

AWGB Club Survey 2020/21

Compiled by Kyle McGill



Preface

The AWGB Club survey comes amid a global pandemic with much uncertainty, fear and isolation. This is having an effect on the AWGB and is so are our clubs.

This survey is the first of its kind for the AWGB, we have had 14 responses from clubs. Compared to the 186 responses from members the report will feature more verbatim comments.

Note that Club names will follow comments e.g. "this is a quote" (UK Woodturning club)

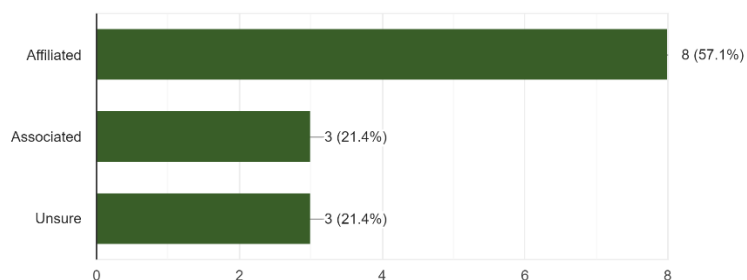
Contents

Demographic responses.....	2
Understanding Clubs.....	2
Benefit value	5
Other benefits.....	5

Demographic responses

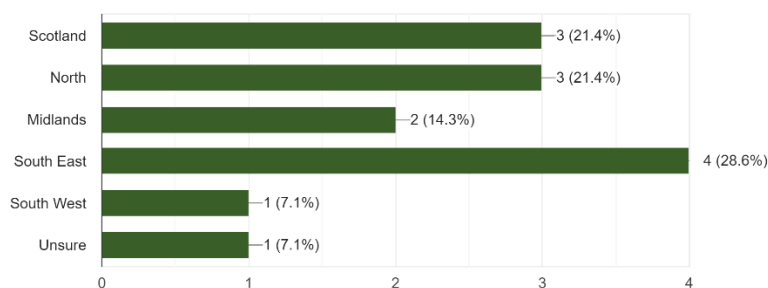
Is your club an Affiliated or Associated club?

14 responses



Which region are you based in?

14 responses



The responses of the club has been fairly even, with a response from every region. 20% of the clubs surveyed said that they were unsure if they are an associated or affiliated club

Understanding Clubs

For the first question ‘Why is your club a member of the AWGB?’ the main response was due to the insurance benefits of the AWGB.

“Historically to obtain cheap insurance - this is no longer the case.”

(Mid Wales Woodturners)

Other comments include;

“I believe we have been for many years, support when needed and to keep us informed with regard woodturning and events etc” (West Sussex Woodturners)

“As a club, it is good to be under the umbrella of a national association. We receive many benefits from being part of the AWGB and have been supported very well.” (Ise & Nene Valley Turners)

B. What support can the AWGB give you more of?¹⁴ responses

- Have more courses available in our area.
- The Newsletter electronically
- Insurance/Safety - including Covid Risk assessments/Charity status/more personal contact through regional reps
- Financial - grants to obtain better AV equipment etc. Also help with increasing membership.
- More visits from the Scottish rep
- In these times ,financial if needed ,but our Club is ok .Some of our members have joined the AWGB so we are all kept up to date .
- Nothing needed at present
- I could help with editing Revolutions if required
- A bit more direction on things like GDPR,
- More emphasis for beginner woodturners in Revolutions, which tends to concentrate on medium-advanced skilled turners.
- More virtual demonstrators UK and abroad
- Support demonstrator costs
- Training programmes in our local area, most seem to be quite a distance away. Could you set up a register of suppliers who are willing to give AWGB members discount?
- Access to demonstrators, Help with covid-19 risk assessments

Where clubs are asking for support are in the following key areas;

- GDPR
- Access to demonstrators
- Risk assessments
- Charity Status
- Regional rep contact

Consideration – AWGB to issues guidance to the above areas and review support currently available.

C. What difficulties were you experiencing in your club pre-Covid-19?

- None
- Getting members to be more active within the Club.
- none particularly
- No significant issues - had a rising membership
- Falling membership numbers due to several older members passing way.
- We are not meeting at the moment but trying to keep the members informed via Facebook and the internet
- Like many others , no meetings at all , we have managed to send out a letter each month with questions and answers , the Committee have kept in touch via Zoom but it has been very hard to do anything as a good percentage of our members are between 60/80+.
- Trying to get younger members into the club

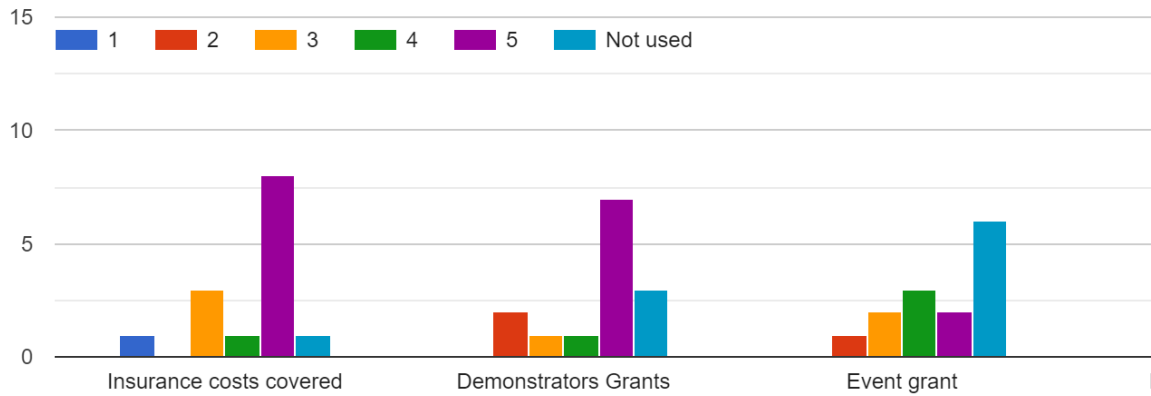
- Funding, the cost of demonstrators was beginning to be more than the cost of Membership
- An ever increasingly aged membership - a lack of female and junior members.
- Overcrowding.
- None we can think of - things were going very well. We do wonder how many members will return once this is over...
- Low membership numbers and poor engagement from members

G. Which areas are you keen to see improved in the AWGB and why? 12 responses

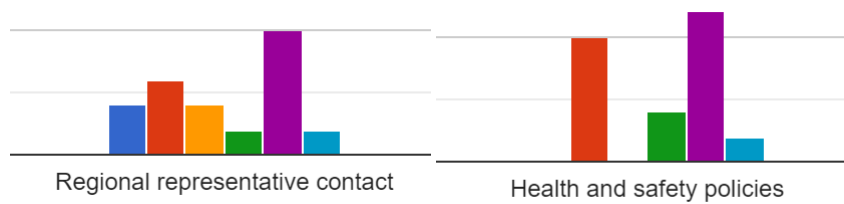
- from what i know about the AWGB, i am not sure.
- AWGB appears to have difficulty in serving the three types of member ie. individual, club and professional which produces conflict on occasion. Not easy to resolve but there needs to be more clarity on it's aims and objectives for each grouping
- The AWGB seems very remote from us in mid Wales - and several members doubt its usefulness to the club.
- More online info re online demonstrations
- Pay an administrative assistant, the AWGB is getting too big to manage completely on volunteers
- Didn't know a club handbook was available, what is the safeguarding advice
- Updating clubs contact details etc quickly to enable contact to be made with potential new members
- In my opinion, Revolutions appears to be aimed at the competent/expert turner. I think having a beginner article, as well as more advanced projects would widen the appeal.
- More comprehensive and accurate information on those demonstrators using Zoom
- Talk&Turn to become a permanent fixture. So far it has been interesting and informative specially being able to question the demonstrators. For the "permanent" contributors maybe a short introduction about themselves at the beginning of their chat so people only watching can appreciate their comments better.
- Revolutions - all credit to Sheila but the editor can only work with the material that they are given. You need to encourage clubs to submit more articles. Also some of the information needs updating. The list of demonstrators for instance, which still talks about travelling expenses of £35.00 ! We wish! Also what do you do with the feedback forms we send? It would be helpful to know what other clubs think when we make our choice.
- More E-bulletins to reduce the use of materials. Visits by local reps.

Benefit value

H. How do you value the importance of the following benefit that apply to your club?



The clubs most value the insurance cost and demonstrator grants, also important is regional rep contact. Of mixed response are the health and safety polices, some clubs really value them and some don't.



Lesser valued benefits to the clubs are the club handbook

Consideration – AWGB to review the club handbook



Approachability of AWGB exec

In general the clubs surveyed do not feel that the AWGB exec are not approachable .

Consideration – AWGB to improve it's approachability

Other benefits

I. What other benefits would you like to see from the AWGB? 12 responses

- Lathe hire for clubs running training,
- Series of Guidance notes/FAQs on topics as they become an issue eg, insurance/charitable status/Covid 19 risk assessment/grants
- It would be beneficial for members if the AWGB representative were to make themselves known to the club and perhaps give a talk on their role and that of the AWGB at one of the club meetings
- At a recent GAW committee meeting its was agreed that as relatively new members of the AWGB we had not accumulated enough experience of the organisation to complete a fair and informative survey.
- I will ask the members and get back to you
- Getting other club members to give demonstrations at other local clubs sometimes stalls because of insurance liability. Few, non-professional turners carry individual all risks insurance. I would like to see free demonstrations given by an AWGB club member, to another AWGB club be covered by the AWGB blanket third party insurance (are we really on club business if demonstrating at another club - no fee involved?. I suggest no fee be paid, but reasonable travel costs be allowed, to separate the "club turner-demonstrator" from the "professional" turner.
- Guidelines on the standard code of practice for woodturning demonstrations. Setting out what should be considered as a risk assessment. Looking forward perhaps some training in running Zoom meetings.
- More financial support for remotely located clubs - help toward demonstrator travelling costs would be very very useful.

what articles would you like to see?¹⁰ responses

- running a club and book-keeping
- Information of wood selection and handling. How to sharpen tool within a budget, a lot of us are hobbyists only and the high end equipment may be out of reach.
- AWGB would be the first port of call for advice.
- a guide to data protection
- Sorry ,I have not answered some of the questions as I feel these should be discussed by the Clubs Committee before I commit to anything , I hope some of this helps ,all the best Steve Savage
- See answer to I above - don't really want articles rather want something in more depth with FAQs on items such as insurance and how and where grants can be obtained from.
- Keeping an up to date library, wood safety e.g. woods unsuitable for kitchenware, woods dangerous to health generally, face/eye and lung protection
- Auditing
- Enough information to guide a novice through the process of producing an annual income/expenditure account, of sufficient depth to satisfy the Charity Commissioners.
- Templates with basic guidance on Health & Safety, GPDR, Children & Vulnerable Adults, Equalities, etc. - not every club will have someone in the know with these things. The AWGB could be more proactive in advising clubs in these matters.

As above, there are some key themes

- Health and Safety
 - Wood safety
 - Eye, lung protection
- GDPR
- Equality
- Accounting reports
- Clarification on insurances

Considerations

Consideration – AWGB to issues guidance to the above areas and review support currently available.

- GDPR
- Access to demonstrators
- Risk assessments
- Charity Status
- Regional rep contact
- Health and safety
 - Wood safety
 - Eye, lung protection
- Equality
- Insurance summary

Consideration – AWGB to review the club handbook

Consideration – AWGB to improve it's approachability