

Bring on Remote Demonstrations

I feel UK woodturning is mostly a long way behind the United States with the implementation of the use of the internet and in particular remote demonstrations in club environments. They've been at it for years with plenty of their pro turners offering remote services in their product arsenal. They do, after all have an entire continent of woodturners to demonstrate to. Until the last week or so, I knew of only a few UK clubs that had employed a remote demonstrator to present for them at their meetings.

I can think of maybe two or three professional turners here in the UK who had 'remote capability' before 'the virus'. There are many others who regularly do live demonstrations on YouTube, but do not offer it as a paid-for service. Now, I can think of a few more – not enough perhaps, but a few more none-the-less.

For UK clubs, and turners, remote demonstrations offer plenty of possibilities. Here are a few things that have sprung to mind.

For Clubs:

A remote demonstration offers a more affordable option if long distant travel expenses are high;

- Overseas demonstrators become a very viable option;
- Joint meetings with other clubs in the country, or even overseas.
- Joint demonstrations with other clubs – share the cost;
- Interaction with a professional turner in their 'native habitat'
- An insight into where they work – a workshop tour should be a regular feature of a remote demo, in my opinion
- Members can 'Watch from home' for a demonstration on a night other than the normal meeting night;

For Demonstrators:

- You can reach many more clubs without having to spend hours and hours travelling;
- Demonstrate overseas without leaving your workshop;
- On-screen graphic capabilities with remote demonstrations can also be incorporated into 'in-person' demonstrations;
- Less set-up/take down time;
- See and interact with clubs and members in places you've not been before.

Martin Saban-Smith, www.msabansmith.com