

Spinning Record Topped

Despite the unseasonal wintry weather, there was a good attendance for the March meeting. In chairman Maggie Wright's absence, Peter Castle stood in to oversee the proceedings. It was decided not to spend time setting up for a demo as the project was well within members' grasp. The objective was to turn a finger spinning top that would break Maggie's long held record and Peter threatened to lock the doors until this was achieved.. After the notices, I gave a short presentation on spinning top design concentrating on features that would encourage a long spin. I also explained the method for turning a tippee top which flips over onto its stem after the initial spin. If you are interested in trying this out, you can download instructions from www.goldentrianglewoodturners.org Alternatively, let me know and I will print a hard copy for you.

Tops have been around throughout history with some found in Egypt dating to 2000BC. They were made from many materials including bone and ivory as well as wood. I had brought a few sample tops and several magazine articles on them. Some members had also brought in more elaborate tops such as a string pulled top. Other types include humming tops, handled tops and self rewinding ones. Hopefully members were getting some ideas that might just give their top the edge. With the theory out of the way it was time to get down to business.



Above and below left. Members busy working on their tops



Handled string powered top by Mick Corbett

Right. Spinning top box by Paul Filsell. The lid is a top which spins on the dished base of the box.

A variety of tops were made but initially length of spin seemed to be lacking, then after lunch things changed and times gradually improved.

Peter Castle had the following to say, "In Maggie's absence, members set to with the intention of breaking her record of 94 seconds. It was touch and go to start with but by mid afternoon the record had been smashed. Greg Collett's top ran for an amazing 2 minutes 14 seconds. Well done Greg!" Peter was greatly relieved as he had sworn to commit hara-kiri if Maggie's record had stood for another year! Once the 94 second barrier had been broken, the hall doors were unlocked and members were allowed to leave!!

Peter himself did well with his top achieving a time of 1minute 54 seconds. Well done to him and all members who had a go.



Members waiting with bated breath. Winner Greg Collett on the left with his winning top inset right.

It was a successful meeting. Maybe it had something to do with being in a warm hall out of the bitter wind but everyone appeared to be learning and having fun which is as it should be.

Thank you to everyone who helped with setting up and cleaning up, to those who brought timber and tools and to Robert Hollands for running the raffle.

Sad News

Members will be sad to learn of Ken Page's recent death. Ken was a longstanding and active member of the club and will be very much missed. We send our condolences to his family.

Members' Work



Following Paul Howard's demo in February Jim Moger turned this owl, cutting the flutes with a stanley knife.

Reminder for April

Chris Grace Demonstrating

April 15th 10.00am



Platter by Chips Bishop



Kitchen roll holder by Roger Smith

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| Chairman | Maggie Wright |
| Vice Chairman and | |
| Competition Secretary | Peter Castle |
| Secretary | Anne Smith |
| Treasurer | John Turner |
| Events organiser | Greg Collett |
| Librarian | David Spice |
| Newsletter editor | Sandra Day |
| A-V co-ordinator | Brian Rowson |

www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk

Next Month's Meeting

May 20th 10.00am

Hands on Fungi with Peter Hawes.

Please bring your tools and timber.
Small branch wood is ideal.