

Christchurch Society of Woodturners

e – newsletter

December 2022

December Club Evening and Christmas Social

A chance to have a night out! Please bring your wife / partner to the next meeting together with your festive offerings for the display / appraisal table. You will be welcomed with mulled wine, Paul will be giving a Christmas demonstration, there will be a short quiz, tea/coffee and mince pies and our usual appreciation of members' work from the table.

In order to cater, we would like an idea of numbers – please can you send an email to Andy at chairman@christchurchwoodturners.org.uk to say how many people will be attending. Thank you!

November Workshop Evening

Many thanks to Alan, Clive, Vic, Paul and Andy who presented workshops and helped create a very interesting and varied night. Every turner has to contend with effective tool sharpening and snippets from the sharpening demo and clinic proved valuable for most. It was great to see full competition tables and a varied selection on the display / appraisal table – always a valuable source of ideas. I hope the pyrography on show, together with Clive's hints, will tempt a few people to have a go. Suggestions for workshop topics for next year very welcome via any member of the committee.

Pyrographer Clive Turner with two of his exemplars and demonstration materials



Paul Reeves and Alan Brooks showing freehand, jig and belt sharpening, answering questions and even sharpening members' chisels.





Vic Russell with his home-made sphere turning jig. He also showed how to finish off the sphere and had brought in his belt sander to compare with Alan's. (See article below for more detail)



Andy Ogilvie showed one way to include contrast wood in a turning, brought some exemplars and made a box to show the night's themes of contrast wood inclusion, pyrography and sphere turning. The finished box is image right.



Competition Results – Table A



1st Andy Ogilvie



2nd Alan Brooks



3rd John Bolt



4th Nick Jazwinski



David Hamilton



Paul Reeves

Competition results – Table B



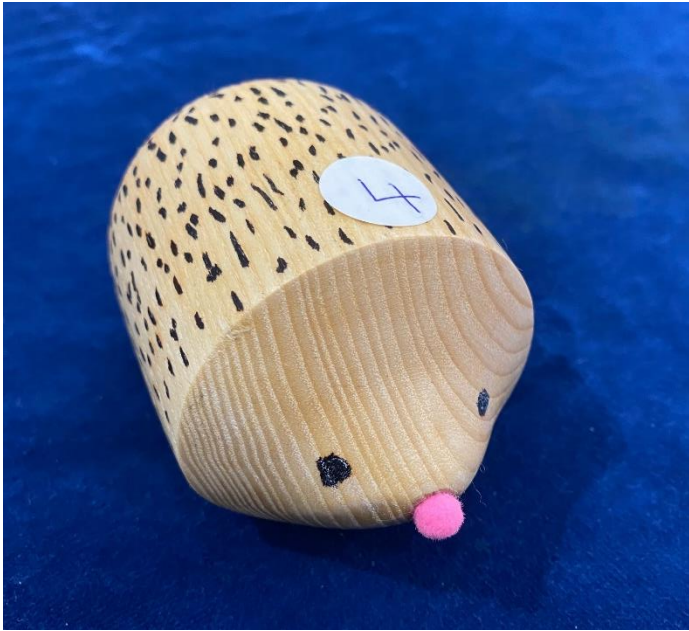
1st Bill Peach



2nd Joe Van Wyk



3rd Nigel Batten



4th Nick Gosden



Colin Jolly

Display Appraisal Table



Alan Brooks



David Hamilton



Joe Van Wyk

Paul Reeves





Jerry Lewis



Jerry Lewis



Andrew Fairfax



Jerry Lewis

Andrew Fairfax



Andy Ogilvie



Axminster Ultimate Edge Review / Comparison

Vic Russell very carefully researched the purchase of a belt sharpener and as a follow up to the meeting's sharpening topic offers the following personal review:

Although I've used and often recommended the Robert Sorby Pro Edge I was never tempted to buy one myself as I had already adapted a much larger Record Power belt and disc sander for the same purpose. Over time though the availability of many different belt types was of increasing interest to me and when Axminster dropped the price of their Ultimate Edge by £100 the temptation proved too much!

Why the Ultimate Edge rather than the similarity priced Pro Edge? When the Axminster machine first appeared in their catalogue I was intrigued by the obvious differences to the Pro Edge. The Pro Edge is a fine machine and the raster assembly which enables rock solid angle repeatability is a clever idea. The Axminster machine had two unique features itself though, one being variable speed and the other forward and reverse belt rotation which the Pro Edge lacked. If you sharpen a variety of different types of tools these features seemed like a good idea. Additionally the raster assembly on the pro edge has been replaced with what Axminster originally called the compound jig. This is simply a 12mm support bar that can move in two directions. Unlike Sorby, Axminster chose the same size shaft as that used on wet stone grinding systems made by companies like Tormek, Triton and Jet etc enabling many of the jigs from these other manufacturers to be used on the Axminster Ultimate Edge. As good as the raster system is on the Sorby machine, some turners have noticed the omission of a couple of useful angles. Some Pro Edge users report they have added the "missing" holes on their machines and at least one other user has retrofitted the Axminster compound jig to his Pro Edge.

In addition to the dozens of jigs available from other manufacturers Axminster also produce a few of their own for the machine including a work table with mitre gauge and honing guide for wood chisels. The quoted belt length of both machines is only 5mm different so belts are interchangeable between the two. Axminster have also designed a "Twist n Fix" arbor system to fit the machine so that 100mm mops and honing wheels etc can be used.

There are some other differences between the two machines but nothing too major. I like the fact the Ultimate Edge has rubber feet as I don't have a permanent location for the machine. The side door on the belt cover is a bit fiddly but has only a single attached fastener which is handy. Belt tracking is adjusted by simply rotating a dial rather than the two Tommy bars used on the Pro Edge. The machine also has upper and lower dust extraction ports and a fire resistant hose is available from Axminster.

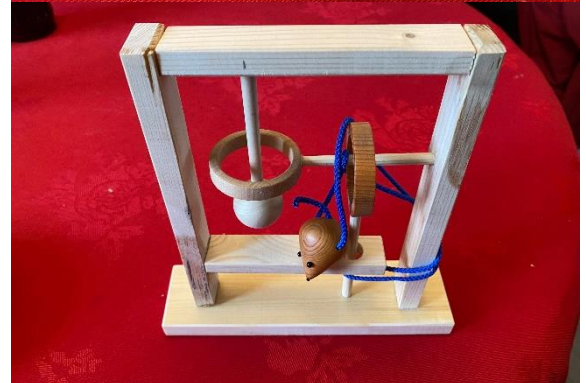
Feature	Axminster Ultimate Edge	Robert Sorby Pro Edge
Motor	560W	375W
Belt Size	50 x 785	50 x 780
Weight	18Kg	14Kg
Belt Speed	200-600 MPM	440 MPM
Platen Length	195mm	120mm
Forward + Reverse	Yes	No
Variable Speed	Yes	No
Digital Read Out	Yes	No
Accepts Tormek Jigs	Yes	many No
Angle Raster	No	Yes
Compound Jig	Yes	No
Adjustable Feet	Yes	No
Dust Extraction	Yes	No
Holes for Bench Mounting	Yes	Yes
Quick Fix Arbor	Yes	No
Pigtail Arbor	No	Yes
Single knob belt tracking	Yes	No - 2 Tommy bars

My experience using the Ultimate Edge is very positive so far. If you're in the market for something similar do check one out at your nearest Axminster Store.

Introducing

Joe Van Wyk might be a dangerous man to know as he could shoot you with a gun or a camera – both skills learned during his time in the RAOC. Indeed, it was at his local shooting range that he was encouraged to have a go at woodturning and acquired the equipment to set him on his way. He started turning 4 years ago and has been a regular contributor at club nights since we restarted after Covid. He says there is ‘nothing he won’t try’, and actively looks on the net and for courses to challenge himself. He particularly likes the work and approach of Martin Saban-Smith. Joe uses an Axminster 406 lathe, likes his thread turning jig and is not averse to selling the items he makes as it gives him licence to buy more tools! He is in his workshop most days using time between duties in the small care home he and his wife run. They are well travelled and enjoy trying different cuisines – Pad Thai being the current favourite. A few years ago you might have seen him astride his Honda 1200 motorbike, although he started on a less imposing Honda 90. Nowadays, you are more likely to see him sea fishing, boat and beach.

Christmas is coming – you could always have a go at Joe’s Party Popper cannon!



From David Game's Workshop

A few weeks ago David brought his 'arrow in a goblet' to display at the club meeting. It was inspired by an article he had seen in 'Woodturning Wizardry'. David has made a copy of the article for me and I will bring it to the next meeting for you to borrow / photograph should you wish. Fascinating process which David says needs a bit of care and attention but is entirely doable – fancy a go?!



Just a Thought

Anyone who doesn't think money grows on trees hasn't bought any wood recently.

This Month's Pick of the Pics



And that's how dowels are made!!!



Contributions to this e-newsletter are very welcome as are suggestions and comment. I am particularly interested in the story of projects which members have taken on. Please take a couple of photos, scribble down some background notes and I'll put it all together for the newsletter.

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Season's Greetings!