



Waveney & District Wood Turners

E-News

Chairman: Brian Wooden.

Secretary: Eric Smith. Treasurer: Ken Rodgers. Events Secretary: David Ritchie

October 2013

October Meeting.

This month we were privileged to have with us Mark Baker who most of you would recognise as being the editor of Woodturning Magazine. The subject of the evening was a two-part tazza and during the opening minutes we were invited to select and influence the design that Mark would demonstrate. A square dish on a substantial base was eventually decided upon and a piece of box elder (*Acer negundo*) (a native of North America and commonly called boxelder maple or maple ash) was mounted to the lathe on a screw chuck with tailstock support. As the piece was slightly off-square the speed had to be kept down to avoid excess vibration; on completion it would be trued up on the edges using a belt sander. In order for the finished shape to remain square the curve of the bottom of the dish has to finish on the edges of the piece and not on the top face (this would give it at best, rounded corners and if taken fully through would make it round).

The underside of the blank was trued up and a spigot cut for reversing in the chuck and the bottom of the piece was shaped. With the tailstock in place it is impossible to carry out the push cut (perceived wisdom for shaping the bottom of the bowl) so with a long grind bowl gouge the pull cut was used to shape the centre and as the blank became truer and lighter the lathe speed was slowly increased. In order to prevent break-out at the corners of the piece, where you are cutting and missing, a conventional grind bowl gouge was used in push mode to take the shaping to meet the edge at about 45 degrees. The final cleaning cuts were made with a 1 ¼ scraper ground at an angle similar to a skew chisel; this gave a more easily controlled cut than with a square edge scraper and was far less likely to get a corner dig in. At this point Mark told us how he would finish it but did not actually sand it. Where contact with the piece was continuous it would be power sanded with the lathe running and where intermittent, blended to the corner by hand.

The piece was reversed in the chuck using the previously cut spigot again with the tailstock supporting and the inside was taken out of the bowl in stepped stages. It was explained that not all movement in timber was due to the drying out process but the release of inner tension during turning could also cause timber to move. The outer inch or so was taken down to the required wall thickness leaving the middle intact and the whole bowl was hollowed in the same manner an inch or so at a time until finally the tailstock was removed for the most inner section. Although not the generally accepted method of turning the centre from a bowl it is quite effective and can help to retain the shape throughout the process.



After a brief interlude for refreshment (very brief in Mark's case as he continued to turn during tea whilst also answering questions) we, the members, again had our four penn'orth in deciding on the size of the support now that we had a finished top available to use in getting the proportions correct. A piece of sycamore about 18ins long and 4ins square was set between centres and turned to the round. A waist with a decorative bead was turned about 3ins from the top and a chuck spigot was cut on the bottom. It was removed from the chuck and we were again invited to comment on the design so far. General consensus was that the top, the piece above the waist needed to be slimmer and the whole thing needed to be an inch shorter. From a design point of view Mark agreed with the consensus and proceeded to modify the piece to achieve this. Having done so, Mark then spoke of creating a shadow effect (moire) which in differing light and from different angles would appear to create a shape within a shape. This was achieved by using a 3mm parting tool to cut grooves of varying depth spaced at 3mm intervals the length of the part of the stand below the bead. A suitable socket was cut in the top of the support to take the spigot on the base of the bowl and the piece was then cleaned up and parted off at the requisite length. The support was then given a coat or two of ebonising lacquer; the reason for the use of the lacquer was that in Mark's opinion a contrasting base gave a better lift to the top platter than a more similar timber. The finished piece certainly bears this out.

The bowl was re-chucked using a friction drive (a piece of kitchen roll against a prepared shaped piece of wood held in the chuck jaws) supported by the tailstock and the spigot turned to match the socket in the support piece.

The two pieces were finally put together to complete the object of the evening's demonstration. All in all a fast moving, entertaining and instructional evening.



moving,
instructional

Tables

The results for the September table not published due to editorial problems (Editor's memory) are

Advanced	1 st	Roger Rout	2 nd	David Ritchie	3 rd	Mark Leggett
Novice	1 st	Mike Leech	2 nd	Edward Judd		



October

Advanced	1 st	David Ritchie
Joint 2 nd	Roger Groom	Roger Rout

Novice	1 st	Len Stout	2 nd
	Edward Judd	3 rd	Mike Leech



Novice

Advanced

Display

We are also indebted to Mark Baker for what I thought was as the best critique session I have witnessed at the club. It was full of humour, ideas, compliments and suggestion but most of all encouragement. His parody of the wood-turner's inspection against a customer's inspection of the same article was excellent. It was also nice to hear that he thought the club's display stood up very well against all other clubs he visits.

Congratulations to all who had pieces on the tables; please keep the work coming in.

Next Meeting

In November we have a return visit to the club of Nick Arnall.

This Month's Project

Neatly following on from the demonstration the project for next month's table is a tazza. (I wonder where that came from)

Future Events

We are delighted with the response to the Christmas Social memo and this will now go ahead as per the programme brochure. Further details will be published in due course.

Training Days.

You will recall me banging on about training days in earlier newsletters and our desire to get a local "demonstrator course" organised, well thanks to the hard work of Eric Smith on the organisation and the generosity of David Ritchie in loaning his workshop such an event has just taken place. There follows a report on the day by Brian Hollett and a picture from David.

Demonstrator Training

By Brian Hollett

It was a cold, blustery autumn day as 5 disparate souls arrived, from all points of the East Anglian compass, to a private workshop in deepest Lowestoft. Each of us had braved the journey through the surrounding Badlands from as far away as Essex in the south and Norfolk to the north. Four of these poor souls, me included, were clutching their valuable preparation notes to their ample physiques while the fifth, Brian Partridge, struggled under the immense weight of screen, projector and fear of being in charge of these (exceedingly) mature students.

The Waveney Club had arranged and sponsored this, the latest AWGB Demonstrator Training Course and their Events Secretary David Ritchie had kindly thrown open his double-garage sized workshop, in spite of his being unable to take part in the course himself. Eric Smith, Mike Leach and I were fairly local lads whereas Mick Francis had been invited (with a modicum of force and a longish hooked stick, I believe) to accompany Brian up from their Essex base.

After our coffee levels were officially checked and carefully topped up we spent the morning going through the rigours of presentation technique. As a part of this exercise each of us gave a 5 minute presentation, on subjects of our own choosing, while trying to put into practice everything we had just learned from Brian's informative talk and slide show.

After lunch...and yet more coffee, of course... we each gave a 20 minute demonstration on the lathe. The first, from Mick, covered his favourite subject, pen making, and he tried his utmost...with little success, I'm afraid... to convince me how much fun was to be had with such projects.

surprise followed and Mike were tea light

had come

designs, methods. last and the class

were beginners seen a before.



The biggest of the day then when both Eric discovered they demonstrating holders. Thankfully each up with contrasting timbers and I took the floor managed to bore rigid by pretending they absolute who had never skew chisel

We each tried to make these short demos as interesting and informative as possible, in spite of 'Sir' ... and his eagle eyes... watching and taking notes feverishly, ready to 'discuss' our strengths and weaknesses. He actually laboured under the illusion that in this way he might make 4 passable demonstrators out of us. The last hour or so, with David now in attendance, was filled with a general discussion on everything we had covered and achieved over the day.

I have been keen to attend a Demonstrator's Course ever since they were first instigated by AWGB and the wait for one to be arranged in this neck of the woods was certainly worthwhile. I found the whole day valuable, rewarding and entertaining. Yes, we all got a bit nervous at times but soon overcame these jitters and, leg-pulling apart, everyone gave a more than successful and confident demo.

Thank you David for your hospitality, Brian for your knowledge and forbearance, The Waveney Club for your sponsorship and AWGB for coming up with the original idea.

B.H.

Mick Francis, Eric Smith, Brian Partridge (AWGB Eastern Rep) Mike Leech, Brian Hollett

It appears that a good time was had by all and should you be interested in the AWGB running further courses then speak to Eric or David about what you want and we will do what we can to bring it about.