Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

April 2025

Editor John O'Neill

Please check both your email and the Chapter website (http://www.dublinwoodturners.com) regularly for updates.

Contents

John B Sheehan from Tipperary.

John is an centenarian and a member of our chapter, still turning.

Dublin Chapter

ONE DAY SEMINAR

Leading European Woodturner

First Time in Ireland

Matthias Bachoffen Beer

Sat. May 3rd 2025

Registration from 9:00AM.

Demonstration start 9:30AM

Raffle with Great Prizes

An enjoyable and inspiring day is assured.

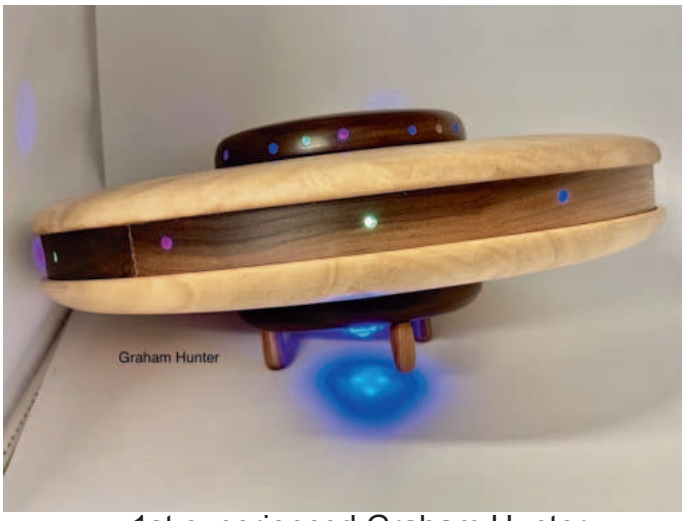
Cost €50 includes Hot Lunch, Tea & Coffee

Competition (max 3 entries)

Dublin Woodturners
Willington Scout Den
6 Templeogue Lodge,
Templeogue, Dublin
D6W AA14

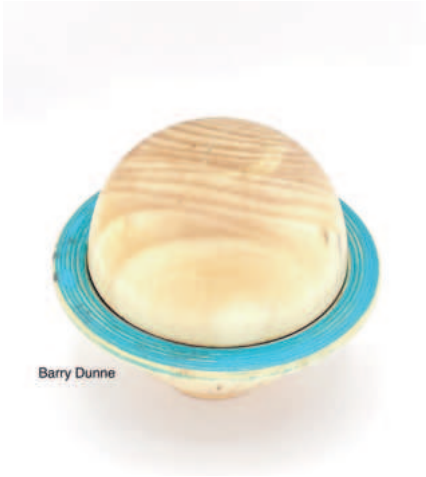
To Book contact Treasurer at:
email - vpscwhelan@gmail.com
Phone - 087 760 4918
Deposit €20 refundable up to 1 week before Seminar.

Mar 2025 competition photos,,
pictures by Claire Godkin

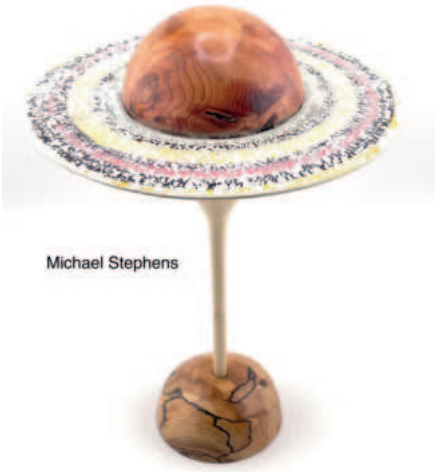


1st experienced Graham Hunter

2nd experienced Brian Kelly



3rd experienced
Barry Dunne



1st
advanced
Michael
Stephens

2nd advanced
Sean Ryan

3rd advanced
Tony Hartney

1st beginners
Brendan
O'Looney

1st artistic
Charlie
Byrne

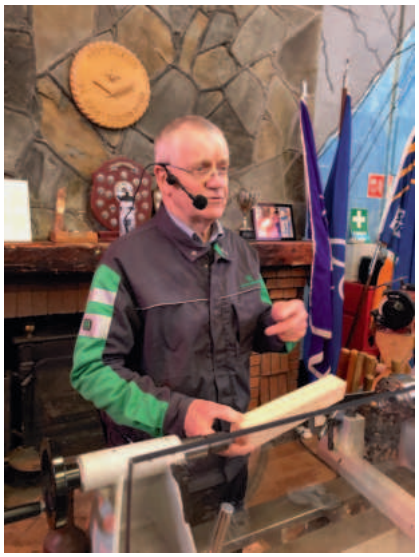
2nd artistic Michael Fay

3rd artistic Brian Kelly

4th artistic Barry Dunne

5th artistic
Tony
Hartney

Saturday
Demonstrator: Tom Dunlop
Focus: spindle turning
Notes by Pacelli O'Rourke
Pictures by John O'Neill



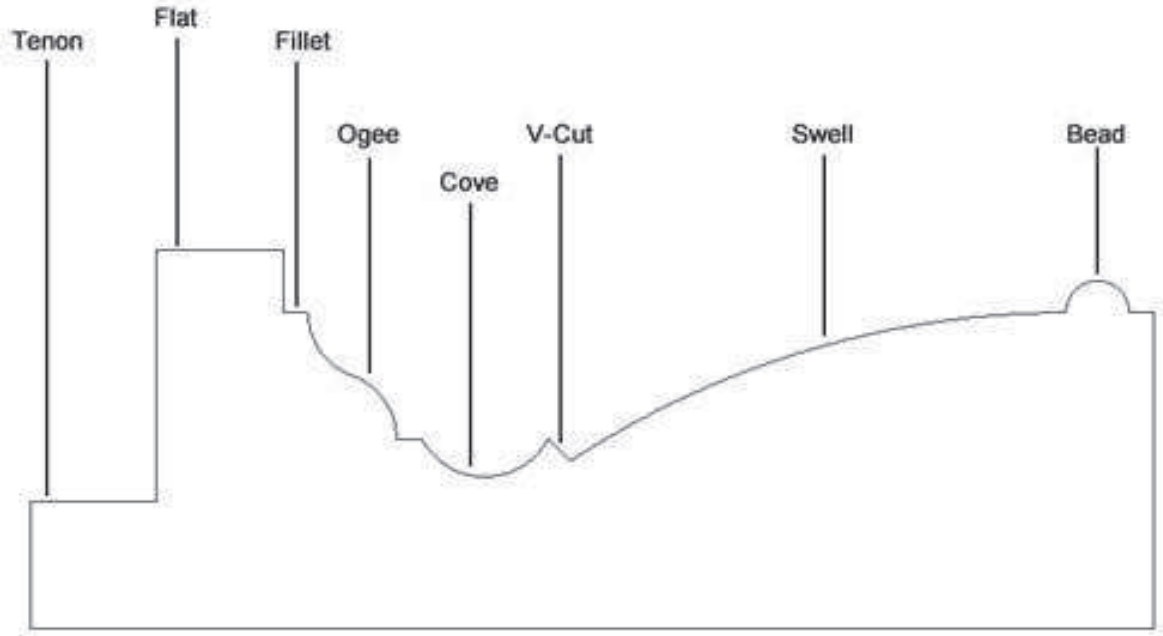
Focus : Tom was our demonstrator back in October, on spindle turning. So, I've no doubt that he will on this occasion, have many more pearls to cast. I Recall being impressed at how well stocked with blanks and tools he was when he arrived to us at that time! He is in the thick of setting up 'shop.' I expect him to get going with his programme any minute now. Tom, as with many demonstrators, likes to keep a little stream of verbal nuggets going along with his practice. Unlike other types of turning, eg. Bowl turning, he's passionate about spindle turning, even though he acknowledges in one way the spindle turner is sold short. He/she has less scope for doing one offs; most applications for their work are multiplied by 4! Which brings us to a short consideration of :

Precision-copying
Everybody is a beginner! One bit of kit you absolutely must have is a series of templates. The template is as a map on a stiff strip containing strict measurements along the length and the various diameters and features involved. Back to Tom: Don't copy from piece to piece. Keep referring back to the template. So, if you have created a template, use it! Always check the length of the blank before you go to the lathe. Pictured left, blank mounted between centres and below left, marking the part turned cylinder.

The Pummel
Whereas spindles will be circularised for most of their length, it is quite common that a section at the top or bottom is left rectangular. That section has the name, pommel. It is no mean skill to be able to produce a first rate pommel. Just think of the old adage; "patience would take a snail to Jerusalem!" If you pick up changes in sound from the lathe, stop working until you've discovered the cause and fixed it. Do not just become annoyed with the situation and think; I'll just do the bit I'm working on now, and fix the problem tomorrow. Maybe leave a note saying what kind of flowers you'd prefer !

Height of toolrest
Depends...you need to decide what's comfortable for you. As a rule of thumb elbow level is commonly found to be reasonably comfortable.

Various Woodturning Profiles



Sharpening tools

Most important! Turning with blunt tools can be dangerously risky. Tom advises doing it the easy way...BUY THE JIG! That's the only sure fire way to keep your gouges and chisels in pristine condition which of course will show in the results of your turning. Now, let us run through the basic profiles in spindle turning: Parallel; ie.basic circulisation of a blank/ Taper; simple uniform reduction of a diameter along the spindle length Convex +Concave; Outward and inward curves/ Ogee; A double curve or shallow 'S' profile, without separating fillets.

Tom demonstrates a fine piece of spindle practice on a length of red deal: Firstly, he circularises the blank, next, he applied a template along the length, marking out the fillets which separate

the five sections, each a perfect match for the others.

Turning a Cabriole leg

Straightaway, we realise that this project is going to involve some off-centre turning. This will be at the tailstock end. The size of the off centre is 9mm. This will give the desired 'foot' shape, and lead to a diminishing taper toward the headstock. Very attractive indeed! The wood, cherry, adds to the attractiveness. Not surprisingly, Tom sends out the caveat about keeping RPM to a safe minimum. Finally, he draws attention to two aspects of his behaviour at the lathe; "I'm

travelling with the tool, my feet don't leave the the standing pad." The above enhances control for the turner.

Presenting the tool
Resist the temptation to go straight in horizontally. Guide the tool through an arc , ending with a perfect merging of tool and wood.

Tom, it has indeed been a pleasure having you again as our demonstrator. I'm sure I speak for all in saying your thoroughness is a wonderful skill in itself!

Thank you
Pacelli O'Rourke

above,one of Toms 'bendy' pieces
left, planing the surface with the spindle gouge

Interesting stuff from the internet

Frank Howarth on youtube, an american turner, handy with the chainsaw!

Rod Humphrey , on youtube, wide range of informative videos, uses a wide range of wood species in his turnings.

the Rebel Turner, aka Al Furtado, another american, good range of turning videos, check the one on end grain turning.

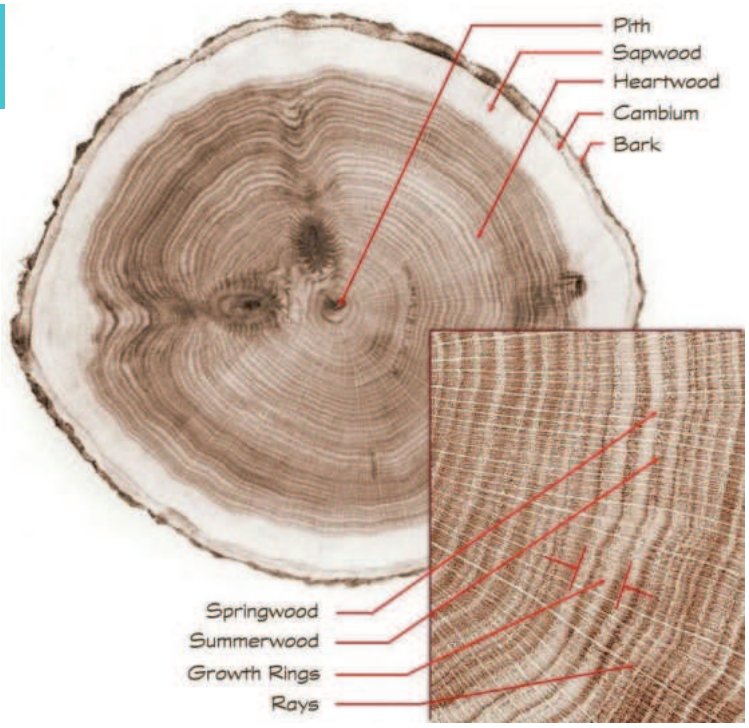
https://lathegod.com/advanced-woodturning-techniques-and-tools/

https://www.popularwoodworking.com/woodturning/

https://mailland.fr/en/alain-mailland-woodturner/ French woodturner

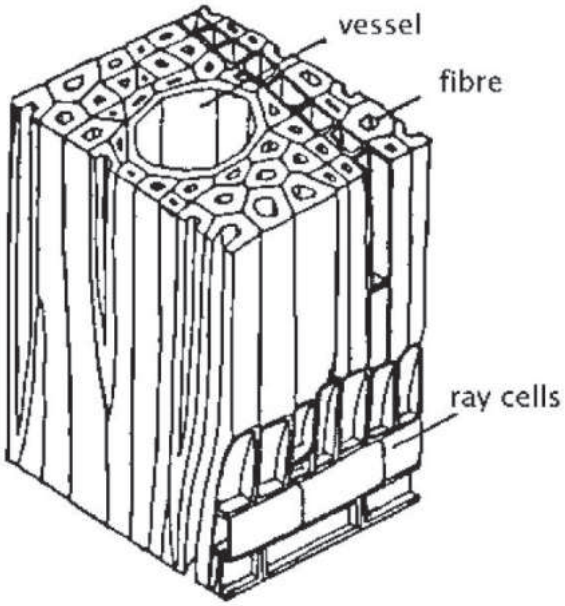

Dublin Chapter
SUMMER BBQ
GARY RANCE
Making his Long Awaited Return
Sat. July 5th 2025
SEMINAR TIMETABLE
9:00am - Registration
9:30am - Demo 1
11:00am - Tea/Coffee Break
11:30am: Demo 2
1:00pm - Lunch & Competition Judging
2:15pm - Demo 3
3:15pm - Tea/Coffee, Raffle & Competition Results
4:00pm - Demo 3 (cont'd)
5:00pm - Close

A bit about wood grain
By John O'Neill



Wood grain can be your friend or not!
What is it and what's it made of?
The different parts of tree trunk are,
...the pith, dead part in the middle,
...next layer is the heartwood, it supports the tree and not involved in tree growth,
...then there is the sapwood, this is the growing layer withs high moisture content, it carries the water and sugars to the leaves,
...the very outside layer is the bark, current years growth ring.

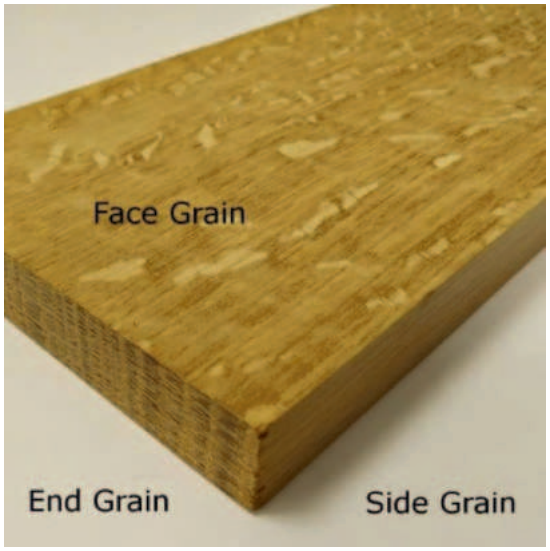
The appearance of rings is the result of the differing conditions during the growing season, soft wood layed down in spring and harder wood layed down in summer.
Each year, over the winter, the inner layer of cambium becomes dormant and becomes sapwood, the inner layer of sapwood becomes heartwood, then the whole process starts all over again resulting in the distinctive growth ring for each tree type.



As the cambium grows it forms two types of wood cells,
1,,, long & narrow longitudinal cells that align themselves with the axis of the trunk, these are what we refer to when talking about wood grain.
2... ray cells that line up in rays extending out from the pith, perpendicular to the axis, these produce an extra feature in the grain.

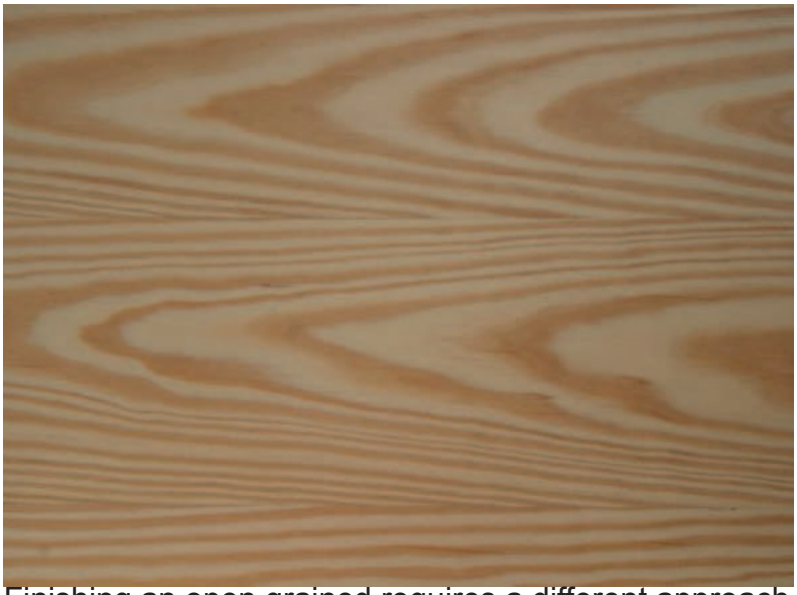
The walls of these longtudinal cells are composed of cellulose. The fibres are bound togher using a substance called lignin, natures super glue and the combination of fibre and lignin gives the wood its strength.
Lignin is the second most abundant organic polymer in the world, the cellulose is the most abundant. The rays are used to transport sugar between the cells & rings.

The wood in a tree is just a collection of active fibres until its cut. On cutting we produce the different types of grain.
End grain is when the tree is cut right across horizontally.



Face and side grain when its cut vertically.

Texture
The size and type of wood cells differ between species and may even differ between woods of the same species. The texture of the wood is related to the size of the longitudinal cells. Large longitudinal cells result in a coarse texture while small cells result in a finer texture. Some hardwoods have a special type of longitudinal cell, when these are split open they leave a tiny hole or pore, this is a feature of the wood. Springwood may have a larger concentration of these pores. Smaller pores produce closed grain woods whilst larger pores produce more open grained wood.



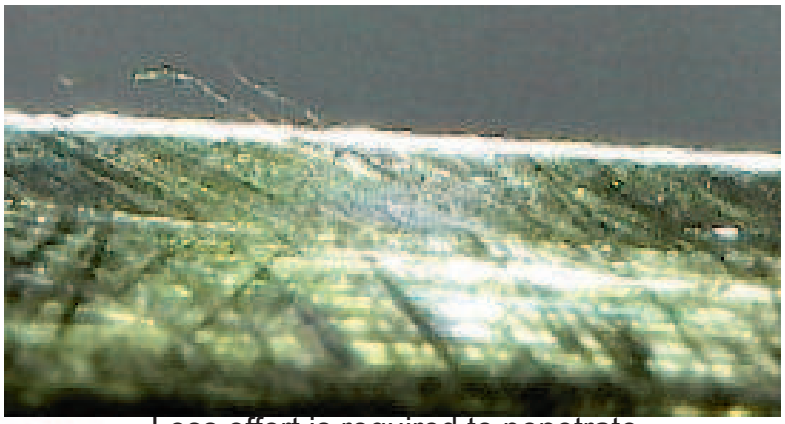
Open grained woods include elm, ash and oak. Closed grain woods include maple, birch and alder. Pine is considered a closed grain wood, pictured on the left.

Finishing an open grained requires a different approach to finishing a closed grain wood.
Open grained may require some filling of the pores. Repeated coats of varnish or lacquer may fillths pores and produce a good finish, sanding advisable between coats. A better option is to use an oil based finish, sand immediately to produce a slurry and use this slurry to fill the pores, repeat until a smooth finish is achieved, oak oil finish pictured on right. In extreme coarse grains a paste filler may help improve the surface.

Closed grain woods will take a finish easily, oil, varnish, wax, lacquer will quickly enhance the grain features of the wood.

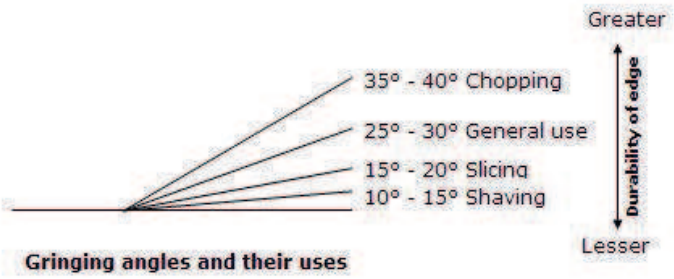
This is not a complete list of finishes which can be used but the purpose of the article is to heighten awareness on the properties of wood grainand how it differs with various wood species. Whole books have been written on the art of the perfect finish!
on left is a Colum Murphy piece from 2018 highlighting the beauty of grain.

Sharpness
by John O'Neill



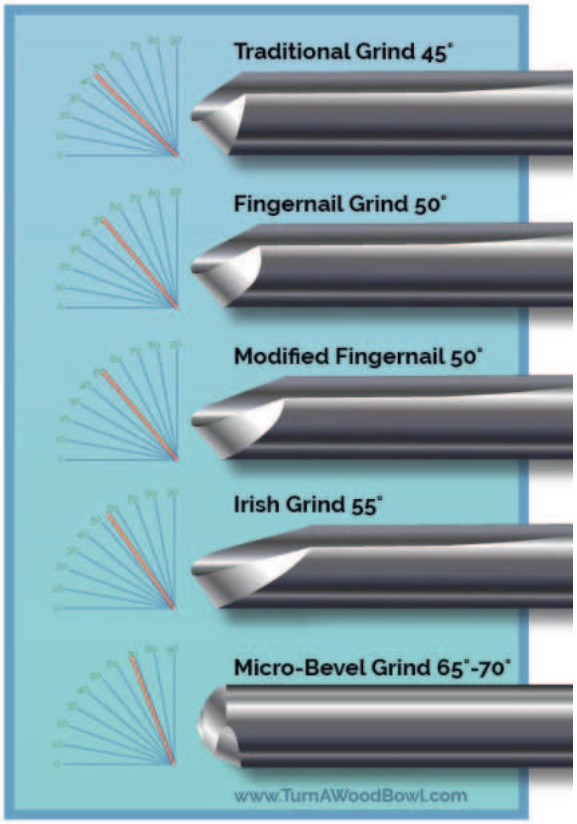
What do we mean by sharpness?
On the right is an image of a sharp blade under a microscope, doesn't look the prettiest but it will cut and its perfectly sharp, looks shiny to the eye.

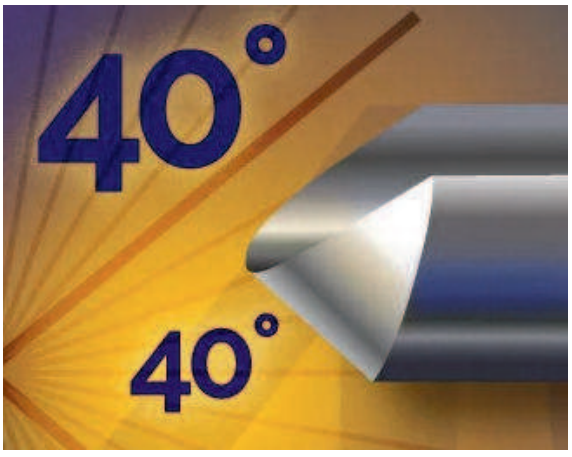
What can a sharp tool do, it can make precise, finer and more controlled cuts.



Gringing angles and their uses

Less effort is required to penetrate whatever its trying to cut. A sharp edge is more dangerous if you accidently put your hand on it but substantially less dangerous in use as less pressure is required.
A sharp edge implies that the cutting edge is smooth and comes to an ever point.
There is a system to measure sharpness, its the Blade Sharpness Index (BSI), which categorizes blades based on the force required to make a cut through a standardized material.
When buying razor blades in the supermarket make sure you check the BSI value for the best performing blade!
The Durability of the sharpened edge indicates how lon it will remain sharp for, chart pictured above.
The smaller the angle of the edge the more brittle the cutting edge is, the shart is for knives and does not include the angles for woodturning tools. Wood is a harder substance and requires a stronger more durable edge, angles of 40-70 degrees recommended.
Pictured on the right is a bowl gouge bevel angle chart. The rule still applies, the more pointed the bevel the les durable the edge, i.e. requires more frequent sharpening. The woodturner also has to deal with the wood fighting back and wearing down the cutting edge as fast as it can. image below shows the bevel angles





for the 40/40 bowl gouge grind, the latest fashion, note the difference between this and the traditional Irish grind. The 40/40 grind should in theory be more durable.

Whatever grind you use, it will work better when the tool is sharp.

Competition Table

Beginners	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Liam Slattery		15											15
Brendan O'Looney				15									15
Experienced													
Graham Hunter	15	13	11	15									54
Brian Kelly	13	11	15	13									52
Barrry Dunne		15	13	11									39
Advanced													
Michael Stephens	11	11	7	15									44
Tony Hartney		13	11	11									35
Michael Fay		15	13										28
Charlie Byrne		7	15										22
Sean Ryan		6		13									19
Claire Godkin		9	9										18
John O'Neill	15												15
Brendan Phelan	13												13
Declan Corrigan		5											5
Artistic													
Charlie Byrne	15	15	11	15									56
Michael Fay		13	13	13									39
Brian Kelly		11	7	11									29
Michael Stephens	9	9	5										23
Declan Corrigan		7	9										16
Colm Murphy			15										15
Hugh Nolan	13												13
John O'Neill	11												11
Barry Dunne				9									9
Tony Hartney				7									7
Claire Godkin			6										6
Graham Hunter			5										5

Chapter officers

President	Joe	McLoughlin	0872610803	
Chairman	Pat	Walsh		DWT.Chair@gmail.com
Secretary	Tommy	Hartnett	0868284178	DWT.Secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Vincent	Whelan	0877604918	DWT.Treasurer@gmail.com
Membership	Mark	Daly	0879484051	DWT.Membership@gmail.com
Competitions	Charlie	Byrne		DWT.Competitions@gmail.com
Exhibitions	Paul	Murtagh	0871331292	
Audio Visual	Tony	Hartney		
Wednesday Demos	Brendan Phelan			
Newsletter/WebSite	John	O'Neill		webmaster@dublinwoodturners.com
Books & Video				