



# THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX

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

## Centurion Society of Model Engineers

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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 March 2022

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### COMMITTEE

Chairman – Leon Kamffer  
Vice chair. – John O'Mahony  
Treasurer – Ballot Marx  
Secretary – Imogene Groothuizen  
Committee – Jon Shaw  
Committee – Carel JanseVrensborg  
Safety – Norman Reyneke  
Non-committee person contacts

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### Membership Fees for 2022 are unchanged from 2019

**We need to increase the subscriptions for this year!**

**2022 SUBS R450 FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS R225 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 2022 (or what payment is for).

**Note the account number change in red**

### Official correspondence and 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. Those members without email can collect a copy of the newsletter from the clubhouse on track day.

## **Next Club Meetings**

The Saturday and Sunday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday weekend of the month will again resume as the member's days and that Sunday also being steam Sunday for the public. This month the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of March will be the member's weekend. Members are welcome any other time by arrangement with Swannie 012 643 0750, or 071 619 1644. The gates are again operational by cellphone.

## **Future Plans**

The following dates have been reserved specifically for member days at the track site. These are public holiday weekends. Please diarise these and attend as we do not plan to open to the public (except the Sundays), just members, family and guests, so please support us to make the reservations worthwhile.

**March 19, 20, 21.** June 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> inclusive, August 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> inclusive September 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

These dates will be an opportunity for children to drive if accompanied by a licenced member.

## **Nic Popich Remembrance**

There will be a small get together at CSME to remember Dad (Nick Popich). Date Sunday 17 April 2022 @12h00. Some of Dad's ashes to be fired into one of his Loco's. His wish was to go up through the chimney. Those who wish to come must provide their own lunch time braai-meat and picnic baskets (only fires are provided by the CSME) - **ROKO**

## **Chairman's Chatter**

The club recovered well after the floods, and we had good support from the public and quite a few locos out every Sunday. Covid numbers stay low, so public attendance is well within the limits allowed.

The club is planning a few long weekends with members only days as well as additional running days. Please book those days and we look forward to seeing a lot of members coming to enjoy our hobby.

A few members make really good progress on their projects and shared some info and photos with the editor for publishing. They can only be complimented on their skill and workmanship. (See below Ed.)

Thanks for the support showed at the AGM for the committee that was reelected. A lot of focus was on flood mitigation, but we can focus on other areas now.

We hope to share some firm plans on a raised track soon as well.

## **Chairman's Report – Leon Kamffer AGM 2022**

Let's start with the new world order of Covid. We lost most of our income in January last year, and then in December as well due to weather. We however operated steam most Sundays between lockdowns and managed to draw public during those periods. We are an open-air venue, and we hope that this year will be closer to normal.

On the administration side we continue to keep electronic records under the auspices of Jon Shaw and the secretary, Imogene. These include historic minutes, membership info, driver's licenses, boiler certificates and every other piece of historic and current information.

We have 67 current members of which 7 joined us this year. 1 member passed away. We issued quite a few driver licenses as well during the year. Recruiting members for long term sustainability will always be important.

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 tried to sort out registering as non-profit, was rejected because of wording and specific clauses that was in our house rules and not in the constitution. We are submitting these changes to the members

for approval. We cannot transact with authorities like SARS electronically as the required registration numbers are compulsory and they validate them. Imogene is still struggling to get access to our electronic UIF account as well

An excellent job was done by the treasurer Ballot Marx managing our finances. We changed the card machine to a cheaper arrangement. We specifically targeted low surplus but had limited income due to rain late November and December, so we ended lower than our target, but we are not concerned at this stage. Financially we could generate surplus income to fund our flood mitigation and maintenance, details as per treasurer's report.

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 rate and a R20 rate for entry that include the first ride. This practice makes 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 they were also impacted by the lockdown.

Most of the Kei apples survived the winter and fire in winter. We completed a large part of the boundary. We replanted a few as well.

The Saturday preceding the club day was not supported at all during the year. Very few Saturdays saw members making use of the club premises. We also invited members to use the premises on their own during the lockdown to limit the exposure to Covid. We only saw a few regulars coming out to enjoy themselves. 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 and members activities this year.

During the year Jon Shaw has continued to diligently issue our newsletter. 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 and Engineering in Miniature as well. We ask for and look forward to more contributions from our members, especially their current projects.

Norman is looking after our Facebook page and website, and 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 when we started to operate after the lockdown. We also continue to book parties electronically on our website.

We had to cancel the September fair again this year and lost the resultant exposure and income. We look forward to host a few camping long weekends and member days when not impacted by Covid.

The Saturday and Tuesday gangs continued with their valued contributions, doing general repairs, servicing locomotives, and rolling stock. Saturdays were mostly spent on elevated storage and track. The Tuesday gang did a massive amount of work on our equipment such as lawnmowers as well as the final raising of the old storage.

The interaction and support from the affiliated clubs is much appreciated and continued during the year. We are concerned about the future of the boat club with the lack of water and change in leadership. The CNC club changed to zoom meetings for the lockdown, we look forward to 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 invasions stay a threat, with the bottom pond filled with them. I hope we succeed to stop the invasion. Water flow from the lake is basically something of the past after the wall was opened. Work on the lake caused a massive stink between our area and the river, we hope it is rectified soon.

The food stalls that operated on Sundays were well supported although they still come and go.

The year-end function on the 16th of December was well attended considering the starting of the Covid wave as well as the flood the night before. It is an opportunity for the members to interact without the public being present. It was relaxed with Shaun Spaan supplying the steam haulage for the day. 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 final work on raised storage.

Lizzy our steam locomotive saw regular service, and quite a few drivers. Francois took ownership and executed quite a few repairs and improvements. We obtained a similar set of half build and boiler materials for another loco like Lizzy and will work on it in the next year.

We completed the storage above flood line and final access from the steaming bay. We still need to finish the raising of the last 2 old storages for carriages. We had 5 floods recently, thankfully just to the level of the building doors with no damage to our rolling stock or equipment. We then had a flood higher than the 2019 flood. Our elevated storage proved a success with no damage to equipment stored there. We did however suffer some damage to equipment to tools that was not above the flood level.

The Tuesday gang moved our containers to the raised area behind the storage under the guidance of Ballot, raising all our storage to above the floods as well.

The caretaker flat was again completely flooded, and we will have to plan alternatives in the future, or we risk losing the ability to have a caretaker on site.

Swannie our caretaker is managing the grounds maintenance, parties, and public Sunday well. We also have a few regular members that actively help on these non-club days.

It is with sadness that we had to hear of the passing of Nick Popich, a founding and life member. Really a massive set of shoes to fill, and an incredible model engineer.

#### 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. Special thanks to Ballot as treasurer, and John O'Mahony for the effort maintaining equipment and Norman for his constant attention to alarms and locos. Jon for the newsletter, Francois, Nick, Hudson, and Neil for their driving.

A special thanks to everyone that assisted on the construction and completion of the elevated storage.

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

Swannie our caretaker for his contribution, especially during lockdown and constantly living with the issue of flooding.

City council for entrusting us with this great property to enjoy what we love and assisting with the upkeep.

Ladies in the clubhouse, they again excelled in the way they keep us nourished with tea and cake. We missed out during lockdown.

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.

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. **LEON.**

## **Track and grounds**

Due to the recent abundant rains everything is growing at an alarming rate and the area between our land and the river is beginning to look like a cross between a smelly rubbish dump, marsh, and jungle. Recent flooding entered the clubhouse building, the workshop and caretakers flat were the worst affected. A new record flood height was attained, reaching just below alarm installations and at carriage seat height in the modified old tunnels. Our grounds were strewn with a mass of litter which entwined anything in the path of the flood waters, the force of which downed or bent some fences and when the waters subsided a layer of thick clinging mud covered everywhere in sight.

Because the new loco storage and containers were elevated, they were not flooded above the rail height. The old storage tunnels and the earthwork in front being modified for raised carriage storage did not prevent flooding this time. The flood height was above the last highest in 2019. **We Thank Francois Hanekom for being on site from early to late each day since the flood organising a band of hired labour to clear and clean the buildings and grounds. He was assisted by some of the committee, and a few regular members helped on odd days out of our 50 + membership. Our own workers were also involved in the clean-up and continue to do so for which we thank them.**

## **Tuesday and Saturday Gangs**

Any new or newly retired members please consider Joining either or both gangs as you will be most welcome. – there is plenty of work for new hands!

A warm welcome to Roko Popich who has joined us and immediately started by cutting and welding to modify the doors to fit the carriage storage tunnels.

Recent work has focussed on the elevation of the track to the old storage tunnels and raising the tracks within. The new track at higher level has been laid and we are waiting for the soil beneath the track to consolidate before concreting.

Recently, as usual, the gangs have also had to unblock drains, removing root plugs etc.

Maintenance of lawnmowers, the Bagnall loco Lizzy, Loco “SAREL” petrol locos and riding cars are ongoing tasks some or all of which require weekly attention. The lawnmowers were under water and are undergoing cleaning and engine maintenance as a result. Some work has been done on trees with the chainsaw, but much is left to be done as “rain stopped play”. Many of the Karee trees have dead sections and some of the other trees have died completely. Dead trees must be cut down and replacements from the nursery planted.

We experienced a flood at the end January higher than the Dec 2019 floods. Our completed flood prevention plans saved all our locomotives stored in the new bunker. A few pieces of equipment in the workshop got wet.

The work of removing lower items in the offices paid off, only limited damage to a few items left below the waterline. Everything in the station not bolted down was saved by the loop track, as it floated away.

Our caretaker’s flat was again completely flooded to above windowsill level, and all items inside the flat were damaged. Long term we will have to plan a solution, as we need to have someone to manage and safeguard our facility.

Apart from that the washout and cleanup started the Sunday, and with extra labour continued the whole week to clean up all the mud and debris washed in. A massive thanks to the members that came to help, a few supervised on-site every day.

We heard some good news regarding plans for a raised track, we look forward to sharing good news and concrete plans soon.

It is the AGM this club weekend, look forward to seeing all members attending.



## Secretary's bit



I wish to thank all those members who took the time out to attend the AGM. We had a good attendance with 24 attendees out of a total of 67 members.

Membership fees are now due. As result of a miscommunication, I must apologise to those of you who have already made payment, but at the previous rate. Please note the subs for 2022 are **R450** for working members and **R225** for pensioners. So, if you have short paid, shake the purse again and top up please.

Members celebrating a birthday this month are: Martin Roediger, Willie Fourie, J O'Mahony and Johnny Sharpe. Hope you have a fun day in the workshop, guys!

Imogene Groothuizen

## Members Progress

This month I have support from Eddy Lloyd who shares his Marshall portable engine boiler photos.



Beautiful, neat work - thank you Eddy

## News from the 32-45 mm group

Carel JanseVrensburg has also been busy Making tiny bits for his 45mm gauge loco. Valve handles for 15F locomotives in Cape Gauge 1, 1:24 scale.

Due to my "preference" of the smaller 45mm gauge trains, I find the process of photo etching ideal for producing certain parts in the scale of 1:32 to 1:19. Also referred to as chemical milling, it allows for very fine lines and intricate shapes, but with the limitation being the thickness of material that can be etched. Hence it being more successfully utilized in the "smaller" scales. Here follows some examples of items produced with my etch process: **CAREL**



Valve handles for 15F locomotives in Cape Gauge 1, 1:24 scale.



Checker and diamond plate running boards for the 15Fs in CG1, 1:24 scale.



name plates, cylinder cover signs and tender number plate.



Cab and coal bunker for a live steam locomotive in 1:19 scale.



Front steps, oil lamps, smoke deflector beading and smoke deflector etched parts

## **For sale & Wanted**

**Ben smith** @ [ben@thesmithfamily.co.za](mailto:ben@thesmithfamily.co.za) has for sale a Clayton steam lorry chassis and a whole lot of made parts, also a frame and parts for a Fowler 0 4 0 steam locomotive. There is also a frame and aluminium wheels for a bandsaw. No price quoted.