

# Waveney & District Woodturners



Chairman: Andrew Platt

Secretary: Paul Sharman Treasurer: Chris Petch Events Secretary: David Ritchie

## Ryan Barker



Ryan is a mere 22 years old and turning since he was 17 and already a regular on the demonstration circuit. He is an undoubted talent and his abilities are widely recognised and he has the awards to prove it. He won the AWGB Junior prize in 2012, Construction Apprentice in 2013 and was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the City of London National Competition.

Currently, Ryan is employed as a joiner at Murdoch Joinery in Great Finborough near Stowmarket where he is involved in the production of bespoke kitchens, cabinets and a wide range of joinery. On the evening he told members he has also made no end of stair spindles, something he has demonstrated how to produce 'en mass' at other clubs.



During the evening he was going to make a quality carpenter's mallet. This sounds uninteresting at first but Ryan doesn't do ordinary. He previously made one using Cocobolo (now unavailable to buy or import) which his boss took a fancy to, but it was commandeered by his girlfriends' dad before he could offer it to him. So the aim on the evening was to make one for his boss. It would be made of Ebano (a dense and heavy wood) for the head and Maple for the handle and incorporates a brass ferrule ring. The Maple was chosen for its straight grain which is essential for the handle due to the flexing pressures applied to it. Any cross grain may cause a crack.

It was the completion of the brass ferrule that Ryan carried out first. It had been cut from a 3mm thick sheet and ground to almost round with a 20mm hole in the middle. A sacrificial piece of Sapele was put in the chuck jaws and the end turned to round using a Roughing Gouge and a 20mm tenon turned on the end.



The brass ferrule was pushed on to the tenon using a Cup Centre in the tail stock and Ryan very carefully turned it down to 38mm diameter using a HSS cutter in a Simon Hope handle. To check these dimensions he used a pair of engineering callipers with the ends of the arms ground round so that when used they would not snag on the wood and cause a potential accident.



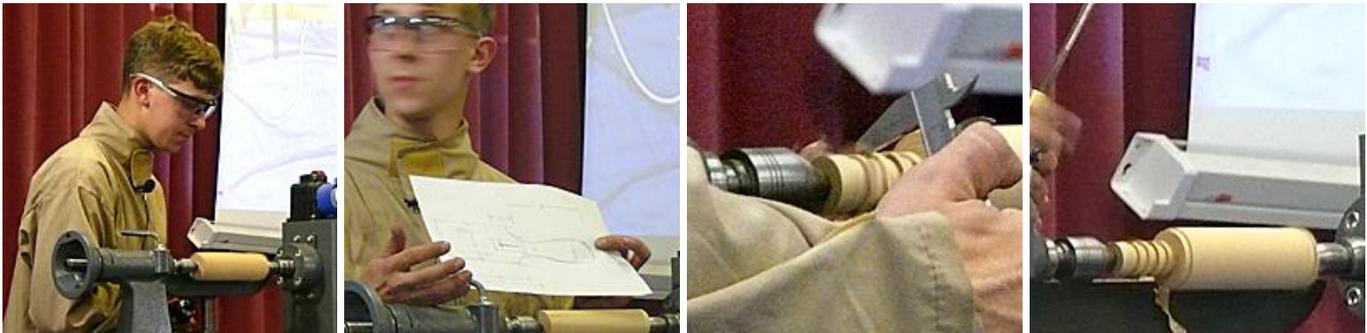
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Ryan next turned his attention to the handle. He had marked the centres at each end and used a push punch in the middle as an accurate guide mounting it between centres. He used matching Ring Centres which rely on friction as a driving force.

These centres also guard against serious catches when turning as any catch would just cause the wood to spin on the centres in a similar way as the more common Steb Centres. The other advantage is that, as they are the same size, turning a piece around between them ensures the piece continues to turn true.



Ryan referred to his hand drawn plan for the handle's shape and dimensions. The first thing was to turn a 20mm diameter and 40mm long tenon on one end. His tool rest was set parallel to the lathe bed as he likes to rub his fingers along the back edge while turning as a good way of creating parallel sections.

He marked the tenon length and using a parting tool and his "safe" callipers cut several slots as a guide to depth and rounded off. Ryan mentioned that in his workshop he uses open spanners of varying sizes as pre-set callipers. Finally he added a few very small beads on the tenon to allow the glue to flow during the final glue up.

On the base of the tenon Ryan created a small fillet to accommodate the brass ferrule and after referring to his plan, marked the high and low points of the handle shape before starting to turn. He cut the deepest part using a parting tool and started shaping using a small bowl gouge that had the heel of the cutting edge ground away, thus allowing him to cut cleaner and tighter curves. The other end of the handle was shaped using a Skew Chisel. He sanded using 120 grit and finished with 180 grit working along the grain.



The handle was then put into temporary jaws so that Ryan could cut a small "V" down the middle of the tenon using a pull saw, into which a thin wedge would be placed. A small wedge was then pushed gently into the "V" and marked at 3mm above the end. This was done because the mortice on the head piece would be drilled to 40mm deep and the fillet on the handle accounted for another 3mm.

As the tenon went into the mortice the protruding wedge would hit the end and be forced into the "V" and push out the sides, thus literally wedging the tenon inside. The brass ferrule would stop the "V" splitting any further into the handle.



Ryan then produced the piece of Ebano (a very dense wood) which was mounted between centres and turned to round with a Roughing Gouge once again using a parallel tool rest. A tenon was added to one end to fit the lathes chuck jaws. It was turned and mounted in the jaws. A Skew was used to square off the base end before a Jacobs Chuck was put into the tail stock and a 20mm Forstner Bit used to drill a 43mm deep hole.

He then turned an elongated concave shape down to where the ferrule would butt up against the head. The length of the mallet head was then marked at 120mm and cut using a parting chisel and a gentle curve turned along its length using a skew chisel.



The handle, with the ferrule in place, was glued up using fast epoxy resin spread along the tenon, in and around the wedge. Glue was also put in the mortice on the head section and the two pushed together by hand. The head was brought up and the ring centre relocated in the same position on the end of the handle. Gentle pressure applied to force the two pieces together left to allow the epoxy to set. It is at this point that the brass ferrule acts to stop any possible splitting of the handle as the wedge pushes home.

The completed piece was turned around and a slight concave face was cut into the top (to allow it to be stood upright on a work bench) and a bead added as decoration, The ends would be cut off and finished by Ryan back at his workshop.

His boss's mallet had finally been completed.

### Some examples of Ryan's work



## THIS MONTH'S TABLE ENTRIES

This month the novice table had a great selection of good quality work. Something that should be applauded and bodes well for the future.



### CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE

Our chairman, Andrew Platt has chosen two pieces this month.

On the novice table (in name only) he chose the clock (above) and on the advanced table the rustic bowl (left).

## CLUB EXHIBITION

**Lowestoft Library – Fri-Sat, 15-16<sup>th</sup> September**

Several club members are setting up a promotional exhibition of our club in Lowestoft Library and the opportunities available to potential new members. All exhibits will be of members' work which should be labelled so that any public interest in purchasing a piece can be put in contact with the maker.

**Please come along and support us by engaging with the public.**



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# COMING UP

## NEXT MONTH

### Colin Smith – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Our local area AWGB representative who enjoys working with reclaimed timbers.

## TRAINEE/IMPROVERS NIGHT

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm

This is an opportunity for trainees and novices to improve their skills on a motivational and relaxed social evening hosted by your club committee - not only that, tea and biscuits are provided.

## 2017 SHOWS

### 7<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WOODWORKING SHOW – 16<sup>th</sup>-17 September

Witham Rd, Cressing, Braintree, Essex CM77 8PD

The show is described as the best woodworking show of its kind in the world.

## ALL DAY DEMONSTRATIONS

### Gary Rance – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Full day demo by probably the best and most highly regarded Turner in the country.

This is an AWGB Birthday sponsored event, open to other clubs and the public and advertised on the AWGB website and in Revolutions. A very popular event so get your tickets ASAP from David Ritchie.

**Cost £10 per head which includes a buffet lunch.**

### Paul Howard – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Full Day for Trainees – Paid for by AWGB

Mutford Village Hall, 10am – 4pm --- Lunch will be provided at a nominal cost (TBA)

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## AWGB 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY BASH

To celebrate 30 years the AWGB have awarded grants to clubs throughout the country to host events, details of which are on the AWGB website here: <https://www.awgb.co.uk/awgb-30th-birthday-bash/>

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## AROUND THE CLUBS:

*(Hold the Ctrl Key down and Click on the link)*

Test Valley Turners - <http://www.testvalleyturners.co.uk/links.html>

Thameside Woodturners Association - <http://www.thameside-woodturners.org.uk/>

Torbay Woodturners Club - <http://www.torbaywoodturners.co.uk/menuitems/index.php>

## YOUTUBE VIDEOS:

*(Hold the Ctrl Key down and Click on the link)*

Woodturning - The Carving Mallet - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdcjQGOrvPw>

Carvers Mallet and Wooden Assembly Hammer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS5XoD8D0VI>

Carving Mallets – An Overview - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMsynrNwda4>



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