

Annual General meeting - held on 20th February 2002

Reviewed by David Buskell Honorary Secretary

This was an auspicious occasion, as it was the last meeting to be chaired by Frank Clarke. Frank, as you all know, is leaving these shores for life in the Republic of Ireland. No doubt we will soon see a "Kerry Woodturners Association" springing up!

The AGM dealt with the usual business of apologies-only a few, so we had a good turn-out. The Minutes of last year's AGM had been posted on the Notice board for all to read, and were approved. Next year we will be try to get a copy to every member, possibly with one of the Newsletters.

Then came Frank's final report. He had promised some startling revelations about the Committee and members, but on the night, Diplomacy prevailed. No doubt the revelations have been filed away for use another time!

The Secretary and Treasurer presented their reports, which were approved.

Subscriptions for 2003 are difficult to predict, as they are affected by costs and the level of membership. However, it is always prudent to get approval for an increase if one is needed, so the meeting gave the Committee a remit to increase by £2.50.

The Committee elections were straight forward, as we only received nominations sufficient to fill the vacant posts. All were elected. See the next Newsletter for full details.

The "Any other Business" items were the most interesting.

The Committee proposed two changes to the Constitution:

1. To allow committee members to stand for a maximum of three years, and then stand down for one year. It is hoped this will give everyone the opportunity to participate in running the Club.
2. To allow the Committee to elect a President. Although we have had a President in the past, the Constitution does not allow the appointment, so this was remedied.

The vexed question of "to show or not to show" was then addressed. The Committee had been concerned about the various requests to attend shows that have been received, and wanted to get the members views on whether this was the direction the Club wanted to go in. There was a lively debate, and the general feeling was that initially members should bring along their work to the Club for show and friendly critique, following which there might be the support for moving on to other events. This does not preclude any member from making his/her own arrangements to sell work outside the club. This seemed to be a sensible step forward, and now the Committee can deal with the various requests it has.

The welcome cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit were then debated. Why? The Club needs to decide if we want to pay the venue for the refreshments or continue as we are. It was decided to continue as we are, with various members offering to man the refreshment stall at each meeting. This will greatly assist the Events Organiser, who hasn't managed to get a cuppa since he took on the job!

The meeting closed after about two hours of good discussion and debate.

Before we all left, Andrew Griffiths, our new Chairman, took the opportunity to thank Frank once again on behalf of the Club, for all his hard work. The members expressed their appreciation in the usual manner. Frank was presented with an inscribed platter at the January 16th meeting, and a photograph will appear in the next Newsletter.

