

**Minutes of COMMITTEE MEETING held at Munlochy on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 5.30pm**

**1. WELCOME to Meeting**

**Present :-** Alec Mutch, Geoff Potter, Peter Lawrence, Errol Levings, Alan Geddes, David Hobson, Nick Simpson, John Ruickbie, Susan Drew, David Line, Alan Smith

**APOLOGIES:** - none

Alan Smith was welcomed by all onto the Committee.

**2. Matters arising**

The lathe safety check sheet was approved subject to the addition of 'lathes to be switched off at the wall after use.'

**3. Appointment of Competitions manager**

NS was appointed as Competitions Manager assisted by DH. The basis of the competitions would be educational. The class of each competitor would be based on experience and judgement. Movement between classes would be with consultation with the individual.

**4. Secretary's report**

On the basis agreed last meeting, the current membership is 58. GP had invited 2 applicants from the waiting list but there had been no reply yet.

**5. Treasurer's update**

AG had examined the past Treasurer's paperwork and had established that there was a reasonable balance remaining with 2 months rent and one £50 cheque outstanding. Next years subscriptions would be coming in shortly.

AG reported that he had applied for a bank card and he had recently obtained online banking access but was not able to make payments with it yet. The Constitution to be altered if necessary to reflect that there were now 4 signatories. An increase in subs would be beneficial to increase the minimum balance held and to counter inflation.

**6. Training manager's report**

NS presented a Christmas Competition Report which is attached below.

NS remarked that the Club's teaching had completed it's first phase. Training would now concentrate on specific needs. Also the training fees had contributed a useful sum to the Club's funds. There had been 14 trainees, 18 sessions and 2 sessions offsite by EL.

It was proposed that next year teaching would focus on master classes. ( Briefly 5 observers with an expert tutor..... followed 2 weeks later by the 5 participants turning themselves ). NS to provide guidance to be circulated by GP. Approved.

**7. Maintenance manager's report**

JR presented a maintenance report ( see attached document below) which he read out.

The Record Power PT260 value £1200 to be added to the inventory.

An extra light for the footpath access to be considered.

It was noted that Dust extraction kit for the planer thicknesser, bandsaw and sander had previously been approved.

An electricity bill was due soon.

**8. Committee for 2023**

All the present Committee, including the Chairman, said they would stand for Committee again at the AGM next year.

**9. Library Update**

## **HIGHLAND WOODTURNERS CLUB, Club Premises, Munlochy Village Hall**

It was agreed that the VHS tapes could be disposed of. SD proposed that there could be a set of books displayed at each meeting themed to the meeting's subject. Agreed by all. Further discussion about the library and book buying to take place after the AGM.

### **10. Competitions for 2023**

NS tabled a proposal ( attached below) for regular competitions. There was discussion about the activities taking place during the competitions eg showtime or lathe turning – to be fully discussed at the meeting following the AGM.

GP to issue a reminder about the Xmas Competition to all Members.

### **11. Programme for next year 2023**

AM presented the programme for the whole of 2023 which he now wished to complete. Contributions from each individual meeting manager would be included.

### **12. Prizes for the Xmas raffle**

AG and PL were purchasing officers and more prizes would be obtained.

### **13. Council Bin**

The bin ordered from the Council had not yet appeared. AG had information from the past Treasurer. GP to investigate.

### **14. AOCB**

JARRAH BOWL – there were no embellishments requested. AM to laser on the details about the bowl.

CONSTITUTION – there was some concern about the method of varying the Club's fees and the timing of the AGM. NS, PL, AG and GP were to put forward proposals.

### **15. NEXT MEETINGS**

Start time Committee meeting at 5.30pm - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February .....followed by AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 for all members.

## APPENDICES

### COMPETITION REPORTS from NS

#### HWC Christmas Competition 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

##### Information sheet

The HWC Christmas Open Competition is open to all members of the club.

**Classes:** There will be 3 classes for entry: **Novice, Intermediate and Experienced.**

**Entries:** Bring your entries on the night. There is no limit to the number of items a member may enter but all of them must be in the same class. All items must have been made in the past 12 months.

You will be free to enter your items in the class which you feel is appropriate to your skill and experience. However, if 2 or more Training Team members consider that an entry is inappropriately allocated (such as a multi-segmented hollow form in the Novice class) then the entrant will be advised that they should enter it into another class or opt to withdraw.

**On arrival:** Please register your item(s) with whoever is accepting entries. You will be given a slip of paper with your class and entry number within that class. [eg N6 for item 6 in the novice class]. Place your item(s) on the appropriate table and clearly identify each with the slip of paper.

**Judging:** All members present on the night will be invited to judge all entries. Each judging member will be issued with 6 voting slips (3 red and 3 yellow). For each of the 3 classes they will write the number of the entry that they consider best on a red slip (eg N6) and the number of their second best on a yellow slip (eg N5). They should repeat the process for all classes and then fold the voting slips and put them in the boxes identified for red or yellow voting slips.

**Counting of votes:** At the end of judging two or more of the Training Team will collate the slips by entry number and award 2 points for a first choice (red slips) and one point for a second choice (yellow slips). Points will be summed and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each class will emerge. The judges' decisions will be final and binding.

**Winners and Prizes:** Winners will be announced by Alec Mutch, Chairman HWC, who will give a short comment on the positive aspects of the top 3 entries in each class.

There will be no trophies or monetary prizes. Your prize will be the knowledge that your peers have rated your work highly.

**Feedback:** Winners will be invited to share how their winning item(s) were made. Participation in this feedback will be completely voluntary.

Any members wishing feedback and/or advice privately should ask any of the teaching team on the night or bring the item to a subsequent meeting.

Nick Simpson, David Hobson

HWC 2022 Christmas Competition Organisers

Nick Simpson: Thoughts on regular HWC competitions

Issues of principle.

- A. Fairness of class – to ensure that entrants are matched with respect to experience and ability.
- B. Fairness of judging – to ensure that reliable and repeatable criteria are applied.

I suggest that competitions be brought under the aegis of the HWC Teaching Team, who should arbitrate on both of the above issues.

Class of entry.

- A. 3 groups are appropriate **Novice, Intermediate and Experienced**
- B. Start with a clean sheet and ask entrants to submit at the level which seems appropriate to them. This is happening at the 2022 Christmas competition after which members should be allocated a Class.
- C. Notes:
  - a. Time since started turning is a poor measure for the Novice group as time at the lathe is the actual determinant. Similarly, a fixed time before progression to Intermediate is not appropriate.
  - b. Should a member attain a high level of skill more rapidly than other members of that class then they should be advanced to the next level (see D below).
- D. Change of Class.
  - a. Mandatory change of class because of winning should not happen.
  - b. Decisions about change of class should be made by a subgroup of the training team **at the end of the competition year**. This must be done in consultation with the member involved. Movement may be made between any of the 3 groups to ensure a competitive chance for the individual concerned.
  - c. Transfer between classes during the competition year raises issues of acquired points (see below)

Judging.

- A. Judging should be by 2 or more members of the Teaching Team. The judges' decisions should be non-negotiable and final.
- B. I recommend the use of objective or semi-objective criteria.
- C. Notes:
  - a. Criteria:

I developed a set of judging criteria for use in HWC lockdown competitions. These were adapted from a document produced by the South Downs Woodturners. These are complicated but give a definite sense of fairness and reduce some subjectivity. Errol and I used a simplified version of these criteria for the first competition with good effect.
  - b. If a pro-forma scoring sheet were to be used, then the entrant should receive a copy (on request).

**Other Issues**

**A. Theme and subject of competitions**

- a. Competitions should have a single identifiable theme or subject which should be declared at least 2 months before the competition to allow entries to be produced and refined.

**B. Winning and points.**

- a. I am in favour of a cumulative points system. 10 for 1st, 9 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. All other entries should be awarded 4 points.
- b. Points to be kept in a dedicated spreadsheet by the Competitions manager.
- c. This will only work when entries are limited to one per member. The system falls down when members submit multiple entries and it is my experience that the number of submissions for future competitions quickly declines.
- d. Change of Class mid-year should be avoided if possible. (It is difficult to transfer acquired points)

**Announcement of winners and Feedback.**

- A. The Chair should announce the winners and both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places on the night. They should only comment on the positive aspects of the entry but offer critique as detailed below.
- B. **Feedback** must always be available to all entrants. Feedback can be given by respected members of the Teaching team either at the time of the competition or at a later date. It could be given in public, but many members will hope for a private review of their work.
- C. **Year-end winner.** To be announced at AGM.
  - a. The winner should receive a permanent token (small shield or similar)

**When should we hold competitions?**

- A. Competitions should be an important part of the HWC calendar.
- B. Competitions fit best as part of the Showtime evening when all the members are seated. To hold them on any other evening reduces lathe time or encroaches on the demonstration being held. Members must have the opportunity to view the entries.

Nick Simpson 10 Nov 2022

Training Manager HWC

**Maintenance report from John Ruickbie.**

**HWC MAINTENANCE AND HALL REPORT**

**Maintenance**

Shelf cleared of junk at demonstration area.

Tormek sharpening equipment PAT tested and certified electrically safe.

Temporary lighting installed for outdoor demo on chainsaw use. This system will be dismantled and stored for possible reuse.

The logs in the wood prep workshop will be cut and stacked on Tue 8<sup>th</sup> Nov and the room generally tidied up.

The delivery of our planer thicknesser will be completed on Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. This item will be stored in the wood prep workshop. As this is a potentially dangerous machine a rigorous safety policy will be put in place before it is used. I will also look at some form of locking system to avoid unauthorised use.

I have altered the flood light sensor to cover more of the path.

Hall

## **HIGHLAND WOODTURNERS CLUB, Club Premises, Munlochy Village Hall**

Our electricity meter will remain on the hall account. The reason for this is that the hall is run as a charity and have secured a deal for electricity until 2024 at the same rate avoiding any increase. This is very beneficial to HWC.

Sometime in the new year the hall committee are planning an open day involving the organisations who use the premises. This includes us so I proposed some small turning demos and possibly sale and display of our work. I will keep the club informed as and when dates and times are settled. We can then decide on what to do.

No decision has been reached on the fire alarm upgrade yet other advice is being sought but I think the only way will be a full detection system which will be expensive.

This is a short report due to other duties taking up my time but I foresee a busy time ahead.

John Ruickbie