June 2017 Meeting - Rodger Foden

Rodger said that he was going to turn an egg shaped box. He then said that when starting a project a lot of thought has to go into the order in which you are going to make the different parts and in particular how you are going to hold them on the lathe. Eggs from different species have different shapes and Rodger said that he was going to make something more

like a goose egg.



He put the blank between centres and roughed it to a cylinder. He turned a tenon to fit the chuck on both ends. At about a third of the length he cut in with a parting chisel and then parted it off.

He mounted the parted off piece in the chuck and started to shape the "pointed" end of the egg using a spindle gouge and a skewchi gouge. He did not complete the shaping as he was also going to include the piece in the chuck jaws- an economical use of the wood. He used pull cuts with a spindle gouge to hollow out the top of the egg. The inside shape was refined to follow the egg shape of the outside. A recess, on the inside of the rim, was cut with a parting tool, care was taken to ensure that the side of the recess was square to the face.







The other piece was mounted in the chuck and the face squared off carefully. Rodger measured the inside diameter of the top and transferred that measurement to the face of the piece in the



Some paper tissue was used to give a tight fit between the two halves and using the skewchi chisel Rodger completed the shaping of the top of the egg. He took gentle cuts so as not to send the top flying!





With the two halves still together, he started to put more shape into the bottom half using the skewchi gouge. Care was taken to blend the shape of the two parts together so that there was a continuous flowing curve. Some bulk was left at the bottom and the top half was removed so that the hollowing of the bottom part could be completed. Again, care was taken to get a uniform wall thickness. A shear scraper was used to get a good finish on the inside.

The top was fitted back on and the shaping of the bottom continued, all the time Rodger was watching the overall shape and flow of the curve. The bulk at the end was reduced and the egg parted off being careful to leave a small stub so that there was no torn grain. The piece left over in the chuck was reduce in diameter so that the bottom half of the egg could be jammed onto it to allow the stub to be carefully turned away. The finished egg can be seen in the photo.

This project showed that with careful thought and planning an apparently awkward task can be achieved with minimum fuss.

This was an excellent demonstration, thank you Rodger.