

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 OCTOBER 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 18 October 2025 and club running day Sunday 19 October 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

We had a very busy month, with the September fair and an extra public holiday as well. Pleasant weather , a bit of a slow start to the fair on Saturday, but a very busy Sunday.

All the steam hauling for the fair was done by locomotives from John Sharpe Locomotive Works. They did him proud with uninterrupted steaming the whole weekend. Well done Johnny and a very big thank you from all of us.

The weekend was also an opportunity for a lot of members, including the CNC club to spend time chatting and showing people what our hobby is about.

Thanks to Carel for the arrangements, and every member that helped with passenger control, driving and everything else to make it a very successful and enjoyable weekend.

We started working on the raised track again, lets book a few Saturdays and give it a good go. We did the elevation on the curves, welded a lot of rail together, al that we need to do is welding all the sleepers.

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. There are still a number of members who have not yet updated their information.

Despite the CSME being a registered Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), we do hold a number of free charity events for deserving causes every year. This year our nominated event takes place on Saturday morning 25 October from 09h00 to 13h00 for the Downs Syndrome Association of Tshwane (Pretoria) DSAT. We will be running at least 3 trains, and thanks go out to the willing drivers who have put up their hands to assist at this event.

Our Birthday wishes for October go out to: Attie Coetzee, Sam van Rensburg and Lukas Nel.

Norman

From the Editor

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

The **September ME Fair 2025** done! Thank you very much for all club members plus members of other clubs/societies and members of the public contributing to a successful ME Fair 2025. It is time to start, or at least think about the ME Fair 2026. If any one have ideas and suggestions to improve our showcasing of our club and it's members, please feel free to let the committee know, and we will work on it.

We are planning n night run for November, not open to the public, but for other clubs and societies. So join us in ideas for how we can decorate the track, tunnels and bridges with lights in order to make it a special club event, Camping as per normal, and a braai in Meerpark station on the evening of 15 November 2025.

Carel

Inter club Night run

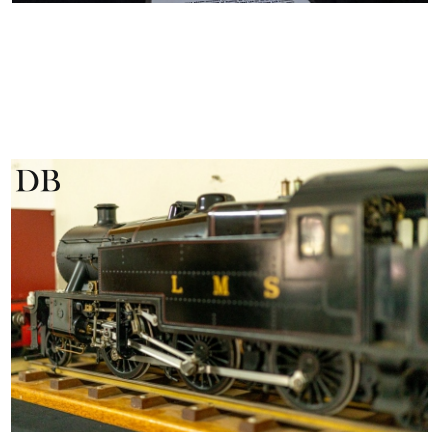
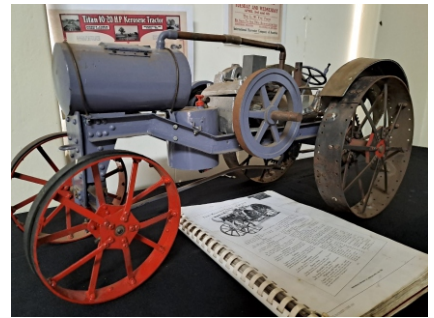
On the November club weekend, we are planning an inter club night run on the 15th of November 2025.

We call on all club members to assist in making this a memorable evening. We are going to dress the bridges and tunnels with fairy lights, to make the night run even more magical.

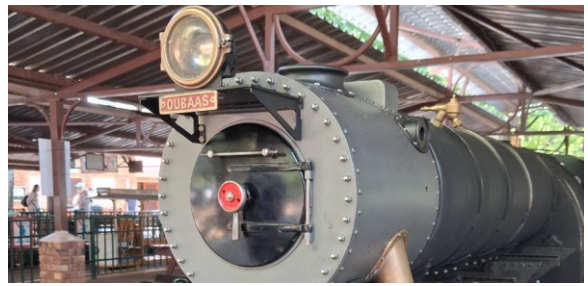


Seen around the ME FAIR 2025

Photos speak louder than words, as per the general approach to this newsletter. The following pages show some of what was on offer at the CSME Model Engineering Fair 2025. Stunning photos by Dovi Bricker, Quintin George Cloud, James and Yolande.



Seen around the ME FAIR 2025



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Seen around the ME FAIR 2025



Seen around the ME FAIR 2025



Seen around the ME FAIR 2025



Seen around the Club

The track work on the raised track in progress again with Derrick welding sleepers.



What looks like a political campaign from a distance, is just a set of signs asking the public politely to adhere to the rules of all the other signs, including new arrows on the platforms showing the direction of passenger flow.



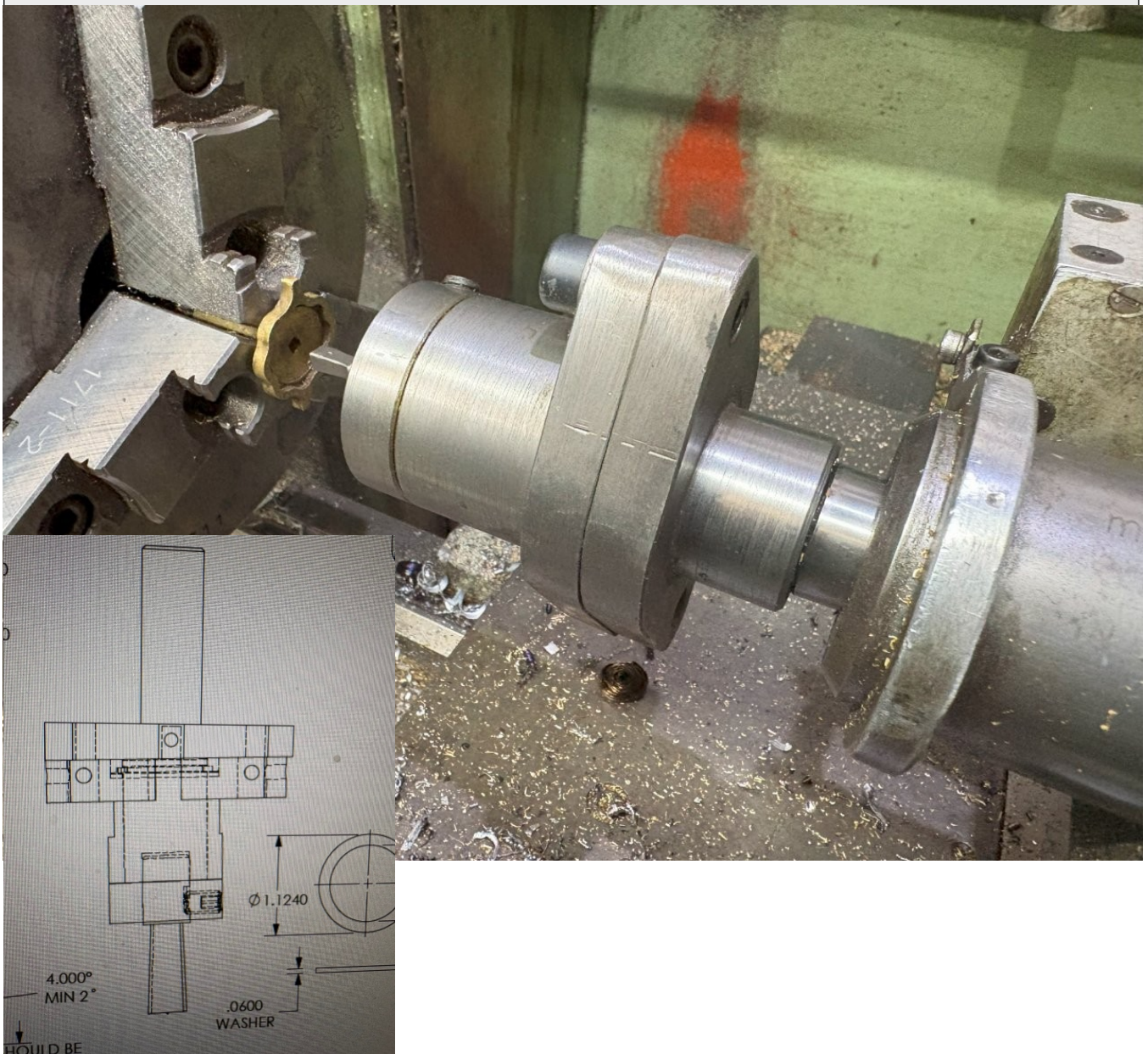
Workshop Gadgets - Leon Kamffer

Rotary Broach

It is not often that one needs square holes for items such as handwheels or other handles like those used on water valves.

One usually files the square holes, or one can punch or broach them in a press. Another method used that is common in industry is a rotary broach. The tool is at a slight angle, rotates so only one corner of the square or hex is cutting at any time, so the forces required is much smaller, and it also leads itself to making a lot of square holes fast. One can buy a rotary broach on Ebay or from China, but they do not come cheap.

There is a kit and plans available from Hemmingway in the UK but I also found detailed plans available on the internet. It is a simple turning job, and milling of the 1 or 2 degree angle on the arbor. The broaching tools one grind from used endmills. The effort making one pays for itself when one needs to make 10- or so handwheels and universal joints for a SAR locomotive.



Who's doing what?

From Leon's Workshop:

The 15F stripped and machining of some parts, axle boxes, crank pins and boring of the motion:



MEHS: Model Engineer Highjacking Syndrome



As a model engineer, you spend hundreds if not thousands of hours of planing, designing, machining, finishing and assembling, plus testing and getting all ready. THEN, when the big day arrives, you don't even get to drive your own masterpieces. Driver no 1 - content, driver no 2 - happy, driver number 3 - took out the club electric just to get the feel of driving an engine around the track!

