



# THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX

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

## Centurion Society of Model Engineers

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[https://www.facebook.com/pages/-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/-SocietyofModelEngineers/420612321335973?ref=hl)

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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 JULY 2021

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### COMMITTEE

Chairman – Leon Kamffer  
Vice chair. – John O'Mahony  
Treasurer – Ballot Marx  
Secretary – Imogene Groothuijzen  
Committee – Jon Shaw  
Committee – Carel Janse Vrensborg  
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**

This month the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of July we will be closed for the member's weekend and until further notice due to covid restrictions. The gates are again operational by cellphone. The Tuesday maintenance gang are working on essential items as normal but strictly observing covid rules.

## **Obituary**

Sadly, we have lost George Corlett on 26<sup>th</sup> June one of our members who was an accomplished Model engineer building locomotives and traction engines. He was a personal friend of mine around the CSME always willing to answer any queries and offer help in the hobby. He was born in Laxey on the Isle of Man 11th November 1923, and as a true Manxman also loved his motorcycles riding a Norton Manxman in the IOM TT. He also rode in the Johannesburg to Durban events, and owned several classic motorcycles, kept in pristine condition.

## **Note**

Some members are not getting newsletters because they are on telkomsa.net and the files are being rejected because they are too large, if you are not receiving newsletters and anybody shows you this newsletter, please open a Gmail address and let me know, and we can bypass Telkom.

## **Chairman's comments.**

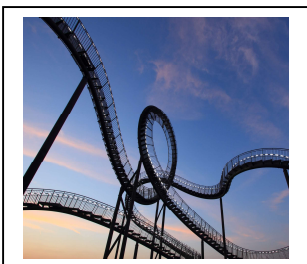
The third wave of Covid has arrived, and we are again under lockdown with all activities stopped. We had limited visitors the last few weekends as the cases increased, adhering to a limit of 100 people on site for an open venue.

We are fortunate that we built up a bit of financial reserve, so we should be able to get through this lockdown keeping an eye on our expenditure and trusting that the situation will normalize soon.

Most of the people I know have close friends or family members impacted by Covid, so we all need to be careful and adhere to guidelines.

We also received the sad news of a long-time member George Corlett's passing, our thoughts are with his family.

## **Secretary's Bit**



We are on the Covid-rollercoaster again. Best to do is to be as safe as possible and if you are so inclined, to get the vaccination.

We are of course closed so activities at the club are down to the gangs doing their thing.

July brings birthday wishes to Nick Popich. Well done, Nick!  
Imogene Groothuizen

## **Track and grounds.**

We are now into winter season and growth Has slowed down, so attention is focussed on other work. The leaf composting area will be prepared for the composting of the mounds of leaves. Soil is still being spread alongside track edges to level the adjacent ground to track height to make trackside grass cutting easier.

We May attempt to compost the water hyacinth to make use of the nuisance if time permits!

Work on the new line itself, from the new storage to the station is finished. The associated concreting and paving is also finished and the surrounding area rehabilitated. Some sort of plants will be planted around that area as well, any small plant donations (especially perennial) will be most welcome. Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June the storage containers were moved to higher ground between the compressor house, new storage building and old storage tunnels.

The containers have been spaced apart to allow for the intervening distance to be enclosed to provide closed parking for our lawnmower collection.

We thank Swannie and the drivers for there dedication in keeping us running up to the latest lockdown despite some cold spells and reduced numbers of passengers.



## **Tuesday and Saturday Gangs**

Site maintenance machinery is the priority each Tuesday with something always requiring maintenance and repair. Lizzie is undergoing a tidy up and should be back in service soon. As usual the lawn mowers required some maintenance each week as did the backpack blower and brush cutters. We did however get round to painting and some assembly of the new driving cars and parts designed, and laser cut by Leon. These can now be seen in service. Every week, Lizzie gets maintenance and necessary repairs, Dennis and Trompie have both required attention. The electric Loco's also need attention but not as much as the other Loco's. those big batteries drink distilled water like a fish, so levels need a constant watch. After each run, they go back to the shed and are put on automatic chargers that replenish the charge then keep them on a maintenance cycle ready for instant use. The duty electric (of which we have 3) is also used with the goods wagon as an electric oversize wheelbarrow during the week for all sorts of work around our long track. We even got round to painting and numbering the point lever cover levers, Thanks Hudson. Tuesday Gang never have to look for work, and never have an idle Tuesday! The gang members never wait to be allocated jobs they always seem to notice or are aware of something and get on with it. One Tuesday last month after continuous derailing of the maintenance truck, (also causing loco derailment,) at a certain set of points exasperation took over and the truck and points underwent maintenance. It certainly is no fun having to get out the loco rerailing equipment and re-rail a loco as the electric locos are so heavy. The rerailing procedure for our locos is not scaled down from full size in proportion with the loco's scale! Saturday Gang this month was more of a social nature as we had the new storage roof wetting braai (barbecue for non- South Africans).

To give you an idea of some of the jobs that get done on a Tuesday.

- 1) An engine less compactor was donated and fitted with an electric motor to get it operational.
- 2) Upgrades on electric locos to change sprockets to increase speed slightly.
- 3) Pillar foundations were built, and containers lowered onto the permanent foundations.
- 4) Faulty points on the western approach to the station were refurbished.
- 5) The new alarm system is being tidied and modified to gain more advantage.
- 6) A desktop computer has been donated to replace the one lost in the flood.

**Thanks to all involved.**



## Member's progress

See the RSME newsletter for some of Leon's photos, here we have some of his 5-class pipework.



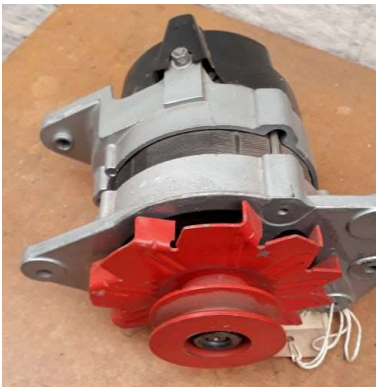
## Commercials

**Kevin Mey**, [meyclankd@gmail.com](mailto:meyclankd@gmail.com) Cell 0822234581 has for sale 2 x 0.75 horsepower single phase electric motors R900 ea. ono.

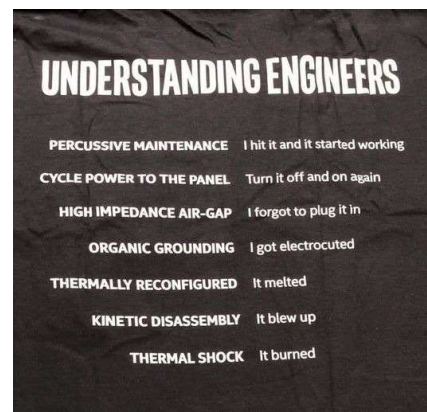
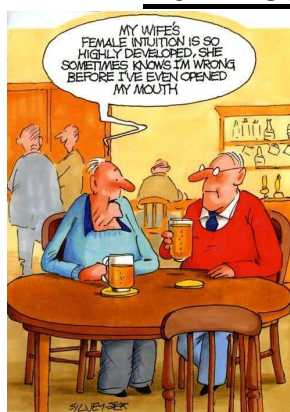
**Michael Eykelhof** [michaelsteam321@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsteam321@gmail.com) is looking for 5" G springbok or similar smokebox door and chimney either castings or whatever.

**CSME** still need 2 steel drums 220 Litre if you know of any going begging in Pretoria, please let a committee member know to arrange collection. Or please deliver to our track site.

**Jon Shaw** [jonsamshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jonsamshaw@gmail.com) 0724370710 has for sale 3 alternators, 1 Lucas and 2 Bosch. All serviced by auto electricians' new bearings. R600 ea. Open to reasonable offers.



## Funnies







Will it pass inspection? Attached a photo of a boiler from a locomotive that had run on a private track for several years. His friend did not like the look of the boiler, so he removed it and cut it in half This is what he found.



Not funny but interesting - Power box outside editors house exploded during maintenance!