



# THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX

*"Providing smoking news and steaming interests to members and friends"*

## Centurion Society of Model Engineers

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 **Centurion Society of Model Engineers**  
& Centurion Society of Model Engineers' Supporters Group

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## CSME NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

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### COMMITTEE

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### Non-committee person contacts

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**2023 SUBS: R500 FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS R250 FOR SENIOR MEMBERS AND STUDENTS**

## Official Correspondence & Newsletter

If you read this and are not receiving mail from the CSME you should contact the secretary or editor to update your details. Please ensure we are notified of any change of email address and cell phone number. Those members without email can collect a copy of the newsletter on request from the clubhouse on track day. The news letters are also distributed via the official CSME Whatsapp group.

### Next Club Meetings

The committee meeting is on Saturday, 16 December 2023, year end function on 16 and club track day and last running for 2023, 17 December 2023.

Members are welcome any other time by arrangement with Swannie 064 520 8572. The gates are operational by cell phone for members. Members, please contact Norman Reyneke to be added to the gate motor list.

### **Chairman's Chatter**

As the year draw to a close, we can just say thanks to every member that helped to make it extraordinary. A special thanks to the committee and Tuesday gang that do a lot to run and maintain the club.

This month had seen steam locos out every Sunday, but passenger numbers were definitely impacted by the hot as well as rainy weather.

Stormy weather also resulted in our clubhouse ceiling falling out. We also had lighting damage to our alarm system and inverters.

With the rains our premises is green again, with the usual efforts to keep the grass cut.

We are making good progress on the track rerouting, with the first curve completed, and the second finished and busy with concrete. We started with the bridge, and will have to wait for next year to complete as we will have to wait for material. Thanks to everyone that came and helped, it is really appreciated.

Looking forward to see you all at our year end function and night run on the 16th.

## Secretary's Bit

I wish to take this opportunity, to wish all our members, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2024.

If you are travelling during the Festive Season, please do so safely and return home safe and sound.

Many thanks go out to all the members who give freely of their time to promote and assist this club to thrive.

Our December birthdays: Shawn Spaan, Neil Webb, Alan Green and Neels Barnard. We wish them all the best and many more years of modelling.

## From the Editor

Thank you very much for all the contributions for this edition of **THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX**.

It has been a busy year at the club, and as stated before, it is a pleasure to compile a news letter for an active club, as material for publication is always available.

This month, I included a new section; **FRIENDS OF THE CSME**. Our community is blessed with legends amongst us, and one such a legend is Brian Crawford, who just acquired his latest engine, at 87. We wish Brian many happy driving years at his home club of WPLS.

Please continue to send any activities you see, or are busy with on your computer in planning, workshop in machining and assembling, or testing at the club. We need contributions every month!

If you have any material, tools, parts or projects for sale, please share and we will do our best to get parts used and projects revived or locos running again. Contributions to the **SELL / SWOP / WANTED** is what assist to keep the hobby alive, and might just convince a potential new model engineer to get going!

Wishing every one a happy and safe festive season.

See you at MEERPARK Station in 2024

# CSME Year End Function



## **Program for the CSME year end function, 16 December 2023** (for members who confirmed attendance with Norman Reyneke)

The club will be open from early (campers on site) for members and families to bring engines and/or play with club trains.

Afternoon tee with the traditional club lady's cake table from around 14:00.  
Please support with your baking skills or just remove the price label from the bakery packaging.

Year end speech and prize giving at 15:30.

Father Christmas arrives in Meerpark Station at 16:00.

Dinner at 16:30.

Playing trains late into the evening.

Dinner will consist of lamb on the spit, salad and a variety bread table with butter/margarine and jams.

Ice cream cones for desert

Please bring your own cutlery, including plates as well as drinks.

Coffee, tee and milk will be available as per usual.

See everyone at Meerpark Station



## Signal Project by Francois Hannekom

In order to improve both the safety as well as the passenger experience I am looking at a variety of traffic lights to control the flow of traffic. The first prototype is an Arduino driven system that ensures a 30 sec delay between departing trains. This system is mounted a beam the boat club pedestrian entrance and will change to green when the 1st departing train clears the second bridge. The idea is to expand the system to control traffic safely through the tunnels. Although it appears fairly straight forward it does pose a couple of challenges ie sensors that only detects trains and not pedestrains or animals. Also the sensors must be able to detect locos of varying sizes with varying amounts of carriages. Due to regular flooding, lack of available electricity and theft these system will all have to portable and battery powered. Any suggestions will be greatly appreciated.....



## Friends of CSME: Brain Crawford (W. Cape)



Got my first loco at age 10,  
An American flyer.

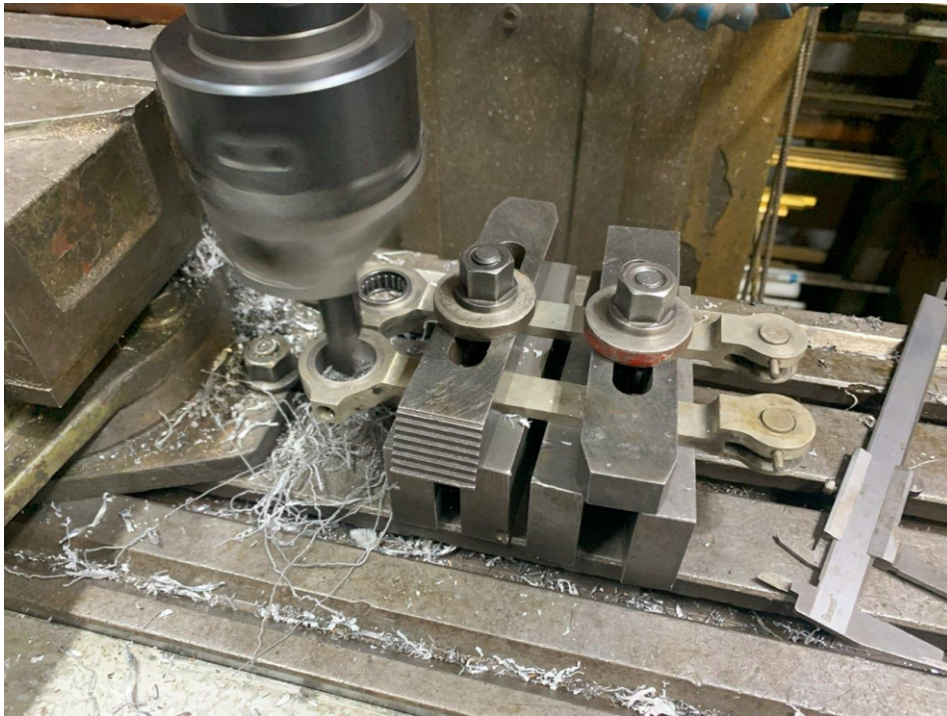
Built a 3.5 Virginia waay  
back. Owned a few historical  
locos, among them Jimmy  
Scott's Atlantic "lady Mary"  
and the loco that ran on the  
Sea Point lawns during 2nd  
world War, "Eban hall" .  
Recently sold my big Fayette  
pacific as it was getting too  
much to handle.

The little 08 is perfect for me  
now at age 87.

She is professionally built by  
compass house in UK and  
has 3 motors, one on each  
axel. 24v.



## Who's doing what?



Leon boring Garratt Motion to fit larger needle roller bearing.



Neil Webb re-purposing a windmill guide roller into a petti coat for his SAR Class 23.



## Who's doing what?



Charles Viljoen's 16E, originally a 5 inch design, modified for 7 1/4 inch track.





## Who's doing what?

The stunning new "S" approach to the Monday Gang bridge. From the design of the curves, gradient and camber, to the landscaping around it, one would believe that was the original design, and not a modification that was driven by necessity.



The second 5 inch transition section of the top loop, another indication of the hours, days and weeks of work that went into this project!

# Who's doing what?

The enlarged "culvert" with the new bridge under construction. Nothing too big too small for the members of the CSME!



## Sell / Swop / Wanted pages

Some exciting news from our Sell/Swop/Wanted pages. The Simplex that featured in the November 2023 Centurion Smoke Box, successfully traded owners at the CSME steam bay. The new owner, Heinrich Lategan from Bloemfontein, is a young steam enthusiast and is very excited about his new acquisition. Looking forward to see your simplex running at Bloem, as well as visits to CSME in future.



## VHS to digital conversions

I am looking for someone who has a tape machine or VHS. I have 29 years' worth of club national meetings and mini meetings of South Africa on VHS and want to go through them and see what to keep and what to convert into digital. These VHS tapes may contain vital information on model steam train history that might be worth saving for future generations.

Plus, I have hours and hours of train spotting VHS films from the 1960s up to the last of steam trains from the 1990s. I would appreciate it, if there is someone who would like to watch some of these VHS films with me or if there is some who could help me just organize the VHS tapes. Please just bring your own VHS player or just organise one for me.

Kind regards Michael Eykelhof, 072 107 4988