

Ashdown Woodturners AGM 18th Sept 2025.

Present: 21 members. Apologies Andrew Gibson

I. Previous minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted. Proposed by Chris Pillinger and Seconded by Gary Poole

2. Chairmans Report

Review of the year:

Meetings: Due to increased costs of professional turner's fees, we have had to reduce the number of evenings featuring professional turners, however the meetings where we have got together as a group and shared ideas and techniques have been really enjoyable.

We have also welcomed new members this year and hope that they like what they see and stay with us.

Forest Workshop:

As you are aware I have been beavering away with the office at Ashdown Forest trying to arrange shared use of the workshop there. Well in August we finally got there after agreeing access without incurring parking costs and use of the area. We have had a few weeks meeting on a Thursday afternoon which is now a regular meet, open to all members (but not necessarily all at the same time!)

The WhatsApp group set up by Paul has been a great success and a good way to stay in contact.

Thanks:

I want to thank the people who have supported me and the club,
Committee and officers

Derek Shepherd for his work with Audio & visual

Paul Edwards: Club Shop, WhatsApp group, Pole lathe event at Amberley, Club lathes at Forest workshop

Kevin Hutson our honorary member and professional turner who is a great support to the club.

Di Bright for supporting the club and providing teas and coffees.

And last but not least, you, the members without whom there would be no club.

Subscriptions

As Chris has managed the funds so well this year, we are able to maintain the current Membership fees at £35, and Demonstrator fees at £5

Going Forward .

We now have access to Wifi here in the hall which could allow us to host on-line demonstrations and possibly invite members of other clubs to join us (subject to sufficient seating) This could be a way of seeing top professionals at the club within our budget.

3. Finance

Chris presented the Finance Report. The club is making a small income from the Club shop that Paul has set up with Chestnut Products. The Club is £1000 better off this year than at the same time last year, due to having fewer professional demonstrators.

Rob offered to look in to setting up an online account with Metro bank.

4. Membership Report

Jim reported that we currently have 31 paid up members.

3 Honorary members

2 members who haven't paid their subs but would like to stay on the list of members. Steve Minter and Sue Hesketh. Sue has paid but due to family issues has been unable to attend any meetings.

It was agreed that we should carry her membership over to next year. Jim agreed to write to her and tell her.

Gary Poole asked how we follow up enquiries from potential members at outside events we attend. It was suggested that we take their e mail addresses and send them the Club details. We could also have some flyers available.

Jim asked the new members if they were happy with the welcome they received and what the club could do to offer them. David Wadsworth said that he was happy and Robin felt very welcomed.

The issue of how we encourage more younger members but this is more difficult. We could possibly use Saturdays at the Forest Centre as an introduction but numbers would have to be limited. Di suggested a link with the Forest Row Repair Shop.

Gary P asked about training and insurance. Rob mentioned that Richard Peers who is our AWGB representative may be able to help on this issue.

5. Secretary's Report

At our last AGM I said that as a club we needed to be more self sufficient in terms of demonstrators and evening activities. I am pleased to say that over this last year we have done exactly that. We have had some really good visiting demonstrators and I would also like to thank Garry Poole and Patrick O'Connell for giving us informative and amusing evenings demonstrations between them.

Our evenings when we have had a club night, I think, have been a great success and we have had some really good ones where members have bought in their recent purchases and let other members try them out and go home and spend even more money on their hobby. One evening that sticks in my mind is when Sid bought in his Simon Hope router jig, a lot of us tried it out and on the strength of it I know one member went home and ordered one straight away.

Again the Club Competition in June proved what a talented bunch of turners we have in the club.

This coming year we will have a mix again of club nights and visiting demonstrators, April will see a return of one of our friends of the club, Stewart Furini, so wear old clothes and be prepared to be painted!

Moving forward as Rob said earlier we have to become more self sufficient. Since Covid more external demonstrators prefer to do Online demonstrations and our hall is not set up for such. With the introduction of WiFi in the hall we can test the viability of having an online demonstration. Charges for visits to the club nights have also risen so it is not financially viable to have visiting demonstrators every month.

Gary Poole kindly offered to demonstrate.

The Programme from the coming year 25/26 is as follows :

October - Richard Peers
November - Club Night
December- Christmas Quiz and Social
January - Gary Poole
February - Club Night

March - Jubal Prevette
April - Stewart Furini
May - Club Night
June - Kevin Hutson and Club Competition
July - Martin Saban-Smith , an all day Saturday event.
August - Club night
September - AGM

6. Election of Committee

Chairman - Rob Bright. Prop, Keith. Sec, Robin
Secretary - Keith Rogers. Prop, Alice. Sec, Gary P
Treasurer - Chris Pillinger. Prop, Chris G. Sec, Alice
Membership - Jim Cullen. Prop, Chris. Sec, Russ

The following members were also elected onto the Committee.

Alice Tyrell, Paul Edwards, Jean Whales, Gary Poole, Andrew Gibson
Proposed by Russ Whales, Seconded by Chris Gibson.

7. AOB

Russ thanked the Committee for all their work over the past year.

Rob to advise the date of the Ashdown Forest Centre Christmas weekend.

Meeting closed at 9:50pm.