Forest of Bere Woodturners Association



Autumn 2010 Edition

Quarterly Magazine

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Autumn Quarter September 2010



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Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn issue of our magazine.

I hope you will find some inspiration from the articles and photographs shown in these pages.

Woodturning skills are many and varied, manipulating the tools perhaps being the most obvious but understanding how and why the tools work and how to sharpen them is essential.

Why do some pieces look so good, so graceful, delicate and fit for purpose whilst others might be described as 'chunky'?



Many of our members have a good grasp of these practical and artistic skills and there is a determination to share this knowledge. The monthly competition programme could also help you on this learning curve.

The new club website is now up and running. Webmaster Dave Hutchings explains the main features of the home page and welcomes any feedback. This magazine, available at the website in .pdf format, can be magnified and all the photographs are in colour.

WL West, a family business since 1865 and long time advertiser in our magazine have given an insight into the bigger picture of wood supply. The December 2004 issue of our magazine carried a profile article on the firm, reproduced from their website.

Thank you to all the contributors to this issue for their planning and efforts and to Ray Mathews and Alex Brooks for their photography. I have a considerable list of topics for future articles to allocate, to volunteers or via the press gang! Writing is good for you!

And finally congratulations to the competition winners and runners ups, we can all learn from as well as admire and be inspired by your work.

Rick Smith

Visit the club website

www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk

to download a full colour copy of the magazine

A Message from the Chairman

Hi everybody

This is my last month as chairman. I have had a good year. I am stepping down because I have a busy year ahead, and feel that I will not be able to give you 100% commitment.

I would like to thank Don, my vice chairman for all the help he has given, and believe me, I relied on him a lot and also thanks to my committee.

I feel the year has been a success, with club members helping on turn-in nights, and setting up the hall for the professional demonstrators.



The open weekend turned out to be a great two days for the club as we gained some members and a big thank you to Aline and her team for the refreshments.

West's Wood Show was well represented by the club, and I wish to thank all who were there.

Last month the turn-in was a success with Derek Blake, Robin Lacey and Paul Nesbitt demonstrating and I understand that the August meeting also was a huge success.

There were many of entries for Paul's Ear Ring Stand competition and also Bottle Stands for him to judge. Well done everyone!

It just goes to show that when you put your mind to something, much can be achieved, so let us try and carry this forward for all our club night competitions.

With the help of the Lottery Grant, we were able to buy our camera system and up-date our lathes, chucks and centres.

I will still be dealing with our two charities, <u>PLEASE KEEP THE ITEMS COMING</u>, and I will be helping out at the Saturday Turning Club with organizing and teaching and I am sure that it will turn into a huge success.

So, again, <u>Thank you all</u> for your support. I hope you will be as supportive to your new chairman.

Signing off for now

Bill Thorne

Please bring your work for the Charities Boxes to the monthly meetings. Dave Jenkins, Brian Mitchell, Peter Withers or Ken White will be pleased to advise on production issues, labelling your work and popular items that are in demand.

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A Warm Welcome to New Members

On behalf of the club, I would like to welcome the six new members who have joined since the summer 2010 issue of the magazine.

Keith Hicks • Steve Carpenter • Maurice Attwood • Alan Ball David Small • Bob Hawkins

I hope the friendship, the activities and the resources of the club will help you to further enjoy and develop your woodturning. Your feedback on any aspect of the club will be most welcome.

Bowl Gouge Grinding

As a long-term woodworker, sharpening blades of all sorts is second nature to me. However, although I am fairly confident with my methods and results, others will have different and even better ways.

The following article is my personal approach, I still seek for improvements, but I hope the reader finds at least some of my methods and ideas of some help. One thing I am quite sure about, if you cannot sharpen your tools you cannot wood turn.

The Bowl Gouge The bowl gouge often has to work with a considerable overhang so needs to be tough. Compared to a spindle gouge it has a deep flute and a stout section all designed for strength. A new bowl gouge from the factory usually comes with a traditional grind angle which may work well enough when sharp but is limited to mostly push cuts. A modified grinding angle referred to variously as an Ellsworth, O'Donnell, fingernail, or sweptback gives the tool much more versatility. With the modified grind you have 50% or more of extra cutting edge, providing varying options for push or pull cuts and shear cutting or scraping. Both the grinding and the use of the tool require techniques which come with practice and experience so I am still working on both.

Grinding







Above, a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch bowl gouge being ground with a conventional bevel and the side wings slightly swept back. This is the simplest method with the tool on a pre-set angle platform.

Another method is to twist and slide the tool up the face of the stone to form the required sweptback profile. During any of these grinding procedures the tool needs to be supported on a grinder platform or tool rest. However I find it more controllable to rest my fingers on the grinder platform while holding the tool to the stone. All these techniques need some practice.

To provide a fingernail bevel on a conventional grinder, freehand, requires the end of the gouge to be presented to the stone at about 50° degrees and swung

to one side and then the other to produce the required sweptback bevel, which gives the added edge to the wing sides of the tool.

I have mentioned the angle of about 50° which sounds a bit vague, and it is. As with woodworking blades I have never measured grinding angles. I know by habit what works for me and have developed the same intuitive approach with my turning tools. However for those who may need a more technical approach 55° is a good starting point. It is probably more difficult to write about this than to actually do it. In any case it is very difficult to achieve a good fingernail grind freehand unless your name is something like Rance or Rowley and even they, I think, will probably not match the repeatable precise accuracy of a jig. A jig is what I use and would recommend. No problem then, just another £50 or so and you can get any one of many proprietary jigs. There is a cheaper alternative of course, which is my solution. Make one.







Most of us have some sort of workshop with various tools and skills. If you can cut and bend metal, shape some wood, adapt a bolt or two and screw things together, a grinding jig is just waiting to be made. Have a look at magazine pictures, catalogue details, visit a workshop, take some photos and basically copy the design ideas and adapt them to make your own jig system. It is not too difficult and you will have the added satisfaction of your own creation.

The top photo shows the adjustable platform which slides out of the way for other jigs to be used.

The next two photos show the gouge being ground. The jig lower arm is swivelled on a fixed post while the tool is swung from one side to the other to produce the swept back profile. It is important that the cutting edge on the wings is slightly convex, as indicated in the photos.







Above, left and right, the grinding jig which the gouge is clamped into. The projection of the tool tip and the jig arm angle are adjustable for your configured profile. **Centre**, the swept back profile.

As with any other activity in the workshop you must ensure that your exit is without trauma or blood loss. So please take all safety precautions, even if they are not mentioned or indicated in my text or pictures. For detail photo clarity the grinder guard has been deliberately swung back out of the way.

Don't forget the safety shield!

I am grateful to many club members who encourage, helped and steered me in the right direction when I first joined the club, and still do, so thank you!

Mike Haselden

Making Bangles

Prepare your stock 4in x $\frac{1}{2}$ -1in. thickness. Mark the inside measurement approximately 2 5/8in. to 2 7/8in. Fit the wood between centres.

Turn the outside profile, rounder for the $\frac{1}{2}$ in width or flatter for the 1 in. width

With the outside complete, part off (or out?) the centre, at about 2 5/8in. diameter, the inside wrist measurement can be adjusted later if required.

I make a jig, with APTC wood jaws, plate size 100mm. Cut a piece of MDF 5in. x 1 in. Screw the jaw plates to the MDF with a 1/8in. gap. Cut through, into 4 segments and remount on the chuck. Close the jaws and true up, then open jaws 1/8in. and glue on another 5in. diameter disc. When properly dry, saw again into 4 segments. Close the jaws and true up.

Now cut approx 2 ¾in. recess, ½in. deep and concave the outside to fit the bangle. Grip the bangle in the chuck to turn and finish the inside to the desired wrist size. Reverse chuck to complete the other side. Sand and polish.

Be sure to protect yourself against the MDF dust

Making Bangles











Why use two thicknesses of MDF?

The outer layer can be quickly and easily machined off and a fresh layer glued on for continued use.

Bill Thorne

Quality of our Turning













Quality of our Turning

Our illustrious editor, in a moment of weakness, asked me to make some comments about the turning we see each month on our gallery table, and in the results of our competitions.

When I first started turning, the competition judge took the view that there were two ways of doing anything; His Way and the Wrong Way! We have moved on from those days, a little, but there are still only two ways. A safe way and an unsafe or potentially dangerous way, (but you must be able to enjoy it)

What is interesting to see, no matter what, is the wide range of ideas and the excellent quality of turnings we see exhibited at FOB. Also, I find it most encouraging to see the improvements being made by the allegedly less experienced members. I am convinced that more of our "novices" would get more out of our competitions if they had a go rather than being nervous about what I hope is a helpful critique. Some clever clogs once said "it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive", so, why not have a go!

Several members have taken to Segmented turning. Not only is the turning itself of a high quality, but so is the standard of the primary woodwork, cutting and fitting together of the elements making up the finished item. Other specialities, like Off Centre turning and the non-wood materials have all been well turned and well finished. Some of us prefer to produce medium to largish items, but the small brigade producing pens, scent sprays and similar sized objects have demonstrated a superior standard in turning wood and non-wood.

A number of items appear before us each month which show a keen interest in and degree of lateral thinking, finding different ways of looking at and solving problems. So it is always interesting to see how members will tackle an apparently simple and straight forward job description creating the unexpected. Not forgetting there is always an opportunity to demonstrate a sense of humour!!!!!

It was interesting to see at our August meeting, the large number of Earring Stands and Bottle holders that had been put up for display. The standards were excellent, but it was disappointing that there appeared to be only one from our novices' team.

Come on Novices, we all started out as novices, even if it was so long ago that some of us cannot remember, (I can't!).

But I try to travel hopefully.

Eric Warnecke

Forest of Bere Website

I am pleased to say that the new website is now up and running, as shown below, with a new look and feel to it and some new features.

Home Page

Home	Home Page you will notice the menu on the left hand side. Below that there is a mailing list option.
Programme	Programme Page you will notice that where we have the guest turners name this is also a link to their website.
Magazine	Magazines will be available to be viewed, 3 years including the current year.
Competitions	Competition details for each months competitions with plans if available or appropriate
Gallery	Gallery here we adding new images as appropriate. If you wish to add any pictures please send me the image or bring it to a meeting.
Forum	Forum the idea is to hold online discussion where we can get and give advice.
Items for Sale	Items for Sale/Wanted starting from scratch. If you want your old advert put on please let me know.
Find us	Find us is pretty self explanatory, hoping to get a link to Google Maps.
Contact us	Contact us now has an email link directly to us.
Mailing List	Mailing List please register for this so we can keep you up to date with the latest information
Namel	
<u> </u>	Please email
Email	webmaster@forestofberewoodturners.org.uk
David Hutchings	with your webpage content or enquiries

W.L.West & Sons Ltd

We are two thirds through the second difficult year of this quite unique recession. You will all have read about many company's plights during this period. We have taken a positive approach to the situation and have not had to make any redundancies, natural wastage has assisted. Some people have to be replaced however, and when Gary Renouf left us earlier this year we needed a replacement. Sonia North joined us this month to work alongside Jo and Fred. Sonia worked for us up until 2007 when she took a bit of a career change and started carving, something she still does. Sonia will be working four days a week, and is falling back into our ways very quickly.

One casualty has been that we presently are unable to offer woodturning courses and are currently looking for someone who can fit in with occasional courses. We continue to look for different species when parcels of timber come onto the market, often in amongst the core species are one or two fruit woods for example. Currently we have good stocks of Yew and are about to cut some more Spalted Beech. Finding different species is not always easy. For some time we have been buying our core species – Oak, in Europe. This has meant that we have not spent so much time in the woods here in the UK. There are several reasons for this; one being that in the UK we still have to buy, in the main, by auction. This means that we have to buy a wide range of quality, 1st. 2nd and poorer. Our customers, generally, only want top quality, and so buying in the UK would be stupid. In Europe we can be choosey, picking exactly what we require. There are some exceptions, such as Sycamore and Elm. It is also possible we may see a resurgence of English Ash. Currently American Ash is being affected by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. This has all but stopped any export of American Ash. If the situation continues, and Ash is still required for projects, we may see it make a comeback to the commercial markets.

Our shop team here has commented for some time that we see very few people on a Saturday afternoon. We have therefore taken the decision to open between 9.00am and 1.00pm on a Saturday throughout the year, weekdays remain unchanged.

You can see all of our offers on our website at **www.wlwest.co.uk** or call Jo, Sonia or Fred with your query on **01798 861611**. You will soon see a refreshed website, hopefully going live in October 2010.

Dave West

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Circling The Square

I became aware of bowl turning blanks about four years ago when I first started turning. 'What a good idea' I thought, to have nice round disks of wood to put on a lathe. Now I think what a dumb idea! Why?

For a start it costs more to cut the blanks round. It is wasteful and they are more difficult to store and handle. I don't know of a woodturner who doesn't have a bandsaw or access to one. Just sawing off the corners is good enough to put even a fairly large blank on the lathe. If you want to turn a form with square or octagonal wings, disks are no good. Also those corners sometimes have interesting wood to include in other small items or they can burn well in the stove. You could also rip a square blank into square sections for turning between centres.

In the interests of economy, a better choice for the turner and ease of handling and stocking I would like to promote a change in the silly culture of sawing disks for woodturners who are very capable of doing the job themselves. Oh yes, and let's see a bit of a reduction in price.

Another thought on the subject of sawing blanks is that a bandsaw blade used for cutting rounds will not want to cut straight. To cut blanks out of square stock I only cut off the corners so my blades will not develop a biased set.

Mike Haselden

Bottle Green Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts with FOBWA embroidered logo Polo shirt £15.86 £17 09 Sweat shirt £18.50 Long Sleeved Polo Shirt On your own garment you can have Club badge embroidered £6.46 £2.06 Name embroidered OODTUR £9.16 Face shields with brow guards Contact Derek Blake Prices include VAT

Knots

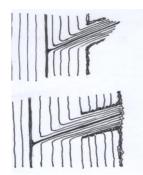
Get to know your knots. They do not all react in the same way. Some will stay in and may crack while others dry and fall out. Knots are considered as a defect in timber but may be useful to enhance the appearance of an article or create a focal point.

Anyone working with wood should have a basic knowledge of knots and how they relate to the surrounding part of the tree. This involves studying how the tree and knot grow together.

The terminal bud grows upwards leaving a trail behind it which we call the pith. Within the pith is laid down the positions of the branches. The branches form the knots so the start of each knot is in the pith. It is interesting to note that the first few growth rings surrounding the pith are less dense and weaker than later, normal, ones with possible different drying times and shrinkage properties. They are termed 'juvenile wood' and generally have wider growth rings. The wood in these rings can be a problem and is best removed with the pith.

The knot is just a branch growing through the trunk. Its wood is of a different density, usually higher, and its grain orientation is not the same as the main stem. Shrinkage across the knot can therefore be greater than that in the adjoining main stem. The existence of the knot makes the grain of the stem deviate from the straight and curve round the knot. These all point to problems in the area of the knot.

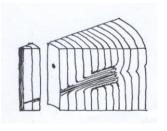
As the branch terminal bud starts to grow away from the pith the growth rings round the trunk accommodate this by growing round the branch. The branch diameter increases more slowly than the diameter of the trunk because the branch growth rings are thinner. At this stage the knot is called a tight knot, it is all part of the same ring growth. However, in time, the branch will begin to grow in length more quickly than the stem can grow in diameter.



When the terminal bud of the branch breaks through the bark of the trunk, the branch starts to form its own bark, and the growth rings are no longer continuous from the trunk into the branch. As the trunk grows in diameter it grows around the branch, covering the bark of the branch as it does so.

On this length the knot is known as a loose knot, or sometimes an encased knot because it is encased by the bark of the branch.

Should the branch drop off, or be cut off, the trunk will continue to grow in diameter and cover the end of the branch, so that in time all signs of the knot from the outside of the tree will seem to have disappeared. Tell tale signs however will remain on the trunk for many years. These knots may not be obvious on casual inspection of the wood. As knots start at the pith, by cutting a section of log the small start of such knots may be seen (about



halfway up the log). If the cut was luckily made through the knot, then something like that in the lower part of the diagram will be seen. These small signs seen in the first few growth rings can enlarge into something unmanageable towards the outer sections of the wood. Where branches have been lost there may be little, except changes in grain direction and a slight indentation, to show for this on the other side of the piece of wood.

John Hilton

The John Davis Show

The John Davis Show was held on the 2nd & 3rd July 2010 at his premises. He was very pleased with, and grateful to, the Forest of Bere members who assisted during the setting up and dismantling the tents, equipment and stalls which had been used.

John very kindly donated a prize which was awarded to the best club table exhibiting members' turnings. The tables were balloted by the general public who visited during the two days. I am pleased to announce that the prize was won by the Forest of Bere turners, who obtained 40 votes against Test Valley Club, who obtained 27 votes. I must say, however, that Test Valley members had supplied some very unusual and clever turnings.

The Professional Turners Nick Agar & Simon Hope gave excellent demonstrations and were busy over both days. Axminster Power Tools and Record displayed a good variety of Lathes and peripheral equipment. Derek Blake again gave his time for the two days, demonstrating the craft required in turning pens & perfume holders using Acrylics and also in setting up the Forest of Bere display table.

All in all a very successful two days and thanks go to the many Forest of Bere members who took part and visited the show.

David Jenkins

The FoB Table at the John Davis Show



More Quality Turnings



Further Inspiration from the past quarter



August Turn-In













August Turn-In

Thank you to Kim Rogers for these notes, recorded at the August turn-in.

Robin Lacey, in his usual bold way, was displaying the pro's and con's of spindle turning for beginners! Which is the right tool to use for the job in hand? During his demonstration, Robin offered the following tips:-

- Check the alignment of your machine before starting any type of turning
- Always keep the flute of your tool pointing in the direction of travel
- Keep adjusting the tool rest as wood is removed to keep the tool well supported
- A skew chisel will almost certainly catch, if it is not sufficiently supported on the tool rest.

Derek Blake's experience in pen turning and the associated bits and bobs are well known amongst our members. His advice is to always purchase the bushes to go with any pen kits, this makes the whole pen turning experience much easier and more likely to be successful. As you become more accomplished in the art of pen turning you may wish to add creativity with the spiraling tool Derek is demonstrating tonight. Turn your blank to a cylinder and then keep running the spiraling tool over the blank to get the desired pattern. Note the wheel must be kept turning for it to create the pattern. When the pattern is complete, clean the design with a brass brush, cut a 1/4" strip of Arbinet sand paper by hand carefully clean up the pattern. Go through all the sand paper grits to finish, polish and your pen is now complete.

Many thanks to **Paul Nesbitt** for coming back tonight to help with the 'turn in' and to judge the competition he set the last month. This evening Paul is showing us how to hollow out with a spindle gouge, with the tool upside down! Bore a hole with the tool flat. then the tool is fed from the centre away from the body using the hole to support the tool, turning the tool completely upside down as it moves from the centre to the outside edge. This is a comfortable way of working, the tool is pulled into the body, the timber is removed quickly and the turner does not have to stretch over the lathe. This method requires practice!

Kim Rogers

Photos opposite

Top left Robin keeps a close eye on student Kim Rogers

Top right & centre left Bead and Cove practice from Robin

Centre & bottom right Derek Blake helping with the spiral tool and a small selection of his key rings and pens.

Bottom right Paul Nesbitt introducing his hollowing demonstration

Letter from Paul Nesbitt

After my July demonstration I always look forward to coming back in August, to see the display of work from the project that I have set for the members.

I had set one main project with an additional one, which was not in the competition. On viewing the pieces I am always pleased by the members' ability to comply with the drawings, but then to modify the idea, giving me fresh ideas to change my things. This year continued in the same way. There was a fine array of earring stands on the table for me to look at. The Open class was the fullest group, the Intermediate is the same in any club, (not many people in this group), but not many pieces in the Beginners group. This is the perfect platform for you newer turners to get feedback on your work. This in turn helps you to grow in the club. So come on you Beginners, let's see some more work from you.

Knowing the club as I do, I fully expected there to be a display of the second project, (the wine bottle holders), so I came prepared with a prize for the winner. My expectations were not disappointed. A terrific display of work and ideas.

After presenting the winners with their sack of timber, I was taken by surprise with a presentation to me. A birthday cake complete with candles! I was really taken back by this and wish to thank everybody both for the cake and the reception that I always get from The Forest of Bere.

Paul Nesbitt

Hints and Tips for Woodturners

- After mounting a piece of wood in the chuck, ALWAYS stand to one side when starting the lathe. All going well, the wood should stay in the chuck, but the wood can come loose, and <u>it really does fly across the</u> <u>workshop</u>. Better safe than sorry. My helmet has a graze on it caused by a flying piece of wood!
- Do take the trouble to remove as many wood chips and dust as possible from your clothes <u>before</u> showing off your latest masterpiece to your other half. She (especially) will not appreciate wood chips on the carpet. They are difficult to vacuum up and you will not get the positive feedback you feel you deserve for your creation.

Ronald Hewlett

FOREST OF BERE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

COMPETITION WINNERS FOR 2009/2010

	<u>Position</u>		<u>Points</u>
<u>Beginners</u>	1st	Jack Daniels (318)	188
	2nd	Derek Merryweather (353)	123
Intermediates	1st	John Wyatt (351)	350
	2nd	Jim Casemore (263)	316
<u>Advanced</u>	1 st	Kim Rogers (295)	575
	2 nd	Mike Haselden (303)	414
	3rd	Ken Briffet (153)	237

CUP WINNERS AND OVERALL POSITIONS

Woodturner of the Year Cup won by Kim Rogers (295) with 112 points

Don Smith Challenge Cup won by **John Wyatt (263)** with 69 points

Runners Up Jim Casemore (67 points) • Mike Haselden (60 points)

Ken Briffett (47 points) • Jack Daniels (40 poimts)

FOREST OF BERE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION MONTHLY COMPETITION RESULTS 2009/2010

303 MIKE HASELDEN	295 KIM ROGERS	153 KEN BRIFFETT	ADVANCED	360 DAVID MARSH	351 JOHN WYATT	304 BARRY ELKINS	263 JIM CASEMORE	243 MIKE DENTON	INTERMEDIATES	353 D MERRYWEATHER	318 JACK DANIELS	292 PETER WESTBROOK	275 ANGIE RICHARDS	110 ALEX BROOKES	BEGINNERS	MEMBERSHIP NO
	54					46	48						36			SEP
	50	50				46	43			39		47				ОСТ
	46															VOV
51	47						50									DEC
52	46				53		45									JAN
	48	48					44	39		43	44					FEB
54	49	52			48		48	44		41						MAR
51	43	37			49		38									APRIL
52	49	50		52	51						46					MAY
52	50				46						49					JUNE
53	51				54						49			42		AJUL
49	42				49											AUG
414	575	237		52	350	92	316	83		123	188	47	36	42		TOTALS

FOREST OF BERE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION CUP COMPETITION RESULTS 200

	10	,	10	10		10	10				303 MIKE HASELDEN
	9	9	9	8	10	9	9	10	10	10	295 KIM ROGERS
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		10									360 DAVID MARSH
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9											110 ALEX BROOKES
											BEGINNERS
YJUL	JUNE	MAY	APRIL	MAR	FEB	JAN	DEC	VOV	ОСТ	SEP	MEMBERSHIP NO

LATE ENTRY POINTS COUNT FOR GROUP ONLY NOT FOR CUP COMPETITION

Have you considered preparing an article for the magazine?

Clear, well framed and relevant colour photographs will assist and enhance your explanation.



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The Forest of Bere Woodturners Association

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Helpers

Chief Judge Eric Warnecke Helped by Pete Withers

Library and Badges Jim Morris

Club Night Teas Volunteers on the night

Raffle Trevor Dobbs

Meetings

The club meets every Third Wednesday of the Month at The St.John Ambulance Hall, Fraser Road, Bedhampton, Havant, Hants. PO9 3EJ (Opposite the Rugby Club)

Disclaimer

Entries in this publication are the opinions of the contributor and are not necessarily approved or endorsed by either the Editor or the Officers of the Club.