

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

CSME NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025

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| Treasurer - Ballot Marx | 082 808 5783 |
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Non-committee person contacts

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2025 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 August 2025, the club running day on 17 August 2025.

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, with the first use of our lowbed truck for wheelchairs. A Lot of time was spend assembling it by the Tuesday gang and a nice addition to our fleet.

We also laser cut parts for another 4 passenger coaches, the bogies are complete, and the parts painted. More than a thousand bolts await the Tuesday gang. We will work on them club Saturday as well. Anyone who want to rekindle the Meccano feeling is welcome to come and help assemble.

We received a donation of 2 trucks of paving bricks and managed to start paving the road at the loco offloading area. It will help with muddy areas in the summer.

Lucas with lots of support from Francois finished the overhaul of Lizzy, a job well done. We also fitted injector water valves on the loco.

The September fair weekend is fast approaching, please come and help and enjoy.

Leon

Secretary's Bit

The relevant form to update your membership details is available on the club website in the Members Page menu and the Club Documents sub menu. Please download, complete and return a form when next you visit the website. Forms can be emailed to admin@centuriontrains.com.

The curve, exiting the 2nd tunnel and approaching the swing bridge, has been repaired. Thanks to Leon and his team. Since this is the sharpest curve on the park, please continue to exercise caution and maintain a safe speed when going thorough this piece of track.

Our Birthday wishes for August go out to: Rudy du Preez, Willem Nel, Lourens Erasmus and Troy Bentley.

Norman

From the Editor

Thank you very much for all the contributions to this edition on **THE CENTURION SMOKE BOX**.

Lost of activity at the club makes it easy to do a newsletter!

The **September ME Fair 2025** is here. Please discuss with us, specifically Roko and me, any participation, displays of engines and or projects etc. This is a showcase of what we do as a club and model engineering society, let's make this one a great one!

Please look around the workshop, there must be items storing dust that other members might find useful. Please consider to advertize in the SELL/SWOP/WANTED section.

Carel

Centurion Society of Model Engineers



**CSME 32-45mm Group
Centurion Mini Truckers**



Model Engineering Fair 20 & 21 September 2025

Hobbies Crafts Food

Entrance: R30 per person 9:00 - 16:00

(includes one free ride on the mini trains per entrance ticket, R15 per additional ride)

**Kwikkie Crescent, Centurion
(behind OUTsurance)**

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Seen around the Club

The CSME wheelchair coach was put into service in July 2025. Arthur Piercy and his wife Gerda, 'volunteered' for the maiden trip. They had very positive feedback, and we appreciate their participation in this project. The coach is on standby every Sunday in Meerpark station, with other passengers enjoying the experience since the initial run.



Scenes from the July 2025 club weekend



Trainee steam driver James Wolmarans thought it wise to indicate to the experienced drivers on the Saturday run, that this loco is going nowhere slowly (if something goes wrong), but he had a very good run without incident! (Could be a new good practice for learner drivers)



Who's doing what?

Lucas on Lizzie for a test run after the rebuild. He did a magnificent job. With support from Francois. Well done guys!



Workshop Gadgets - Leon Kamffer

Milling Machine Vice Stop

When making repeat parts, like a set of axle boxes, it helps if one can easily locate them in the milling vice with a rigid stop.

One gets a few commercial designs but making your own from a few pieces of offcut material is a simple project. Buying a branded one is usually more than most modelers budgets allow.

The design is simple and allows one to adjust the height for different vices, and the other end of the rod can be turned down for small parts. The base is slotted so it can be fitted on more than one machine with different T slot spacing, and to move it when the height is adjusted.

Mine was used when the 24 axle boxes for the electric locos were drilled and tapped, speeding things up tremendously.



Seen around the Club



The Tuesday gang added cant (also called camber or super-elevation) to the curve exiting the second tunnel. This means the outer rails were raised slightly above the inner rails, helping trains lean into the bend rather than fight against it. On full-size railways, this reduces wear on the wheels and track, and in our case gives a smoother, more stable ride and higher speed running (not required at CSME!). It's a small change, but it makes a big difference when you're riding behind the locomotive!



Seen around the Club

Want to shunt your 5 inch loco on a 7 1/4 inch track? No problem! All you need is a MOP, steel, gate motor wheels and Johnny Sharpe:



Seen around the Club

How do you assert if your coal skip can take 8,7 metric tons of coal?

1) Convert the weight to a volume estimate (so you can compare to the skip's internal volume) 8.7 metric tonnes = 8,700 kg. Coal isn't a fixed density - bulk density depends on type and compaction. Typical bulk densities span roughly 600-1,000 kg/m³. Required volume = mass ÷ bulk density. Examples for 8,700 kg: At 600 kg/m³ - volume = 14.5 m³. At 700 kg/m³ - volume = 12.43 m³. At 800 kg/m³ - volume = 10.875 m³ etc. So, measure the internal volume of the skip (m³), length × width × average depth. If the skip's internal volume is less than the volume above for your coal density, it cannot contain 8.7t.

OR

2) Buy 8,7 tons of coal and drop it in the coal skip! If it does not fit, run steam trains until it fits into the skip!

(you will notice that Johnny is supervising the delivery. A couple of runs with LADY SHAY and the K1 will reduce the overflow of the skip to normal design levels!)



Who's doing what?

From Leon's Workshop:

Water valves for Lizzie and the Wren.

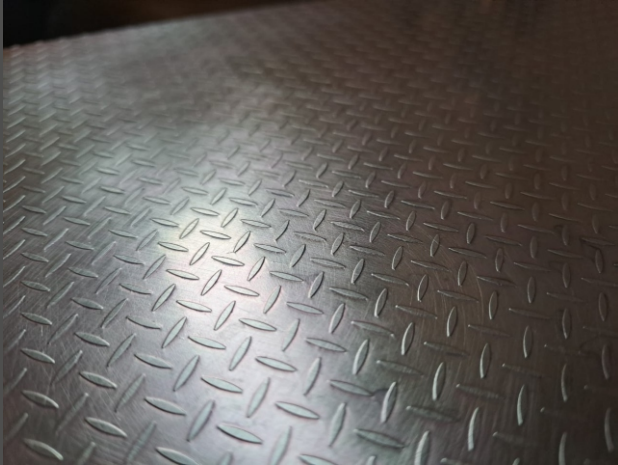
Bogies for the 4 new club passenger coaches and spraying of the coach body parts.



Who's doing what?

From the Author's Workshop:

Photo etched brass 1:6 scale chequer plate:



Mini castings for mini trains, 1:87 scale 15F brass loco project:

