

**Minutes of COMMITTEE MEETING held at Munloch on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 5.45pm**

**1. WELCOME to Meeting**

**Present** :- Alec Mutch, Geoff Potter, Susan Drew, David Hobson, David Line, Nick Simpson, John Ruickbie, Keith Brown, Alan Smith, Alan Geddes, Barry Cumming,

**APOLOGIES:** - None

**2. INTRODUCTION**

Alec Mutch welcomed all the Committee members present and thanked them for attending this meeting which was called at short notice. Everyone expressed their sympathy to KB and wished him well and hoped for a full recovery.

AM explained that he wanted a conversation with KB about the accident and to go over what happened and what to do about it. He wished all to accept what happened and we should learn from it. The HWC safety documentation would be re-examined and KB as Safety Officer would be requested to propose any changes or improvements which he considered necessary.

KB advised that he was doing well since the accident but his vision was still affected and was still being treated and the outcome was still uncertain but improving.

**3. INSURANCE**

AM advised that the Insurance Company had provided a form to AG - to be filled in - for notifying them of the accident which would be held in their files.

After some discussion, and KB's advice - it was accepted that it was too early to resolve whether the accident would result in a claim or not.

The details of the accident were not entirely certain but it was likely the piece of metal was dislodged by the parting tool from the wooden jaws, had bounced onto the banjo on the lathe bed, hit the ceiling or duct and had struck and broken KB's glasses causing a graze and damage to his eye.

NS had produced a report, which was held in confidence, and he had requested an incident meeting. NS advised that he had discussed the incident with other turners and no one was able to reproduce the accident. He said that the existing safety screens were ineffective in this instance if the ceiling was hit first. The particular screen was obscured by solvents, the screen was not high enough and the adjacent barriers needed to be improved.

NS recommended that in future a wooden dowel would be used which would have much less weight.

**4. PROPOSALS AND ACTIONS**

There was a general discussion about the height of the screens to prevent observers looking over the top, the distance of the screens from the lathes, the effectiveness of the clear screen area and the general positions and behaviour of observers.

It was agreed that :-

- The distance between the screens and the lathes should not be increased at the moment.
- New clean polycarbonate panels would be obtained to replace the existing screens at a raised height.
- The use of sealants would be restricted and clear plastic temporary shielding would be considered.
- Observers would be told to not engage with the turner whilst turning and to not cluster but stand back from the turning area whilst lathe is being used. Floor tape or paint to be considered once the heightened screens had been introduced.
- The stacks of chairs would be relocated to give more room.
- The production of a Members Handbook for all members to sign would be considered.

## **HIGHLAND WOODTURNERS CLUB, Club Premises, Munloch Village Hall**

Two sheets of new 5mm polycarbonate to be obtained by SD. Timber and fittings for the raised screens to be organised by JR, DL and AS.

KB to review the Risk Assessments and Safety documentation and to come forward with any recommendations. NS offered to forward a copy of his report to KB.

NS thanked members of the Club and Committee who had contacted him with compassion and understanding. KB and NS were grateful for the help and support at the time of the accident. Subsequent e-mails were sent and circulated thanking JW for his excellent first aid assistance.

**END OF MEETING 6.45pm**