February 2017 Meeting – Ian Cameron

Our demonstration this month was by Ian Cameron, one of our members. Ian was the winner of the club's competition in December which was off-centre turning. There had been only eight entries to that competition and Ian said that his demonstration would show how relatively easy it was to turn off centre in order to encourage members to adopt that form of turning.

Ian made a Tazza with the bowl shape mounted at an angle on the stem. He started by mounting a circular blank between centres using his One-way chuck into which was mounted a steb centre. He started turning at about 1000 rpm. He prefers his one-way Chuck because it has serrated teeth to help with the grip. He has a set of Cole jaws and always remounts his work so the serration marks are turned away

He turns the mounting point, cleans the base, and remounts. The base has been marked with dots every half an inch out from the centre which will result, as the remounts are carried out, in a shallow curve. Finishing must be completed at each stage or you will end up with a lot of hand sanding.

The remount is carried out using a handmade device consisting of a dome of scrap wood with towelling glued over it. when this is inserted in the drive it results in the ability to mount the bowl at a different angle each time. The remounts follow the half inch marks made earlier, it must be remembered to check the tool rest each time because the Remount will result in the bowl swinging further and further towards you.

The speed of your lathe is also important because the balance will be moving more away from the centre. You will have to check this by the Wobble induced.

Ian turns away to a depth of about one quarter to a third, turns a pencil line in the bottom of the vee to provide a visual indicator then turns the next section when it is remounted by turning away the pencil line. He redraws the pencil line and remounts the next half an inch mark again checking the tool rest and speed. This is repeated to each half inch mark and the curve will gradually be apparent. Remember you must finish each section as you go. Note you will be cutting a lot of air.

Check your tool rest and speed each time.

At the last point one must turn a tenon of about 1 1/2 inches.

Mount a new blank, turn chucking point, mount and turn the face to shape. Ian uses the word cheat several times in the process. I don't agree that he is cheating, any application of the tool to rotating wood is turning.

The third blank for the stem is then mounted, a three-quarter inch hole is drilled in one end for the tenon to fit. It is turned to a cylinder, shaped using his 40/40 grind gouge, and finished. Neither the base nor the stem is turned off centre. The three pieces would then be glued together.

Ian finished by showing the process for his actual competition entry which involved a massive 'one off' Jig of extreme complexity, a lot of setting up compared to the amount of turning. Very much an engineering approach.

Tips gleaned from the chat.

Reading safety glasses. A good approach to safety for the eye.

Abranet. Gives a good finish and given the length of time it lasts is very economical. This can be backed with offcuts of antifatigue Mat.

40/40 grind on tool. Provides a favourite cutting edge for Ian's use.

Antifatigue Mat gives a good surface to work from and allows a longer working period.