



Crosscut

With sponsorship from **builders warehouse**

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Next Main Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 9th April 2008 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Fanie le Hanie from Executool will talk on Cutters and Blades

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 7th April 2008 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Lionel Soekoe will be discussing sharpening techniques, sharpening angles and the use of jigs.

News

March Main Club Meeting. There was no speaker due to a cancellation. We held a discussion on the success of Hobby-X, and the direction of the club. The conclusion was to continue as before. We need to start planning for Hobby-X in November of preceding year, as there was insufficient time after the Xmas break. Dave Fincham made an appeal for topics to be presented at meetings. Topics suggested included "The Birth of Woodoc" – Harold Theunissen; Shakerbox Construction – Clive Stacey; Screw threads – Roger Matthews, Swiss Wood boxes – Roger Matthews, Morse tapers – Trevor Pope.

A mentoring program was suggested for new members, which will be taken up by the committee. For show-and-tell, Frans Joubert showed a dovetailed carcass in stinkwood, Paul Rae showed a dovetailed African rosewood box made to contain 5 shot glasses. Both sets of dovetails were machine made.

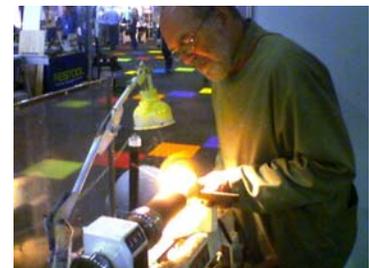
March Turner's Meeting. Roland Westgate from Richem Products cc, discussed the glues that they make, including a thin superglue and accelerator suitable for turning. Some samples were glued to demonstrate the strength. Also some fillers including metal powders were shown.

From the committee:

Hobby-X 2008. The annual Hobby-X show took place on 6th to 9th March 2008 at the Dome, Northgate. The turners ran their usual demos, together with the Pretoria club (That is At Smit on the top right, with his Jet Mini lathe). There was a lot of interest, judging by the fact that we kept running out of pamphlets – we gave out several hundred. The pictures show some scenes from our stand. It was pleasing to see the number of women that did the courses, and this helped to popularise the broader appeal of wood working.



Thanks to all those members that helped, particular Karen, (shown on the right below, making a breadboard) whose organisation skills and persuasive powers were a key success-factor. Thanks to all our sponsors – builder's warehouse for the hardware, Dave Zick Timbers for the wood, Henkel for the glue, Hardware Centre for the use of their two Nova lathes, and Bosch



for the loan of the power tools from the Bosch academy (the green routers and sanders in the pictures). The organisers of Hobby-X gave us the opportunity to run the workshops and the turner's stand.

Anita Speedy was as popular as ever with her Hegner scroll saw demonstrations (bottom right).



WWA Committee members and duties:

Four of the present committee members would like to stand down at the May 2008 AGM, and we are looking for volunteers to stand. Being on the committee is not a huge job; in fact most of the jobs are quite simple. The positions open include the Chair (Jenny), secretary (Ken), events (Dave), and ordinary member (Costa). The editor of Crosscut has done this job for seven years now, will be happy to stand aside for somebody who wishes to take over. I will still contribute articles if needed.



Jenny, our present chair is stuck in Australia with her mom, who is unable to fly back due a medical condition. Jenny wishes to step down as chair in May, and tendered her resignation, as she may not be back before May.

Clive Stacey (who does management consulting for a living, so I bow down to his experience in these matters) suggested that I add a strategic dimension to the chair's functions. So I have repeated the enhanced version below:



Chair (Official committee member per constitution)

- Responsible for the strategic direction of the club
- Accountable to the club for the management of the club and governance
- Conducts meetings – main club, committee, ad hoc
- Co-ordinates club events, such as annual braai
- Manages club finances with treasurer and co-sign approval of expenditure

AGM and New Committee. Notice is hereby given of the annual general meeting for the Wits Woodworking Association that will take place on Wednesday, the 14th May 2008 at the REEA Clubhouse at 18h00. Items on the agenda:

- Report from the outgoing chair.
- Acceptance of the treasurer's report for 2007/8. Approval of the budget for 2008/9.
- Election of office bearers and committee members for 2007/8. Volunteers for all the positions are welcome, as some of the committee will step down. Others will remain, subject to being re-elected, in order to ensure continuity. A list of duties for each member was published in the March 2008 Crosscut, so that volunteers can see what is required. Having fun is definitely part of the job description!
- Address from the incoming chair.

Please Note:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the clubhouse.

Contact Eddie Marchio on (011) 678-8062 or renato@pixie.co.za for more information.

Wednesday Workshop. The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Winston Klein on (011) 674-1513 for more information.

For Sale:

Wood at Bensaw Sawmills – including Tamboti, Olivewood, Jacaranda, Cedar, Pine and Walnut. He has a saw mill that can cut logs up to 1m diam by 11.3m logn. Located near Hartebeespoort Dam. On the road from Pretoria. Contact Fanie Enslin on 0737884469

Elektra Beckum flip saw, KGT 500	R3800-
Elektra Beckum Planer/thicknesser HC 260	R3500-
Pedestal Drill – floor standing, 12 speed	R500-
Bosch Electric handplane PHO100	R175-
AEG Portable circular saw HK66	R200-
AEG Router, 6mm collet, OFS50	R200-

The owner has sold his house and wishes to get rid of them ASAP, prices reduced since last advert. Contact Lynton Dennill on 082 477 0469 or 011 704 1182 (h)

Wanted I am interested in buying a scroll saw – Maurits Perold on 015 3099 391 or 084 205 6230

Homemade Hollowing Tools

Trevor Pope - 18 March 2008

I had a need for specially shaped hollowing tools for the narrow-mouthed turned wooden pots I have been experimenting with. You will have seen some examples at the last turner's meeting. For those that haven't seen these, they are 7 to 15 cm in diameter and nearly spherical. They have a small opening at the mouth, which makes hollowing them out more of a challenge. I start by shaping the outside to a pleasing shape, before hollowing out the inside. Most of the hollowing out can be done with a small bowl gouge. However, to access the region about 90 degrees behind the opening, some sort of bent tool is needed. For large pots, the swan neck segment of the Roly tool will do the job, but it is too large for these pots. I decided to make my own.

I used a pair of scrap screw drivers to make them. Silver steel rod which is about 0.5 to 1% Carbon is also suitable. The shafts of the screw drivers used were about 9 to 10mm diameter and 300 long. Screw driver shafts are suitable being hard and also tough. I used a propane torch to bend the shapes by heating the ends to a cherry red heat and bending them in a vice. I heated the ends and hammered the ends into a better shape. A Propane torch may struggle to generate enough heat – I used fire-bricks to trap the heat from mine. Alternatively you could use MAPP gas, oxy-acetylene or a proper forge with a blower. Obviously you should use eye protection, and thick leather gloves to guard against burns are recommended.

Once the ends had been bent to the required shape, I ground the tips to a semi-circle with the cutting edge at a 45° angle. Then I heated the tips to a cherry red heat and quenched them in cold water. This makes the tip as hard as possible, but retains a softer and hence tougher shaft. Because the shafts were not red hot, they were not hardened, which is what I wanted. I didn't want a hardened shaft as this could be brittle. This is a hit-or-miss process, as I didn't know the exact composition of the steel, but it seemed to work. The tips were hard enough when tested with a file.



I tested the shapes with old screw-driver handles still attached, to decide whether it was worth proceeding. Once I was happy, I cut off the plastic handles and made a suitable wooden handles in a comfortable shape and size to suit, as you can see from the picture. Where the screwdriver shafts were moulded into the handles, two flanges could be seen, to locate them into the moulded plastic. I ground off the flanges. The handles were glued into the wooden handles using quickset epoxy glue.

The shape ground on the tips is a round 45 degree scraper, to be used in a trailing cut. With the tool-rest positioned so that the shaft is higher than centre height, the tool is positioned with the tip cutting above the centre line, trailing in a scraping cut, so there is no chance of a dig-in. The shape of the shaft is designed so that the tip is approximately on the same line as the main axis of the shaft where it will be resting on the tool rest, so that the cutting force is transmitted mostly downwards, with very little twisting torque – just enough to help gauge the cutting force.

You can see from the picture that I made two different sizes, to cope with different areas behind the opening of the pot. Being carbon steel, the tips are not as durable as high speed steel (HSS), but I don't have the facilities or knowledge to make them out of HSS. They are only intended for removing a small amount of wood – most of the heavy hollowing will be done with a HSS gouge, so they will probably do for some time. The handles are made from Australian Blackwood (Acacia Melanoxylon), with brass ferrules to prevent splitting.

Generally, with turning tools - the heavier, the better to resist vibration. In this case, I was restricted in size, so in some cutting conditions, the tools can vibrate quite heavily. This can sometimes be avoided by restarting a cut and taking a lighter cut. The handles are quite substantial and made from a fairly dense wood which also helps.

More pictures from Hobby-X (from Dave Fincham).

These show the training workshop to make the carving board, using a router.

