

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 DECEMBER 2025

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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 CSME Year End Function is on Saturday 13 December 2025 and club running day Sunday 14 December 2025, and last public running day for the year on 16 December 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 year passed in a blink of an eye. Running days were a bit quitter the last few weeks, giving the drivers chance for a chat and rest in between.

We did not get the building of the disabled toilet off the ground and decided to invest some surplus funds in 2 workshop containers and upgrading the roofs of the boat club lapas. I trust that these investments will also enhance our club. Thanks to the Tuesday gang that organised and did the preparations and footwork to get it done.

This Saturday is our year end braai, so far well supported by the number of people that plan to attend and camp the weekend. We look forward to the day of play and the night run again. We trust the weather will play its part as well.

We wish everyone merry Christmas season , and a prosperous, healthy and busy new year. Keep the workshop tools humming and make a bunch of parts for the next project during the holidays.

Leon

Secretary's Bit

Our Last public running day for 2025 will be the Public Holiday on Tuesday 16 December. We will be closed for the Festive Season from 17 December 2025 until 10 January 2026. We will re-open on Sunday 11 January 2026.

We wish all our members a very Merry Festive Season and if you are going away, please drive safely and we will see you in the New Year.

Our Birthday wishes for December go out to: Shawn Spaan, Neil Webb, Alan Green, Regardt Nieuwoudt, Geoff Bailie and Neels Barnard.

Norman

From the Editor

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

And puff, gone is 2025! We will assume that a year flying past is due to it being a busy year. This was most certainly the case at CSME!

All the best for the holidays, and see every one at the Meerpark Station in 2026!

A thought for the new year, consider to share/donate pre-loved tools and parts or projects for the CSME ME workshop. I am sure this will turn into a show case of how a ME workshop should look like!

Carel



CSME Year End Function Saturday 13 December 2025.

Members may enjoy club facilities from early. Campers are welcome as per tradition. Family, especially young members and unlicensed members can play with private and club locos.

Morning Tea and Cake at 11:00

Father Christmas handing out presents at 12:00

Followed by our Chairman's year end speech, and prize giving.

Lamb on the spit served at 14:00

(If you do not eat lamb, you may bring your own meat and separate fires will be provided).

Ice Cream for all!

Late afternoon and evening train run till late.

Weather permitting, the park will be decorated along the tracks with festival lights.

(Members must confirm attendance numbers with Norman Reyneke at 082 553 7344)

Sunday 14 December 2025 will be open to the public, with Tuesday 16 December also open to the public and our last running day for the year.

Please bring your own cutlery, plates, salads and drinks.

Coffee, tea and milk will be available as usual.

See you all at Meerpark Station!



The CSME Library

We have a library again! Michael Kidson has done a phenomenal job in turning our storeroom (with books) into a library.

Here is a list of some of the books available for members to 'take out' and return at an agreed date. Please coordinate with Michael in this regard.

Construction books:

Locomotives, traction engines and internal combustion locomotives

188 Lew 2-6-2 tank locomotive – Les Warnett (3.5 inch)

Simple Model locomotive building LBSC

Model Locomotive boiler

Falk No. 1 locomotive (Elk River mill & Lumber company) Willam Harris (7.25")

"Maisie" locomotive by LBSC (3.5 inch)

Princess Marina LMS 2-6-0 mogul by LBSC (3.5 inch)

Mona, a Simple 0-6-2 tank engine (3,5-inch) LBSC

Evening Star by Martin Evans (3.5 inch)

Rob Roy and William (3.5 inch) gauge Martine Evans

Speedy GW 0-6-0 tank engine – (5" gauge) LBSC

Super Claud, Martin Evans (5 inch)

Stirling A.G.N.R. Martin Evans (5 inch) 16 N.P.H.

LBSC's famous 4-4-0 Virginia 3.5" gauge

Simplex 0-6-0 tank engine Simple freelance steam locomotive (5 inch) – Martine Evans

Sweet pea – Build your own steam locomotive (5 inch) Jack Buckler

Traction engines

Building the Allchin. A 1.5" general purpose traction engine by W. J. Hughes

Burrell 2" scale Tractor (Tractor, Showman's engine and Roller)

Fowler ploughing engine – John Haining (2 inch)

Internal combustion

Building 'Mastiff' A four cycle gasoline engine

Building the Atkinson differential engine

Seen around the Club

This is what club weekends are about!



Seen around the Club

Also on club weekends: Re-purposing of club assets for leisure activities:



Johnny, CSME's official Shay-man, running his mini shay motor on air:



On the topic of Johnny, this photo of a Cape Robin family nesting in LADY SHAY doing the rounds on social media, turned out to be fake news.

However, the nest were in the same loco shed as the LADY SHAY, and specifically in a pre-loved CSME loco. Perhaps a project for the new year?

Workshop Gadgets - Leon Kamffer

Retracting Screw Cutting Holder

Cutting threads at speed in a manual lathe is always a slow process unless one has a lathe with stops and retracting tool.

On a normal manual lathe one can make your own retracting toolholder. Hemmingway is a UK website that has lots of ideas on different tools. One does not need to buy plans or special castings and can easily make one that fits the size of lathe you own.

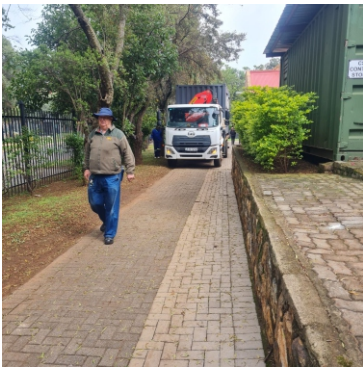
I made one from a morse taper quick change toolholder, did a bit of annealing, and machined the rest from a few pieces of material. I used M200 a high tensile free cutting toolsteel, and have a cam to retract and position the tool accurately. There are lot of designs on the internet for simpler designs, also self-retracting ones.

I use it together with an auto release for the leadscrew half nuts, so one can cut threads really fast. Screw cut threads is a requirement for a lot of items like piston rods, collet toolholders and spindles where accuracy and running true is important. Investing the time to make a toolholder and automatic stop to speed things up and is worth it.

The automatic stop will be described next time.



CSME's ME Workshop



Excellent work by the Tuesday gang!

A blank canvas for the new year; fitting out the workshop.

Seen around the Club

Re-roofing of the lapa with low maintenance Harvey tiles.

Members are reminded that the lapa is available for use by club members on club weekends at no cost. Please book with Swannie.



Who's doing what?

From Leon's Workshop:

SAR 15F valve gear overhaul completed, and boiler inside, after 15 years and 275 steamings, evidence of rusted tubes:



Who's doing what?

From the author's workshop: Testing the Lorch 8mm watchmakers lathe by playing with a mini cone and doing a 0,8mm hex nut and bolt:

