



THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX

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

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

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GPS 25° 51.066'S 28° 10.971' E

No responsibility is taken by the CSME for any subject matter in this newsletter other than official Society notices.

CSME NEWSLETTER April 2019

COMMITTEE

Chairman – Leon Kamffer
Vice chair. – John O'Mahony
Treasurer – Ballot Marx
Secretary – Imogene Groothuijzen
Committee – Jon Shaw
Committee – Hugh Williams
Safety – Norman Reyneke
Non-committee person contacts
Caretaker – Louw Myburgh
Facebook – Norman Reyneke
Alarm system – Norman Reyneke
News letter & Website – Jon Shaw

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Membership Fees for 2019 were raised as per the 2018 AGM

2019 SUBS, R400 FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS, R200 FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, SENIORS & STUDENTS

Bank details for any payments to CSME.

For any payments please email details of payment to Ballot Marx at csmetrains@gmail.com or 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 2019 (or what payment is for).**

Note the account number change in red

Official correspondence and newsletter

If you read a hard copy and are not receiving email from the CSME you should contact the secretary Imogene Groothuijzen & editor Jon Shaw 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

Next running day will be Sunday 21st April 2019.

Next committee meeting will be at the clubhouse on Saturday 20th April 2019

Secunda steamers mini Meet.

Secunda steamers are holding a mini steam meet over the long weekend 15th to 17th June 2019 at the Duck Pond. You are invited to join them so contact either the Chairman Frans Pretorius on 0832369578 or the secretary Leonora Lacante on 0732073658

The Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society

Invites you to join us in Pietermaritzburg for the

2019 National Live Steam Meet

Which will be held on the first weekend, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th August 2019.

All the normal fare will be available.

Contact: Alan Hill 072 3962592 or Martin Hampton 083 3883149

Relevant e-mail addresses are:

Alan Hill:	hillac@ukzn.ac.za
Dave Tanner:	dawie.tanner@gmail.com
Les Cloete	lescloete012@gmail.com
Martin Hampton:	martinjchampton@gmail.com
Lucas Steyn:	oomstoom@gmail.com
Steven Van Der Watt	mrsvdw@gmail.com

We will at the same time be hosting our annual Hobbies Expo, 'Wings, Wheels and Whistles'.

Chairman's report presented at the 2019 AGM

On the administration side the club consolidated all records under the auspices of Jon Shaw and the secretary, Imogene last year. This included historic minutes, membership info, driver's licences, boiler certificates and every other piece of historic and current information. At the moment we are maintaining electronic records. We have 71 current members of which 11 joined us this year. We issued one boiler certificate and quite a lot of drivers' licenses. Jon Shaw and Michael Kidson have been a big help this year in sorting out the library which is an ongoing process.

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. Imogene also manages the email address and confirmation of party bookings via email. We are a tax entity and have legal liabilities.

An excellent job was done by the treasurer Ballot Marx managing our finances. We settled with the use of Sage One and obtained a credit card machine to reduce the risk of handling cash. We can draw financial statements with the press of a button. We are in the process of changing bookkeepers again and got re-assessed by SARS for the 2009 and 2011 tax years. We still need to resolve this issue.

The long track impacted on passenger hauling as it is nearly twice as long. During the year a R15 ticket was introduced on steam days for the long track, while other Sundays stayed R10 for the short track. As most of the resources was focused on the electric locos, the removal of the loop crossing has not started yet. Nothing new emerged from the Abland proposals, and interaction with the City council and Councilor was maintained. It is sometimes difficult to obtain support for the usual activities like grass cutting and maintenance, so good relations and regular contact is important. The city council was not able to assist with grass cutting in the new year, and we are not sure that they will be able to do so in future. We also obtained a larger mower recently to assist if we must.

We are growing a lot of Kei Apples under the watchful eye of Jon Shaw and started planting the larger plants to form a boundary fence. 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. On club 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. Let's hear from you all. We saw a new steam loco by Alex Groothuizen this year, and a few other members buying smaller steam locos, and a petrol loco or two. We do have members that come on non-club days to assist with the running of the club. We also saw quite a few new members, looking forward to their active participation.

During the year Jon has continued to diligently issue our newsletter. It is an important aspect to share info and keep our members informed. We ask for and look forward to more contributions from our members.

David Shaw who managed our club website and Facebook page left for greener pastures overseas and Norman Reyneke stepped up to take over this function.

The September weekend was again well planned under the leadership of John O'Mahony, assisted by Ballot, Jon, Bill and Imogene. This year's event saw the use of two of the electric locos, and for the first time the club really could manage the passenger flows. A lot of members contributed in running the event, and the event contributed financially to the extent that the club had some money in hand to build a storage facility above the flood line.

The Monday and Saturday gangs continued with their valued contributions, doing general repairs, servicing locomotives and rolling stock. Barry required new wheels due to flange wear. Rolling stock was upgraded to 10mm coupler pins. Saturdays were mostly spent on building electric locos. During the year we completed the three electric locos. All work was done by members on Saturdays and Mondays with some work like painting done offsite. Quite a few new and usually quiet members came forward and assisted. Various members contributed with organizing expensive parts at reduced prices and sponsoring parts and materials. This is definitely an area where members can participate as most work does not require special tools or skills, just willingness and to be there. The electric locos are easy to drive, and it has already encouraged more members to drive.

The interaction and support from the affiliated clubs is much appreciated and continued during the year. Thanks to both the boat clubs for their continued support and drawing the public. The boat club do a lot of work to improve water quality. With the support of the CSME they installed an aerating pump as well. Hyacinth invaded our dams, and we still must see how effectively we can manage this problem. The CNC club also regularly uses the facilities for meetings. Other interest groups are really encouraged to follow these examples and exhibit or use the facilities for their needs.

The food stalls that operated on club days were well supported. Towards the end of the year both sold their businesses, so new stalls are now doing the food service.

The year-end function on the 16th of December was well attended and is also an opportunity for the members to interact without public being present. It is a yearly event that we need to continue in the future. Thanks to Roko and our sponsors that arranged a few prizes and thank you gifts. The sheep braai was well accepted.

The club's income continued to support its activities. It is an important aspect to manage and control as the club has a large property and infrastructure that needs to be secured and maintained. The club managed to operate at a small surplus for the year considering all the spending, and invested it in general maintenance, the electric locos and elevated storage. Flooding caused massive disruption to the club, required a lot of cleaning and maintenance to the rolling stock, and will cause severe damage to the electric locos. We also opened the opening in the horseshoe to assist drainage.

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.

It was with great sadness we had to deal with the sudden death of one of our active members David Gough and the passing earlier of a long-standing life member Alan Pletschke. David contributed a lot of time assisting with parties and other Sundays and we surely miss Alan driving his Lizzy.

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 organizing of the September fair.

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

Louw and Antoinette for their efforts, from maintaining the premises, running the parties and Sundays. We get many favorable comments on the way they look after our premises.

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

Ladies in the ticket office and kitchen, they again excelled in the way they man the kiosk and keep us nourished with tea and cake.

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, helping on non-club Sundays and the September fair.

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 Kamffer 2019

March Track day

March track day was pretty busy due to pleasant weather, with a larger number of public than usual and trains loading and unloading quickly all morning, with the tempo easing in the afternoon. Steam was again provided by the Garratt driven by Leon and Derick, Alex with No 73, and the green and red electrics were out and driven by Norman, Jon, & James. It is good to see that the inner track was also also used by Carel with his Hunslet and Neil with his ZASM loco. We did have a derailment of unknown cause, but fortunately no injuries occurred. The day was enjoyed by all members and public alike.

All members are reminded to be more vigilant, to close the gate as soon as they have entered the premises, to keep a look out for any persons who should not be entering that gate and to either request the persons to leave or notify a committee member immediately.

Track and grounds

The extended track was again in use as the bridge over the much larger & lower culvert has been completed. The plates either side of the track were laid, and the handrail barriers should be completed by next track day.

The council have not yet cut the larger areas of grass so we will have to do what we can.

Kei apple planting is almost completed, and many plants are left so more places will be identified to plant them.

We hope the recent rain will advance the Keiapple growth and establishment before the winter dry season.

Monday and Saturday Gangs

The gangs have been working on electric loco upgrades such as providing a system for accessible greasing of gear boxes, mechanical changes to ease removal of bogies for maintenance and wiring and fitting of accessories. The Monday gang have also been trimming trees bushes and undergrowth around the track to improve visibility. Trees have been cut to encourage canopy growth and remove lower growth.

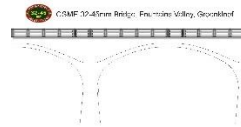
The trees concealing the view of the uphill traffic to the horseshoe have been and will continue to be trimmed and undergrowth cut.

Two inner tubes for the Ferguson front wheels size 19" x 400 are still needed so if anyone has one or two that are still in a condition of holding air even if not new or even patched, we could use them.

The Monday gang have continued working on the bridge over the new culvert to complete it for April track day.

The Saturday gang have been and will continue putting finishing touches to the electric locos. The DZ bogies have been Partially assembled.

G scale section news



You may have noticed some activity (excavations) on the area just east of the station platforms. Carel Janse van Rensburg and some fellow CSME club members are also keen 32-45mm gauge enthusiasts.

They put a proposal to the committee and after discussions they were given the nod to go ahead with the construction of a semi-permanent track. The project is planned to include a station area (cement slab), some bridges, a raised portion of track, staircase and wooden decking. Completion is scheduled to be in time for the September Fair.

Due to the high cost and vulnerability of the infrastructure and rolling stock (which these members are financing entirely out of their own pockets) the track will be movable. The members will set up and disassemble the track on running days. It is anticipated that these trains will be pulling their weight (pun intended) by entertaining members and the general public – maybe even canvassing more members who cannot afford, or have the tools to construct “big boys” but also want to enjoy our hobby.

Workshop activity.

The only feedback received from members on their workshop activity is from **Michael Eykelhof** and his simplex progress. As with most of us Gremlins occasionally creep in and Michael has been working on the left side valve gear as he had an issue with the slide valve picking up when going forward so this month, he’s been sorting that out.



Secretary/librarian's titbit



Who says it is only young boys that can celebrate a birthday with a train theme party?

One of our guests during the last open day just proved that it is not so! Andre Esterhuyzen, his family and friends celebrated his 50th birthday at the club. On the subject of birthdays, our calendar is empty for April!

Imogene Groothuijzen

Pietermaritzburg model stationary engines

There is no news yet of when boiler kits will be available but watch this space!

Commercials

Use this newsletter to advertise your for sale and wanted (wish list) items.

If the editor is not informed as to the required duration of adverts, these will only be displayed for one month

I am a member at the Port Elizabeth Model Locomotive Society and am looking for a steam locomotive to purchase, or pointers to a South African web site. Any 5" gauge locomotive will be considered. Importing is out of the question, so I must hunt locally. Any help in this regard will be much appreciated. Many thanks, Mark Viviers 078 4586473

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For sale by Jon Shaw R400 O.N.C.O 0724370710.

Comparison between two "Generations"

A youngster asked his father: How did you people live before with:

No access to technology	No aeroplanes
No internet	No computers
No dramas	No TVs
No air cons	No cars
No mobile phones?	

Dad replied:

"Just like how your generation live today":

No prayers	No compassion
No honour	No respect
No character	No shame
No modesty	No time planning
No sports	No reading

We, the people that were born between 1940-1980 are the blessed ones. Our life is a living proof:

- ☞ While playing and riding bicycles, we never wore helmets.
- ☞ After school, we played until dusk. We never watched TV.
- ☞ We played with real friends, not internet friends.
- ☞ If we ever felt thirsty, we drank tap water not bottled water.
- ☞ We never got ill although we used to share the same glass of juice with four friends.
- ☞ We never gained weight although we used to eat a lot of rice every day.
- ☞ Nothing happened to our feet despite roaming bare-feet.
- ☞ our mother and father never used any supplements to keep us healthy.
- ☞ We used to create our own toys and play with them.
- ☞ Our parents were not rich. They gave us love, not worldly materials.
- ☞ We never had cell phones, DVDs, play station, Xbox, video games, personal computers, internet chat - but we had real friends.
- ☞ We visited our friend's home uninvited and enjoyed food with them.
- ☞ unlike your world we had Relatives who lived close by so family time and ties were enjoyed together.
- ☞ We may have been in black and white photos, but you can find colourful memories in those photos.
- ☞ We are a unique and the most understanding generation, because *we are the last generation who listened to their parents*.

We are a LIMITED edition! So you better:

Enjoy us. Learn from us. Treasure us.

Before we disappear from Earth and your lives...

Love everything and everyone ♡♡♡