

September 2015 - Mark Sanger

Mark Sanger was welcomed to the club for the second time this year and started by entering the club monthly challenge which was an egg and eggcup.

Mark set the scene by explaining the geometry of the Euclidian Egg and the concept of the golden ratio of 1.6 in relationship to the relative heights of the top and bottom to the widest width. For those that want chapter and verse on the concept then see this [article](#). Alternatively, open the fridge and select an egg whose shape you want to copy, take a digital photograph and scale the measurements appropriately! Note that the average egg is 44mm at its widest by 57mm high.

The egg was turned using a piece of yew, rounded off and then held in the chuck jaws whilst the wider end was shaped and finished. The pointy end was then shaped and parted off.

Top Tip 1 - when using the parting tool, make the first cut with the tool held horizontally to get a sharp edge before lowering the handle to complete the rest of the cut.

Top Tip 2 - to reduce the amount of dust in the workshop by of the order of 90%, apply soft wax before sanding. To make the soft wax, put 2 blocks of beeswax in a suitable box, pour some Chestnut Food Safe Oil on the top, put in a microwave for 3mins to soften and then mix. Hand applied sanding sealer can be applied on top of this as most of the wax is removed by the sanding.

Mark turned the eggcup from spalted beech using standard goblet style techniques. Below are pictures of his finished piece together with ones brought in by club members for the monthly challenge.



Next, Mark demonstrated the techniques involved in turning a goblet this time using Irish Yew

Top Tip 3 - to avoid catches when hollowing out the goblet bowl, you can lose sight of the tip of gouge so use a push/pull cut keeping the bevel rubbing and only apply pressure for cutting on the downward stroke.

The unfinished demonstration goblet ...



Finally, Mark demonstrated the turning of a thin-walled sycamore cross-grained bowl by hollowing the inside of the bowl from the outside in, finishing off sections before proceeding deeper into the bowl, to counter the increased fragility of the wall of the bowl. The addition of some wall piercing design completed the demonstration ...



Thanks to Mark for yet another entertaining and informative evening.

David Langan