



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 201

February 2023

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Well, we are well into 2023 and there is a lot happening club-wise.

Focus on Training

I want to highlight myself the amazing and subsidised training opportunities now on offer to all club members. Phil Scoltock has been working incredibly hard with the committee to organise sessions appealing to all levels of wood-turning expertise from beginners to those wanting advanced tuition. He has provided a detailed update later on in this newsletter.

The club has always offered training sessions for members but of particular interest now is Phil's plans to engage with renowned professional turners who will be demonstrating for us this year. They have been asked to deliver master classes for club members either on the same Tuesday as their demonstrations or the day after. This is a very cost effective way of getting some superb tuition, the fees for which will be subsidised by the Club.

It's impossible to hold these at Adeyfield but we are most grateful to club member Chris Bentley who has offered the free use of his substantial workshop near Hemel.

AGM CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE, VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

A reminder that there will be several key committee resignations at the AGM. We need to recruit replacements so that our club continues to flourish. Please do talk to either myself or any member of the committee if you can offer assistance to fill the following posts:

New Demonstrator Organiser

Grahame Tomkins is resigning from being Demonstration Organiser. So we are looking to find a successor to take over the management of this years programme and to find and book demonstrators for 2024. Anyone interested please talk to Grahame and any member of the committee who will gladly explain what is involved.

New Chairman

I will be resigning at the AGM. Adam Blackie has offered to become chairman on condition that we can find someone to take over the membership management part of the Treasurer's role (Adam is happy to continue as Treasurer and carry on managing the Equipment Lending Library).

New secretary

Allen Kaye is relinquishing the post of secretary to concentrate on production of the newsletter and other club duties. Broadly the main duties of this post involve corresponding with outside organisations, and taking minutes at the committee meetings (4-5 a year and at the AGM).

The other suggested new duty (devolved from that of Treasurer), involves membership management. One possibility might be to split the role into two posts; one to be Club Secretary and the other Membership Secretary. Do please talk to Allen and or Adam if interested in helping with these tasks.

That's all from me but I'm very much looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on the 14th March when Richard Findley will be demonstrating.

Tim

Chairman: Tim Pettigrew chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk
Treasurer: Adam Blackie treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk
Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Allen Kaye secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

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Club News

February Competition

Beginners

1st Melanie Williams →



← 2nd Roger Stafford



← 3rd= Bob Marshall



3rd= Steven Hills



3rd= Pete Pocock →



Advanced

1st Peter Hoare

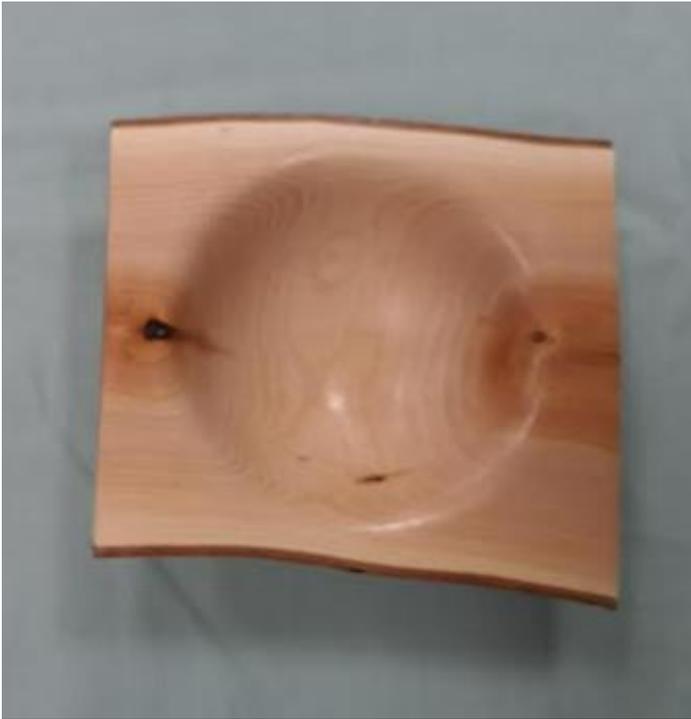


2nd Tony Taylor

3rd Allen Kaye



Open



1st Peter Hoare



2nd Mel Williams

3rd Tony Taylor





Note: The bowls in Acacia and Oak burr above were not entered into the competition but brought by Keith Goddard as examples of his work - and they looked stunning.

Meetings Calendar 2023

2023

Mar.	Richard Findley
Apr.	AGM
May.	Chris Parker
June.	Club night
July.	Darren Breeze
Aug.	Martin Saban Smith
Sept.	Club night
Oct.	Stewart Furini
Nov.	Phil Scoltock
Dec.	Club night

Club Sweatshirts and Polo shirts

These are available from Mike Sheaf. They are blue and inscribed with the club logo. You can also add your name embroidered at no extra cost.

Sweatshirt. £19.00

Polo Shirt. £16.00.

Polo Shirt Long sleeves. £17.00.

Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Forms for ordering are available from Mike Sheaf or the secretary. All forms to be returned to Mike. Profits go to the Rennie Hospice. For more details or to order see Mike at one of our meetings or email him at: michael.sheaf@gmail.com

Pen Kits

At the last meeting, the committee discussed the idea of bulk purchasing some items in order to gain discount and then selling the items individually at the reduced price through the club. The first items we considered were pen kits.

Adam found a source in China that supplies such kits that are cheaper than those available in the UK – even taking into account VAT and import duty. In order that we can assess their quality he ordered 100 of the simple types and if you are interested in buying any of these please let me know. Some pens will be on sale at the next club night. If you are interest in buying volumes then please contact me, Richard Burton or Andrew Street.

Note: Andrew is bringing a couple of completed pens in March so you can assess their quality.

Thanks Allen

The Big Curry Lunch

This is a reminder following my email to members a few weeks ago. Bob Marshall, one of our members and a member of the Worshipful Company of Turners will have a stall at the 'Big Curry Lunch' and is asking for contributions of turned pieces to sell there for the charity appeal. The "Big Curry Lunch" is part of the Lord Mayor of London's appeal which is in aid of military charities.

If you can help, Bob can collect pieces at our next H&B meeting (14th March) and ensure that they get to the stall in good time. He has provided a link to the event below and can be contacted directly if you want more details or maybe want to attend. Contact him on marshall.bob@btinternet.com

<https://events.soldierscharity.org/event/lmbcl-2023/home>

Raffle

I am always looking for the usual helpers and newbies to help buy the prizes for the raffle. Please contact me if you can help. At the moment, only May is covered and I need volunteers for the rest of the year. As a volunteer you would be responsible for choosing and buying a selection of up to 6 prizes up to a total of £60 and then bringing them along to the meeting where I will recompense you for the money spent.

If you commit to a particular night but need to swap it contact me so that cover can be maintained. Full receipts are required for each spend made. If you need to discuss any of this information with me, feel free to do so.

Steve Beadle

Herts and Beds Raffle Coordinator

Tel 07720 677456

Email ~ Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk

Competition Subjects 2023

Month	Beginners	Advanced
Feb	Small bowl	Lidded box
Mar	Spinning top	Goblet
April	Bud vase	Decorated platter
May	Bottle stopper	Hollow form
Jun	Light pull	String box
Jul	Kitchen roll holder	Pepper mill
Aug	Coaster	Tankard or mug
Sept	Dice shaker	Piece using two or more woods
Oct	Apple	Pen
Nov	Plate	Natural edge bowl
Dec	Christmas tree	Puzzle or game

Competition Points – did you know?

For the benefit of new members as well as a reminder to existing members I thought it useful to restate the way that points are allocated to entries.

1st = 10 points

2nd = 9 points

3rd = 8 points

All remaining entries not in the first three are allocated 6 points.

At the end of the year the points are totalled by Peter Hoare who maintains the spreadsheet and overall prizes are awarded at the AGM. Most importantly you can see that **all** entries accumulate points – not just 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Allen

The work of Stephen Madden

Stephen gave us an interesting demonstration at the last woodturning meeting. Focussing mainly on locally grown timber he creates unique pieces which can be either classical or modern in their design.

Typically, Stephen uses British manufactured eco-friendly colours/dyes and then finishes with food/toy safe waxes which is a simple ethos. This enables him to achieve the smallest carbon footprint as possible and retains the Co2 stored in the wood as art rather than it being released through industrial processing and participating in the planting of new native trees for the enjoyment of future generations completes the cycle.

This simple ethos reduces the need for imported timbers and doesn't deprive other peoples of their own locally grown trees, providing all of us with a greener and more sustainable world.

Turning woods that are local is both ethical and ecological.

Stephen took us through the various stages of a lidded egg box. A completed box is shown below:



Some photos of his other creations are shown below



If you want to know more about his work I offer a link to his website:
www.wooddude.co.uk | Amersham



Project: Cherry bowls – Roger Stafford

About 9 months ago I found a large wild cherry limb on the ground in my wood, about 200mm or so thick at the base. Much of it was split and some already rotting, so I cut some good bits off and dragged them home and left them for a while covered in PVA.

I've always loved cherry for carving and any woodworking, as it seems easy to work, straight grained and very beautiful. About a month ago I took one of the pieces that I'd split (with a slight twist) and decided to try for a winged bowl – I have tried one before, but failed miserably – getting the tool presentation all wrong, resulting in catches and tension in my hands and arms!

I watched some videos and sharpened the Record 1/2in bowl gouge (which needs a little more re-shaping I think, but that's another story), and started on the outside. I'd mounted the blank on a screw chuck with the worm screw held in the centre of the chuck. I got the outside of the bowl beautifully shaped, sanded (using an arbor in a drill on the wings) and finished with just Chestnut cut'n polish.

Then I turned the piece round onto the chuck, which is when I noticed that the screw had not been straight in the chuck and the blank was too far off centre to finish! - it went in the firewood pile.

A week or so later I had another go with a very similar half log – quite possibly the other side of the log I used for the first one. This time I got the screw in straight and all went to plan. I finished the outside with 1 coat sanding sealer and Chestnut cut'n polish (the wings using elbow grease rather than the lathe).

The bark was loose in places, so once I'd hollowed the bowl, using the same gouge, I decided to remove it. It probably could have stayed on, but as a newbie I just wanted to get the turning bit done, rather than spending time on that kind of detail – besides I didn't have any superglue in.

I found it difficult to lose the tool marks, particularly on the inside, much more so than with a regular height bowl, as the edge spends a lot of time touching thin air – also I only have a 300mm straight tool rest, which is a bit hard to get in a convenient position. I sanded the inside using drill/arbor and finished the same as the outside. Although there are noticeable marks still visible and the decoration in the recess are largely sanded away, I'm happy that it represents where I am in my learning journey.



P.S. while finishing bowl 2, bowl 1 caught my eye from the firewood pile and I decided that all I needed to do was remount it on the screw chuck with the screw straight, then reduce the size a bit, and I'd be able to finish it – so I did that and had two to choose from for the competition.

Bowl 2 had slightly fewer faults, though the other is a slightly nicer piece of wood. I was pleased that members liked the look of it enough to give the piece 2nd place.



Update - Club Training Sessions 2023: Phil Scoltock

Our in-house training programme is gathering steam for 2023. The first session on the 19th of March is full, and quite a few people have expressed an interest in the sessions scheduled for the rest of year. Sadly, for anyone wanting to put their name down now, it does mean that it'll be a few months by the time it is your turn – the club only has 5 lathes and a small training team.

If there are any experienced woodturners in the club who are interested in volunteering to join the training team then please contact me on training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk.

Please help to encourage and sustain our craft; it is great to help new woodturners learn proper safe techniques rather than bad habits often displayed on YouTube. It is said that “to teach, is to learn” – and it is true, once you have to demonstrate a technique and explain it, you also get a deeper understanding of it – being a tutor can help you improve your turning!

Upcoming In-House Training session dates for 2023

14th May

15th July

17th Sept

19th Nov

Sessions cost £25/person /session. They will be held at Adeyfield and if you want to put your name down, then either email me as above and tell me what topic(s) you desire or put your name down yourself on the training sign-up sheet at the next club meeting.

RPT Masterclasses

We have arranged that some of the Pro Turners who will be doing demos on club nights, they will teach a full day masterclass training session in a workshop in Hemel – these are hands-on sessions where we will have 5 lathes.

The first session with Chris Parker RPT on May 9th is fully booked.

In the morning Chris will demonstrate and then attendees will replicate under Chris' guidance a deep bowl heavily textured using rotary texturing and spiralling tools. Same format for the afternoon, but a larger platter with power carved (Dremel / Arbotech) rim.



These are Chris' pieces which we will be making in his Master Class"

Future RPT Masterclasses 2023

July 12th

Darren Breeze will be teaching how to create a natural edged, decorated wall hanging (TBC)

Open to Intermediate members or those who have completed the in-house propeller turning session.

There are 5 places available. Final details will be in the March Newsletter and you will be able to book at that time.

Cost £35

Venue: Hemel Hempstead



Wall hanging turned by Darren Breeze

October 11th

Stewart Furini will be looking at and teaching the techniques of Airbrushing -

Open to all members

There are 5 places available. Final details will be in the June Newsletter and you will be able to book at that time.

Cost £35

Venue: Hemel Hempstead



Some examples of Stewarts Airbrushed projects

TOOL LENDING LIBRARY

[Lending rules are at the end of this document](#)

WoodArt Products 35K Micro-drill detailer kit - INC 15 assorted cutters

Suitable for drilling, piercing, carving, and texturing. This handpiece has been developed from laboratory tooling and adapted for craft use. It incorporates two spaced sealed ball bearings on the chuck shaft for strength and smooth running. This is coupled to a powerful high-speed DC motor.

With suitable cutters, this is suitable for drilling and piercing on thin walled wood-turned items, and surface carving / texturing on wood-crafted items.

Jan 23 Update - This item is currently on Loan to Harvey Alison



Robert Sorby ProEdge Sharpening System

The Robert Sorby ProEdge offers effortlessly repeatable sharpening every time. Hugely versatile, this industrial strength machine is built to last and delivers astounding 'factory finish' results without fail. Perhaps the most simple to use sharpener on the market, this system replicates the industry standard of achieving a flat grind using the preferred method of belts over traditional grinding wheels.

Sharpens bench, framing, carving and turning chisels, drill bits, plane irons, knives and garden tools.

Details can be seen here - <https://www.robert-sorby.co.uk/sharpening/proedge/wped01a-proedge-system>



Lion Art Deep Hollowing Tool

Take all the stress out of deep hollowing. Here is the latest version of Tony Taylor's Lion Wood Art deep hollowing jig. It comes complete with instructions and a user guide.



Crown Spiralling Tool

This miniature spiralling and texturing tool brings a new dimension to decorating turned work. Use it to add a multitude of patterns, textures, and effects to enhance your work.

It comes complete with two spiralling wheels; a seventeen tooth and a twenty-seven tooth. The wheels are high speed steel, suitable for both hard and soft woods. Made in England.



More details can be seen here - <https://www.axminstertools.com/crown-mini-spiralling-tool-952463>

Hamlet Brother System 2 Deep Hollowing system.

It's a monster tool, 26 inch handle and an extension almost as long, virtually limitless depth potential with this.



Details can be seen here -

<https://www.toolsandtimber.co.uk/hamlet-big-brother-system-2>

CAPTIVE RING CUTTER

It is used to produce rings that remain captured in the workpiece. It can be used Left and right handed and is 9.5mm 3/8" in diameter.

Details can be seen here -

<https://www.axminstertools.com/crown-cryo-captive-ring-tool-3-8-506467>



WOODCUT BOWLSAVER BOWL CORING SYSTEM.

The Woodcut Bowlsaver Bowl Coring System's simple design is easy to use for turners of all abilities. Core a (maximum size) 14" x 6" blank in less than five minutes.

The options include $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 1" and 25mm toolpost holders and MT2 and MT1 tailstock adaptors. So it should fit most lathes.

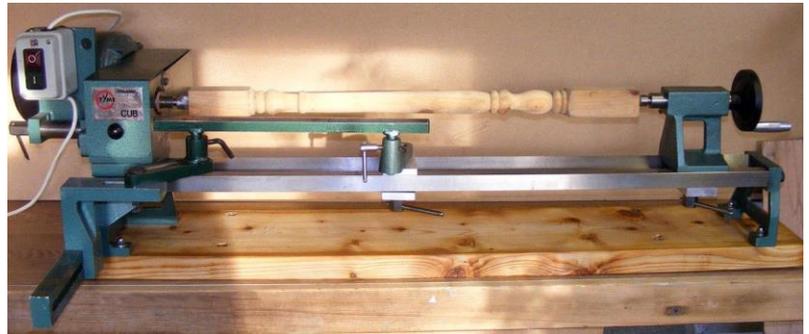


Details can be seen here -

<https://www.axminstertools.com/woodcut-bowlsaver-bowl-coring-system-951128>

TYME CUB Benchtop lathe

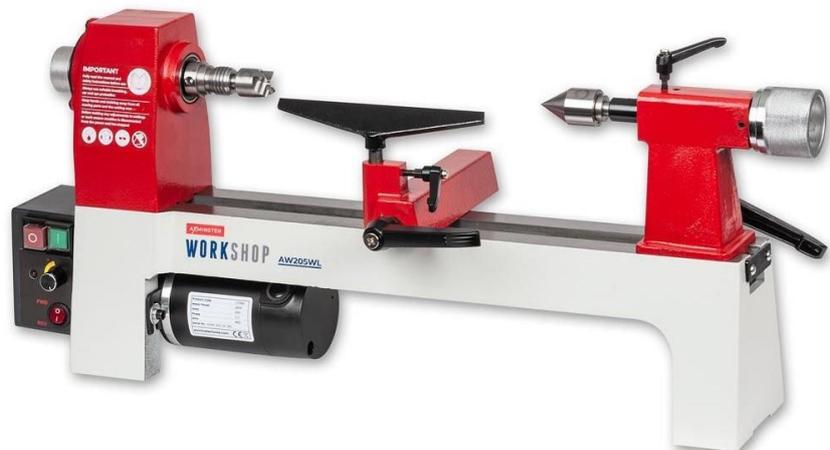
Thanks to club member Keith Goddard for his offer to add a small lathe WITH a starter set of tools to our Tool Library. He has a Tyme Cub lathe that club members can borrow. It will be particularly useful to any NEW MEMBERS who do not yet have a lathe and would like to try turning at home. It's a bench mounted lathe so needs very little space to set-up.



More details on the Tyme range of lathes can be seen here. <http://www.lathes.co.uk/tyme/>

Axminster AWSL Benchtop Lathe

The club has three AXMINSTER AWSL lathes that club members can borrow. It will be particularly useful to any NEW MEMBERS who do not yet have a lathe and would like to try turning at home. It's a bench mounted lathe so needs very little space to set-up. The lathe can also be lent with a beginners set of woodturning tools.



More details on the Axminster range of benchtop lathes can be seen here. <https://www.axminstertools.com/axminster-workshop-aw205wl-woodturning-lathe-230v-107699>

HOPE carving jig.

Fits into the banjo and is fully adjustable. Allows the chuck to screw on and then hold your workpiece at a comfortable angle in front of you to carve and, or paint.

A nice feature is that the axis is indexed so when you loosen the handle to move, it doesn't fall and damage your work piece.

We have the full range of tool posts and chuck threads, so it will fit most lathe beds.

More details can be seen here.

<https://hopewoodturning.co.uk/lathe-accessoires/jigs/hope-carving-jig/172/hope-carving-jig-with-m33x3.5-chuck-thread?c=47>

Jan 23 Update - This item is currently on Loan to Don Guy



Peter Child Artist's Pyrography Machine

Widely regarded as the machine of choice by many professionals. Powerful enough to create dense textures and patterns. It is slim, light and comfortable to use. manufactured by Robert Sorby, the build quality and attention to detail is of the highest standard.

Perfect for precise detailed work, warms from cold in 2 seconds. The club model includes a range of pen tips to try and comes with a range of nickel wire so you can make up your own pen tips to suit own project.

More details can be seen here. https://www.ockenden-timber.co.uk/tools-accessories-pyrography-c-107_545/peter-child-artists-pyrography-machine-p-2152



Charnwood Pen Turning Kit, 2 Morse Taper

This complete 2MT Pen turning kit contains all the tools you need to start pen turning.

- PM2MT – Colleted Type Mandrel
- 5 x 7mm Bushes
- PENBT – Pen Barrel Trimming Tool
- PENTI – Pen Barrel Insertion Tool suitable for 6mm – 15mm diameter Tubes
- PBD7 – 7mm x 95mm long HSS drill bit

The collet type mandrel is quick to adjust and offers a strong action.

The collet that secures the mounting shaft ensures that the shaft is locked and centred in position to guarantee a perfectly centred pen.

The shaft slides inside the collet so that it can be lengthened or shortened to adapt to the length of the pen to be made.

The kit consists of 7mm HSS drill bit, pen tube insertion tool, barrel trimming tool, collet type pen mandrel, bushing set for 7mm pens.

AND here is a very useful guide for making pens - everything you'll need to know if you are new to pen making - <https://youtu.be/E-bzXki7Lf4>

Details about our kit are here. <https://charnwood.net/product/pen-turning-kit-2-morse-taper/>



Planet Long Hole Boring Kit Deluxe – MT2

The new Rotur Long Hole Boring Kit comes with a 2MT centre and a 5/16" x 24" Lip and spur boring bit for making lamp stands or drilling out other spindle work on a lathe.

With the lathe running, simply drill into the workpiece through the tailstock and Hollow rotating centre in small steps until you get about halfway. Then remove the workpiece and change the pointed tip on the drive centre to the counterbore piece, and insert the drilled hole in the workpiece over the counterbore.

Use the centring rod through the tailstock to centre the workpiece on the undrilled end while tightening up the tailstock. Then continue to drill through the remainder of the workpiece.

More Details can be seen here. <https://charnwood.net/product/planet-long-hole-boring-kit-deluxe-mt2/>



Paul Howard Sphere Jig

Designed by Paul Howard and now available from Hopewoodturning.

This jig fits onto lathes with a centre height of between 125mm (10" swing) to 280mm (22" swing)

For lathes with a centre height of 300mm (24" swing), a riser block has been purchased separately.

Developed by Paul over the years into the solid, accurate, and easy-to-use jig. The standard jig fits onto most flatbed bars. We also have the adaptor for round bar lathe beds.



Please see the videos available to show the setup and use of this jig. There are three videos and they can be seen here. Please watch all three. - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p3iVSOhiE0>

Lending Library Status and Rules

This is intended as a lending library of the more esoteric or expensive tools that turners use infrequently. The value to the club is that:

- Club members can try before they buy or
- Club members can borrow a tool for a specific job.

How does this work?

- To borrow a tool, simply contact Adam Blackie who will confirm availability and then arrange for the item to be available for collection.
- Items will be available for collection at the next club meeting, (or in person by arrangement.)

How long can I keep the tools for?

- This depends on the project, but generally we expect the tools to be returned in usable condition at the next available club meeting.
- Longer term loans by negotiation.

How much will it cost?

It's normally free of charge, however:

- If you break it or
- If the tool uses consumable items (inc. sanding pads, grinding belts, stains and polishes, pen kits)

we would expect some contribution towards the replacement.

What else do I need to know?

Once the loan is completed we ask that you share a little about your experience of the tools with the club. E.g. Show and tell what you made or an article for the monthly newsletter.

Tool Library Contact

Adam Blackie

07941 270640

treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

The Robert Sorby Proedge – Review by Allen Kaye

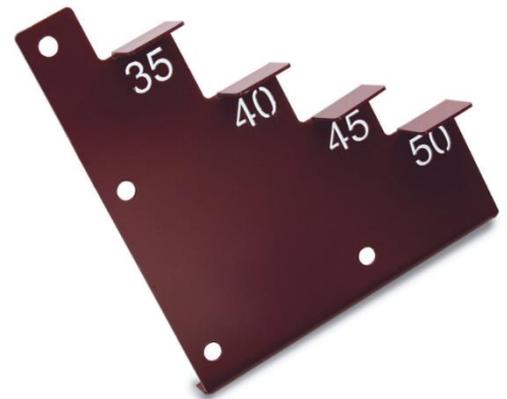
Adam has asked for any reviews of kit loaned through the Club Library. I have recently borrowed this (expensive) bit of kit and so I decided to give some comments here to hopefully inform other members of its potential and any downsides.

The first thing I noticed was how heavy it is – I guess this is good because the machine is so sturdy but don't lift it straight if you have a bad back.

The reason I borrowed it for the month was because I am turning some resin/wood bowls and I needed to have my tools super sharp and it certainly does give you that over a very wide range of tools – assuming you buy the extra jigs as needed. It is understandable that some jigs will be optional as not everyone needs to sharpen everything but I was disappointed that the jig that sets the size of the protrusion for swept back gouges is not standard. Also, you need to buy a jig if you want to sharpen squarely (although there is a fix if you run the tool up the side of the supplied jig).



These two are both 'extras' that I think are essential – the boss that is used in sharpening long grinds and also the depth gauge for the same purpose.



Robert Sorby advertises that the angle setting is quick and accurately repeatable. This is true. One big thing I found is that it is very easy and quick to change belts – this allows you if regrinding, to start with coarse grit and then quickly progress to finer ones. There are a lot of different types of belt available – the club has opted for a useful useful range including the Trizact which is quite expensive.

The whole mechanism tilts which is useful when working with long grinds and it was unexpectedly quiet which is always valued in my often quite noisy workshop.

A problem that I did not anticipate when I started that has nothing to do with the kit itself and that is what I will do when I return it. I think it will be difficult to set up my normal grinder with CBN wheel to reproduce exactly the settings used for the Proedge which will inevitably mean I will be regrinding again. I may be 'forced' into buying one myself but saving some cash by making the extra jigs needed! If you get talking to my wife please support my reasoning here..

Woods A-Z

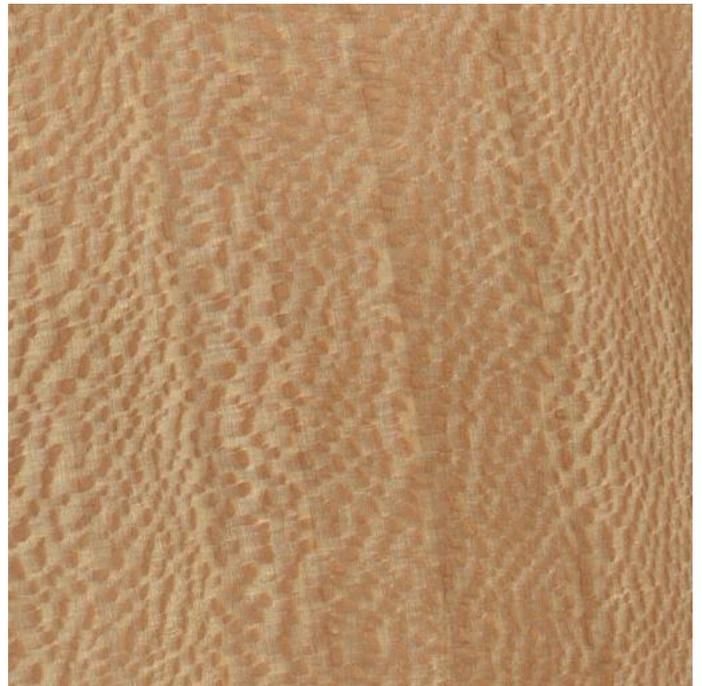
Continuing the series on woods used in Woodturning – now on S for Sycamore. Following on from the CITES information it is worth mentioning here that Sycamore is definitely not on any 'Endangered' or 'Banned' woods list.

Sycamore

Sycamore, having a fine and even texture has been seen as similar to Maple and also has been labelled as Lacewood – particularly when it is quarter sawn - see enlarged image on right below.

Some comments on the net suggest it is quite hard and not suitable for inexperienced turners but others, including myself have found it OK. Blanks are cheap and readily available and I use it (and ash) regularly for beginners training at a community workshop. This wood works easily with machine and hand tools, with a moderate blunting effect.

Very sharp tools are advised for a clean finish. It turns, glues, sands and paints well, carves easily and polishes very well.



Sycamore is however rated as non-durable to perishable regarding resistance to decay, and is susceptible to insect attack.

Poetry Corner

The good and the bad of the Rugby Smart Ball.

On a foggy morning in west london 'twicker's ' town
Here's another topic couched in a poem's frown
As of now the rugby oval has a data passing chip
Great for the officials whose decisions must not dip
But sadly the players in rugby's different layers
Who can no more dispute control, may well flip
They can no longer argue, but accept their fate in store
But one step back from that, we oldies still deplore

We observed honour's value, no question on decision
Which of latter times by the young was seen to bring derision
Needing extraction of surly grace from the 80 minute contest
Rid the play of unjust disruption at constant's flow behest
Gone is the delicious doubt, was it grounded or maybe out
No more room for speculations in the game's supporting nations
Now all they ask is non stop progress up the field
To increase the viewers fun filled yield

In the name of thrusting movements flow
Stopping the reluctant-end of phase- ref's whistle blow
Which causes hated breakdown in the game's demeanour
What is wanted now is never ending speed and play much leaner
This wonder ball, this old game changer
Reflects life's changed motives too
Which have now to us, because of this, just become a stranger
With new time attitude to this changed regime
Brought into focus by our favourite ruggie team

Tuesday 14th February 2023. For my Valentine