

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 JULY 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 committee meeting is on Saturday, 19 July 2025, the club running day on 20 July 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

A busy month on all fronts.

On the passenger side a few Sundays started out slower due to the cold but got busy later the day. The long weekend was well supported by public and members alike.

The Tuesday gang, apart from normal maintenance we finished raising the inner track bridge to the station. It was the lowest overhead item on the track, about 50mm lower than the second tunnel.

We also replaced batteries in the red electric loco, look forward to lots of happy driving.

The club is looking good overall, please come and enjoy your club.

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.

Drivers are warned that the curve exiting the 2nd tunnel and approaching the swing bridge, has become unstable and leaning towards the outside. Please exercise caution and maintain a slow speed when going thorough this curve. This anomaly will be repaired at the earliest opportunity.

Norman

From the Editor

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

The Tuesday gang seems to work harder when it is colder, or do they have more time on hand when the lawnmowers are having a rest in winter.

A busy June 2025 club Saturday and Leon's trusty **WORKSHOP GADGETS!**

We have exciting items for the SELL/SWOP/WANTED section, please support our fellow model engineers.

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

Scenes from the June 2025 club Saturday

The June 2025 club Saturday saw 6 steam engines out. It turned out to be a farewell steam for WIDGET TOO who has started it's relocation trip to the UK (with builder, Steve Headland)



Scenes from the June 2025 club Saturday



Workshop Gadgets - Leon Kamffer

Assorted Tap and Die Holders

A lot of fittings require a few sizes of thread, and one does not really want to remove split dies from their holders as one has to adjust the size every time.

Buying die holders by the dozen is usually not in a modelers budget. They are very easy to make in batches, till one has enough. I have a few from tool stand sales, but making all to the same design allows one to use them all on the same arbor.

Some imperial ones I got were 15.8 mm. I standardised on 16mm, as I have a 16mm reamer.

The design is 2 pieces assembled with locktite. I used a bar of 30mm for the thin section, and different sizes for the die end. Having the head much larger than the die and knurled allows one to grip them by hand when doing brass fittings. For larger dies they are cross drilled for an 8 or 10 mm rod to tap manually in harder materials like stainless. The standard often used taps for model engineering fittings are also permanently mounted in the same design with a simple split collet. It really speeds things up if one grabs the arbor, puts it in tailstock chuck, and uses the die already set to cut a correct sized thread.



The only rule is one can never have enough.

I also have quite a few different releasing Tapmatic type releasing die heads and tapping collets for harder materials and repeat jobs that I collected over the years.

Some are fitted in custom toolholders and others are fitted on a small capstan attachment, but the normal die holders are sufficient to start off with for most tasks and easy to make oneself.



Seen around the Club



Even on one of the coldest Tuesdays of the 2025 winter, the Tuesday gang is out and about. Here they are doing the final touches to the plinthed Vaaljapie.



Nothing like freshly painted point controls and indicators approaching Meerpark Station.

Seen around the Club



Building Bridges or Lifting Bridges:
One of the "Civil Engineers" lifting the
Robbie Robertson bridge to show how high
it should be!



Seen around the Club



The CSME's fleet of E1 locomotives. They are the trustworthy workhorses for parties and are on duty every Sunday.



Who's doing what?

From Leon's Workshop:

Parts for 4 new club passenger coaches:



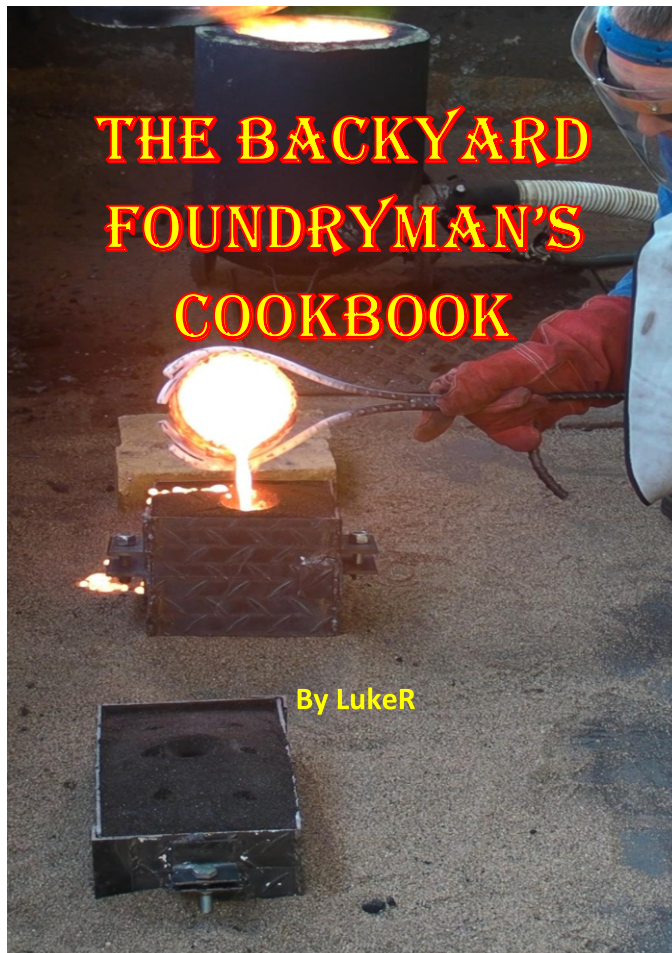
CSME Sell, Swop or Wanted

Two eBooks in PDF format available from renowned South African model engineer Luke Ronne:

The Backyard Foundryman's Cookbook – R400

Zen and the Art of Painting and Lining – R350

Contact Luke at luke.ronne@gmail.com



Foreword

Furnaces, and casting in general, are one of those subjects shrouded in myth, magic and secrecy, which tends to dissuade the novice from attempting even the simplest of castings.

Casting has allowed me to expand my workshop capabilities to an extent that I can practically make every single component that goes into my scratch built live steam locomotives (and vintage motorcycle restoration projects).



Photo 1: My scratch built Fire Queen; a fully functioning 5g 0-4-0 live steam loco. All the castings were done in my backyard.

I hope that this glimpse into casting helps that soul, who would have otherwise steered clear. If I've done that, then my job is done!

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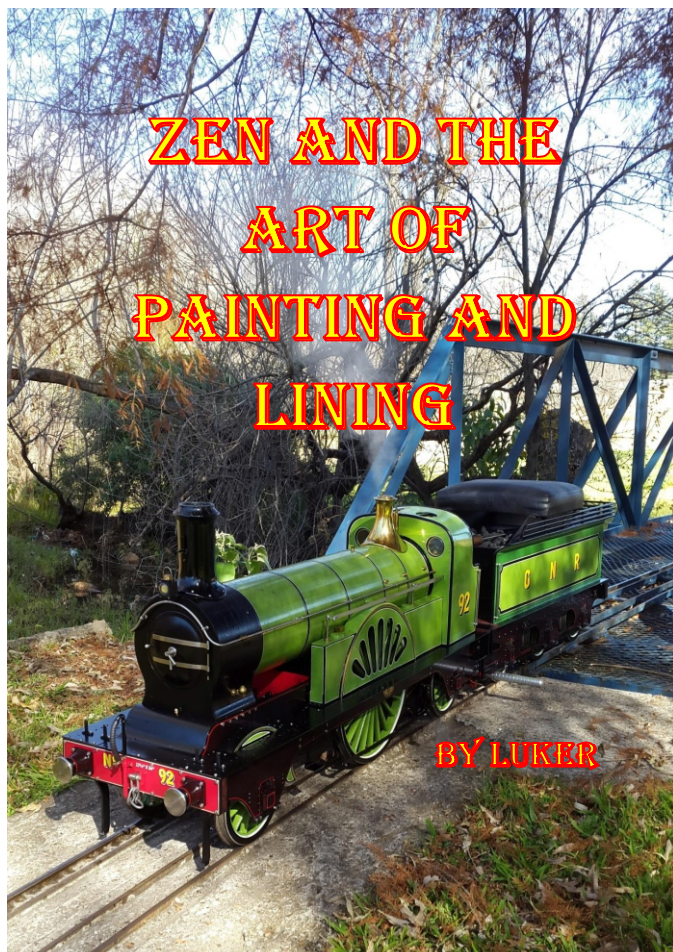
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Foreword

This is by no stretch of the imagination a concise treatise on painting; more of a first principles description of how I go about it. I also wouldn't call myself an expert in the field of painting; my experience is limited to a handful of motorcycle restorations and half a dozen live steam builds.

I often get asked who painted my various builds, and could I share the contact details. The most common response to me saying I paint everything myself, is that it looks like a professional did it! Well now; a professional just means he got paid for the job, it most certainly doesn't mean he's any good at it.



Photo 1: My Ariel Huntmaster which was fully restored by me when I was at school.

Most people are afraid of painting their own models or restoration projects, and this, I believe, is due to the overwhelming amount of expert advice and products that claim to solve all the usual paint related issues; and then fall short of those ridiculous promises. I hope, that after reading this book, you'll be able to see through the fallacies, and that it will give you the confidence to try your first paint job!

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CSME Sell, Swop or Wanted

Part built sweetpea 5inch gauge with castings: R3,500.
Whatsapp Kyle at 067 050 3714.

