



# THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX

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

## Centurion Society of Model Engineers

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No responsibility is taken by the CSME for any subject matter in this newsletter other than official Society notices.

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## CSME NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

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### COMMITTEE

Chairman – Leon Kamffer  
Vice chair. – John O'Mahony  
Treasurer – Ballot Marx  
Secretary – Imogene Groothuizen  
Committee – Jon Shaw  
Committee – Carel JanseVrensburg  
Safety – Norman Reyneke  
Non-committee person contacts

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### Membership Fees for 2021 are unchanged from 2019/20

**2021 SUBS     R400 FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS     R200 FOR SENIORS & STUDENTS**

Bank details for any payments to CSME.

For any payments please email details of payment to Ballot Marx at [csmetrains@gmail.com](mailto:csmetrains@gmail.com) or [ballotmarx@gmail.com](mailto:ballotmarx@gmail.com)

Bank Details are as follows:

Bank: First National  
Branch: Centurion, code 26-15-50  
Account Name: Centurion Society of Model Engineers  
Account No: **62060752906**  
Reference: Your Full Name/ subs 2021 (or what payment is for).

**Note the account number change in red**

### Official correspondence and newsletter

If you 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.

Those members without email can collect a copy of the newsletter from the clubhouse on track day.

## Next Club Meetings

The Saturday and Sunday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday weekend of the month will again resume as the member's days and that Sunday also being steam Sunday for the public. This month the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of February will be the member's weekend. Members are welcome any other time by arrangement with Swannie 012 643 0750, or 071 619 1644. The gates are again operational by cellphone. **The AGM is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> 14h00**

## Chairman's comments.

At the time of writing the second Covid wave peak was over with some of the level 3 restrictions being eased.

Despite the limited operations, public attendance was poor, mainly because of the rainy weather. We are still not back to normal operations and are not in a position where we build reserves. We have limited labour expenses, and only do critical maintenance.

All help surviving this period will be appreciated. Although we can store our locomotives in the new storage, we still must complete the access track to make access easier.

A few members came and enjoyed the facilities and steamed up during the month, let us keep our club and hobby alive.

We still looking forward to hearing and see member projects, please share some photos and progress with our editor.

Some progress on the riding cars:

We have at least 8 operating locomotives, and only 2 riding cars. Most drivers never had the opportunity to join the circus in their younger years, so driving with knees past the ears when we use passenger stock as driving cars makes one do this to you. I used the lockdown period to do some machining and preparing parts for additional riding cars. Most parts will be ready when we can start working again. Please join us when we schedule working on them, as no tools are required, only willing hands for assembly and painting.

### **Feedback on Lizzy.**

Our only steam locomotive Lizzy saw some serious use over the last few months, with quite a few members becoming avid steam drivers. It resulted in a few loose nuts on the valves, and a few recovery incidents. We repaired some valve gear components, tightened the offending nuts, and replaced the oil lubrication on the rear axle boxes with grease after we had a seize on the right rear axle box. We will see how reliable this arrangement is. Next step is needle roller bearings.

We also fitted a CSME nameplate and a builder's plate for Alan Pletschke that built it. It is an excellent loco, built by a master modeler. **Leon**

## Secretary's Bit

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see that we are once again asking for donations to supplement our dwindling income due to Covid-19. These are difficult times for all of us but with your help we can retain and maintain our facilities. A big thank you goes to those members that have continued to contribute. It is really much appreciated.

This month Michael Kidson and Hanes Paling will be celebrating birthdays. Good luck to you!  
Imogene Groothuizen



### Track and grounds

Each month Swannie and his workers are just about able to keep up with the accelerated growth around the premises and are maintaining the site in a pleasant and neat state.

Work has been done to integrate the new line from the new storage at the station end. Work is progressing to underpin and stabilise the new tracks from the east end of the new storage to the station.



**Bill Williams and CMBC** have been involved with the **Hennops river revival group** to clear the ponds of water hyacinth which was taking over the east lake. Before and after below.



The attached pictures show what Tarryn Johnson & her colleague Tay of "Hennops Revival", who yesterday with their team cleared approx. 10 tons of hyacinth from the large pond, a remarkable feat of which 3 members of the Boat Club proudly assisted. A call put out to the community for assistance in removing the accumulation removed from the water was answered by "Tyre Mart" a super gesture on their part to assist the community of Centurion.

Some of the hyacinth had grown to half a metre in height, as shown above by Tarryn. This obnoxious weed is well established in our environment and will continue to be a problem, doubling its presence about every 10 days, if the current amount of weed can be removed it could be eradicated considering that there is no more water flowing in from the Centurion Lake.



## **Tuesday and Saturday Gangs**

Site maintenance machinery is the first priority each Tuesday with something always requiring maintenance and repair. Battery chargers for the electric locos have been re installed in the new storage. The alarm system control has been relocated to its new home from the old tunnels. And a mobile blower has been built, mainly from equipment lying around, for the track cleaning, to be pushed ahead of the motive power prior to each track usage.



Lizzy maintenance 2021/02/09      our track blower designed and built by Francois Hanekom (right)

## **Member's home progress**

Is Leon Kamffer the only one building projects in the workshop? – Progress on SAR 5 class







**Leon** does not mess about!

Above are new driving car parts

## **Commercials**



Boker 110mm vise for sale R300 ono  
contact Jon Shaw 0724370710.



see below Willie Marneweck.

**Willie Marneweck** [willie1@live.co.za](mailto:willie1@live.co.za) still has a high-quality surface gauge (see picture), which he would like to dispose of, and should anyone be interested he may contact Willie at 0835744450. He is asking R950 for it but would consider a reasonable offer.

**Hannes Paling** has a few surplus items to dispose of. Available at CSME track site Sunday. Small surface grinder with magnetic chuck, Angle plates & V-blocks, Vertex 150 mm dia. Horizontal/vertical rotary table, without chuck. Contact him, [japeng@mweb.co.za](mailto:japeng@mweb.co.za) 083 230 7762

## **Funnies**



If you ever feel like your brain is inadequate... Think of this guy!

