



Martock and District Woodturners

Newsletter

May 2025

News

After a disappointing turn-out for the Andy Fortune all-day event when only 10 members attended, I would like to thank those members that have completed the survey. It would be really help if everyone could complete the survey which can be accessed by clicking on [this link](#). All responses are anonymous so you can say exactly what you think!

Those of you that knew of Nick Agar will be sad to hear that he passed away earlier this month after a battle with cancer. He will be greatly missed by the woodturning community.

Diary Dates

May 27 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Neil Morris
Jun 7 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
Jun 14 th	Scroll Saw Day – Postponed to later in the year
Jun 24 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Paul Hannaby
Jul 5 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
Jul 12 th	Yandles Summer Craft Fair
Jul 19 th	All-day demonstration – 10am to 4pm, Ash Pavilion – Jason Breach

Competition



The next club competition will be in June, where the theme will be a goblet.

April Demonstration – Jason Breach

Jason's project for the night was an off-centre bowl with a round base, sloping rim and black highlights.



A worm screw was used to mount the blank, which was pre-drilled with a central hole and a second hole offset by about 20mm along the direction of the grain (to provide strength to the widest part of the rim).

With the blank mounted using the centre hole, it was turned to round and then turned down from both edges to leave a raised section about 15mm wide where the rim will be. This was painted black – Jason has found [Rustin's blackboard paint](#) to be the best for this task.



With the blank mounted using the offset hole, Jason turned a spigot on the bowl side of the blank and started to remove some of the waste to reduce the weight on the rim.



The blank was then remounted using this spigot so that more weight could be removed from the other side. This will reduce vibration and allow the speed to be increased to improve the cut. Note the plywood spacer on the worm screw which also acts as a reference for the size of the bowl.



The blank was reversed back on the worm screw to do more shaping on the underside of the bowl and to complete the underside of the rim.



Note that when shaping the bowl it is important to leave a small flat area around the spigot to enable the blank to seat properly in the chuck.



A sanding pad is essential to protect your fingers when sanding the rim. Jason uses velcro backed abrasive and a [Mirka sanding block](#), although there are other alternatives including a piece of plywood and double-sided tape.



With the blank back in the chuck and the worm screw removed, the top of the rim was finished and the bowl hollowed out.



To finish shaping the underside of the bowl Jason used a cup chuck made from several layers of MDF glued to a piece of ply. The piece was held against the chuck using tailstock pressure so that most of the spigot could be removed and the base rounded off.



To complete the final shaping, Jason secured the piece to the chuck using electrical tape which can be stretched to conform to the shape.



To shape the angled top rim, Jason used a small MDF wedge to raise the rim on one side and held the piece in place using a dome-shaped buffer fixed to an [Axminster multi-head centre](#) using the [mini-faceplate](#).

Once the rim has been turned down it can be carefully painted and any over-spill sanded off when dry.





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Ged has bought from this local supplier and would like to recommend them to other club members.

Gallery

Here are some items made by club members in recent weeks and shown on the inspiration table.



A hollow form turned by Brian H



Brian H also turned this winged bowl after watching Colwin's demonstration last month.



David P turned this box with a rather elegant finial.



This lighthouse pepper mill was made as a bit of fun by Richard C

Please send photographs of anything you have made to newsletter@madturners.co.uk, or better still bring them along on a club night to put on the inspiration table for all to admire.

Timber of the Month – Tamboti



Tamboti (*Spirostachys Africana*) is a medium-sized deciduous tree with a straight, clear trunk, occurring in the warmer parts of Southern Africa, although the name Tamboti usually just refers to the timber from the tree (alternative spellings are tambotie, tambootie or tambuti). The tree grows to a height of 30-50 ft (9-15 m) with a trunk diameter of 1-1.5 ft (30-46 cm). It prefers growing in single-species copses in deciduous woodland, often along watercourses or on brackish flats and sandy soils.

The heartwood is brown to dark brown, with darker markings and streaks, clearly demarcated from the whitish to pale yellow sapwood. Its grain is usually straight to slightly wavy, with a fine, even texture. The timber has a beautiful banded figure and a satin-like lustre, with an oily surface. The tree's natural oils and latex tends to gum up saw blades. Tamboti is hard and heavy with good durability, dimensional stability and exceptional rot and insect resistance, and remains in steady demand throughout regions of its natural range, despite its somewhat challenging working properties. The wood is said to be almost indestructible - samples taken from the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, carbon dated to be between 1240 and 1530 years old, were found to be well preserved.

Tamboti is prized in the furniture industry for its beautiful, dense and durable timber, which has a satin-like lustre and extremely fragrant sweet, spicy smell when freshly worked. It turns and finishes well, and is popular with wood carvers. It is used in musical instruments, turning and carving.

The under-bark exudes a white, poisonous latex when freshly cut, and campfires that burn Tamboti fuel give off noxious fumes contaminating meat or other food grilled on the open flames or coals. The latex is used as a fish poison, is applied to arrow-tips and is used as a purgative by indigenous tribes.

A small grey moth *Emporia melanobasis* will lay its eggs in the fruits when they are green. Larvae develop within the growing fruits, which show no external damage. When the fruits are mature each splits into three segments. The larvae jack-knife inside the fallen segments, causing them to move about erratically and vigorously, which has led to the name "jumping bean tree" (The Mexican jumping bean, *Sebastiania sp.*, also has a moth parasite).

If you have anything you would like to share through this newsletter, or have any ideas of what you would like to see included, please let me know by emailing me at <mailto:newsletter@madturners.co.uk>.

Thanks, Dave H