



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

 csmetrains@gmail.com

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

CSME NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

COMMITTEE

Chairman - Leon Kamffer	082 577 7813
Vice chair. - John O'Mahony	082 809 3595
Treasurer - Ballot Marx	082 808 5783
Secretary - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344
Committee - Carel Janse van Rensburg	076 774 9221
Committee - Francois Hanekom	083 448 2639

e-mail: lkamffer@mweb.co.za
e-mail: omahoney236@gmail.com
e-mail: ballotmarx@gmail.com
e-mail: csmetrains@gmail.com
e-mail: carel@angohygiene.com
e-mail: c.f.hanekom@gmail.com

Non-committee person contacts

Caretaker - Johan Swanepoel	064 520 8572
Facebook - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344
Alarm & Website - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344
Newsletter - Carel Janse van Rensburg	076 774 9221

e-mail: swanepoel24.js@gmail.com
e-mail: csmetrains@gmail.com
e-mail: csmetrains@gmail.com
e-mail: carel@angohygiene.com

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 the 18th March 2023. 19th March 2023 will be the club track day. We are also open on Tuesday 21 March 2023, making it a perfect long weekend camping occasion.

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

We had another good month, seeing our regular drivers and various locos out every Sunday.

We finished installing our solar panels, allowing us to run the generator only a few hours a week.

The AGM was well attended, thanks for the vote of confidence in the committee. It is hard work to run the clubs' affairs, a special thank to every committee member's hard work and commitment.

We have a long members weekend this weekend, with the club open from Saturday to Tuesday. Please come and enjoy the facilities and play trains.

Secretary's Bit

The Club AGM was successfully held on Saturday 25 February. Your new Committee, as voted in by the members, is as follows:

Chairman – Leon Kamffer
Vice Chairman – John O'Mahony
Treasurer – Ballot Marx
Secretary – Norman Reyneke
Member – Carel Janse van Rensburg
Member – Francois Hanekom
Member – Vacant (pending discussion with the proposed member).

Our birthday people for March: Willie Fourie, Johan Swarts, Manie Smal and John Sharpe. We wish them all the best.

These are the running dates for public holidays and special club events for 2023:

Date	Occasion	Public
18/03/2023	Members' Day	Open
21/03/2023	Human Rights Day	Open
07/04/2023	Good Friday	Closed
10/04/2023	Easter Monday	Open
27/04/2023	Freedom Day	Open
01/05/2023	Workers Day	Open
16/06/2023	Youth Day	Open
17/06/2023	Members workshop visit day	Closed
09/08/2023	Women's Day	Open
23 - 25/09/2023	September Fair	Open

From the Editor

Thanks a mil to all the contributions for this edition of THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX.

It is very encouraging to see various projects by club members in our "WHO's DOING WHAT" section this month.

We are not journalist by any measurement, just hobbyists attempting to share relevant information and interest to fellow hobbyists!

Please feel free to contribute content to the news letter, big and small, complicated and/or basics. Part of the hobby is the machines and tools we use to achieve and acceptable end product. If you have any interesting methods, tools and machines you use, please send me a short write-up with some pictures to be included in a future edition.

Send any contributions and/or suggestions to Carel at 076 7749 221 by whatsapp or mail to carel@angohygiene.com or kgtmodelbouery@gmail.com.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023 by LEON KAMFFER

This year we were fully operational without impact from Covid or lockdown restrictions. Our passenger numbers exceeded pre Covid levels, mostly due to the running of steam and multiple locomotives on non-club Sundays.

On the administration side we continue to keep electronic records under the auspices of Norman as our new Secretary. Imogene asked for a rest to focus on her other commitments. A massive thanks for the excellent job she did. We continue to keep electronic records, this includes historic minutes, membership info, driver's licenses, boiler certificates and every other piece of historic and current information.

We have 82 current members of which 15 joined us this year. Sadly long term member and our treasurer for years Mike Venter passed away. Our condolences to his family and friends. 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 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 to register as non profit at last. Imogene is still struggling to get access to our electronic UIF account. We were also audited by the department of labour for compliance.

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, basically all our surplus income in the raising of the caretakers flat. It is critical to have someone on the premise to manage the workforce as well to maintain security.

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 R25 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.

Nothing new emerged from the Abland proposals, and interaction with the City council and Councilor was maintained. They asked us to complete a lease request, received no feedback yet. We did not see help with grass cutting as at all.

Out electricity as well as the park lights was disconnected by the council in October, and in spite of multiple engagements with our councilor and visits by John O'Mahoney to the council offices absolutely no progress apart from the parks department applying as owner for a connection. We managed to get a large generator on loan, spend a substantial amount on diesel and replacement batteries for our alarm system We obtained a solar installation with a special discounted deal by member Troy Bently, as it will be self-funding even if we get Council power reinstated.

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.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023 by LEON KAMFFER

During the year Carel took over newsletter as Jon Shaw was overseas visiting family for extended period. It is an important aspect to share info and keep our members informed especially during the lockdown period. 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, website and also 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. Luke Ronne from RSME send a writeup to the model engineer, and Shaun Spaan featured on the front page of Model Engineer with his traction engine. 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 building works. The Tuesday gang did a massive amount of work on our equipment such as lawnmowers and assisting with the flat raising.

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 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 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 although they still come and go.

We started with a raised track around the ponds, thanks to donation of pipes by member Neil and track from the family of life member Gijs de Vries. We made good progress till we diverted all our resources, especially the Tuesday and Saturday gangs to building. We will continue this year. We also need to complete the raising of the last 2 storage bunkers.

The year-end function on the 16th of December was well attended, although fewer members than on previous occasions. 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.

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 as well as work on the caretakers flat.

Lizzy our steam locomotive saw regular service, and quite a few drivers. Francois took ownership and executed quite a few repairs and improvements. Work on our club steam loco progressed well, boiler welded by Derrick. The loco is nearly in running condition, final assembly and fittings need to be completed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023 by LEON KAMFFER

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.

Thanks:

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 Imogene for the effort keeping administrative affairs in order, and for Norman to step in and take over. 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, Francois, Nick, Hudson and Neil for their driving.

A special thanks to everyone that assisted on the raising of the caretakers flat.

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

Swannie our caretaker for his contribution, and patience with flooding while we manage to raise the flat.

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 public alike.

Who is doing what?



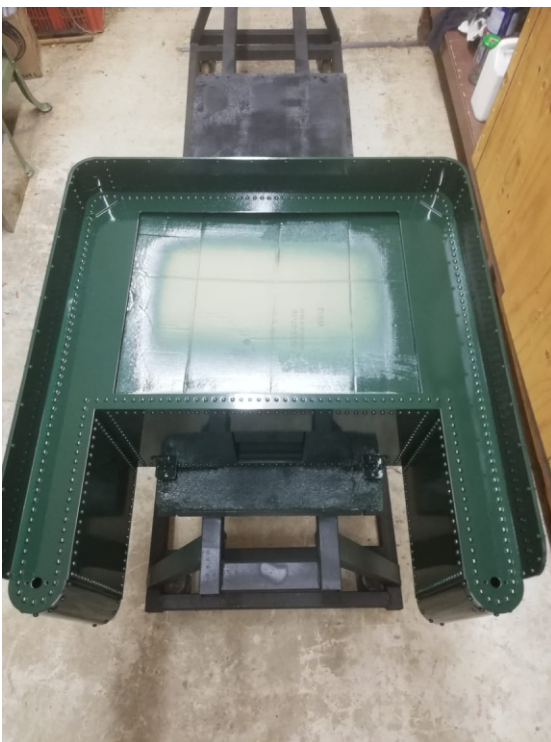
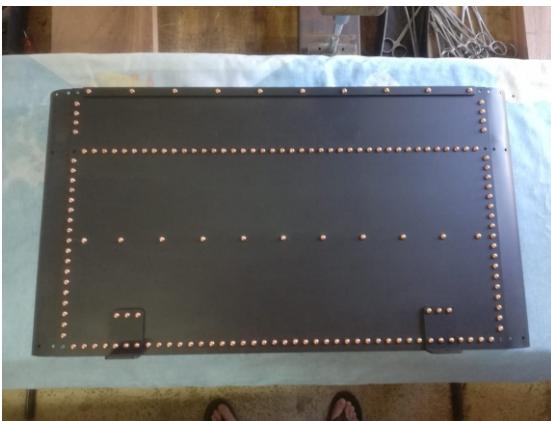
The turret for Teresa by Leon Kamffer



Broken needle roller of the 5 class motion, repaired by Leon Kamffer

Who is doing what?

A picture collage of Johnny Sharp's shay build showing stunning progress:



Who is doing what?

A picture collage of Johnny Sharp's shay build showing stunning progress:



Who is doing what?



Solar panels installed.

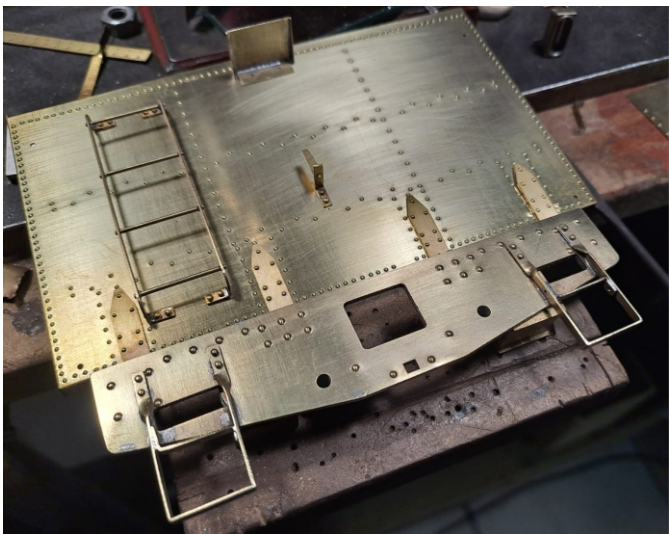


Model Engineer at work: John testing the shade of the newly erected stoep roof!

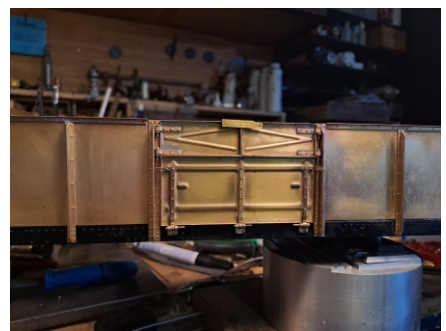


The “green” light is a good thing, they say!

Who is doing what?

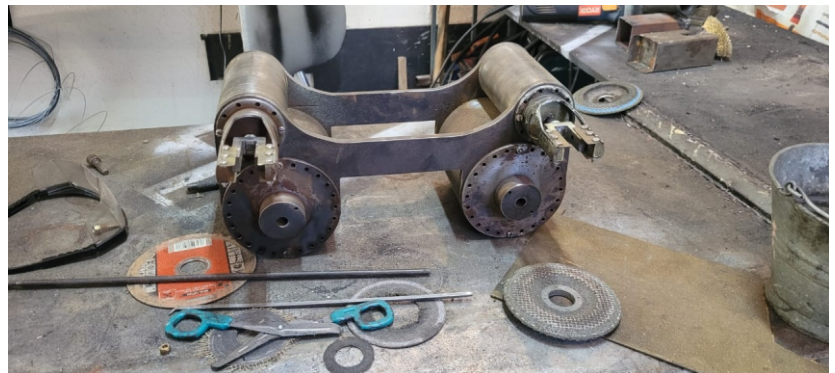


The CAPE GAUGE 1, 1:24 scale 15F locomotive with EW tender back panel by Carel Janse van Rensburg.



B23 Bogie SAR/SAS wagon in CG1, 1:24 scale by Carel Janse van Rensburg.

Who is doing what?



Michael Eykelhof's current project in his workshop.

Who is doing what?



Kevin Mey steaming the WREN locomotive recently donated to the CSME. Francois and Lukas looks like water boys with the 2 litre bottles they guard for the trip!

Funnies (or not so Funnies)

