGB and its management adapts as necessary. However we must be sure to adapt by leading the growth and not just in response to it.

As most of you will be aware some changes to the AWGB Constitution and to the running of the AWGB were proposed at the AGM. The AGM agreed that the committee should before all other matters, look into a new Constitution with a new members benefits package, the outcome of this to be the subject of an Extraordinary General Meeting during the Autumn of 1993.

I have received an enormous quantity of letters from members expressing their views on some of the proposals put to the AGM. Just a few of the letters do express a view that major changes are needed. But by far and away the majority broadly seek small change at most, well thought through and acceptable only after seeking a mandate from the whole membership. Now I simply cannot reply to all the writers, so please accept this as my thanks to you for letting me have your views.

The AGM was not in some ways, to different from those of past years. However, in just a few areas, this year did vary from previous. There were a few instances, from one or two delegates, of implied personal abuse wholly without justification. Now I do not give a jot for the insults hurled in my direction (for I have no peers), but I find it unacceptable when members of the AWGB (for whatever reasons) offer what in my opinion (and the opinion of some

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*Articles letters, tips etc contained in this newsletter do not necessarily carry the endorsement of the AWGB*

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## Chairmans Notes (Cont'd)

members) seem to be suggestions against committee members of (in effect) financial irreverence with Association funds. If making such suggestions is the height of the mental capability of supposed thinking AWGB members, then they perhaps should see their efforts as wholly unwelcome in this Association. Such an attitude is at best negative and unconstructive.

The AGM did this year produce excessive levels of nit picking over unimportant matters, particularly specific words in reports and the agenda. I am so pleased that just a few members find this activity to be constructive and useful.

One area that did produce comment and irrelevant criticism was "computers" both owned and not owned by the AWGB. The minutes define the present situation, but additionally the Treasurer and I will in the next newsletter, be setting the record straight so far as who owns what. On a positive note the AGM delegates seem to be telling the committee that it should depend upon its own assets for the conduct of AWGB business. With this I wholly concur, indeed have pressed this point before now. I do have to

say that there may well be some noticeable elements of cost in taking this position on board.

I think the above sets the record straight for those unable to attend the AGM, so complaints now over.

As some of you know, and you all know from this issue we have a new Editor, Mike Dennis. Mike tells you about himself elsewhere in this issue. We, all of us owe a great debt of gratitude to Isabel Winstanley for her tremendous efforts in advancing the standard of REVOLUTIONS issue by issue.

The "Turn a Tree" events at the NEC show last October was not as well supported as perhaps I had hoped. However the results were: total sales of £139.00 (with some sales at Loughborough still to come) from an entry of 50 pieces from 17 makers. The entry judged as the best of the event was by DAVID ATTWOOD, Chairman of the Heart of England Branch. Well done. David receives a years subscription to Practical Woodworking Magazine and a years free membership of the AWGB. Many thanks to all those who put the time and ingenuity into their

exhibits.

This event idea for each of the three shows at the AWGB attends will become more regular as time goes by. However, it will not happen for each show on the basis of not going for overkill.

Please note that the second International Woodturning Show is to be held on the 8th. - 10th. October 1993 again at the NEC at Birmingham sponsored as last year by Practical Woodworking. The show will follow the normal pattern with a call for three of four branches to submit members work for the show.

Within this newsletter are details from Eric Ditchfield our Show Manager, of the Woodworker Show 1993 at Sandown Park. Please give it your best.

There has been one committee meeting since the last REVOLUTIONS and this was given over almost entirely to handling the issues for changes to the way the AWGB is managed. In other words, any changes have to be known to be workable before they are agreed. By the time you read this, the reasons for change and the types of change required will have been aired at the

# The Wembley Show

AGM and a plan to move forwards will have been agreed. I must say that I am looking forward to getting this matter settled for once and for all. Then perhaps the committee can turn its attentions to such as improving the awareness of woodturning with the public. No matter what is decided, any changes of any substance really have to be put to the membership as a whole (probably by way of a referendum) before being implemented.

*Tony Waddilove*

A query was raised at the AGM regarding the figures for the 'Sale of Goods'. The Treasurer reports that the problem was caused by the accountant treating the Loughbough expenses of £973 as purchases. The figure of £2475 was arrived thus:

Purchases	387
+ Closing stock	1115
+ L'boro expenses	<u>973</u>
	£2475

The Loughborough expenses have now been put back where they belong.

None of this makes any difference to the bottom line figure.

A revised account is attached to the minutes with this newsletter

## The Practical Woodworking Show at Wembley

*By Tony Waddilove*

Sometime back, at the thick end of 1992 I received a telephone request from Alan Mitchell, editor of Practical Woodworking, to spend a day with him planning a substantial event to be held at the AWGB stand at the Practical Woodworking Show at Wembley.

Shortly afterwards I received another call, this time from Bert Marsh. Bert explained to me that he had got "a few ideas" for the event. Now you must understand that at this time I was not aware of the complexities of Bert's thinking processes, so I assumed all would be well and fairly simple.

The day arrived, and I met Bert at the IPC building. We discussed various topics all about "the event". The final decision was to organise a display and sale of work around the title "turn a simple bowl". Now I was charged with the task of selecting an appropriate Charity to be the beneficiary of our members efforts. It was quite easy to exclude some charities from the list, but far harder to select one that stood out against the better known "High Street" brands. However at this time I came across a newspaper article (well, in a tabloid to be exact) all about the Sue Ryder Foundation. A bit more homework and the die was cast.

It so happened that AWGB had at this time a new show organiser, Eric Ditchfield, so I was able to pass all the show planning to him. Advertising and similar activities were supported magnificently by Practical Woodworking, to whom we are very grateful. So at this point the job passed to Eric.

The "turn a simple bowl" in aid of the Sue Ryder Foundation was without doubt a great success. The number of entries and the value of sales were way ahead of all our anticipations.

# Wembley Show (Cont'd)

The resulting numbers were:

Number of pieces submitted	378
Number of turners submitting work	166
Number of pieces sold	251
Total sales value	£2447.50

The winner, being the member who sold the most by value was Ted Renn, with a total of £278. Well done Ted, and very many thanks for your effort. Ted submitted 28 pieces. The member submitting the next highest number of pieces was R.G. Bonner with 22 pieces. There are some pieces left, and some of these will be sold at Loughborough in aid of the Foundation, with the remainder being donated to the Sue Ryder shops. Many thanks to you all. It was a superb effort and just goes to show how much turned wood is appreciated by many people.

I have received a letter from Sue Ryder expressing her most grateful thanks to all of you that contributed. This letter was written just before Sue Ryder set out for Yugoslavia to try to restore the Sue Ryder homes destroyed in the Civil War.

So, whoever said that AWGB members never got off their butt (wood - get it?) ends.



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## BOWLed over (Cont'd)

*Continued from page 1*

selection of platters and bowls from Johnathan Dingley-Linton, David Attwood, Alan Griffin, Richard Hooper and Dave Malcolmson to name but a few.

The main success of the stand this year was due to the dedication and generosity of the vast number of members who donated items for the Sue Ryder Foundation "Turn a Bowl" charity exhibit. Over 350 bowls and platters of all sizes and shapes, made from a wide selection of local, native and exotic timbers were received.

The awesome task of unpacking, pricing and displaying these took everyone by surprise on the buildup day. Even the old hands at the game were overwhelmed by the amount of items and the quality of workmanship.

The task of pricing was down to the respected duo of Ray Key and Bert Marsh, a task which took a lot of discussion and some three hours to complete!

Finally after months of background preparation the doors opened and the exhibition was all systems go!

Right from the start the AWGB stand was alive and a buzzing hive of activity. New members joining the AWGB, enquiries about the regional branches and their location, when and where they meet and who to contact for details. Enquiries of this type were received all day long, and are fundamental to the expansion of the National and Regional AWGB organisation.

There was also an enormous amount of interest in the exhibits, how does one get that finish? What is it made from? How on earth did he turn that?

These and a myriad of other similar questions were answered continuously by our band of dedicated standmanners, the majority of whom were volunteers from the local Middlesex branch.

The one thing which involved everyone working on the stand was in selling the "Charity Bowls". A continual flow of customers throughout the four days of the show, which together with the expert selling techniques of the standmanners and the generosity of the members, produced an overwhelming £2448. 00 for the Sue Ryder Foundation. To list

everyone who donated items would be too prohibitive, but on behalf of the Sue Ryder Foundation and the AWGB a hearty and sincere **"THANK YOU"** to all concerned.

Looking forward briefly now to the next major Woodworking Show at Sandown Park (23rd-26th Sept) and NEC (8th-10th Oct). If any member would like to be included on the list of exhibitors or would like to help during the event, please give me a call on 0252 620794.

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John Holyoak asked in issue 24 of *Revolutions* for someone to explain the geometry of setting up the fence on the saw table so that a square is reduced to an octagon without the need for any measuring. Here are three explanations from members

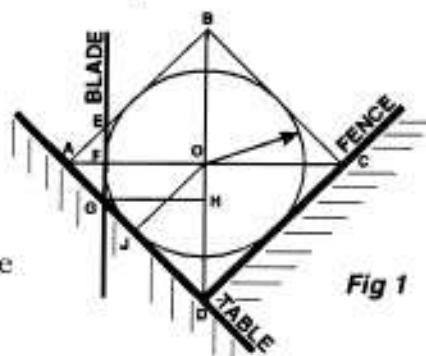
**From Geoff Heath -**

**1**

**Cheshire**

The solution to the problem depends on remembering two bits of geometry. The first is about congruent (identical) triangles. Two triangles may have all their angles equal, in which they are similar; but if they also have one corresponding side of equal length, then they are congruent.

The other thing to remember is that a regular figure, like a square or an octagon, can have an inscribed circle, i.e. a circle which touches all its faces. This means that all the faces are the same distance from the centre of this circle, which must be the point where the diagonals intersect.



**Fig 1**

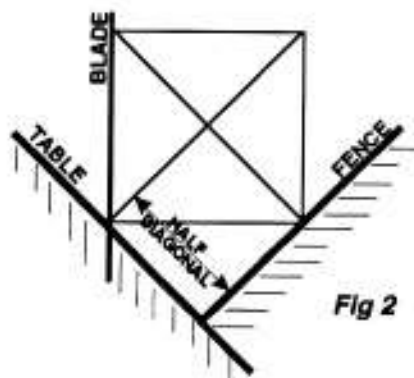
Fig. 1 shows the square (ABCD), set up on the saw-table to cut a perfect octagon. The diagonals AC and BD intersect at O, which is the centre of the inscribed circle, radius R. The table is inclined at  $45^\circ$  so that the diagonal BD is vertical, and the blade is tangential to the inscribed circle to cut the face EFG. We are going to determine DG, i.e. the distance of the fence from the blade, measured along the table.

OF is a radius of the inscribed circle, so  $OF = R$ .

Draw HG parallel to OF. Since EG is parallel to BD due to the tilt of the table, and since the diagonals of the square intersect at right-angles, OFGH is a rectangle and  $HG = OF = R$ .

Look at triangle HDG. We know that the angle at H is a right-angle, because OFGH is a rectangle. Moreover, the angle at D is  $45^\circ$  due to the symmetry of the figure. Since the angles of a triangle add up to  $180^\circ$ , it follows that the angle at G is also  $45^\circ$ . Triangle HDG is thus isosceles, and  $HD = HG = R$ .

Now we draw OJ at right-angles to AD, and consider the triangle OJD. This is another  $45^\circ/45^\circ/90^\circ$  isosceles triangle, and since OJ is a radius of the inscribed circle, we see that  $JD = OJ = R$ , making the triangles OJD and HDG congruent. (All their angles are equal, together with one corresponding side). It follows that their other corresponding sides are equal, making  $DG = OD$ . Note that OD is a half-diagonal of the square.



**Fig 2**

In other words, the fence must be set at a distance from the blade (measured along the surface of the table) equal to the length of a half-diagonal of the basic square.

Now look at Fig. 2, which shows the set-up recommended by John Holyoak for adjusting the fence, with the square butted up against the blade and the fence touching the lower free corner. It is clear that the distance between the blade and the fence is equal to a half-diagonal, so this ingenious way of setting the fence does indeed give the desired result. QED, as we used to say in the geometry class!



# Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

## 2 From Reg Reed - Warwickshire

John Holyoak's method is illustrated in the accompanying diagram:

- Saw blade is set at 45° to the table
- Square of wood A,B,C,D is positioned with one face (BC) flat on blade with point B resting on the table.
- Fence is set touching point A.
- The wood is then placed with face AD against fence and AB on table. The saw will then remove corner BFH, and the other corner in turn.

The setting angle is 45°, which is the angle between adjacent external faces of an octagon ( $360/8 = 45$ )

What needs to be proved is that the distance from fence to saw (EB) equals the distance AF on the wood.

In Triangles EBA and AFG, AB=FG (distance between opposite faces of hexagon) Angles EAB, EBA, AFG and AGF are 45°

∴ triangles are equal right angles isosceles (sides and adjacent angles) etc. and EB=AF  
It may also be noted that the setting distance EB is equal to half the diagonal of the square of wood (EB=AO), which is also equal to 0.7 of the side of the square. The latter can be deduced by Pythagoras:

In the right angled isosceles triangle EBA,

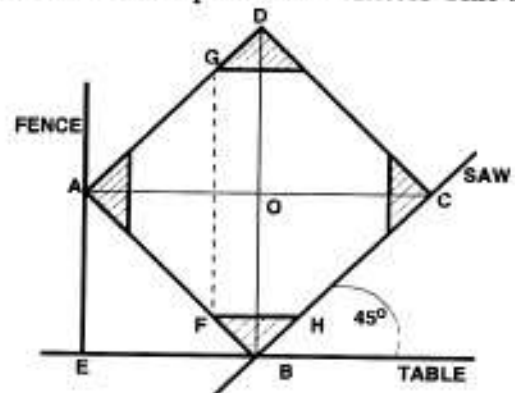
EB=AE=setting distance

AB = length of side of square

$$EB^2 + EB^2 = AB^2$$

$$\therefore EB = \frac{\sqrt{AB^2}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{AB}{1.414} = .707 AB$$



## 3 From Herbert Durkin - Middlesex

Referring to figure 1, to produce a perfect octagon from a square the cuts must be made so the the dimensions AB=BC and so on. If 'a' is the size of the original square with 'b' the distance of the cut from the edge then

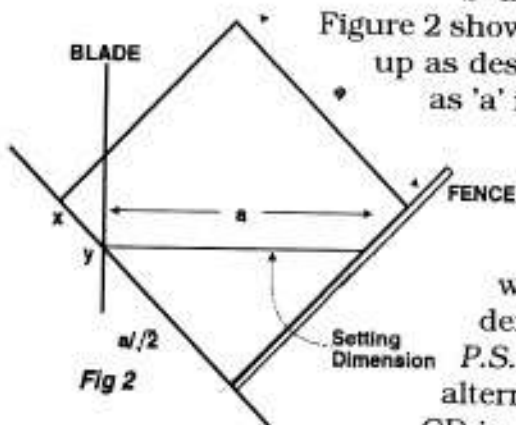
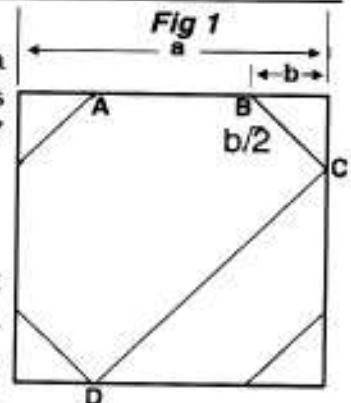
$$a-2b \quad (AB) = b\sqrt{2} \quad (BC) \text{ which can be expressed as } b = a - a/\sqrt{2}$$

Figure 2 shows the cut with the angled table set up as described with the setting dimension as 'a' i.e. the side of the original square. Thus the distance of the cut from the edge 'XY' is

$$a - a/\sqrt{2}$$

which is the formula for a perfect octagon as previously defined

P.S. Euclidean Geometers may be able to provide an alternative solution without the use of algebra by providing that CD in Fig. 1 = 'a'



## Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

**From Ed Brain -  
Cheshire**

With reference to the article by Ken Spencer-Mills in the February Revolutions, I am one of the AWGB members not in a branch at present, and although I would gladly join a local branch, (one in or close to the town where I live), I certainly would object to being attached to a regional branch that I may have little need for contact with.

Now some comments on the overall proposals. Firstly this situation is not new to me. Some years ago when I was a member of a Model Aircraft Club a similar problem arose, and it caused a great deal of ill feeling and unnecessary friction for several years until it was resolved.

As I see it with the AWGB from the little I have read, there appears to be either some of the more active branches looking for a power take over, or branch officials looking for an easy way out of the membership/affiliation problem.

Personally may I say that I find it distasteful to find that branches set up through the inspiration and help of the AWGB actually find it difficult to

ask that all their members subscribe to the parent body, and I am also disappointed that some people can use the benefits and advantages provided by a hardworking and effective national body, but are too mean to contribute what amounts to less than £1.05 per month.

As far as forming a Council of Delegates from branches to run the AWGB over and above the Executive Committee, this is a recipe for disaster. Any organisation run by a two tier committee tends to stagnate quickly and solve nothing.

I think a better solution would be to allow delegates from 100% membership branches to vote on issues raised at AGM's either by block or per capita vote, with all other members allowed their single vote in person or by post, or possibly no vote at all. This would then put pressure on branches of mixed belief who wish for better representation to do something about the membership problem, and maybe encourage individuals to form more branches with the same view. Also this delegate system could be taken further, for instance, co-opting delegates for a given

period onto the committee if they had a specific skill or knowledge useful to the AWGB or even the formation of sub committees to resolve problems or further aspects of the AWGB reporting back to the committee within a given time frame, for instance for events/shows, training, safety, insurance, branch forming etc. and thereby relieving the committee of some of its workload.

Obviously I am not in favour of the proposals by Ken and this letter is a serious attempt to further and widen the debate. I can only hope that before all the gouges dive in someone checks all the screws are tight.

---

**From Alan Cole - Devon**

The article by Ken Spencer-Mills on a new structure for the AWGB has made me put finger to keyboard - I hope this can be published before the AGM.

The article proposes the addition of a layer of bureaucracy between the ordinary member, and his subscription, and the Executive Committee, who spend the money - quite adequately, so far, in my opinion. Much of the

## Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

expenditure is, to quote Mr Spencer-Mills, on the Committee's expenses - would these be in way reduced by having a Delegate Council elect the Executive Committee and Officers rather than the membership doing it directly? I happen to be one of the members who is not currently a member of a branch. Far from making more efficient use of my subscription the proposal appears more likely to result in lower standards overall as the Branch Committee creams off some of it on its way to the Executive Committee. The Delegate Council will have expenses in addition to those of the present organisation and I certainly do not wish to be directed to join a regional branch just so that my subscription can be increased by Mr Spencer-Mills' "per capita levy".

So much for the money aspects - what about the name? An organisation which is simply an amalgamation of wood-turning associations is not an Association of Woodturners - what, I wonder, will be its new name

And so to the final paragraph of the resolution submitted to the AGM - I suggest that any new

Constitution and Rules for the AWGB must be agreed by the subscription paying members individually and NOT by the branches. We must look to the Executive Committee to ensure that all members are properly balloted on such a far reaching change in the organisation.

I copy this to the Hon. Treasurer so that he knows of one AWGB member who does not belong to a branch - am I the only one?

---

**From John Holyoak  
Norfolk**

I would like to start by thanking Ken Spencer-Mills for all his work which I know was necessary to put together his proposals in issue 24 and also to thank Colin Watson for his letter. I am in total agreement with the sentiments/opinions expressed.

The new Constitution must provide for communication to the members.

I suspect that very few members know who the present Committee members are let alone know what they have done for the benefit of the AWGB in any detail.

When a person joins I think they should be given a list of the Committee Members, a copy of their C.V's, a copy of the register showing how many meetings have been held and who was present/absent (and that this latter should be printed in *Revolutions* prior to the election of officers). They should also be given a copy of the last published accounts.

Turning to the matter of the executive expenses, in the last accounts these accounted for more money than the cost of the bulletin and as Ken says are a large part of the expenses. If it costs a disproportionate amount to get a member or members to the meetings we have to consider whether the presence and the work flowing from that attendance is worth the expenditure.

On the matter of those serving on the committee it is not sufficient to know just who they are, we must know that they have the abilities we are looking for.

Certainly the Committee must allie itself to the professional turners but people who serve on the committee must be able to show that they have the time to devote to it and are happy to give of that time.



## Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

I suggest that we are not looking for people who work long hours and have too much work to do looking after their own affairs however able or desirable they may be, nor do we need those who cannot delegate and supervise the work delegated. But we do want members with management skills as well as turning and workshop skills. I would like to see one or two business people on the committee.

Therefore the C.V's of prospective committee members should be published prior to the AGM with the voting papers which could form a tear off page in *Revolutions*.

May I suggest that in future accounts the executive expenses are itemised on a separate page annexed to the accounts at least so long as they account for a major item of expenditure. We want action not rhetoric and when we get it we must be told of it, or we must be told why we can't have it.

In communications the ordinary members are able to judge whether or not their interests are being dealt with and form opinions on whether they should support proposals or not and it must be said

that no committee can be mind readers. Communication is a two way medium, ordinary members must be prepared to stand up and say what is on their mind, what they feel need to be discussed, improved, made available or as the case may be.

The next thing we need is a register of members and a volunteer (with a Word Processor) to organise it. The Society of Ornamental Turners which, I suggest has a quite wide membership issues an annual register which is most useful and if they can do it why can't we.

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# Tool Review

## Chris Stott tests tools from Bob Chapman

It must be a recurring problem for tool manufacturers to have to turn away a new tool because they realise that sales will not be sufficient to justify production time or catalogue space. It is therefore refreshing to see someone offering such tools for sale on a mail order basis. I speak of Bob Chapman from Maidstone whose catalogue contains a range of tools and accessories for the woodturner, some of which can not be obtained anywhere else. I had the good fortune to be asked to test a few of these. The following comments on his tools are based on my own personal range of work, and how such tools relate to that.

Although there are no new startling ideas, it must be worth seventy pence for a catalogue to find whether he has the sort of 'one off' tool that will help you in your own particular area of turning.

### Beading Tools

These are very effective tools in my opinion, and easier to sharpen than the Sorby equivalent as just a touch on the grindstone will replace the cutting edge. I tried them on both soft pine and exotic woods. You have

to stop cutting before the flat in the centre completely disappears, otherwise it may tear out.

### $\frac{3}{8}$ " Parting Tool

An extremely slim parting tool which gives an excellent cut. However the  $\frac{3}{32}$ " section of the tool is only  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long giving a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " max diameter of work piece. This will of course diminish as the tool is sharpened. I felt this was rather expensive for what it is.

### $\frac{3}{8}$ " Angled Bowl Gouge

When I first saw the article about the originator of these angled gouges in *Fine Woodworking* I thought they were a gimmick, however I was recently turning a heart shaped vessel with a small opening and I found that a normal bowl gouge would not cut down to the bottom because of the narrow opening. The angled bowl gouge enabled me to complete the cut without resorting to scrapers. I would fit a longer handle to have more control over the tendency to twist.

### Light Pull Drive Centre

This could become an essential part of any craft show turner's kit. Using prepared (ie. ready drilled) blanks it enables the turner

to achieve a finished article in one go without any hand finishing afterwards.

### 2" Two Prong Driver

If you are into heavy duty, between centres work this could be an ideal accessory for you as long as you have the means for mounting it, BCWA  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pin jaws, APTC dovetail jaws, or Multistar C jaws.

### Heavy Duty Double Ended Boring Tool

A useful addition to the Stewart System in view of its angled HSS tip.

### 6" Dia Wood Jaw Plates

The last thing you need when reverse chucking a large bowl is for the wood plates to break away from the jaws. The greater amount of metal around the wood screw holes on these plates gives more reassurance.

### $1\frac{1}{4}$ " Pin Jaws

This only fits the Axminster Power Tools chuck. It is far better than the pin chucks supplied with other chucks, but also far more expensive. An excellent grip in a 1" hole, even one drilled with a spade bit in soft wood. The cost would be a definite problem, but it does have the advantage of having internal and external dovetail jaws on the end which would be useful for very small turnings.

Chris Stott

# Branch News

## New Branch Co-ordinator

PHEW!! Just made the deadline for publication, or just missed it in which case you will never know.

First let me introduce myself, I have only recently taken over the position of Branch Co-ordinator, and I am currently Chairman of the Mid-Staffs Woodturners Association.

As all branch secretaries know I recently sent out a questionnaire regarding local branches as to where they meet and when etc... and as a result we are now able to point potential members to their nearest club in their locality.

There are 31 clubs on our list at the moment and I have received replies from 26, not a bad response but I hope to receive the remaining three shortly PLEASE!.

From the replies I have had there are fourteen clubs with 100% membership and the remainder all seek to be fully 100%. More about this in the future.

Will all branch secretaries please note that the Cornwall Branch will be changing their secretary to R J Slater, 56 Margaret



Ken Allen

Avenue, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 4SH

Thanks to all branches that have sent me their newsletters, it does help to know what is going on.

Keep doing a good turn

Ken J Allen

## Dorset

Following an invitation by a local newspaper, the Avon Advertiser, to Clubs, Associations and Societies, to contact the Features Editor with details of what they are and what they do, the Dorset Woodturners Association managed to get a front page article about themselves with a colour picture of one of their members standing by his lathe in his workshop, printed in the 28th January 1993 issue.

This resulted in no less

than 40 telephone calls to the Secretary from woodturners, people wanting to sell and dispose of wood, people wanting to sell lathes, a local antiques dealer wanting someone to turn spindles in small batches on a sub-contract basis and the Chairman of a local Town Carnival wanting demonstrators of woodturning for their craft marquee during their summer carnival.

The Dorset Woodturners membership, and correspondingly the A.W.G.B. membership has now increased by ten members with more to come.

Our forward meetings for April, May, June and July include presentations by Robot Chucks, The Sussex Woodcraft Society, Robert Sorby Tools and Mike Cripps.

## Kent

The sudden death on the 3rd February of the Kent Branch Chairman Derek Cheney shocked and saddened members of the branch.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Diana and sons Adam and Kirk on their tragic loss.



## Branch News

### Kent (Cont'd)

Bob Chapman is to hold an exhibition at the Gibbs Gallery, Palace Street, Canterbury from April 17 for three weeks. All we know about this exhibition is that, in Bob's words it will be 'interesting'.

### Hampshire

Derek Carter reports in the Hampshire Newsletter of a flourishing branch. Congratulations to Gordon Perry on being awarded the MBE although we do not know what the citation is for. They are also suggesting that a new section be started for turning Widows and Widowers

### East Sussex

Wealdon Woodturners have had demonstrations in recent months by Bill Jones and John Hunnux. They have been running for about a year now and the enthusiasm from the members is great. The club is pretty informal and relaxed.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Trevor Booth the Secretary by phoning Burwash (0435) 882533 in the evenings. They meet on the

third Sunday of every month at the George Hotel, Battle, East Sussex

### New Group

A new group has been formed in Leigh-on-Sea to serve turners from the south of Essex. Membership stands at around 60 and meetings are held in Leigh-on-Sea. Further information can be obtained from Alec Owen, 27 Leigh Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex. SS9 1JP Tel: 0702 73137 (daytime) 0702 74757 (evenings)

### Forthcoming Events

#### Kent

- May 22 Chucks Gadgets and Grinding.  
June 17 Visit to a Wheelwright \*  
July 2-3 Alan Batty  
Aug 19 Pete Young \*  
\* To be confirmed

#### Test Valley

- June 21 Jim Gilbert - Tyme Lathes  
July 19 Carol Dann - Jewellery in Wood

### West Sussex

The following exhibitions have been arranged to show members work.

Monday 31 May  
"Wood and Wool"  
Exhibition  
Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton.  
Chichester, West Sussex.

Saturday 12th June  
St Mary's Hall, Ilex Way,  
Goringby Sea, West Sussex

Saturday 14th July  
Leconfield Hall, Petworth,  
West Sussex.

### Middlesex

June 10th Critique of members work.

June 23/24 Members sale of work and exhibition at the Middlesex Show.

July 8th - Dennis Carey - Turning on a Budget.

August 12th - Jack Hill

### Branch News

Please let me have news of your branch to be included in 'Branch News'. If your branch welcomes other AWGB members, details of forthcoming events is useful for members who may be visiting your area. -Ed

# Branches

## Avon & Bristol

Dennis Clayton  
11 Clyde Road  
Frampton Cetterell  
BRISTOL  
Avon BS17 2EE

## Cornwall

Roger Slater  
56 Margaret Avenue  
ST AUSTELL  
Cornwall PL25 4SH

## Cumbria

Geoff Campbell  
Halewood  
Glebe Road  
BOWNESS-ON-  
WINDERMERE  
Cumbria LA23 3HB

## Devon

Clive Robinson  
Windrush  
69 Higher Combe Drive  
TEIGNMOUTH  
Devon TQ14 9NL

## Dorset

Derek Hilton  
23 Newton Road  
VERWOOD  
Dorset BH31 6EF

## Hampshire

Brian Hannan  
Abbotsdene  
76 Roman Road  
BASINGSTOKE  
Hants RG23 8HB

## Herts & Beds

Mike Sheaf  
51 Hart Hill Lane  
LUTON  
Beds LU2 0BA



## High Peakes

George Fletcher  
22 Lostock Hall Road  
POYNTON  
Cheshire SK12 1DP

## Kent

Mrs Diana Cheney  
Grafton Cottage  
Sandgate Esplanade  
FOLKSTONE  
Kent CT20 3DP

## Leigh-on-Sea

27 Leigh Road  
LEIGH-ON-SEA  
Essex SS9 1JP

## Martock & District

C. Knight  
Willows End  
Monkton Heathfield  
TAUNTON  
Somerset

# Branches

## Mid Staffs

Ken McKay  
11 The Ring  
Little Haywood  
STAFFORD  
Staffs ST18 0TP

## Middlesex

Mike Dennis  
72 Hawes Close  
NORTHWOOD  
Middlesex HA6 1EW

## Norfolk

Bernard Rose  
63 Belmore Road  
Thorpe St. Andrew  
NORWICH  
Norfolk NR7 0PR

## North Lincolnshire

Georgina Adams  
3 Stather Road  
Flixborough  
SCUNTHORPE  
Lincs

## The Dukeries - Notts

Henry Swan  
18 Poplar Street  
New Ollerton  
NEWARK  
Notts NG22 9PY

## Scotland

Len Grantham  
1 Duncan Court  
Lord President Road  
NORTH BERWICK  
East Lothian EH39 4RJ

## Suffolk Mid-Costal

Arthur Baker  
The Hollies  
Snape Road  
Sudbourne  
WOODBIDGE  
Suffolk IP12 2AT

## Suffolk North

Dick Dowsett  
Fiddlers Green  
29 Mill Lane  
Corton  
LOWESTOFT  
Suffolk NR32 5HZ

## Suffolk, Essex, Cambridge Borders

Michael J Marsh  
21 Stour Gardens  
Great Cornard  
SUDBURY  
Suffolk CO10 0JN

## Surrey

Mike Morley  
Lyncombe House  
7 Deepwell Drive  
CAMBERLEY  
Surrey GU15 2 HF

## Test Valley Turners

Ron Caddy  
'Wisley White'  
23 Wisley Road  
ANDOVER  
Hant SP10 3QU

## Heart of England - Warks

Mike Donavan  
114 Bridgetown Road  
STRATFORD-ON-AVON  
Warwickshire  
CV37 7JA

## Wessex

Chris Bartlett  
Bickley Moss  
Haye Lane  
LYME REGIS  
Dorset

## West Midlands

Graham Lovett  
66 Beachcroft Road  
Wall Heath  
KINGSWINSFORD  
West Midlands DY6 0HX

## West Pennines

Colin Wilson  
86 Sheriff Street  
ROCHDALE  
Lancs OL12 6JY

## West Riding

Nick Harty  
Eagle Grove  
St. Mary's Lane  
Kirkheaton  
HUDDERSFIELD  
HD5 0DT

## West Sussex

Paul Edwards  
4 Congreve Road  
WORTHING  
West Sussex BN14 8EH

## Worcester

W Jarvis  
8 The Furrows  
Stoke Heath  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcs

## Borders

Val Shenton  
Three Horse Shoes  
IRTHINGTON  
Carlisle CA64 PT

## Wealdon

48 Shrub Lane  
Burwash  
ETCHINGHAM  
East Sussex TN19 7BU



# Timber



## Silver Birch

Silver Birch has a straight silvery trunk and pendulous branches which make it one of the most easily recognisable of Britain's native trees. The other native British Birch is the Downy Birch which frequently crosses with the Silver Birch to produce hybrids that have the characteristics of both. The bark of their Birches is waterproof and resistance to fungus. It can often be seen as a shell left intact round the rotting wood of the tree. Despite its appearance it is one of the world's hardest trees and in Britain will grow higher up mountains than any other deciduous tree. It grows particularly well on the sands and gravels of South Eastern England.

Birch compares favourably with ash for toughness and is generally better in other strength properties. It works well by hand or machine, it turns well and rotary peels to give a good veneer. It is not a durable wood when the conditions favour decay.

We are familiar with Birch as a plywood rather than as a solid timber. In Britain it does not grow big enough for use as commercial timber but high grade logs are available to the Finnish and Russian plywood industries.

The timber of the silver birch shows no distinction between .....wood and sapwood, it is fine textured and almost white. It is a fairly heavy wood not quite as heavy as oak. Though hard it is easy to turn and gives a smooth finish. Northern peoples use it for everyday jobs. In Finland for example plain but cheap furniture is constructed from it as are trays, bowls, boxes and tool handles. One widespread use is as broom heads which are turned as round cylinders then sawn in half, each half being fitted with handle and bristles. Cheap household brushes are made in the same way.

*The Woodcutter*

## Abernethy Woodturning

Abernethy Woodturning is on the hill behind the village of Abernethy in Perthshire. Seven Miles from Perth and three from the M90 it is fairly central and easy to reach along quiet roads.

The property runs to 6 1/2 acres and has a pleasant outlook over the rivers Earn and Tay while at the back Pitmedden Forest rises up the hill.

The shop, which used to be cow shed built onto the end of the house, is being run by Yvonne Fernie while Ron finishes his contract with the Royal Air Force of Oman in which he has served as a uniformed member for fifteen years.

Although not large, visitors should be pleasantly surprised at the range of stocks. There is a good selection of woodturning tools by Ashley Isles, Robert Sorby and Henry Taylor.

The Myford Myster is stocked along with the Tyme Avon, Cub and Little Gem.

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# Timber

Rydenor and foam backed arbors and discs.

There is also a good selection of woodturning blanks and squares with the emphasis on exotics initially but as business progresses the holding of native hardwoods will be increased and the range of exotics will be expanded.

There are no requisites such as the inserts and mechanisms but it is planned to stock them in the future. No multi function chucks or a catalogue at present.

Parking outside the shop is limited but adequate for the specialised nature of the business.

## Timber

I would like to have a regular section on woods and timber for future issues of REVOLUTIONS. If you have a knowledge of or know something about timber please let me know. *Ed*

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## Forthcoming Events

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## Woodturning Competition

The competition is open to anyone in Great Britain.



The entry must be turned from native English timber.

In addition to the prize money there will be gift vouchers to the value of £60 First, £30 Second, £20 Third, £15 Fourth, £10 Fifth from John Boddy's as well as tools from Ashley Isles, Henry Taylor and Robert Sorby.

Application forms must be in by May 21st and may be obtained from your Branch Secretary or from The Chief Executive Great Yorkshire Showground, Hookstone Oval, Harrogate HG2 8PW Tel : 0423 561536



### Middlesex Woodturners Association

Presents

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## Forthcoming Events

*National*

# Woodworker Show

SANDOWN EXHIBITION CENTRE, ESHER, SURREY

SEPTEMBER 23rd-26th 1993

## Special Offer

As a special offer to members we have arranged for you to obtain reduced price entrance tickets for this event.

To apply for these tickets, cut out the coupon in this copy of REVOLUTIONS, fill in your name, address and membership number and send it together with your remittance to Argus Specialist Exhibitions. The offer also allows you to take one guest at the reduced rates.

Adult entrance £4.00 with coupon - normally £5.00

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This offer cannot be used with any other money off coupon, it is for advance ticket sales only and limited to one coupon per member.

## Competition

### Advance notice for the Sandown Show

Put your thinking caps on produce an item for the AWGB stand at this event.

Based on the theme of

### 'Freestyle spindle turning'

Lots of prizes and special offers for members who submit the most original and interesting items

# Design

## Part 5 - FINISH Geoff Heath concludes his series of articles

Like the fit of separate components, the finish we produce on our work is largely a matter of skill rather than of design per se. We soon come to realise that a good finish is not just a matter of how many grades of abrasive paper we apply; rough cutting with a blunt tool in the early stages can bruise the wood in a way which no amount of sanding will cure.

But finish - in the sense of the general appearance of the surface of the finished work - can also be a matter of design. How is the grain going to be highlighted? Should the contrasting sapwood be made into a feature? These are questions we should be asking before we touch the workpiece with a chisel; they are instances of how finish can affect form - further examples of the interaction between two of our 'Fs'.

Then there is the question of the applied coating, and the choice of finish should be an essential part of the design process. Does the wood require staining? Does it need grain filler? And then what? For most of my pieces, I apply two coats of melamine, rubbed down with a fine grade of paper after the first application and with 0000000 steel wool after the second. Then I put on a gloss with carnauba/beeswax. Stain and grain filler I try to avoid - but there have been occasions.....

Again, much as I dislike a lacquered finish, there are times when I find it necessary. Light pulls are most often found in bathrooms and kitchens - why should this be? It's to keep wet hands as far away from the electricity as possible. But the wet hands are going to come in frequent contact with the light pulls - so I give mine three coats of Rustin's Plastic Coating rubbed down between coats.

The other things to get this treatment are cutlery handles. The finish will then allow a washer-up to handle the cutlery whilst the blade is cleaned, although I always advise against total immersion in the washing-up bowl.

But now I'm in danger of outstaying my welcome. The Editor has allowed me more than my fair share of space, and it's time for me to sign off with the hope that my four 'F-words' have given you a few fings to fink about!

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### APOLOGY

It was stated in the last edition of *Revolutions* that the last of Geoff's articles was then. This is definitely the last of this series although we hope that he may do another series for later editions.

### Members Survey

#### Have you sent back your reply?

If you haven't could you please do so. It is important that the committee gains as much information from this survey as possible in order to plan for the future of the AWGB

# Loughborough Seminar

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<p>If you receive any turning enquiry to which you are unable to respond please give me a chance</p>		

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