



Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association
PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024

◀ Lie Nielsen's No 1/2 shoulder plane, with A2 12.7mm blade £140-

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Next General Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 13th October 2010 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Demonstration of the Mechemate router which is a CNC router table, by Kobus Joubert.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 4th October 2010 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. A talk on Norton Grinding wheels by a representative from Norton / St Gobain Abrasives. Wood of Month: Camphor.

News

Turners' Meeting.

Wood of the month: Dalbergia Melanoxylon – African Blackwood. Occurs from Central/Eastern to Southern Africa. It is threatened due to over-exploitation in Kenya. It has a density of 1.1, which means that it sinks in water. The colour ranges from dark brown to deep black. The sapwood is yellow in sharp contrast to the deep black of the heartwood. Its density, hardness and uniformity make it highly prized by musical instrument makers for woodwind instruments and bagpipes.

Alistair Brande won the raffle for a long-hole boring tool for use on a lathe. This is for boring through a hollow tail-stock. One could use to make a hole for a cord, such as for a lamp stand. It differs from the conventional long-hole tools which have a D-section cutting tip. Lionel makes these for sale, and kindly donated one for the raffle. Lionel's design uses a standard twist drill tip and spiral flute, which he believes offers superior performance. The standard size for most hollow tailstocks is a 8.5 mm hole, so the 8mm diameter of the drill is designed to provide sufficient clearance. Lionel emphasised the importance of withdrawing the drill completely, to clear the shavings very frequently, to avoid the drill jamming in the hole.

Steven Barrett demonstrated the making of coasters and a rustic holder on the lathe.

Main Club Meeting

Winston Klein gave a talk on and demonstrated the resawing of thick wooden planks to thinner, thereby avoiding the waste from thicknessing them down. He showed various fixtures for resawing and the use of a resawing fixture on the bandsaw.

Lionel Soekoe donated two prizes for the raffle – a 1meter hook ruler and a centring jig for marking out mortises and tenons very accurately. These were won after spins of the “wheel of fortune”.

From the Chairman:

Dear WWA Club Members,

A hearty thanks to Alistair Brande for taking on the task of arranging the year-end braai. I was very encouraged by the willingness of our members to volunteer assistance. So I'm sure all the members are looking forwards to a wonderful occasion.

What I am learning to my great delight is that although the members run for cover when a new committee needs selecting, they can certainly be counted on when it comes to volunteering for focused events. I think this means that we have a healthy club, although I'd like to see more participation at our club meetings. Your ideas for improving attendance, especially at the second Wednesday of the month sessions, will be very much appreciated.

I have received good feedback about the East Rand club's annual show. This, and having attended a similar event held by the Pretoria Club last year, which was also very successful, makes me wonder why the WWA does not also have an annual event to which the general public is invited? A possible reason could be that the year-end calendar appears to be quite full. So how about an autumn event? Again please provide your valuable feedback

Regards, Herman.

Club Notices

Members are reminded that we have purchased the complete set of videos from last years AWSA congress (2009), and that these are available for rental at a nominal charge of R10-00 per DV disc per month.

Year-end Braai. The date has been provisionally set for the 20th or 27th November subject to availability of the venue. Alistair will co-ordinate the organisation of the braai and the collection of donations. Please start making toys to bring for donation at the braai.

New club banners and leaflets. Those who attended the Turner's and Main club meetings in September will have seen the new club banner and information leaflets. Thanks to Manuel Cardoso-lopes (Lee-anne's husband) for organising these from his company. The art director and printer generously sponsored the banner and leaflets in return for 3 bowls. (The cost was quite significant so we are very grateful.) Several members have agreed to make the bowls, details to follow.

Hardware Centre Demo – Wed, 15th September 17h30 for 18h00– Three demos by Roy Marcus on the Tru-Grind sharpening system; Pierre Grobbelaar on the Tormek “Sharpening Innovation” new drill bit sharpening attachment; and John Young on the Plano glue press. Please RSVP for catering purposes to Marilyn on 011 791 0844 by 13 September 2010

Dates to diarize:

Pretoria Club annual show – Sat 16th October. This will take place at the Lions Club off Atterbury Road on Saturday, from 8h30 to 16h00, followed by prize giving (lucky draw and certificates). Take the Atterbury Road off-ramp from the N1 Pietersburg highway, turn to the West and left at the first robot. The Lions club building can be seen from Atterbury Road. There will be the usual exhibition of turnings, fine furniture, tools and machine tools. Contact Anton Louwrens on 012-654-5640 or Lou Coetzer on 012-991-1241 or 082-332-5786 for information.

REEA are celebrating their 75th anniversary this year on the 6th November 2010. They will be holding a charity auction to raise funds, and they are asking for donations of items to auction / sell. Please bring any donations to the club at the next meeting. If you intend making items to donate for sale, simple, affordable items will probably sell quickest. The WWA also plans to be involved in the open day, probably by opening the club house, with turning demonstrations like last year.

AWSA Symposium 24th to 26th Sept 2010 in PE. The guest turner will be Trent Bosch. Some of the topics that he will be presenting on include “Vessels of Illusion”, “Finding your own voice and slide presentation:”, “Bowls, vessels and surfaces”, “Instant gallery and Critique” and “Sunburst Platter”. Based on previous years, you will find many things to inspire you in your turning, making the trip well worthwhile.

For Sale:

Thicknesser/ Planner- Veba, 12" 3 blade cutter block, cast iron in/out feed tables/ 1400mm R16000.00
Spindle Moulder -Kitty, comes with various cutters R6000.00
Radial Arm Saw - Dewalt Powershop , 250mm Blade, comes with stand and Hardback book R5000.00

Contact Oliver on 082 408 2485 –Blairgowrie These items were purchased from Val Valentin in expectation of a contract which did not materialise, and so are offered for sale again.

Wanted:

Somebody to make some walking sticks from Ash. Contact John Mitchel on 082 825 0077.
Schalk van Niekerk is looking for somebody to share a lift with to the AWSA congress in PE. Contact Schalk on 082 443 4977 or schalk@icon.co.za

Please Note:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or [renato AT pixie.co.za](mailto:renato@pixie.co.za) for more information.

Wednesday Workshop. The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Winston Klein on 011-674-1513 for more information.

Infill planes

For many wood workers who use hand planes, the infill planes such as produced by Spiers, Norris, and others from about a century and a half ago, still represent the ultimate. An infill plane is a plane with a metal sole and sides, with the interior filled in with wood. The handles are formed out of the wood infill and the cutter is bedded onto the wood infill. These planes are heavy and rigid, allowing very precise control of the blade, to make very fine shavings for smoothing.



Even in the machine age, there is a market for high quality planes that have exceptional qualities. A thick cutter made from a special steel; a heavy, rigid body; and very accurate, high quality finishes distinguish these planes. They are ready to use out of the box except perhaps a light hone of the cutting edge is required.



Many modern, cast iron planes exhibit faults out of the box that make them only suitable for rough carpentry – particularly those of eastern origin. The sole may not be flat; the mouth may not be straight; the blade doesn't seat properly; the sole is too thin – it flexes with any significant cutting forces leading to chatter, dig in, tear-out. They usually have poor quality blades that are too thin – they flex and chatter, and don't hold an edge. Overall they have poor fit and finish, and slack on the adjustments. Some of these faults can be rectified with "tuning" of the plane – many articles have been written on this topic. However problems such as a lightweight body cannot be rectified, and then the most demanding users look for better planes.



One step up are the planes from Lie Nielsen (right), Veritas from Lee Valley (above right), Clifton, etc, which have addressed all these faults. Those of you who attended Manuel's talk in July will have seen some examples of these planes. Hardware Center also sell some examples.

A further, big step up is the range of planes from Karl Holtey. (See www.holteyplanes.com). He makes both reproductions of the Norris planes and a couple of original designs. These planes are mostly hand made, with very high standards of workmanship. Traditional construction methods are used with fabricated bodies and lots of hand work. Consequently he asks very high prices – £2500- to £7000- A Holtey reproduction of the Norris A51 is shown at the start of the article.

Infill planes do have their problems. They are very labour intensive to make, hence costly and not as dimensionally stable as some would like – this is due to the inherent properties of a block of wood fitted into the middle of the body – as the wood responds to changing environmental conditions – temperature and humidity, it can exert forces on the metal part of the body, distorting it. This is alluded to by Karl Holtey in his write-up on his newer non-infill models, the 98 and 982.

(See www.holteyplanes.com for some pictures detailing the construction and making of these planes.)

The 98 and 982 have fabricated bodies, but no wooden infill.

The 98 shown below is a bevel up plane – the blade arrangement is similar to the Lie Nielsen and Veritas low-angle planes. (The Veritas #4 is shown above, right.) The bed angle is $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and with the recommended honing angle of 30° , the angle of attack is $52\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ which is well suited for harder woods, to reduce tearout. By changing the honing angle, the angle of attack can be adjusted if required. The adjuster is the Norris combination adjuster.

The 982 (shown right) has a more conventional blade location, with the bevel down. The bed angle is 55° , commonly called the York pitch, also suited for difficult grain. The adjuster follows the same principle as the Norris one, but has been improved to be smoother under higher clamping loads. The body is also made of thicker steel, to be 40% heavier.

Holtey says the thicker steel used for the body more than compensates for the loss of rigidity lost from the lack of an infill. So, even Karl Holtey is trying non-infill bodies, following the lead of Lie Nielsen and Veritas. Perhaps infill planes are no longer the last word?

One characteristic of modern planes of the Bailey pattern – the adjustable mouth is absent from these infill planes and indeed from the Holtey 98 and 982. This means that the plane is dedicated to work as a smoothing plane. The mouth

cannot be opened out for roughing / scrub plane duty. The low angle plane from Veritas has an adjustable mouth as you can see from the picture above. This is achieved with a movable plate in front of the throat.

