



THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX

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

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

Kwikkie Crescent 999
Centurion Lake Ext 1
Zwartkop

 www.centuriontrains.com

 info@centuriontrains.com

 [Centurion Society of Model Engineers](#)
& Centurion Society of Model Engineers' Supporters Group

CSME NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

COMMITTEE

Chairman - Leon Kamffer	082 577 7813	e-mail: lkamffer@mweb.co.za
Vice chair. - John O'Mahony	082 809 3595	e-mail: omahony236@gmail.com
Treasurer - Ballot Marx	082 808 5783	e-mail: ballotmarx@gmail.com
Secretary - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344	e-mail: admin@centuriontrains.com
Committee - Carel Janse van Rensburg	076 774 9221	e-mail: kgtmodelbouery@gmail.com
Committee - Francois Hanekom	083 448 2639	e-mail: c.f.hanekom@gmail.com
Committee - Neil Webb	083 243 0701	e-mail: neilwebb52@gmail.com
Committee - Roko Popich	078 401 2927	e-mail: popichfam@gmail.com

Non-committee person contacts

Caretaker - Johan Swanepoel	064 520 8572	e-mail: swanepoel24.js@gmail.com
Facebook - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344	e-mail: admin@centuriontrains.com
Alarm & Website - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344	e-mail: admin@centuriontrains.com
Newsletter - Carel Janse van Rensburg	076 774 9221	e-mail: kgtmodelbouery@gmail.com

2024 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 March 2024, and club track day on Sunday, 17 March 2024.

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

Another busy month, warm weather and lots of happy drivers, steamers and passengers.

Thanks to the members supporting the current committee at the AGM for another year.

On a personal note the Garratt is back in service, after nearly a year for a motion overhaul. All bushes were replaced with Vesconite Highlube, running on hardened pins.

We managed to sort out the issues with the outer track rerouting, and we are back hauling passengers on the long track. We now can focus on the raised track again.

We started with the tunnel foundations and arranged a work party this club Saturday to start with the raised track bed. No special skills needed, just lots of friendly hands making light work of it. See you there.

Leon

Secretary's Bit

Some members Subs for 2024 remain unpaid: Full members (Employed) R500.00, Retired and Junior Members: R250.00.

Please note, that the long track is once again open for running, however, new safety concerns have already been observed. All Drivers must keep a correct following distance on the loop and be on constant guard for stopped trains around the corner before the new bridge as well as the last corner before the long back straight as there are blind spots now created due to the new direction of travel. Speeds need to be reduced around the entire loop.

Our March birthdays: Wille Fourie, Johan Swarts and John Sharpe. We wish them all the best.

From the Editor

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

We have another **REPORT BACK FROM TRAVELLING MEMBERS** from another hemisphere, thank you very much Imogene! I know we have a certain member who will visit the **WINELANDS LIGHT RAILWAY** in March 2024 with one of his locos, and a report back will be appreciated!

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!

We also have two requests in the **SELL / SWOP / WANTED** section, please see if you can assist with services or information.

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!

CSME ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chairman's Report – Leon Kamffer 2024

We continued to operate fully and our passenger numbers continued to exceed previous years. This is mostly due to the running of steam and multiple locomotives on non-club Sundays as well and the condition of our premises.

On the administration side we continue to keep electronic records under the auspices of Norman as our Secretary. This includes historic minutes, membership info, driver's licenses, boiler certificates and every other piece of historic and current information.

We have 83 current members of which 1 joined us this year. We issued quite a few driver licenses as well during the year. Recruiting members for long term sustainability will always be important. We need to maintain our active pool of drivers and the Tuesday and Saturday gang.

It is so important that every aspect of the club's business is conducted properly as we have access to a prime piece of property and interact heavily with large groups of the public.

We managed with the help of our bookkeeper to finally sort out our UIF payments.

An excellent job was done by the treasurer Ballot Marx managing our finances.

Financially we could generate surplus income to fund our flood mitigation and maintenance, details as per treasurer's report. We invested a substantial amount in improvements, mostly solar power, started the raised track, and also rerouted the top crossing and widened the horseshoe bridge. We still owe some money on the solar system.

The practice of hauling with a few extra locomotives during non-club Sundays help with income, as well as reducing the peaks on club Sundays. Fees is now well adopted at a R15 and also a R30 rate for entry that include the first ride. This practice definitely make us less attractive for groups that show no interest in our model trains and other activities. Thanks to the very active and regular driver group.

Interaction with the City council and Councilor was maintained. We basically received no assistance from the council this year.

We made no progress to reinstate power, basically accepted that we probably will not. We still have the loan generator, installed solar, and plan to increase it as soon as funds allow. It does come at accost, as we had lightning damage, failures as we obtained repaired equipment at a large discount.

Most of the Kei apples survived the winter and is slowly starting to create a boundary.

The Saturday preceding the club day was supported on quite a few occasions during the year. It was enjoyable on Saturdays to see members making use of the club premises. On Sundays the focus is on passenger hauling, so members must come forward with activities and proposals to make use of the premises on alternate occasions. We booked a few long weekends for camping that was well supported, will again book a few this year.

CSME ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Carel continued with the newsletter, all will agree he does an incredible job of it. Special thanks to Carel. It is an important aspect to share info and keep our members informed. He forwards it to the Model Engineer as well. We ask for and look forward to more contributions from our members, especially their current projects. He also assists with marketing.

Norman is looking after our Facebook page and website, and also the alarm system. We get a lot of likes from the public when we advertise club events. We do not advertise at large, so this targeted electronic media is important, and played a big role informing the public. We also continue to book parties electronically on our website.

The September fair was again arranged, with good support and attendance. Thanks to Carel Janse van Rensburg that took over the arrangements. Well done all.

The Saturday and Tuesday gangs continued with their valued contributions, doing general repairs, servicing locomotives and rolling stock. Saturdays were mostly spent on assisting with raised track and crossing rerouting. The Tuesday gang did a massive amount of work on our equipment such as lawnmowers and general maintenance, as well as site improvements like station lighting and power.

The interaction and support from the affiliated clubs is much appreciated and continued during the year. The boat club stopped to function, and CSME took over the facility and also reserve it for groups that appreciate the fenced off area and lapa.

The CNC club changed to zoom meetings for the lockdown, we definitely look forward hosting them again.

The Mini Truckers and the 45mm track both operate actively and draw additional crowds. They are thanked for the massive effort and investment.

Hyacinth took over after the previous year's November floods, and all ponds is fully covered. We hope to get enough of the borer insect to help control them. The work on cleaning the river by the council improved our flood situation a little at least.

The food stalls that operated on Sundays days were well supported.

Groundworks for the raised track was completed, except the tunnel. We have the concrete lintels for the track bed, but delayed the construction due to the crossing rerouting. We had serious incident at the crossing. We had to show that we are serious about the safety of the public and the only option was to reroute it. We used the opportunity to widen the gap for water outflow during floods as well. It also identified that we have to clearly define our liabilities, as we had issues when we reported it to the insurance.

A massive thanks to Johny and Alex that build most of the track sections, and the patience while we had to use the shorter track. It did impact our finances as well as schedule for the inner track.

The year-end function on the 16th of December was well attended. It is an opportunity for the members to interact without the public being present. It is an annual event that we need to continue in the future. Thanks to Rocco for handling the Father Christmas and handover of trophies. The sheep braai done by Carel was excellent and well appreciated by all.

CSME ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is always a debate if the club is not too commercial, but it is the part of our activities that fund our enjoyment of our lovely premises. Our operating model was severely challenged by Covid, we had to adapt. More steam locos other weekends, running public holidays made us generate enough income to support our improvements.

Lizzy and Theresa our steam locomotives saw regular service, and quite a few drivers. Francois took ownership and executed quite a few repairs and improvements. We completed a second Bagnall Teresa, also a good steamer. We also was donated a Wren by Bruce Tompkins widow. We thank her for the donation.

Swannie our caretaker is managing the grounds maintenance, parties and public Sunday well. We also have a few regular members that actively help on this non club days.

Acknowledgements:

First to the committee members for their contribution. Each person brings a different perspective and fills a much needed gap. It is hard work to run the affairs of the club, I appreciate it.

Special thanks to Norman for the effort keeping administrative affairs in order. Special thanks to Ballot as treasurer, John O'Mahony for the effort maintaining equipment and patience to deal with the council and insurance and Norman for his constant attention to alarms and locos. Carel for the newsletter and Facebook advertising, Carel, Dirk, John, Francois, Nick, Hudson, Roco, Norman and Neil for their driving not forgetting anyone else helping with passenger duties.

A special thanks to everyone that assisted on the raised track and outer track rerouting.

Special thanks to the Tuesday gang that can always be trusted to do the urgent maintenance when needed.

Swannie our caretaker for his contribution.

City council for entrusting us with this great property to enjoy what we love and assisting with the upkeep.

Ladies in the clubhouse, we miss Sally, they again excelled in the way they keep us nourished with tea and cake.

Every club member for being part of this great club.

A special thanks to those members that do a lot in the background, machining and donating parts for locos and maintenance, driving and helping on non-club Sundays and drawing public with other activities like the 45mm setup and mini trucks.

Lastly to the public for their support and rewarding us with their enjoyment.

Let's continue to build and improve our club to the enjoyment of our members and the public alike.

Leon Kamffer
Chairman
Centurion Society of Model Engineers

Report Back from Travelling Members

On my last trip to the Netherlands, my daughter and I visited a beautiful public park in Brunsum, Province Limburg. This is where a small group of enthusiasts called the Stoomgroep Limburg's tracks, at ground level i.e the normal club gauges, are situated. We were most warmly welcomed. Although situated in a public park, much like the CSME, they are not the sole occupiers of the premises. The result being that they are not allowed to charge entrance fees or sell any items (food etc). For income they are solely reliant on membership fees and train rides.



There is no station, clubhouse, or ticket booth. For a clubhouse/storage/workshop they use an old water reservoir dating from the mining era. Coal was mined in Limburg from the 16th century until 1965 when all mining was stopped. As can be imagined, when it rains (which is often), the roof leaks. No problem: our fellows erected a tent inside the reservoir to preserve their documents and it also serves as an office. The track is 600 metres long, passes over two bridges and through an original coal mining tunnel. Rides, as everywhere else, are enjoyed by young and old.

We were, tongue in cheek, advised that when coal reserves are low, they only have to dig deep.

Count your blessings CSME members and appreciate what you have!

Imogene Groothuijzen

Legends of the Model Engineering Community

Last of the old generation model engineers Claude Muller, founder of East London model engineers visited Rokko recently.

Claude turned 90, and was a great friend of Nick for 60 years.

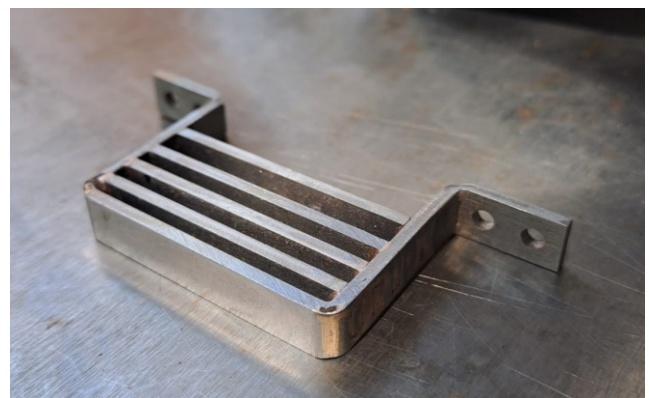
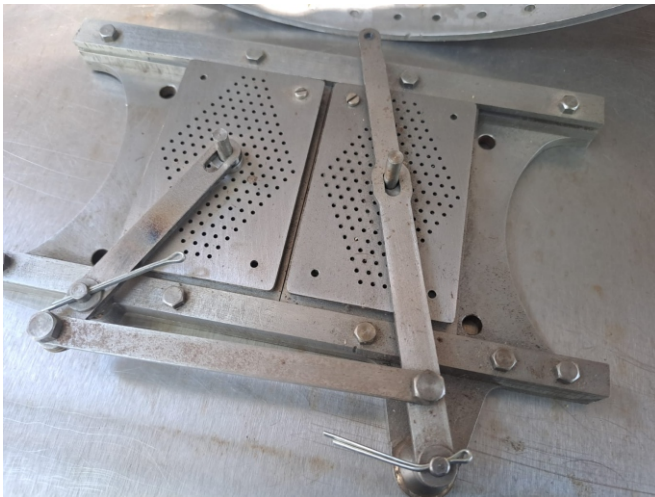
He always visited CSME once a year from East London.



Who's doing what?



Some eye candy from Johnny Sharpe's 7 1/4 inch SAR/SAS 19D build.



CSME Raized Track



The cement slabs packed out. These will form the base on which the track is mounted.



WORK PARTY

SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024

A call for members to join the work party this coming Saturday morning.

We start with basic track installation.

No special skills required, if you can operate a paint brush, you qualify!

If not, but you can talk, you qualify to give the guys operating the paint brush instructions!

Seriously, the more members, the merrier.

Be part of club history!

Construction has started on the tunnel at the raised track.

OTHER NEWS from CSME!



LAND INVASION



Now, the invaders brought their vegetation with!

We will monitor the situation closely. Large scale mushroom cultivation is not nice on the nose, and will NOT be allowed!

Thank you very much for the contributions to the CSME Gnomesville Land Distribution Project!



Sell / Swop / Wanted

I have been given your details by a member of the Durban SME, in that I am trying to trace any information and/or records on a 5" gauge Torquay Manor that was sent to Mr Malcolm Mitchells daughter in the UK, shortly before he died in 2013.

It is a very lovely model and has a boiler built by a Mr Charles Baillie, his 12th I understand, which I am trying to bring back to life. Sadly she has suffered a little through being stored for a decade, but hopefully I can address that. So, I am trying to locate any information or historical records that might exist from any club, member, or relative that might know Mr Baillie, Mr Mitchell, or the Torquay Manor itself?! A major item would be old boiler certificates, but anything really, old pictures, snippets of info etc...

Best Regards,
Tim Goodwin, timjgoodwin@mac.com

Danie Bredenhann needs help with his unfinished projects, mainly the SIMPLEX as per below pictures. He also has the Sweet Pea.
Any members who can assist, please give Danie a call on:
082 903 6848

