



# Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 263

May 2019



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone.

The Maleny Wood Expo was most successful and I would like to thank those members who gave up their time to help at the BRWG sites and helped make the event such a success. Congratulations to those members who made positive sales. 'm sure next year we can build on our experience.

Congratulations to Ron Fishwick who was the lucky winner of the club raffle, a \$250 voucher from Carbatec. Thanks to the generosity of Carbatec, we also have a gift voucher to the value of \$250 to raffle at the club expo.

The BRWG Expo will be held at the Montville State School Hall on 6th and 7th July, and club members will be able to display and sell their items. There will also be the club woodworking contest in various categories, and a club champion for best woodworking item will be awarded.

The Robert Sorby Tour, a woodworking demonstration hosted by Carbatec, will take place on Tuesday July 2nd and should prove to be popular. It is free, informative and has a lucky door prize of a \$200 tool voucher.

We are still looking into the fee structure and would like to have a fairer system to put forward at the AGM. The Management Committee would welcome any suggestions or ideas on this matter.

Max Barrenger has decided to take a break from the shed captain's duties and doing the captains' roster. We thank Max for his valued contribution over those many years. We are now looking for a member to take on this worthwhile task.

I will be absent for most of June and part of July and look forward to catching up with everyone after that.

I wish you all the best of health.

Regards

Rob Otto  
President



# Maintenance Report *by Terry O'Connor*



1. The 20 inch thicknesser has been fitted with 100 new Tungsten Spiral Cutters. The tungsten tips on the cutters should prove more durable than the carbon steel we have used in the past, and are certainly giving an excellent finish on the timber at the moment.
2. Now that we are having beautiful sunny days , we were finally able to replace the leaky skylight sheeting near the docking saw. Thanks Kevin for your great job.
3. The new Dewalt Sliding Compound Saw has a safety release trigger that needs to be depressed at the same time as the normal on-switch. Please ask the Shed Captain for a quick explanation before you need to use this saw.
4. There has been quite a bit of damage done to the fence-guide on the Hammer bandsaw. This has been caused by members who do not have a good understanding of how to adjust it properly, and force the tightening handle.  
The four bandsaws in the shed are very different from each other when it comes to adjusting the fences and the bearings on the blades. If you are not familiar with the bandsaw you want to use, please seek help before you start your job.



Bill Rangott just happened to pass Clear Lake Furniture cabinet works in Vermont, USA. All beautiful hand made furniture pieces. The owner Brent Karner, who is a graduate of the North Bennet Street Wood School, was doing some interesting things with tinted acklyd glazes and slow thinners with his finishing which Bill will experiment with when he gets home. The workshop needed a good clean out but was well used and busy.

## Tips and Tricks



### Three great finishes (that aren't polyurethane)



Many woodworkers choose polyurethane as a go-to finish simply for its familiarity. Easy to apply, it looks good on a variety of woods and provides plenty of protection. But poly may not always be the best choice. Consider one of these three other clear finishes for your next project. You'll be glad you did.

#### Danish oil: Smooth and easy

When it comes to bringing out the natural beauty of a highly figured piece of wood, such as quilted maple or quarter sawn oak, nothing beats a hand-rubbed Danish-oil finish. Typically a Danish oil consists of a mixture of tung oil and varnish. It penetrates into the wood, unlike a film finish, which sits on the surface. That penetration gives a depth to the wood's grain that's hard to achieve with a film finish.

Applying Danish oil is simple -- you dip a cloth in the finish, then use it to flood the wood's surface, *photo below*. Let it soak in for 15 minutes, and work more into areas that absorb the oil. These spots will appear dull. Then, wipe off any excess because "puddles" dry tacky. This "bleed back" occurs particularly in open-grained woods, such as red oak.



Danish oil goes on easily. Flood the surface with finish, let it soak in thoroughly, and then wipe off the excess.

#### Make it satin smooth

Danish oil dries slowly, so wait overnight before re-coating. And it goes on thin, so apply a minimum of three coats. You don't have to worry about brush marks, but you'll get an even smoother finish by lightly "wet" sanding between the second and third coats. Use 600-grit wet-dry sandpaper and the Danish oil as a lubricant, *photo below*. Any fine dust wipes off with the excess oil. Wiping on a final coat adds to the lustre.

Clean up any spills with mineral spirits and hang application rags unfolded over the edge of a trash can, or laid out flat on your shop floor. Danish oil generates heat as it dries, and a wadded-up rag can spontaneously combust.

Because Danish oil doesn't build like a film finish, stick with poly or choose lacquer (discussed later) for surfaces that may be exposed to liquids, wear, or abrasion. Should a Danish finish suffer damage, reapply some oil with a little wet sanding to restore its original lustre.

For an ultra smooth, satin finish, apply some Danish oil to the surface and wet-sand with wet-dry sandpaper. A final rubdown with a clean cloth removes excess oil and sanding residue, leaving a lustrous finish.



### Lacquer: Fast and fine

Furniture manufacturers use lacquer on mass-production assembly lines for a reason. It sprays nicely, imparts a warm glow, goes on smooth and level, dries quickly, and builds fast. This tough finish also polishes to a high shine and repairs easily. Lacquer also works well on most types of wood, except for oily species.

Lacquer comes in several types, with nitrocellulose the most common. Nitrocellulose dissolved in lacquer thinner provides a finish that deposits the cellulose fibres in a film as the thinner evaporates. Subsequent coats dissolve into the previous layer, so scratches repair easily with minor sanding and a touch-up coat.

If you don't own a spray gun, aerosol cans provide an economical spray option for all but large furniture projects. Spray lacquer dries within 30 minutes, so you don't need to wait long to apply additional coats. Aerosol cans with turnable nozzles spray lacquer with good results. Adjust the spray pattern for horizontal for large surfaces, or vertical for tall pieces, such as the legs of a table.

### Brush it on

Brush-able formulas, with re-coat times of about an hour, give good results as well, though you need to work quickly to maintain a wet edge and avoid brush marks, *photo below*. Because of the strong solvents, apply lacquer with a high-quality natural-bristle brush in a well-ventilated workspace.

Four to six coats create a thick film finish. You don't need to sand between coats unless you have brush marks. If so, sand the surface lightly with 600-grit paper and apply a thinned (three parts finish, one part thinner) final coat or two to help eliminate brush marks. Once the finish fully cures, it can be buffed to a high sheen with #0000 steel wool and mineral oil.

Avoid applying lacquer on humid days. As the solvent evaporates, moisture condenses on the cooling surface to form a whitish film known as "blush." Clean up brushes or overspray with lacquer thinner. Lacquer dries quickly, so use long brush strokes to avoid overlapping fresh finish on places that have already begun to dry.



### Shellac: The natural choice

This traditional finish comes from natural resins secreted by the lac bug. These secretions are collected and processed into flakes that dissolve in ethyl or denatured alcohol. You can also buy shellac premixed, it's slightly cheaper than polyurethane. Shellac flakes come in various colours, ranging from orange/amber to light yellow (super blonde), which lends a warm tone to the wood. A natural, nontoxic resin, shellac comes in a food-grade formula used to coat many of the candies you snack on.



Shellac makes a great sealer for all types of wood, including resinous pine and oily species that can pose bonding problems for other finishes. And you can top shellac with another finish, such as poly. Although durable, shellac doesn't stand up well to heat or alcohol. But it can be polished to a high gloss to enhance the depth of the wood's grain.

Apply shellac with a high-quality natural or synthetic brush, photo *below*. Foam brushes can be used on smaller pieces. If you find that you're leaving brush marks, thin the shellac with alcohol. But realise it will take more coats to build a suitable finish. As with lacquer, don't apply shellac on humid days to avoid problems with blushing.

Mixing your own shellac, using flakes, offers a couple of advantages. First, you're assured the finish is fresh. Once mixed, shellac has a limited shelf life—after a year it won't fully cure—so you can whip up only the amount you need for a particular project and know the finish will cure properly.

Second, you can experiment with how thick or thin you make it. (See Understanding "cut," below.) Several thinner coats typically produce better results than a couple of thick coats. Level out the finish using sandpaper backed with a hardwood block. Change sheets often, as shellac will quickly clog sandpaper. For a glossier finish, buff out the shellac with #0000 steel wool and mineral oil, proceed to dry rottenstone with a soft cloth, then top with a coat of hand-rubbed wax.

To clean up brushes, rinse out the excess shellac with denatured alcohol, then wash them in a 50/50 mixture of hot water and household ammonia. Shellac builds in layers, with each subsequent coat dissolving into the previous one. Build layers; then top with a thinned coat to minimise brush marks.



### Understanding "cut"

The term "cut" refers to the number of pounds of shellac flakes mixed into one gallon of alcohol, so a two pound cut has two pounds of flakes in a gallon of alcohol. To make a pint of 2-pound-cut shellac, you need to do a little math. There are 32 ounces in 2 pounds, and 8 pints in a gallon, so 32 divided by 8 equals 4 ounces of flakes.

To mix your own shellac, pour a measured amount of denatured alcohol into a glass or plastic container. Weigh the proper amount of shellac flakes. The finer the flakes, the easier they dissolve, so crush the flakes in a clean cloth before adding them. Placing the container in a pan of hot water also helps speed the process. Once the flakes dissolve, use a paint filter—available at paint stores or home centres—to strain the liquid into a clean glass jar. Label the jar lid with the cut information, colour, and date it was mixed. To mix up your own shellac, start by determining how many ounces of flakes you need to produce a certain cut, then weigh them out.

Strain the shellac before using it to remove impurities and any undissolved flakes.

***With thanks to Wood Magazine***





## Safety Notes *by Warne Wilson Rick Vickers and Trevor Jorgensen*

There are Handyman Apps today for smart phones where people can hire a handyman to do repairs, like put up shelves and change the washers etc around the home or unit, with the simple contact App like "Airtasker" being one of a number.

However what some people don't appreciate is that there are some "tasks" that are being done by some of these people that can only be done by licensed tradesmen. But are not. The handyman convinces the customer, while he is there, that "I can do that for you" and so does the work.

Qld Workplace Health and Safety recently charged and fined a bloke \$100,000 for doing electrical work for a customer as an extension to some of the work he was doing about the house. The electrical work was failing a bit too frequently for the customer who called an electrician to check it out. The electrician was astonished at what he saw as "electrical work", and reported it to QWHS.

But if you think that the customer should check the licence of the tradie before work starts, be aware QWHS has now discovered there is a red hot black market business in fake licenses. Excellent copies but fake.

Also, many of these "Handymen" don't carry Workers Compensation for themselves and therefore the customer may be liable for any compensation that the handyman may seek if he has an accident on the job.

For an individual home owner to have WC, it only costs a small annual premium and any domestic help (like ironing ladies, cleaners, handymen, gardeners) are covered under that policy.

With all that in mind, following are photographs which might cause a customer some concern if the practices were to be followed at their property.







*Once upon a time, the Aussies and the Japanese held a boat race on the Brisbane River. Despite diligent training, the Aussies were thrashed by a mile. The Aussie team's management set up a project team to investigate reasons for the defeat and recommend appropriate action. They concluded the problem was in the composition of the teams: the Japanese had eight rowers and one person steering. The Aussies had one rower and eight people steering. Senior management hired a firm of consultants to study the team's structure. Several months and a million dollars later, the consultants advised the Australians had too many people steering and not enough rowing. Management promoted four of the steerers to Steering Managers, and introduced a performance and appraisal system to give the rower an incentive to work harder.*

*Next year, the Japanese won by two miles. Aussie management promptly sacked the rower for poor performance, retrenched the four steerers, gave the Steering Managers voluntary redundancy packages, sold all the oars, cancelled all capital investment in new equipment and halted development of a new boat.*

*The consultants achieved a generous achievement bonus and funds saved on cut-backs were distributed equitably among senior management executives. The race was abandoned.*



## Around the Shed



Charlie proudly displaying the sandwich board he and Keiran made for the Montville School. Good work boys !



The finished bench for Eudlo School, made by John Holland and crew, sponsored by Andrew Powell.



Andrew Powell presenting the Gambling Community Benefit Fund cheque for \$4,475.00 for a new mitre saw and improvements to the compressor. Much appreciated thank you Andrew.

Some members are so dedicated in their quest for inspiration that they will travel far and wide. This time, Bill Rangott is in the USofA, and happened across this lovely piano. He is as yet uncommitted as to whether he will replicate it on his return.







The Maleny Wood Expo was a great success, with constant foot traffic at all sales outlets, and plenty of buyers. As always, the kid's workshop was also a big hit, with regular inquiries about the availability of classes for kids through the year.

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who worked at each site, although we will need more next year if we continue to have four sites.

It was disappointing that no one offered to do the Coordinators role at the SES shed, so that task was left to Rick Vickers, who had organised all four sites, AND still helped Rotary with the parking. Fantastic effort Rick and much appreciated.





It is always interesting to see what other Clubs produce, which Micheal Brosnan and I experienced last weekend when we judged the Fraser Coast Agricultural Show Society Woodcraft competition at Maryborough. Most of the 145 entries were from Club members (for a club much smaller than ours !), in 24 separate categories. The overall quality was very good, with a diverse range of entries. You may see something here to inspire an entry for our Club Competition in July. The very impressive matching pair goblets won the Grand Champion prize.

## Club Events Calendar *from Rick Vickers*



Next item on the calendar is Maleny Show on **Friday 31 May and Saturday 1 June, 2019**. If you are interested in submitting an entry in the woodwork competition, and need more information, see Russ Middlecoat.

After that it is the Robert Sorby turning tools demonstration at the John Henderson Building at **10am on Tuesday 2 July, 2019** which is sponsored by Carbatec, which is offering a \$200.00 lucky door prize.

Then the BIG one; the Annual Club Competition judging on **Friday 5 July** followed by a two day sale expo on **Saturday 6 July and Sunday 7 July 2019** at Montville School Hall. Just a reminder that this year, the entirety of the works must be by the member submitting the entry, and that means finishing (so any items sprayed by someone else will be disqualified).

There is a Novice competition for those who have not won a prize in a competition before so for those who think their work would not be good enough, you have to be in it to win it !





Steve Squires has developed a passion for harps. Here is his story "

"Constructing a harp is a time consuming process. There are many hours of handwork involved; not everyone's cup of tea, but the end result makes it all worth while. The process starts with a rough slab straight off the mill. The timber is carefully selected using the best grain patterns. The overall construction is a delicate balance between strength, durability and acoustic properties. The total weight of the harp also needs to be factored in. I used all Australian species of timber on this harp. Tasmanian Blackwood (*acacia melanoxylon*) for the pillar and staved soundbox. The neck is laminated with Silver Ash (*flindersia bourjotiana*) and Tasmanian Blackwood with Silver Ash Trim and Bunya Pine (*araucaria bidwilli*) soundboard.

This particular harp is a five octave harp with a total string tension of 572kg; that's a lot of tension pulling on a 4mm soundboard. Most harps range from three octaves to five octaves. A concert harp is a different beast altogether with a minimum of six octaves."

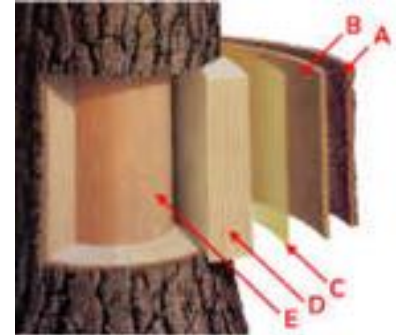




## Timber Tales by Bruce Chapman



The timber from the last kiln load is now available in the racks, It consists of one bay of Lemon Scented Gum all about 1.5m in length and a half bay of Silver Ash but in 2.4m lengths. More Silky Oak and Camphor were also racked. The kiln is now entirely loaded with red cedar from a dead tree donated by Maleny Golf Club. There is nice colour in the cedar but as it was long standing it has some cracking from the outside edge. This cedar should be ready early June. Only addition to our pile for cutting is a few logs of Jacaranda.



## Anatomy of a Tree

### The Inside Story

- The **outer bark** is the tree's protection from the outside world. Continually renewed from within, it helps keep out moisture in the rain, and prevents the tree from losing moisture when the air is dry. It insulates against cold and heat and wards off insect enemies.
- The **inner bark**, or "phloem", is pipeline through which food is passed to the rest of the tree. It lives for only a short time, then dies and turns to cork to become part of the protective outer bark.
- The **cambium cell layer** is the growing part of the trunk. It annually produces new bark and new wood in response to hormones that pass down through the phloem with food from the leaves. These hormones, called "auxins", stimulate growth in cells. Auxins are produced by leaf buds at the ends of branches as soon as they start growing in spring.
- **Sapwood** is the tree's pipeline for water moving up to the leaves. Sapwood is new wood. As newer rings of sapwood are laid down, inner cells lose their vitality and turn to heartwood.
- **Heartwood** is the central, supporting pillar of the tree. Although dead, it will not decay or lose strength while the outer layers are intact. A composite of hollow, needlelike cellulose fibres bound together by a chemical glue called lignin, it is in many ways as strong as steel. A piece 12" long and 1" by 2" in cross section set vertically can support a weight of twenty tons!



### Leaves Make Food For the Tree

And this tells us much about their shapes. For example, the narrow needles of a Douglas fir can expose as much as three acres of chlorophyll surface to the sun.

The lobes, leaflets and jagged edges of many broad leaves have their uses, too. They help evaporate the water used in food-building, reduce wind resistance—even provide "drip tips" to shed rain that, left standing, could decay the leaf.

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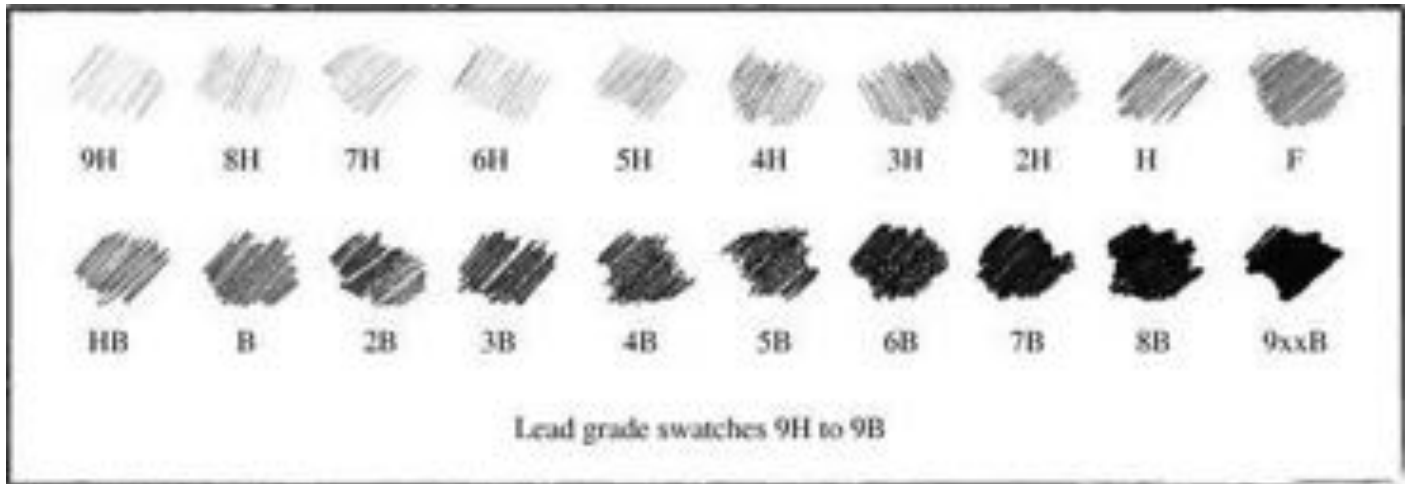
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## Did you know ????

that there are two graphite grading scales used to measure the hardness of a pencil's graphite core ?



### NUMERICAL GRAPHITE SCALE

The first graphite grading scale is numeric. Using this scale, the hardness of the core is often marked on the pencil; look for a number such as “2” “2-1/2” or “3”. The higher the number the harder the writing core and the lighter the mark left on the paper. As the pencil core becomes softer (through the use of lower proportions of clay) it leaves a darker mark as it deposits more graphite material on the paper. Softer pencils will dull faster than harder leads and require more frequent sharpening.

### HB GRAPHITE SCALE

The second graphite grading scale is known as the HB scale. Most pencil manufacturers outside of the U.S. use this scale, using the letter “H” to indicate a hard pencil. Likewise, a pencil maker might use the letter “B” to designate the blackness of the pencil’s mark, indicating a softer lead. The letter “F” is also used to indicate that the pencil sharpens to a fine point.

Historically, pencil makers also use combinations of letters to tell us about the graphite; a pencil marked “HB” is hard and black, a pencil marked “HH” is very hard, and a pencil marked “BBB” is really, really black! Today, however, most pencils using the HB system are designated by a number such as 2B, 4B or 2H to indicate the degree of hardness. For example, a 4B would be softer than a 2B and a 3H harder than an H.

### GRAPHITE SCALE COMPARISONS

Generally, an HB grade about the middle of the scale is considered to be equivalent to a #2 pencil using the U.S. numbering system. In reality however, there is no specific industry standard for the darkness of the mark to be left within the HB or any other hardness grade scale. Thus, a #2 or HB pencil from one brand will not necessarily leave the same mark as a #2 or HB pencil from another brand. Most pencil manufacturers set their own internal standards for graphite hardness grades and overall quality of the core, some differences are regional. In Japan, consumers tend to prefer softer darker leads; so an HB lead produced in Japan is generally softer and darker than an HB from European producers.

### What is a No. 2 Pencil?

When most people think pencils, the No. 2 pencil is the first thing that comes to mind. But what does the “2” on a No. 2 pencil actually mean? And what do all of the “B’s,” “H’s” and “HB’s” being thrown around mean, for that matter? Well, it all has to do with the HB graphite grading scale used to classify the pencil’s graphite core. How does it work, you ask? Let’s take a look.

A pencil's location on the HB graphite grading scale depends on the hardness of its graphite core. The hardness of the graphite core is often marked on the pencil — look for a number (such as “2”, “2-1/2” or “3”), and the higher the number, the harder the writing core and the lighter the mark left on the paper.

As the pencil core becomes softer (through the use of lower proportions of clay) it leaves a darker mark as it deposits more graphite material on the paper. Softer pencils will dull faster than harder leads and require more frequent sharpening.

You might see other markings on pencils. Most pencil manufacturers outside of the U.S. use the letter “H” to indicate a hard pencil. Likewise, a pencil maker might use the letter “B” to designate the blackness of the pencil's mark, indicating a softer lead. The letter “F” is also used to indicate that the pencil sharpens to a fine point.

Historically, pencil makers also use combinations of letters — a pencil marked “HB” is hard and black; a pencil marked “HH” is very hard, and a pencil marked “HHBBB” is very hard and really, really black! Although today most pencils using the HB system are designated by a number such as 2B, 4B or 2H to indicate the degree of hardness. For example, a 4B would be softer than a 2B and a 3H harder than an H.

Finding what works best for you is generally a matter of personal preference and experimentation with different brands of pencils.

With thanks to [pencils.com](http://pencils.com)

Shed Captain Roster - May 2019											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
				1	AM Max Barrenger	2	Kevin Devlin	3	Phil Lane	4	Warne Wilson
					PM Max Barrenger						
6	John Muller	7	John Muller	8	AM Leigh Boynton	9	Dick Graves	10	Sarah Odgers	11	Keith Muirhead
					PM Julie Breen						
13	Dave Banister	14	Greg McCosker	15	AM Ron Fishwick	16	Ray Bryant	17	Michael Brosnan	18	Don Lear
					PM Terry O'Connor						
20	Sarah Odgers	21	Bruce Chapman	22	PM Max Barrenger	23	John Drewe	24	Dave Edmond	25	Graham Beaumont
					PM Keith Carter						
27	Dave Banister	28	Dave Southern	29	AM Leigh Boynton	30	Kevin Devlin	31	Phil Lane		
					PM Max Barrenger						

Shed Captain Roster - June 2019											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
										1	Warne Wilson
3		4		5		6	Dick Graves	7	Sarah Odgers	8	Don Lear
					PM Julie Breen						
10	Dave Banister	11	Greg McCosker	12		13	Ray Bryant	14	Michael Brosnan	15	Keith Muirhead
					PM Terry O'Connor						
17	Dave Banister	18	Bruce Chapman	19	AM Leigh Boynton	20	John Drewe	21	Dave Edmond	22	Graham Beaumont
					PM Keith Carter						
24	Dave Banister	25	Dave Southern	26		27	Kevin Devlin	28	Phil Lane	29	Warne Wilson



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