

Display Table Competition – Rules and Scoring

Although we usually get a reasonable display of work on the tables every month, especially compared to some clubs I've been to recently, it was mentioned at the AGM about possibly doing a competition table like some other clubs have to encourage members to bring their work in. Having been a member at Waveney Woodturners and seeing the problems they had with their competition tables in various guises I'm proposing to undertake the role of coordinator of the competition tables with the following format. Whilst it may seem overly complicated initially, it'll be me that needs to sort the complicated bit out so don't panic. But hopefully the point's structure will reward not only the best pieces brought in, but also reward members for just regularly bringing something in.

There will be two groups, 'novice' and 'advanced' (or 'not so novice'!!) Members will be able to pick their own group to be in for the year, as a rule of thumb I'd suggest if you've been turning for more than three years then you should probably be in the 'advanced' group but the initial decision will be yours, if I or other members of the committee think a member is in the wrong group, then it may be suggested privately to that member that they move groups.

The competition will normally run annually over 11 months, January to November and prizes etc. will be given at the December Competition night. As I'm keen to get this up and running the competition will start from September this year and run through until November next year. There will be a theme for each monthly competition, with three areas for the work to be put on display, the novice area, the advanced area, and the 'any piece of work' area. All the members have to do is come and see me first, I will be around the display area, and tell me what pieces they have brought in for that month. You will receive 4 points just for bringing something in and an additional 1 point for each additional piece brought in for that particular month, regardless whether they are conforming to that month's 'theme' or not. If your piece or pieces are inline with that month's 'theme' then they will go into your nominated area, novice or advanced. Pieces that are not inline with that month's 'theme' go in the 'any piece' area. Whoever does the critique that month will be asked to pick out their favourite 3 pieces from both the 'novice' and 'advanced' tables and place them in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. How that person picks their favourites is totally at their discretion, it may be the quality of the work, the overall design, the unusual factor etc. The 1st placed pieces on both tables get an additional 6 points each, 2nd place gets additional 4 points, and 3rd gets additional 2 points. The pieces in the 'any piece' area will be critiqued as normal and no additional points will be available for these pieces. All the points awarded each month will be logged beside your name in 'my book' and after the November meeting each year I will collate all the points each member has been credited with during that year and prizes (value dependant on how well the competition is supported) awarded to the members who have accrued the most points, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, for each group at the December meeting. The way I have formulated the points awarded system will hopefully encourage everyone of all skill

levels to bring pieces into the meetings, as you'll get points just for bringing a piece in, the 'themed piece' points are a bonus.

For example;

Member A, brings in 3 pieces every month but doesn't enter any pieces into the 'themed' competition or doesn't get any 1st, 2nd or 3rd placings. Member A accrues 4+1+1 points every month X 11 months so their final points score is 66 points.

Member B, brings in 1 'themed' piece every month and gets 2x 1st placings and 1x 3rd place. Member B accrues 4 points every month X 11 months plus additional 6+6+2 bonus points for 'themed' piece placings, so their final points score is 58 points.

Hopefully this shows that just by bringing pieces in any member can still accrue plenty of points and may win a prize, regardless of their turning experience. This is a friendly club competition so if a member brings in 30 pens or light pulls for example one month then I may group them into 1 entry, 4 points. So be warned and don't be cheeky.

If for some reason a member would prefer not to have their work publicly critiqued then either a 'No Critique' or 'Discreet Critique' label can be placed alongside your piece, so whoever is doing the critique will either not critique the piece or give the piece a critique but not ask who the maker is. On a personal note, I think having your work critiqued is probably the best way to improve your turning skills. No person doing the critique will deliberately try to embarrass a member or even dishearten them, but an honest critique is very valuable yet only that person's opinion, yet it may identify areas of your turning where you need to develop or improve a particular technique, with that information you could ask me or another member of the club how you could resolve the negative critique comments a piece received.

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