



Editor's Comments

May I wish you all the very best for Christmas and may the New Year bring you every opportunity of at last producing that masterpiece!

Once again it is time to renew our Membership subscriptions. Please note that the subscription includes £14 for AWGB membership. **Do not pay your AWGB subscription direct.** By paying it to MWA, which then pays a bulk sum for all the MWA members, it actually saves the AWGB money.

Members who enrolled after 1st October do not need to renew this time, as their membership is already paid up to December 2009 - a bonus of three months extra!

Life Members still have to pay the £14 AWGB subscription to the MW A Treasurer.

The Treasurer asks that you correct any errors in your renewal form, and always return it with your remittance. This is essential for keeping records up to date. If you have mislaid your renewal form, please ask the Treasurer for a blank copy, and fill in as much as you can

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(For addresses etc. see the
Members' Handbook)

Club Shirts.

The Club Shirt is an important identifier for the Association. The Committee would like to encourage members to wear the Club Shirt at meetings, and more importantly at exhibitions and shows, where we are seen by the general public. You can have a Polo Shirt with the Club Logo embroidered, at £15, or a Sweat Shirt with logo at £17. Your name can be added at an extra cost of £3.50 -prices £18.50 for the Polo shirt with name, and £20.50 for the Sweat Shirt with name. The shirts are of good quality and will withstand repeated laundering. They should last for years!

Ordering shirts in penny numbers involves a financial loss owing to high carriage charges. As we need to break even, we need to make multiple orders. We would like to place an order in February 09. If you intend to order a shirt, please see Ken Horn at the Club Shop who will take your details and place a bulk order when enough orders have been accumulated.

A.G.M Report

One AGM is very much like another, and the AGM for 2008 was no exception. There was a little confusion about the Agenda, which seemed to have gone missing, but that did not cause a significant problem. (We found out much later that the Agenda was in fact part of the bundle of papers sent out prior to the AGM, but nobody had noticed it! Had the Secretary been able to be present, he would have scotched that error right away.)

Very satisfactory reports were given by the Officers, and unanimously accepted. It was announced that as out goings were beginning to exceed income, an increase in both the annual membership fee and the monthly meeting fee would be needed to ensure that our reserve bank balance was not eroded. The Committee has recommended an increase in the Annual fee of £2 for both Adult members and Senior members, but the fee for Junior members would be unchanged. The matter of the monthly meeting fee was thrown open to discussion, and after discussing possible alternatives, it was decided that a flat rate increase in the meeting fee would be applied with immediate effect. It was accepted that the Meeting fee would become £3.00, plus the optional £1 for the Raffle. It was stressed during discussions that MWA has not increased its fees for several years. The increases in fees were unanimously accepted by the Members present, and it was generally agreed that MWA gives very good value for the money.

It was gratifying to note that for the first time in

years, proper nominations were received for all the posts of officers and committee members. As Geoff Norris, who has given much good service on the Committee, had decided not to seek re election, and the committee for 2008 was already one member short, two vacancies had to be filled, while the officers and other committee members were all willing to stand for re election. Tony Champion and Cliff Coleman had put themselves forward as prospective committee members. Both are long serving turners with much experience to bring to the running of the Association. As there were no other nominations, the Officers and the new committee were voted in en bloc. As in previous years David Moore had audited the accounts, and had indicated that he would be pleased to continue as the auditor. MWA member David now lives in Cornwall, where he is a member of and auditor for two Cornish wood turning clubs. The Committee has decided that in recognition of David's past and continuing service to the Association, he should be made a Life Member..

An innovation for this AGM was the use of radio microphones coupled to the club PA system. These greatly helped everybody to hear all that went on, and they will be deployed whenever it is appropriate in future. Efforts will be made in future to improve microphone technique!

After the AGM

This was what we had been eagerly awaiting. Dennis Keeling has become an expert in the making of segmented forms, and he had prepared a presentation for our delight. Over a period of time, Dennis had become bored with making bowls, and wanted something more stimulating, but which I could work at for short periods, typically about an hour at a time, and which would come to no harm if left in mid project. To aid him in his presentation, Dennis had made a series of excellent video clips stored on his lap top computer. These were displayed via the club's video system to great effect, and showed more clearly than any live demonstration the stages in constructing and turning both solid and open work segmented forms. The video clips were accompanied by actual work in progress at various stages as Dennis spoke about the processes, materials, and tools involved. Designing can be done the hard way on paper, but Dennis is bang up to date, and uses available computer aided design software to greatly reduce the time taken at this stage.

For solid segmented pieces, no special equipment is needed, apart from simple jigs to enable the segments to be cut and sanded to the correct sizes and angles. The sizes and angles for cutting the segments can be calculated, but nowadays tables are available. Dennis very kindly distributed copies of this data, both for solid and open work segmented forms. They greatly reduce the amount of repetitive calculation needed. Materials, and in particular glues were discussed. After much experimentation, Dennis has found a glue called "No Nails" to be ideal for solid forms. It has the property of a quick "grab" making it unnecessary to use clamps to hold the work together.

After the AGM contd.

For solid forms, the segments are glued up on a polythene sheet covered flat board. The first assemblies are of semicircles of blocks, which are trimmed by sanding until the semicircles match up and are glued together. Using a large sanding disc in the lathe, Dennis sands flat both sides of each ring of segments before assembling them onto a solid base to the desired form. Assembly and gluing up takes place in the lathe, and calls for good judgement and quick work before the glue “grabs”. After the glue has been given time to harden, turning can begin. Dennis has found that gouges do not give clean results, tending to lift out the wood grain. The solution is shear scraping, which he uses for all operations. Shear scraping is of course a slower process, but it achieves an admirable surface needing little sanding.

Open segmented work is designed on the computer, and the sizes and angles either calculated or, more easily, taken from published tables. Preparation of the segments is as before, but assembly needs a purpose made jig to start off the first round of segments, and to hold the work in progress. The jig can be “own make”, but precision plastic mouldings are now available and more convenient to use. Once all the segments have been made, they are kept in sets, one for each ring in the design. This time, the glue used works better if it does not have too much “grab”. It also must set to a transparent glue line, as surplus glue cannot be entirely cleared from the joints. Again assembly and gluing up takes place segment by segment in the lathe, but this time, as each row is completed, surplus glue has to be removed from the gaps between the segments. Dennis does this with pipe cleaners using a clean end for each slot. He owns a lot of pipe cleaners! The whole process is time consuming, as glue must be applied thinly to each surface being glued before assembly, leaving a minimum to be cleaned up afterwards. The whole assembly looks fragile, but Dennis said that it is much stronger than it looks, though it does need careful handling and turning. Again, Dennis had stage by stage actual examples as well as his excellent video clips to illustrate his presentation.

This was one of the best presentations we have seen. Dennis displays great skill both in making the pieces, and in preparing and delivering his presentation. The whole evening was an object lesson on how things should be done. Much time and thought must have gone into it all, and it was backed up by some stunning examples of prize winning designs made by Dennis. It is no surprise to learn that Dennis has been accepted by the Register of professional Turners, an honour well deserved.

Your scribe is sorry that conditions and circumstances did not enable him to produce pictures for this report., but he can say that the PA system and the video system both worked really well, as experienced by him from his position at the competition table.

Old Oak!

Several years ago your scribe made a number of small pieces from the best of the old oak fence posts salvaged from his garden. They were offered as ‘reclaimed oak’. A few noses were turned up at them! Now the wheel has turned, and Greg Morton is making a very good thing of his creations made from - you’ve guessed it - old oak fence posts!



blocks of oak salvaged from old fence posts, complete with barbed wire, embedded nails and other assorted ironwork, and made them into works of art. For his more ‘arty’ pieces (see photograph) he mounted the blocks in a cage mounted on the lathe spindle. As can be seen from the picture, the cage is made from discs of MDF or ply, and threaded rods with wing nuts. The front ring has a hole through which there is access to the wood, while the plate attached to the spindle is faced with a layer of extra high density foam. This material is very expensive

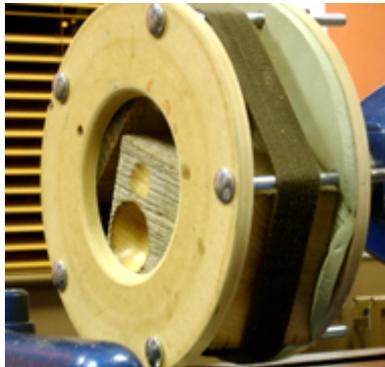


At the October meeting Greg Morton took some

Old Oak! contd.

to buy, but Greg simply buys a roll up camping mat, cuts out what he needs, and then sells the surplus to unsuspecting club members!

The selected block was cleaned up on the end grain, and then marked out. The centres of the depressions were centre punched deeply to aid to setting up, and the block mounted in the cage, using the point of the tail stock centre to locate the first depression. Balance was important, and Greg had some assorted blocks which he clamped into the cage to improve the overall balance. As a final safety precaution, Greg risked losing his trousers by using his belt to strap up the assembly. Note the proper way round to fasten it!



As balance could not be perfect, the lathe was started at its lowest speed, and the speed increased until the lathe began to shake, then backed off a little so that turning could begin. Greg used a fairly standard bowl gouge to take out the waste rather than one with a long grind. Careful small cuts were the order of the day, leaving a smooth surface which would need little sanding. When each depression was finished, a blast or two with a drill mounted sanding pad produced a satisfactory surface. As each depression was completed, the block was remounted for the next one, and rebalanced. When all was done, the piece was removed from the cage, and the



weathered surface of the block heavily wire brushed before sanding sealer was liberally applied. Once that had dried off, a final waxing,

using a rotary "Pine Brush" produced a most satisfactory effect.

After the coffee break, Greg quickly showed how a pencil pot could be quickly made from off cuts. It looked a simple job, but Greg showed us how tricky problems can arise from the directions of the wood grain, and how they should be tackled. Not so simple after all!

There was some time left, so Greg decided to produce a perfect sphere by hand methods. He took a length of square oak a little longer than the diameter of the sphere he was to make. The ends had already been accurately centred for mounting between centre. First the block was reduced to a cylinder, and a pencil line marked around its centre. Working entirely 'by eye' Greg quickly produced a good looking sphere with a small stub at either end. Working carefully, he cut almost through the stubs, so that they could be finally removed off the lathe.



Now the trick was revealed. Greg mounted a softwood cup in the chuck, and another softwood cup on

a revolving centre, and held the sphere by its equator between them. It was now possible to turn away the remains of the stub to blend into the sphere. To refine the shape, the sphere was gripped on various axes between the cups. Any departure from perfection was revealed by a "shadow" when the lathe was restarted. Careful gouge work removed the "shadow" each time the sphere was moved between the cups, until no "shadows" were seen. Abrasives finished the job, followed by the usual sealer and wax finish. It all looked so easy!



Not only had Greg given us ideas for using up what would normally be cost free firewood, but he had used the demonstrations to impart a multitude of tips on tools and techniques. A well planned and executed evening's work. Members may like to know that fellow member Mick Lewins may be able to help in supplying some old oak.(Stocks are limited) Phone him on 01985 824629.