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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES No. 14

Welcome back to the helm REG we are all delighted that your eye operation has been a success, that you are fit and well and willing to continue editing REVOLUTIONS. Thanks go to Brian Clifford for stepping manfully into the breach while Reg was indisposed. Brian was able to confirm what we have always known that editing REVOLUTIONS takes a tremendous amount of time and commitment. It took some 40 hours of Brian's time to compile our last issue, this is our 14th. Newsletter so you can judge for yourself Reg's input.

Since you received your last copy of REVOLUTIONS, many things have happened, we have held our Hay-on-Wye exhibition, our Training sub-committee has met again, your full committee has held another of its six hour meetings.

For the rest of my notes I will concentrate on the Hay-on-Wye exhibition and a resume of your committee's meeting.

HAY-ON-WYE

I will not comment on the content of the exhibition (I will leave that to the national press) but I will say that it did the Association proud. In the next few weeks "International Woodworking", "Practical Woodworking", "Woodworker", "Crafts", the new "Woodturning" magazine and others will all be carrying reviews and reports of the show.

I will try to give members an insight as to how selection was made from the work received, as I am sure there are a few a little perplexed, (in future we will draw up some simple guidelines for exhibitions of this nature).

I will also reiterate as our membership grows we are sure our net is missing some excellent work by members. There will be appeals in the future for photographs so that we can attempt to show the work of quality made by those people who feel they have been overlooked.

86 members were invited to send work and 63 responded with 175 pieces, of these 127 found their way on to display. During a period of over 8 hours, your selectors Bert Marsh, Don White and myself handled and looked at

every piece in making our choice. We agreed that we would show at least one piece from each person asked to submit, also preference would have to be given to pieces being offered for sale. This of course caused some problems, some members had sent three very good pieces, but not for sale.

This was really not the spirit when Dave & Cath Woodward had given over almost their entire sales area to the Association and were only taking 25% commission. We selected only one piece from those offering work not for sale, unless we felt the display would suffer greatly without including two. We would have liked to have shown all the work, but space and the method we used to select always meant there would be a number of worthy pieces not displayed.

Sales of around £3000 resulted from the 38 items sold, for our first exhibition it must be viewed as a success, but I am sure none of us thought that so much work would be involved. Thanks are due to Don White and Bert Marsh for giving up their valuable workshop time to act as selectors. Bert giving up 3 days, not only selecting, but compiling the price list with me, Friday was a 16 hour day. Five hours sleep and we were back at it, display was next. This was in the safe hands of my wife Liz, who with a little help, or perhaps hindrance, from us displayed the whole Exhibition in seven hours. The biggest thanks of course must go to Dave & Cath for hosting the event and giving the Association this opportunity. I am not sure they would have done so if they had known what was to come. Unpacking and packing parcel after parcel, it took three 12 hour days to repack the goods alone. Dave reckons he lost two weeks workshop time, but he and Cath enjoyed the experience, but I would guess there were a few experiences they could have done without. *(Many thanks are also due to our chairman. Ed.)*

TRAINING

Our sub-committee has met three times now and is close to formulating its recommendations on Basic courses, these will be presented to your new

committee later in the year. In a nutshell, they have been working on a basic syllabus for 2 day courses, modules for two hour sessions, a course content checklist for students plus recommendations for safety.

ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT

Your committee had a long discussion on this matter, as you know we now have a membership of well over 1000, as we get bigger this obviously means more work for your elected committee especially as we expand and extend our activities and initiatives. With this in mind we expect to set up more sub-committees with defined briefs on relative projects.

There will need to be certain constitutional changes made to ensure continuity of thought and action.

We now feel that we should be making the general public more aware of our existence, possibly through a touring exhibition that travels the country involving the Chapters, but also visiting areas where we haven't Chapters, but feel we can stimulate their formation.

LATHE PLACEMENT

Delighted to tell you we now have another recipient, a young lady Jessica Miller, who is on a Batchelor of Design programme in Liverpool.

LOUGHBOROUGH SEMINAR 1991

Just a reminder that this will be held August 16th.-18th. 1991, we have four overseas demonstrators already booked, our British contingent will be selected soon. You can expect a full announcement of names and programme content before the end of the year.

WOODWORKER SHOW

We have been invited to show once again at this event and our stand will be in the capable hands of Mike Cripps and Mac Kemp. A fine display is expected of members' work, and four of our Chapters will be given the chance to show some of their members' work.

AGM

You should by now have received details of the AGM date, venue, a committee nomination form and all relevant information.

We have three members of the committee not seeking re-election this time, they are going to be a great loss, all have served for three years. However all of them were involved in the run up to the 1987 Loughborough Seminar, where this Association was formed, so their commitment goes back much further.

Thank you Mike Cripps, Don White and Steven Marchant we shall miss you, but we do have another meeting or two yet before we lose you.

Please send in your SUBSCRIPTIONS with your Committee Nomination form, we need your continued support to continue to grow and offer you more.

Trust you like the new style REVOLUTIONS.

Ray Key (Hon Chairman)

EDITOR'S ROSTRUM

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who responded to my request for reactions to the last newsletter which I put out. This was issue No.12. I asked for comments and I got them. Thanks particularly to those of you who made your criticism constructive. To answer the comments in general, committees don't always get it right regarding choice of typeface. We can't use the same typeface which is used at the top of the newsletter, as it is from a different machine, rather like those of you who use ready printed letterheads.

I should also like to thank those of you who sent me good wishes for a speedy recovery. I am told that the operation to fix the headlamp was a success, although at the moment I still suffer from occasional 'floaters' on one side, which I presume to be soluble stitches which have not quite 'solubed'. I shall miss them when they're gone, much as I would miss toothache.

I am sometimes asked why it is that the newsletter contains details of events which have happened, rather than which are about to happen. First of all, I don't agree that this is the case, although 'have happened' probably takes a greater share of the space than 'will happen'. In reporting past events I am trying to pass on ideas to other chapters, as we all need an occasional bit of inspiration. There are forthcoming attractions mentioned as well, but the best way to know about them is to do some organising yourselves.

Don't have enough time? Neither do I, or many other organisers. During these last two days I have completed my business books for the year ended August 1988, finished two magazine articles, planned another one, and am now, at 10.30 pm., halfway through putting together this newsletter, which has to be in tomorrow's first class post. And I haven't packed my suitcase yet for the two week holiday which my wife and I now need almost more than money.

We owe a big thank you to David Woodward, who not only offered us the use of his gallery at Hay-on-Wye, but who also took on the responsibility

of packing up all the pieces at the end of what was a very successful event. In total, Dave lost something like 2 weeks production time. We did wonder where the spindle turners were, although I know one who wasn't even able to turn over, let alone turn wood. Some members may be interested in hiring a set of slides of the selected pieces. The hire fee is £5.00 for a week. **Contact Mike Cripps, 41, The Greenway, Ickenham, Middlesex, UB10 8LS.** Mike also has slides of the Loughborough 40' selection, which are available on the same terms.

And finally, a plea. Why oh why didn't any local chapters make approaches to the committee regarding a free demonstrator for any event which they were putting on? In Issue No.12 of the newsletter, our chairman stated that any local chapter which organised an event with more than one demonstrator, could ask for the fee for one of the demonstrators to be paid by the A.W.G.B. I don't think there was one application. Do it now!

O.K., it would be nice if the committee could arrange a big seminar every year, but we are all individual craftspeople, and when we aren't producing, we aren't earning. Every two years is quite enough for a time-consuming event like Loughborough. It is up to the smaller units of the Association to become more involved as well. Many of the chapters are well organised, it's a pity that more of them are not.

I can't close this section of the newsletter without saying thank you to Brian Clifford for stepping into the editor's seat so quickly and without heed to personal safety. Keep taking the tablets Brian. (Reg. Sherwin)

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. this year will be on 23rd September. Once again, it will be held near Bromsgrove, because of its central location. Hugh O'Neill will be sending information out very soon now. Please watch out for it, and don't stick it behind the clock. It is hoped that local chapters will each send a representative. A stamped, addressed 9" x 4" envelope and covering letter sent to me will get you a map of just where we are holding the event, which is as last year, Stoke Prior First School. Ladies are requested not to wear stiletto heels please.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

A Green Woodworking Seminar is to be held at Piggotts, Nr. High Wycombe, Bucks on 1st and 2nd September. Participation is open to all A.W.G.B. members. Participants will pay £30, their companions will pay £20. This includes all meals, and the event will run from 9.30 on Saturday through to the final gathering, exhibition, clear-up and farewell, which starts at 4.30 on Sunday.

Having seen Piggotts on another occasion, I can only say

what a great venue it is for such an event, which will be 'hands on'. There will be a number of pole lathes around the site and delegates are requested to bring their own roughing gouge and skew chisel. - The food isn't that tough honestly. Stuart King and Jack Hill will be the principal demonstrators, with other events planned and also a trip to the chair museum at High Wycombe. Further details, booking forms and maps are available from Brian Clifford, 51, Sarratt Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 7JN.

The next **Avoncroft** open day will be on Sunday 14th October, when the guest demonstrator will be Stephen Marchant. Stephen is a spindle turner par excellence, runs his own turning business in Gloucestershire, and was one of the demonstrators at the first Loughborough Seminar in 1987. Ray Key said of Stephen that there isn't anything that he can't do. Tickets for the event are £18 each, which includes a lunch. There are 20 spaces and if the other Avoncroft events are anything to go by, these will be taken up very quickly. Cheques made payable to the A.W.G.B. should be sent to me please, and also enclose a S.A.E. for a map and a provisional programme.

The A.W.G.B. have been invited once again to exhibit at the Woodworker Show at Alexandra Palace. In the past, we have asked specific members and local chapters to submit work for such events, with varied responses. If anyone who receives such a request can't take up their allotted space, could they please let the organiser know as soon as possible, so that others can be invited. This way we won't end up with a sparse stand. And if any members wish to have their work considered for exhibition, could they let Hugh O'Neill have slides of it for consideration by the committee?

LOCAL CHAPTERS

DEVON woodturners held their May meeting in Malcolm Tapper's "High Octane Punch Emporium", after which Keith Sinclair conducted the business side of the event, Malcolm conducted a tour of his turning set-up, which is constantly being interrupted by his building business and John Taylor demonstrated his methods of making lace bobbins to a few members at a time. *(Those who were still able to stand up? Ed.)* The next meeting is on 12th. Sept. and the talk is by John Leach *(son of Bernard Leach, Potter? Ed.)* The title of the talk is "Form".

HAMPSHIRE Woodturners Association are meeting monthly at the Officers' Mess of Winchester Prison, the venue being free due to a proportion of members also being prison officers. However, a riot caused the last meeting to be cancelled. *(It's no good Sue, you'll just*

have to let them join the A.W.G.B. ed.) Recent talks have been on Forestry and a slide show of the 40 pieces selected at Loughborough '89. A points system for competitions has been organised as an on-going interest, and discounts have been organised with some of the exhibitors at the recent Practical Woodworking Show.

KENT reports a good turnout for their May meeting, with some 20 members in attendance. Jim Gall hosted the event and also put his head on the block by offering to solve turning problems. And guess which tool came up first? After the offending tool was sharpened correctly, there was no exsksews for it not to behave, and Jim proved it.

The MIDDLESEX Woodturners Association has had a number of shows which were open to the public, the latest one being the County Show. Each member was invited to show up to ten items, and the Association charged a small commission for anything sold. *(A good way to boost funds! Ed)* Middlesex seems to be bursting at the seams, if you follow me, as they have had to put a limit on their numbers until they can find another venue. As they themselves say, 'The price of success'.

SUFFOLK & ESSEX Borders Chapter

A recently formed chapter which also attracts members from Cambridge, they hold a meeting every month, frequently at the workshop of Roy Child, at Little Yeldham. Demonstrations to date have been on grass-root turning, the Stewart System, lace bobbin and basic spindle turning, boxes and the use of hook tools. Any A.W.G.B. member who would like to make contact should ring **Mike Marsh on Sudbury (0787) 71842**.

SURREY Association chapter had a meeting in June which was a bit of a bodge. Stewart King, the chair bodger from Buckinghamshire, to be precise. His talk was backed up with a slide presentation and a lot of knowledge of the families who practiced what was the beginning of our craft. The evening was a great success. The next meeting is on 14th August, and Mike Cripps will be showing his methods of hot glue chucking. *(No comment Ed.)*

WEST SUSSEX held its first exhibition and sale recently, and an impressive 72ft. of table space was covered by their work. A continual demonstration of turning was given by member Peter Parker, and slides of the Loughborough exhibits were also on show. Other public events are planned in the near future. They are holding a one day seminar on 4th November, with Phil Reardon as the guest demonstrator. The venue is Pulborough, West Sussex and the cost is £6.50. Should be a good do. Book early. Further details from **Derek Berry, 16, Truleigh Road, Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3JR**

BUSINESS SPONSORS NEWS

The Woodworks recently held a Woodturning and Carving event which unfortunately didn't get to me in time to appear in the adverts page, but with new author and member Keith Rowley in attendance and demonstrating for the three days, I can't see it being anything but a success. I have seen some photographs of the venue and it looks good. Contact **Ekhart van Houten, 'The Woodworks', The Field, Shipley, Heanor, Derbys DE7 7JJ** for further details of their services.

SEMINAR REPORTS

Norman Richards has sent me an unsolicited report on the Dave Regester day which I missed at Avoncroft. Norman writes, and I precis:- On 13/5th, one of the biannual Avoncroft days was held, Dave Regester being the guest demonstrator. Dave's sharpened spanner sizing tool, convex curved skew chisels and individually shaped ring and hollow spherical loose box cutting tools had eyebrows raised. Holding a lace bobbin blank in a Jacobs chuck, he turned no less than four captive rings on it.

Going into some bigger stuff, he turned a semi-wet bowl on a Glazer screw chuck and a combination chuck, then discussed how he dried his bowls, using end grain sealer to avoid drying problems. Using 'made on the day' wooden jaws, he showed how he reverse chucked a finished bowl, to remove the dovetailed recess. Oily rag to the fore for finishing, Dave looked like a frustrated Engine Driver.

The event ended with a general discussion on some of the pieces which delegates had brought to the event. It was nice to see Merryl and Ed. Saylan at the event, and joining in with the views Stateside. As most of you will remember, Merryl is doing a residency at Grizedale Forest Centre, where she can be watched working in the turners shop.

Norman finishes his report by saying that a 'grey bearded fat clown broke off a miniature tea-pot and cup handle'. I'll forgive you Norman, but I wasn't there, and I don't drink tea anyway.

I should like to add my personal thanks to Ron Newbon, fellow member and short notice host for the event. Without him stepping in at the last moment, the event may not have gone ahead. And speaking of a head, I found an abandoned hat when I got into the shop a few weeks later. Any claimers?

MEMBERS PROFILE

Brian Clifford has earned himself the dubious honour of being profiled in this edition of the newsletter. An

apprentice draughtsman, then detailer and layout engineer in the motor trade for 11 years, Brian became a mature student at Ruskin College and New College Oxford. He then lectured for five years at Oxford University Dept. of Adult Education, Thurrock Technical College and Warwick University. There followed a period with the Industrial Relations Research Unit at Warwick, before he took a position with the National Economic Development Office until 1980. From 1981 until 1987 Brian ran a small manufacturing business, which is where he concentrated on turning. In 1987 Brian became an economist with the Engineering Industry Training Board. He has also done freelance work for 'The Bankers Magazine'.

BEADS AND HOLLOWES

An article in a recent copy of the 'American Woodturner' gave details of how old files can be ground to specific shapes for some work where ordinary scrapers can't reach. I know that this use of old files is common practice and it is one which I used to subscribe to, but not any more. Amongst my collection of files I have one which has its teeth removed on a surface grinder. This operation exposed a series of cracks on the surface of the tool, which run at right angles to the tang. They can cause the tool to fracture in use. No amount of annealing to soften the tool will rid it of these cracks. And it's no good saying that the tool rest can be set close to the work as stress occurs throughout its length when in use. I'm not suggesting that all such files have these cracks in them, but even one in one thousand is not worth the risk. As has been said in one of my collection of turning books, 'If in doubt, don't use files. A professionally made scraper is much cheaper than an eye, and what is more, the only pain involved is to the pocket'.

The American article showed how a piece of soft wire can be formed to work out what the shape of the tool should be, so as to get through the necks and into the bodies of closed forms. Ground from a single straight blank, these 'S' shaped scrapers have three advantages over other bent scrapers. Firstly, they enable the turner to make shapes not otherwise attainable. Secondly, the cutting edge is in line with the axis of the tool and handle, making it easier for the turner to know where the point is whilst making cuts. Thirdly, being in line with the axis of the tool, the tool doesn't have a tendency to twist or rotate, giving the turner greater control over the tool.

The author of the Article, Ralph Najarian, goes on to say that these 'S' shaped scrapers are used primarily for hidden cuts, such as inside the shoulder portion of bottle necks, and 'back cutting' inside the work, cutting towards the tail stock, so as to work with the grain. This section would be found on the inside of a closed form piece where the opening has been folded back into the vessel.

Ralph says that he usually makes up the tools to suit the design of the piece, rather than allowing the available tools to dictate what he makes. This is surely a good policy. I suspect that many of us tend to put the cart before the horse, using existing facilities rather than the other way round. After a number of turning projects Ralph has built up a collection of such special tools and he now rarely needs to make up new 'specials'.

An editor's footnote to the article says that Mark Lindquist discusses the making and using of 'S' shaped tools in his book 'Sculpting Wood'.

HELPLINE

Your editor would like to own a copy of the little known book on turning by the late Geoff Peters. I think it was called 'Woodturning'. No reasonable trading terms refused.

A member recently asked me for information on fluted lace bobbins. I am sorry that due to recent incapacitations I have mislaid the letter, but Nick Perrin might be able to help, he being a lace bobbin specialist. Nick can be found at **The Workshop, Church Lane, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks SL9 9RJ**. Do any other members have experience of fluting lace bobbins?

We will shortly be asking for members to volunteer for specific tasks such as recruiting assistance from business, organising or helping to find venues for travelling exhibitions etc.

LETTERS

Kent member Bill Carden writes regarding the left handed lathe. He hopes that we don't get a spate of left handed spindle gouges from Craft Supplies, as they would probably go the same way as the left handed potato peeler that he once received. Bill says that he really has only two difficulties as a left hander, rounding down to the right and skewing across end grain. He goes on to say that the Stewart tool might be a problem for the left hander as well. Anyone got any experience here? Bill's final point is that whilst outboard turning helps, it's still going the wrong way, as the left hander is still cutting across his body. Perhaps someone will come up with a reversing modification and a fully lockable chuck. *(It has almost happened Bill. Watch the trade press. Ed.)* P.S. Bill's letter was written with a left handed pen.

John Holyoak from Norfolk has given me a friendly lecture on optical after care, for which I thank you John. As the Doctor said to me 'if it causes you problems or gives you a headache, stop doing it.'

That don't leave a lot left, do it? Anyway, John goes on to say that a French turning book which he has, dating back to 1816, makes no reference to anything which looks like the French turning tool which was mentioned in Alan Griffith's letter. (Issue Number 12). John finishes his letter by saying that if any member would like to travel to the 1990 A.A.W. Symposium which is to be held on October 25th to 27th at Arrowmont, then he could be interested in going. (Having just last week been shown some mouth watering slides of the Arrowmont complex and surrounding countryside, anyone who does go would have a memory for life. ed.) Contact John on (0263) 740826 if you are interested.

Yet another letter regarding left handers and lathes (*didn't we start something between us Keith? Ed.*) has been received from Dr. Tim Lawson of Surrey. An obligatory right hander, Tim came across an old Harrison 'Bowl Head', which turned out to be a normal grad, minus the bed. He reversed the headstock post so that the door faces conveniently forwards, reversed the spindle, (cutting new grub screw holes), mounted the outboard bed on the normally inboard position, put another set of buttons on the back/front and now has a Grad Bowl Turner. (*Are you by any chance a transplant surgeon Tim? Ed.*) He goes on to say that Roy Cooper of L.R.E. must have got sick of the phone calls for advice and small parts, but his patience was, and still is, admirable. (*And thanks for your good wishes Tim. You can't be a G.P., 'cos I can read your writing.*)

Not quite a letter, but a verbal request from Chris Stott, who asked me some months ago to say a public thank you on his behalf to the Suffolk Group for the fantastic hospitality which they showed him during his recent stay there. He was sorry to take their money, but Yorkshire upbringing won through. He also hoped that Mike O'Connor soon recovered.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Now that you have read this far, don't forget that if your membership card says 'Expiry Date 1990' then your subscription is due now. I was the first one to pay for the forthcoming year, and I have the rest of the committee as witnesses Len. I shall look forward to receiving my new label in due course.

Send your subscriptions to the Hon.Treasurer:

Len Grantham

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DEADLINE

The deadline for the next edition of *Revolutions* is September 30th.