

Mark Baker - Woodturning masterclass - 16th January 2002

Reviewed by Keith Arscott (photos Gregory Moreton)

Keeping a room full of woodturners interested and inspired for 90 minutes is no mean feat especially when addressing such a mixed bunch as Cheam Woodturners Association. But that is just what Mark Baker achieved on Wednesday 16th January through his Master Class – he had our undivided attention. I certainly enjoyed the evening.

Perhaps it is just that our members simply enjoy watching a lump of spinning wood changing shape before their eyes regardless of whether they're learning something new or not.

One of the great things about our club is that craftsmen (or artists!) representing the whole range of expertise mix together with a mutual appreciation and even a 'passion' for our chosen hobby.



Professionals and novices alike chose to spend a mid-January evening listening and watching. Without doubt, Mark has an excellent ability to hold everyone's attention with very interesting and informed dialogue whilst at the same time demonstrating with skill. Who says that we men can't multi-task?

The fact that all Mark did was to turn a very simple Sycamore bowl and that he took all evening to do so, reveals that he possesses communication skills which are sadly lacking in some otherwise very talented craftsmen/demonstrators.

Thanks again to our committee for providing us with a varied annual programme.



Mark Shows us how to judge the perfect form