



## Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc.)

### MINUTES

**Convenors' Meeting, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Held at: Mandurah Woodturning Group Clubroom**

**Commenced at 10 am**

**Chairperson John Kennett**

**Attendees:**

John Kennett (Chairperson), Terry Nichols, Colin Valli, Ken Morgan, Barbara Jennings, Dennis Haddon, Robyn McLean, Bruce Jackson (President), Jim Cameron, Lex Mclachlan, Stuart North, David Doye, Peter Compton, Max Heath, Brian Mather, David Milton (Secretary). Zoom facilities activated but no participants (ceased after 1 hour) Meeting broke at 12:15pm for lunch and resumed at 12:45pm)

1. Welcome and administration by Jon Kennett.
2. **Absences and Apologies.**
  - Manjimup, Mal Olston
  - CoM, David Finch, Ian Ludford
3. **Actions from Previous Minutes.**
  - 3.1. *Groups to write Profiles on their prominent members.* About 130 profiles on webpage but groups asked to continue recording profiles **ACTION; All Group Conveners.**
  - 3.2. *CoM to examine the policy of electronic communication in the hand book.* This is being undertaken with a completed review of digital platform for WAWA in progress, **Resolution by next forum.**
  - 3.3. *The Drawings by Richard Barkman on the website CoM: **Completed*** and ongoing drawings also on Swan site.
  - 3.4. *Should we have turning demonstration videos on the website was raised. Action: We should record the intent or aim to do this in future, especially at WEWS for historical records?* See General business
  - 3.5. *Groups are responsible for finding a President and CoM members.* Bruce not standing next year. Have setup Zoom facility to allow more country groups to get involved. **ACTION; All Group Conveners**
  - 3.6. *: Recommendation to CoM for a budget to be allocated to the training department for chainsaw training. Empower the training group to have a say in the WAWA budget, also enabling them to spend the allocation as required. **Completed;*** Training Budget has allocation for chainsaw training and training proposal considered by Com along with budget process.
  - 3.7. *Some groups have a regular program of demonstrations. Some groups do not. There currently is a demonstration training module available. Action: Denis Tapley to revamp and make available for groups.* Held over to next meeting.

**"Acceptance of actions from previous meetings" Moved Max Heath, Seconded Dennis Haddon. Passed unanimously.**
4. **General Business**



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- 4.1. Competition Matters: All items raised in agenda items 4.1 , 4.2 and the appendix (Competition Review by Competition sub committee Chaired by Barbara Jennings) were discussed at length. A summary of points raised is:
- 4.1.1. Less than 20% of members enter competitions over a year and generally between only 5 and 10% ie 25 to 50 each competition. Need to keep the balance right to ensure social members not alienated.
  - 4.1.2. Group committees input also needed in helping determine skill level as well as member electing to promote or step back themselves.
  - 4.1.3. Show and tell at both group and WeWs level more important than competition gradings.
  - 4.1.4. Competition coordinator must retain right to change skill level classification. Right of appeal to CoM. There is need to consider the step back methodology
  - 4.1.5. Tabled report from sub committee is progressing well in right direction and needs to be firmed up, percentile methodology and average score is a step in right direction.
- Moved by Brian Maher, Seconded Stuart North **“that the competition sub committee continue with its review and make recommendations to CoM” Passed by Majority**
- 4.2. Facilitating participation in COM/President position, especially from country members). Key points are:
- 4.2.1. Country groups could offer hosting for visiting President/COM or vice versa if visiting from the country to city. President/secretary to be encouraged to travel to groups
- 4.3. Guidelines for training of new members (beginners)
- 4.3.1. The meeting was asked to setup a sub committee to review this matter and determine the course contents (expectations) and behaviours guideline for new members (beginners) training. Note: the concept of competency based approach was rejected. **Action Groups to provide names of members who will be involved in setting up guidelines**
- 4.4. View of Conveners concerning the role of demonstrations (live) versus “You Tube “style as the quality of the latter now is often far better than the former. The main points were
- 4.4.1. Generally, only a few demonstrators doing group demos at most groups (except Melville), “you tube” or video presentation often a filler.
  - 4.4.2. Groups are active in trying to change meeting times to accommodate members.
  - 4.4.3. There was support for more handouts of demos from WeWs so that members who do not attend get information on method or techniques.
- 4.5. With no Woodshow the proposal to **line up the “open competition” with the Royal show was agreed to.** President to negotiate better facilities for the showing of competition items.
- 4.6. The position of librarian:
- 4.6.1. **It was resolved that 2 weeks be given for a replacement librarian to be found by groups. If not, all library materials will be stored at WAWA Office at Wandu**
  - 4.6.2. The Secretary was instructed to provide a letter of thanks from Conveners and groups to Mike Phillips for his effort over the past 10 years.
- 4.7. Asset Disposal proposed changes (clarification) to Handbook (Yellow highlights). *“Where a piece of equipment or other item is no longer required by a Group, it may be disposed of as follows:*



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- . approval to dispose **[and the disposal price if applicable]** is given by the Committee of Management
- . the piece of equipment or other item is offered in the first instance to other groups
- . it may then be offered to members of the Group
- . if unwanted by Group members, it may then be disposed of as the Group Committee determines.

**NOTE: If the intention is to dispose of the piece of equipment or other item by sale, the responsibility for establishing the sale price rests with the Group. Proceeds from the sale belong to the Group."**

- 4.8. STEP update a draft schedule of activities has been prepared and tabled at CoM (see minutes of CoM meeting on web page). As programs firm up more information will be provided via mail out and web page. Groups to approach members for trainers to assist in presenting STEP courses and for demonstrator and judge training.
- 4.9. A clarification on WAWA Covid policy was requested. The WAWA policy requires proof of vaccination or exemption for WeWs but groups can determine in consultation with their own membership and landlords any requirements considering government requirements.
- 4.10. Avon Convener gave an update on preparation for their WEWs, number likely to be restricted due to Covid requirements.

The Competition co-ordinator requested groups make submissions of items (two required ) for next year. A simplified item can also be submitted for beginners skill level. Time table as per Handbook

### Timeline for Developing the Annual Competition Schedule

Deadline date	Event
1 April Workshop	Request for Groups to submit competition items
2 June Workshop	Circulation by Competition Committee of draft list to Groups for comment and/or modification
4 July Workshop	Groups' submission of modified lists to Competition Committee for finalising
5 August Workshop	Notification to members of the Competition Schedule for the coming year -- that is, for the period September-August
6 September	Publication of the Competition Schedule in the WAWA Newsletter

- 4.11. Conveners were invited to refer members to the Embellisher group web page and consider using their page more..

Next Meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> July Busselton

Meeting Closed 1:25pm

**APPENDIX FOLLOWS.**



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### Competition Review (Draft)

The COM has a subcommittee looking at the competition, specifically the methods used to determine promotions from one skill category to the next. This is in response to feedback from members that:

- They were being promoted too fast, particularly from intermediate to advanced
- The number of members (and entries) in each category was becoming unbalanced.
- The distinction between the skills displayed in each category was becoming blurred.

We are proposing to use the judged scores rather than the points gained for entering and places as the basis for promotion. We started with a review of the existing data in the competition database, going back to 2016. The beginners class has only been active since November last year so we went through the novice entries and shifted those from members in their first twelve months into the beginner category. This increased the numbers in beginners as well as presumably removing some of the lower scores from novice. The results are in the table below.

	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced
Current number of members 335 (61%) never entered	7 (0.01%)	69 (12.5%)	63 (11.5%)	76 (14%)
total entries	48	500	378	576
average score	63.5	69.3	71.9	78.9
range	42-86	38-93	31-93	52 - 98
Percentiles				
10th	51	56	58	66
20th	56	60	62	71
30th	59	64	68	74
40th	64	67	70	78
50th	65	70	73	80
60th	66	74	76	82
70th	68	76	78	84
80th	70	78	82	87
90th	74	82	86	90

We considered whether we might be able to use say the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile number and this would promote around 20% of members each year from beginners to novice, novice to intermediate and intermediate to advanced. Based on the current numbers in each category this would be around 12 to 14 in each of novice and intermediate categories.

Looking at the beginners this would take the promoted members to about average in the novices. However, the promoted novices would be well above the average intermediate, and similarly the promoted intermediates would be above the average advanced.



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We then started looking at the average scores of the people who won the accumulated points prizes last year and all those who were promoted. These figures are in the tables below.

### Promoted from Intermediate to Advanced September 2021

Old Rank	New Rank	Points	No entries	Average last 10	Placing 2021
Int	Adv	58	15	81.1	1st
Int	Adv	39	13	75.1	2nd
Int	Adv	26	8	69.7	3rd
Int	Adv	23	8	77.2	4th
Int	Adv	23	25	68.3	
Int	Adv	23	16	70	

### Promoted from Novice to Intermediate September 2021

Old Rank	New Rank	Points	No entries	Average last 10	Placing 2021
Promoted on points					
Novice	Int	33	12	74.3	1st
Novice	Int	32	13	69.7	2nd
Novice	Int	25	17	68.1	
Novice	Int	23	5	74.8	2nd
Novice	Int	22	6	75.5	
Promoted on time as a member					
Novice	Int	18	10	73.5	
Novice	Int	14	6	77.3	
Novice	Int	12	7	68.6	
Novice	Int	11	3	67.7	4th
Novice	Int	7	1	77	
Novice	Int	4	2	62	
Novice	Int	2	2	not judged	
Not promoted					
Novice	Novice	13	6	71.2	3rd

Looking at both sets of data, it seemed that the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile was a better guide to promotions. Those who would be promoted using these 50<sup>th</sup> percentiles are highlighted. A few things are worth noting here:



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- Currently novices are promoted to intermediate on two criteria – either accumulating more than 21 points, or if they have been members for more than 3 years.
- Intermediates are promoted to advanced on accumulating more than 21 points at intermediate level.
- Accumulated points, as shown in the tables, can be over a number of years, not just the most recent.
- Early in 2020 we had lockdown and photographic competitions. These were not judged, but winners still accumulated points.
- Some intermediates would not have been promoted using an average score of 73 as the cutoff. Similarly some novices would not have been promoted using an average score of 70 as the cutoff.
- The third placegetter in the Novice annual awards as they had only been a member for a little over 12 months and total accumulated points were less than the 21 point threshold, but all entries and placings were in the current year. They would have been promoted under the average judged score system.
- The time factor for novice promotions has been made redundant by the introduction of the beginner category as the one for new turners.
- Competition co-ordinator has discretion in all promotions.

In summary, we are proposing that we could use promotion thresholds of 65, 70 and 75 to go from beginner to novice to intermediate to advanced, based on the average of the member's last 10 entries in the competition. Averaging over this number rather than just the current year helps to remove the effect of high and low scoring judges. Competition co-ordinators discretion may be needed where they had less than 10 entries in total to be averaged. These numbers could be fine tuned down the track depending on how things worked out.

Other questions arise including:

- Assuming we progress with this proposal then August this year would be a good implementation timeframe, to coincide with the end of this competition year.
- Do we demote people if their average scores drop? We suggest generally not, but as an interim measure we may need to allow some people who have been recently promoted to demote at their request. Again, competition co-ordinators discretion needed.
- This still doesn't address the issue of senior members whose skills may be dropping due to age and/or ill health. How do we keep them engaged and encourage participation?
- Should we still have a time criteria for beginners? Probably yes. We could say that if they had been turning for more than 12 months as at the August end of year that they had to go up. This would mean that someone who had been turning for 11 months at that time could potentially be a beginner for nearly 2 years.