



The February meeting began with the A.G.M. in the morning. It was well attended with apologies from a few members

The usual business was covered reasonably smoothly. The following four committee members were retiring: Kevin Head, secretary, Peter Castle, newsletter editor, Dave Rogers, events organiser, and Mick Briggs, competition secretary.

They have done a great job, unreservedly giving their hard work and time to the club so a big thank you to them all.

The following members were elected to replace them: Anne Smith as secretary, Peter Castle, competition secretary and Allan Beecham as events organiser. Sandra Day agreed to a trial as newsletter editor. Thank you to them.

Then followed other business. This included a discussion on competitions, instigated by Bill Shepherd. The main points covered were class allocation for members and rules for promotion (or demotion) and the criteria used for judging the open classes. Our new competition secretary, Peter, agreed to look into this and report back.

It was also agreed by members to introduce another competition based on work displayed on the show table at the monthly meetings. Work displayed will be awarded points which will accrue during the year. So if you are keen to win bring lots of pieces.

Last year Mark Baker, editor of Woodturning magazine, set himself a challenge to turn three hundred and sixty five pieces, one for every day of the year. Here is a challenge for you! Turn at least one piece you feel you can bring for the show table every month. Surely even the busiest amongst us could accomplish that.

Maggie Wright then thanked Morris Ekins for his gift to the club. Morris is giving up woodturning and has given his smaller Axminster lathe to the club and also, very generously, a new chuck to go with it. This will be much appreciated by club members. Thank you Morris.

Lastly, Maggie showed us a gift sent to the club by Tormek, a Swedish company making top quality wetstone sharpening systems. It was the bench grinder mounting kit. The point of this kit is to set it up with a high speed grinder which then enables you to use all the Tormek jigs which mount on the universal support

If you only use a high speed grinder you can now invest in the Tormek jigs. If you use a Tormek wet grinder as well you can reshape your tool profiles quickly on the high speed grinder and then sharpen them on the Tormek with the same profile. Reshaping on the wetstone alone not only takes a long time but wears the expensive stone down quickly.

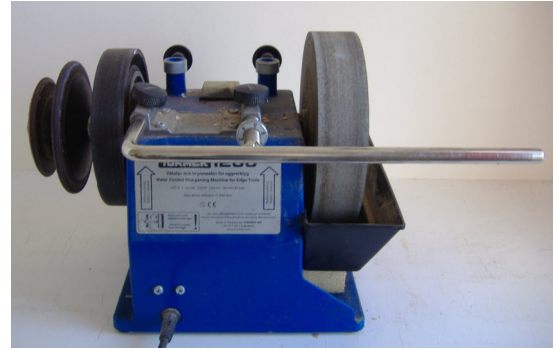


High speed grinder with homemade base showing universal tool support.

The kit now includes an adjustable metal stand to take the horizontal base which holds the universal tool support. When the kit was first introduced it came with instructions for making your own base out of plywood.

If any of you keep your past newsletters you will see that in the March 2012 edition I actually wrote a piece about a more economic alternative if you already possess the Tormek machine..You can also view the article on the club website.

It is possible to purchase just the horizontal base as a spare (see Axminster catalogue).The setting up instructions can be downloaded from the Tormek website and you can use the universal support from your existing Tormek machine. This isn't too time consuming since reshaping as opposed to sharpening, does not normally happen that often.



The Tormek wet stone sharpener showing the universal tool support in the grinding away from the edge position. It can also be fitted above the stone for grinding towards the edge.

After lunch members got their tools out for hands on. The subject was bowl turning. There was no demo but Mike Knight, Bob Hollands and Maggie Wright got members started and gave help and guidance with techniques at the lathes. Thank you to them. Thank you also to those who supplied wood.

It was an excellent session with all the lathes in action and everyone busy. Those not turning learnt from watching It was very good to see the real novices having a go and in some cases more than one go! Well done Roger! Well done everyone!



Roger Smith's first ever bowls with help from Maggie Wright and Mike Knight.



Bowl in spalted beech turned by Neale Sands with help from Bob Hollands

Hon President	Allan Beecham
Chairman	Maggie Wright
Vice Chairman	Peter Castle
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	John Turner
Events organiser	Allan Beecham
Librarian	David Spice
Newsletter editor	S. Day (provisional)

www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk

Next Month's Meeting

April 19th. 10 am. start

Professional demonstrator
Simon Hope