



Turner's Top Triumphs

Despite Storm Dennis, a good number of members braved flooded roads and fallen trees to attend the February meeting which was the bi-annual spinning top challenge. After the notices, Greg Collett gave us a demonstration of turning one piece tops. As Greg had set the current record of two minutes fourteen seconds, breaking Maggie Wright's longstanding record of ninety four seconds, members paid particular attention to his instructions. His record would take some beating. Greg detailed



principles of design to enable a long spin. These included a low centre of gravity with weight near the periphery of the whorl, a sharp point and a stem just long and thin enough to grip for spinning. Greg mounted his blank in the chuck but brought the tailstock up initially for support. After roughing down he then swapped to a spindle gouge. He shaped the underside of the whorl and formed the point before shaping the top of the whorl and the stem. There is little support for the weighty whorl when turning the stem, so it was suggested that a revolving cone centre could be used in the tailstock without damaging the point. After an informative demonstration, members formed teams with the intention of having a team competition as well as individual results. Soon everyone was busy at the lathes, either turning or offering advice. As tops were finished they were taken to spin against the clock, watched in anticipation by other members.

At lunchtime the raffle took place by which time we had a new record set by Brian Blanks' top. It spun for two minutes thirty seconds. However, members were still turning and more attempts were made during the afternoon. Would it be possible to beat Brian's time? The final top to spin was John Turner's, a slightly bigger model than most, but what else would you expect from John? Incredibly it spun for three minutes thirty five seconds. This may be another longstanding record. Congratulations to John who won the individual and team event.



Brian Blanks (in the yellow sweater) timing his top.



Members watching John Turner's top (John in the hat)

Members' Work



Three pieces by Robert Hollands



Textured box by Peter Hawes



Lidded form by Gareth Garner



Work by Gary Woodhouse



Large form by John Turner



Bowl by Brian Blanks

During the day we were joined by more prospective new members. The meeting showed that our club is a friendly organisation and turning can be fun for all levels even when making simple projects like the spinning tops as well as the more complex creative pieces.

It was an enjoyable day and thanks go to Greg for organising the meeting and to all members who helped with the setting up and clearing away. Thank you Robert Hollands for running the raffle, Alan Capon for providing drinks, Brian Pope for selling the abrasives, Dave Spice for running the library and to members who brought tools and timber.

April Newsletter

March Meeting

Regretfully the meeting on March 22nd has been cancelled due to the spread of Corona virus into our area.

Due to the cancellation of the March meeting, there will be no topic or photographs for the next newsletter.

If you have any suggestions for subjects to be explored, useful websites or photographs of your work, please email me.
s.a.day@theforstall.plus.com

Future Meetings

The situation will be closely monitored with regard to future meetings and members will be kept informed.

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

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