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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I will concentrate my notes for this issue of 'Revolutions' on the initiatives taken at the last meeting of your outgoing Committee, plus a resume report of the A.G.M.

### NEW 'WOODTURNING' MAGAZINE

The Association has been offered a page in this new quarterly magazine. Your Committee has decided our policy will be to use the page to advise what the Association is doing for its members. Also Chapters will be encouraged to provide a list of their forthcoming activities so that this can be carried in a diary form. We will also try to review events that are happening at grass roots level. Our national Chapter Organiser (Yet to be appointed since the retirement of Mike Cripps), will be responsible for collating the Chapter news for this page. Copy is needed at least three months ahead of publication. For instance, copy for the May issue will be required by the end of January. Chapter organisers will be notified in due course whom to send their information to. *(Let me have it for Revolutions as well please! ed.)* Our copy for the November and February issues has already been provided. The November issue will carry a full review of our Hay-on-Wye exhibition, written by Bert Marsh. Our page in the February issue will carry a synopsis of our aims and objectives taken from our enrolment and information leaflet, for people who are unaware of what the Association is doing. It will also carry announcements about our 1991 International Seminar, a proposed Association national touring exhibition and a 'Turn a Goblet and help the environment' initiative.

### 1991 INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR, LOUGHBOROUGH, AUGUST 16-18TH

This event will follow a similar format to our 1989 event with 35 lathe demonstrations, photographic workshops, chainsaw demonstrations, business and training forums, a critique plus several speciality sessions and a few other surprises. Details of costs and how to enrol will appear in the next issue of 'Revolutions'. Our overseas demonstrators were engaged as long ago as last December. At our last meeting the Seminar sub-committee outlined the proposed programme content and

the names of the British demonstrators they would like to see invited. All of this was approved by the main committee and the invitations accepted by all those proposed.

From the USA we have **ED. MOULTHROP**, that most wonderfully generous man who endeared himself to every one at the 1987 Seminar. Ed will be demonstrating his unique tools and methods for turning large bowls from end grain.

Also from the States we have **AL STIRT**, Al, like his work, has a quiet presence. He will be concentrating on bowls and platters embellished with power carving.

Our third American demonstrator is **TODD HOYER**, who many of you will have read about in 'Woodworker' recently. Todd is a real risk taker. Winged, crotch and hollow forms are Todd's trademark. A true sculptural turner.

From Norway we have their finest turner, **JOHANNES RIBER**. There is little that Johannes can not turn on a lathe. He served a full seven year apprenticeship in Germany, so he knows his stuff. Architectural work is the backbone of Johannes' turning these days. When I visited him last year he showed me a slide of an eight feet high oil rig model he made which contained eight hundred turned components. He will be demonstrating spindle and sphere turning for us.

From Britain we have **PAUL CLARE**. Although a fairly new name on the turning scene here, his work has made a tremendous impact. His distinctive vessel forms are dramatic. He uses all sorts of methods to achieve his aims. Micro wave, fire, stain and pickling are all in Paul's armament. Slit vessels will be the theme.

We also have **RAY JONES**, who is one of the rare breed of English turners who has served a turning apprenticeship. He is very versatile and will be known to many of you through the woodworking shows, where he demonstrated spindle turning, often making cabriole legs, balustrades, etc. He will be concentrating on this sort of work for us.

**CHRIS PYE** will demonstrate spindle turning and hand

carving, barley twists, fluting, etc., etc. Chris is a trained carver and one of those fine craftsmen we have in this country who is not as well known as he should be.

The final member of the British quartet is **CHRIS STOTT**, who is known to many of you through the woodworking shows, where he demonstrates and sells his work. Chris will concentrate on Burr natural topped bowls which have become his trademark.

We are continuing our policy of bringing you the big names and some of those equally talented but lesser known makers. This event promises to be just as exciting as our 1989 one. The theme is undoubtedly Innovation and Tradition. It will be the Woodturning Seminar of the year, organised by Woodturners for Woodturners.

## **TURN A GOBLET AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT**

This idea came from my wife Liz while we were discussing ways of giving every member the chance to have work displayed on our stand at one of the woodworking shows. We were also saying that it would be wrong for the Association to get embroiled in the emotive issue of deforestation, as it would be all too easy to add to the hypocrisy and misinformation being dispensed at this time.

Your Committee approved the proposal that we should encourage all our members to send goblets for display at the 'Practical Woodworking' Show in February. They must all be FOR SALE, at prices to be fixed by the committee. All the money raised will go to planting trees, maybe in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. Those that are unsold will go on to our Seminar later in the year and will be auctioned or raffled again, with the money going to tree planting. We hope for a massive response from you, as you will be doing something positive to help the environment and also having your work displayed at Wembley. We shall put out more information and 'meat on the bones' in the next issue of 'Revolutions'.

## **NEWSLETTER**

The Committee felt that the new format, in newspaper style, printed rather than photocopied, double column, and folded rather than stapled was an improvement on previous issues and would continue. However, the way it is compiled would have to change. The last issue was compiled by Reg Sherwin, then sent to Len Grantham for him to retype in double column. We have decided it is time we purchased our own micro system and three of your Committee are looking into suitable systems and will report their findings at our next Committee meeting. We shall then be in a position to make a decision (yet another bxxxxy learning curve! ed.)

## **AGM SYNOPSIS REPORT**

Before proceedings got under way, the Association was

presented with a gavel and block by Graham Lovett. Last year I had commented that we were a Woodturning Association without Gavel and Block, and asked jokingly if anyone knew any woodturners. Thanks Graham.

My CHAIRMAN'S REPORT outlined the year's activities and our continued growth. At this time last year, our membership stood at 700 and has now grown to over 1100. All the activities that I drew attention to in my report have already been covered in full during the year in 'Revolutions', so I won't reiterate my two page report at this time, but mention was made of our Wembley and Alexandra Palace displays, the Hay-on-Wye exhibition, our newsletter title, new display stands for exhibitions, 1991 Seminar plans, all the work done by your officers and committee, etc. The committee met five times last year and our training sub committee met three times, their recommendations due to be put before the new committee next month.

Len Grantham's TREASURER'S REPORT took us through the accounts for the year and showed a deficit of £8,245.26p. This was due to the bills for Loughborough being paid in this financial year and the income being in the previous one. The true profit and loss for the year however showed a profit of £9,428.34p, and our accumulated reserves now stand at £15,303.09p. It was pointed out that these reserves would be needed for the promotion of the proposed touring exhibition, computer purchase for newsletter production, Seminar expenditure etc. It is unlikely that we shall have such reserves at this time next year.

Mike Cripps reported continued growth in LOCAL CHAPTERS, these now standing at nineteen, which is an increase of four since last year, the most recent being Scotland and Cumbria. A most useful ten page document has been prepared during the year to help those thinking of setting up Chapters, and this as well as three videos and slide packs, are still available from Mike until his successor is appointed.

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

All of these were approved at the meeting, with the odd abstention and vote against. An amendment to change 'F' was passed unanimously. The revised constitution will be reprinted and sent to members in due course.

## **VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING OFFICERS**

The Chairman pointed out that the officers undertook a massive workload on behalf of the members. Indeed, the same number of committee members are now serving a membership of 1100 as were serving a

mere 300 only two years ago.

The Chairman thanked **Mike Cripps**, **Stephen Marchant** and **Don White** who were retiring as founder members of the committee and all of whom had made tremendous contributions to the Association.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were all returned unopposed. Tony Waddilove was returned unopposed for the new position of Vice Chairman.

There were five nominations for three Committee positions:- David Dalby, Mac Kemp, Jan Sanders, John Sanders and John Tappenden.

Our tellers, Norman Richards and Bill Hughes took into account the 867 postal votes and the votes cast by members present. **Mac Kemp**, **Jan Sanders** and **John Tappenden** were duly elected to serve on the Committee for two years. Just over 25% of the membership took the opportunity to vote.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Treasurer proposed an increase of the annual subscription to £12.50 to come into effect on August 1st, 1991. Overseas and other subscriptions to be increased pro rata. This proposal was carried

### **POST AGM DISCUSSION**

The Secretary outlined an insurance scheme for members which sounded excellent and we would need a minimum of 50 members to take advantage of it. A number of points were raised and the Secretary has gone back to the brokers for clarification. Details will appear in 'Revolutions' in due course.

It would appear that a number of you have paid your subscriptions but have not received your renewal label. Len tells me that he sent out sixty of these with the last Newsletter and some people obviously must not have noticed them. If you have paid and not received your label, please let Len know and he will sort it out. His address is 1, Duncan Court, Lord President Road, North Berwick, East Lothian EH39 4RJ.

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS**

It was thought that it may be a good idea to have a yearly meeting of Chapter representatives. Not all were in favour. The idea will be considered by the Committee.

Your NEW COMMITTEE meets on November 11th, and a busy meeting it looks like being. I am off to sunny California for 2 1/2 weeks, not that I expect to see much of it. 90 British Craftsmen are showing the flag at a retail and trade show and these are 11 hour days.

This will probably be the last newsletter before Christmas, yes, it's that time again, and it's also the time when lathes

have their most use. So enjoy what you do and keep making the best of your ability. Happy turning.

**Ray Key, Honorary Chairman**

## **EDITOR'S ROSTRUM**

Not a lot to say this edition, as most of what needed to be covered has already been said, or will be said later on in these pages.

One point of particular interest to all of us however, is the fact that the new G.M.C. magazine 'Woodturning', will now be on sale at W.H.Smith newsagents. This is good news in that a greater number of woodturners will hear about the A.W.G.B. through our advert page, and bad news in that it means the publishing date has been delayed slightly. The magazine will now be out early in November.

Could all Local Chapter organisers or Secretaries note that a list of A.W.G.B. members in their areas can be had from Len Grantham, who's address is in the Chairman's Notes section.

And speaking of local chapters, it is with some regret that I have to mourn the standing down of our first Local Chapter organiser, the indomitable Mike Cripps. No longer can I coin my 'Cripps crept' phrases, as last October, Cripps crept into the A.G.M. congregation, confabulated and crept out contented. You will be sadly missed Crippsy, but good luck in your new venture.

## **LOCAL CHAPTER REPORTS**

Just five Local Chapters are featured in this edition of the newsletter. No reports have been received from any others.

**DEVON WOODTURNERS** continue to show the way to many other chapters by their example. This time they have had an illustrated lecture on 'Form' by John Leach, the grandson of the great Bernard Leach. (*Sorry I skipped a generation in Revs. No. 14.ed*)

**Dave Regester**, who introduced the speaker, voiced the opinion of many members present, when he said that woodturners should spend more time thinking about form than technique. Just a few of the points from John's talk is worth consideration. Are we obsessed by technique? Are we too clever? Do we put on too much decoration? The form comes first, you can go over the top in embellishments.

Devon have also spent some time with **Melvyn Firmager**, who entertained them with a demonstration of how he achieves his hollow forms, using a selection of special tools. Amongst these are one sided gouges and special long and strong angled tools for internal hollowing.



Future meetings include a talk on 'How to run a small business.'

**HEREFORD AND WORCESTER** were 'treated' to a demonstration of making and using a hook tool in the workshop of Reg Sherwin recently. (*Where have I heard that name before? ed*) This 'Hook Tool' making business is one of the legacies left behind by Del Stubbs, after his 1989 trip to the U.K.

Themes for future meetings are goblets, a Christmas Decoration and a combined Christmas Dinner and Ladies night.

The **KENT CHAPTER** employed a very democratic method of choosing the five pieces which they had been asked to submit for display on the A.W.G.B. Stand at the Woodworking Show. All the members present were invited to ballot on the pieces which had been put forward for consideration. A consensus of opinions selected work from **Bob Chapman, David Bates, David Crawford and Geoff Yeoman.**

A recent event which I don't yet have a report of was the demonstration by **Tobias Kaye** who showed his methods of producing work which is spindle turned, sawn and glued and then put back on the lathe for final turning. More of this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Future attractions for the Kent contingent include miniature turning, box making, tool sharpening and aspects of bowl turning.

The **WEST MIDLANDS CHAPTER** recently held a 'Do it Yourself' meeting, the details of which I do not have, but it would seem to have been a 'themeless' event with members bringing along all sorts of turning.

**Derek Pyatt** was the attraction at the most recent meeting, allowing members to work on one of his reconditioned lathes.

The evergreen (*my phrase Jack, so don't get angry with anyone else, ed*) **Jack Hill** is the star attraction on 25th November.

## MEMBERS PROFILE

Let's find out a bit more about our new Chairman Elect. **Tony Waddilove** writes 'I originally trained in the City as an accountant, (not my idea and not really my scene, and no, I don't want to volunteer as Treasurer) After spells in the family business and with Paul Getty, I moved into the computer industry in the late 60s. This was somewhat before modern chip technology, when programs were installed with fine copper wire and tweezers, sort of equivalent to the treadle lathe. After various activities in the software and training sides of computing I got too old for the game and in the later 70s decided to take the

plunge and took up woodturning full time. In between turning from mice to monster bowls I became involved with woodturning courses and opened the Norfolk Woodturning Centre. These days my life is largely spent turning, teaching, committee work for the A.W.G.B. and for the Norfolk Contemporary Crafts Society and with frequent visits to the golf course.

## BUSINESS SPONSOR NEWS

**L.R.E.** are yet again in the forefront in the field of technical services to woodturners, in that they have come up with 'Variturn' variable speed lathes. Electronically controlled speeds from 250 to 2500 rpm are achievable, with speeds outside this range if required.

The conversion can be fitted to 'Almost any lathe', and a version is available for the Graduate lathe. Further details from **Roy or Lee Cooper, L.R.E. Machinery and Equipment Co., "Bramco House", 15, Turton Street, Golborne, WARRINGTON, WA3 3AB** (*Good luck in your new 'house', ed.*)

## BEADS AND COVES

A couple of tips, gleaned in break time conversations during the recent Stephen Marchant day at Avoncroft.

The first one from **Peter Blake**, who was making up a jig to hold a bowl for a reverse chucking exercise. Peter had quartered the plywood disc, attached the quarters to the wood jaw plates on his four jaw chuck and was turning the segments to suit the rim of the bowl when one of the jaws flew out. He hadn't noticed that the scroll was undoing whilst he was working. Always tighten the jaws down onto some suitable object before switching on. Or saw the disc after turning. Quite obvious of course, after the event! We all learn from our mistakes. Thanks Peter.

The second tip, and this one is close to my heart at the moment, comes from **Bill Kinsman**. If you get dust, or any other irritant, in the eye, Johnson's Baby Shampoo doesn't sting and can be used as a suitable eye wash. That one came from the Eye Department of the hospital which Bill visited whilst suffering from a spec of exotic dust. Thanks Bill.

## HELPLINE

Thanks first of all to member **David Gulley**, who answered my recent plea for a copy of the Geoff Peter's book on woodturning. I was inspired to take up the craft by Geoff's magazine articles in 1966 and felt that I ought to own a copy of his book as well.

Member **Tom Lewes** has told me of some off cuts of ebony which are available in the West Midlands. They vary from 2" to 5" in length and are all 1 1/2 x 1 1/2".

Sold by weight, a 4 kilo bag costs £16.56, including Postage and VAT. Contact **Cannon Cues, Unit 54, Enterprise Industrial Estate, Pedmore Road, Brierly Hill, West Midlands, DY5 1TX. (0384) 263299.**

## LETTERS

Some time ago I received a letter from member **Rose-Marie Yeh**, who told me of the availability of workshop space in **LEWES, East Sussex**. Unfortunately Rose-Marie's letter arrived at about the same time as my Detached Retina, and it got misfiled. Whilst I am sure that the space has now been taken up, anyone interested in future availability might like to contact Rose-Marie at **Unit 14, Star Breweries Workshops, Castle Ditch Lane, LEWES, East Sussex BN1 3LT.**

Also on the workshop front, a Crafts Workshop space has become available at **Bewdley Museum, Load Street, BEWDLEY, Worcs, DY12 2AE, Contact Carol Bowsher on (0299) 403573** for more details.

An extract from a letter from a new member, **Colin Wilson**, is worth a mention '.....I would also like to take the opportunity to thank yourself and all the other committee members and helpers, and especially your families for the time, effort and energy you all put in for the rest of the membership. It really is greatly appreciated.

'For an absolute novice such as myself, the benefits to be derived from belonging to the Association are becoming more and more apparent with each successive newsletter.

'Living in an area which does not as yet have a local chapter it was very pleasing to be contacted by a newly joined member and be invited to his workshop for a hands on session: Of great benefit to me, with the bonus of a friend gained. Not bad for a tenner.' *(Thanks Colin. So there is someone out there after all!)*

A letter from **Mark Ramuz**, Assistant Editor of the magazine 'Traditional Woodworking' is to publish a directory of woodworking courses over the next few months. If any A.W.G.B. members run courses of instruction on woodturning, or any other allied craft for that matter, they are invited to contact the magazine at **Link House Magazines Ltd., Dingwall Avenue, Croyden, CR9 2TA.** The deadline for the turning section is not mentioned, but don't hang about!

A really intriguing letter, and set of photographs which my poor Word Processor can't cope with, have arrived from **Tobias Kaye**. Toby was inspired by some slides of work which he had been shown by **Del Stubbs**, and which he has developed. The basic idea is that a piece of, let us say 4" x 4" x 12" long is loaded between centres, turned to a given shape, but with most of the corners left on, then sawn down its length into four sections. Each section is then turned through 180 degrees, glued back together

again so that the initial turning operation is now on the inside, and the piece turned again. This leaves a most intriguing 'window' type piece. Best not to try it until you have either seen Toby demonstrating the technique, or until I have my new toy and can furnish illustrations of the stages. Toby has already demonstrated the process to the Kent chapter, so you might well find it hitting the headlines in trade magazines before too long anyway. (See the November issue of Woodworker)

## COSHH REGULATIONS (Phase Two)

I make no apology for bringing this topic up again, for a number of reasons, not the least of which is its importance.

When **Tony Waddilove's** letter was printed in issue 12 of 'Revolutions', it got three responses. **Terry Vaughan**, who is an enforcer of the Regulations, and a woodturner, was quite properly given the floor to start with. Now it is the turn of **Ed. Brain**. Ed is 'The Operations Director and General Fixit of a small Timber Merchants, and keen hobbyist woodturner.'

After some nice comments regarding the A.W.G.B., Ed goes on to say:-

'Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 says that every employer has a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all his employees. In my opinion this surely applies to individuals as well, whether self employed or hobbyist

'The COSHH regulations are complex and far reaching so here are some relevant extractions, interpretations and opinions that I am currently using in my employment situation.

'Wood dust is caused by sawing, moulding, routing, carving and sanding, (which by interpretation covers turning). The dust from certain woods may cause severe irritation of the eyes, skin and respiratory system. Although not specifying particular woods it is known that the sanding of hardwoods in the furniture trade has been the cause of Nasal Cancer.

'To comply with the COSHH regulations an employer must have a suitable and sufficient assessment of the workplace made by a competent person: and thereafter any substantial change in work practices require re-assessment. This assessment should form the basis of judgement by the employer as to what action, if any, should be taken. No exposure to Hazardous Dust is the aim but where this is not reasonably practicable, provision of adequate control is acceptable

'The Timber Industry and Dust Extraction companies are using guidance note EH44, "Dust in the workplace:

general principles of protection," Where there is no indication of the need for a lower value or where no value is given, personal exposure should not exceed 10mg/m<sup>3</sup> 8 T.W.A. total inhalable dust, and 5mg/m<sup>3</sup> 8 hour T.W.A. total respirable dust. Over these figures action is required. As stated before, these regulations are aimed at employers, but to me it seems commonsense that self employed and hobbyists should all review their workshops, especially those who run courses or allow the public into their work areas.

'To give some indication of the practicalities of these regulations I can tell you that I recently had the Mill at my place of employment inspected. The outcome of this was that the air around the planing and moulding machines which have dust extraction fitted gave readings of 2.4mg/m<sup>3</sup>, but the air around the narrow bandsaw, crosscut and circular saw which all have sawdust pits, gave readings between 7.8 and 28mg/m<sup>3</sup>, and these machines although accepted as adequate by all sides of the industry for many years, now require dust extraction.

'These air sampling tests done by professionals are very expensive, but for those who do not come within the scope of the acts there are some simple ways of determining whether dust is a problem. If during any working operation with wood, a bright light is held above the work area and particles can be seen floating in the light path, then there is a hazard. Likewise, if dust can be seen lying on shelves, work surfaces etc., then dust is a hazard. I think that it will amaze many wood turners when they realize just how much of the turning operation actually creates dust as well as shavings. Only when turning saturated wood with 100% shearing cuts is little or no dust created.

'Personal protection such as dust masks and respirators etc., are not a permanent solution, although essential for people with allergic or respiratory problems. The only answer to dust must be removal at source, i.e., extraction, not only from the health point of view but also for safety, as surely we all know the risk of multiple explosion associated with dust.

'Lastly, all this prompted me to look at my own wood turning workshop at home, which has a very efficient wall mounted dust extractor with cloth filter bag situated close to my lathe. Knowing there has always been a thin film of dust around my workshop, I did the light test near the filter bag with the motor running and found that it was filtering out all but the most minute particles of dust, and

very efficiently filling the air with possibly the most harmful dust. Needless to say, the extractor now lives in its own little home outside the workshop and operates via an extension tube and remote control switch. Surprisingly enough it is now quieter to live with. There being another thought. The noise regulations changed at the start of this year. Assessment must now be made by employers to establish noise levels in workshops and daily personal noise of 85dB(A) or over requires action'.

Ed goes on to say:- '.....I hope that questions like this with relevant info is given some prominence by the association as I believe that as an aspiring official body of people the lead should be seen to be taken from the front, not just in skills, but in safety and control too.'

*(I agree Ed, and if I had bought my Dustmaster Helmet years ago instead of months ago, I wouldn't have the cough problem that I now do have. Also, I'm sorry that your letter didn't get its rightful place before now, but we are still limited for space. ed).*

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

The treasurer reports that there are still a number of people who have not renewed their membership for 1990/91.

Now come along folks pay up and look big.

As has been said elsewhere in this newsletter, it is not bad value for a tenner.

Please send your subscriptions to the treasurer  
Len Grantham, 1, Duncan Court, Lord President  
Road, NORTH BERWICK, East Lothian,  
EH39 4RJ.

## BANKERS ORDERS

Our Treasurer also reports that in response to many requests, he has finally made arrangements with the bank for those members who wish to pay their subscription by a standing order.

Any member wishing to use this method, should fill in the form on page 7 and take or send it to their own bank.

## DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION

31st. DECEMBER 1990