



# 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.

## CSME NEWSLETTER December 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 – Johan Swanepoel  
Facebook – Norman Reyneke  
Alarm system – Norman Reyneke  
Newsletter & Website – Jon Shaw

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### Membership Fees for 2020 are unchanged from 2019

**2020 SUBS R400 FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS R200 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 2020 (or what payment is for).**

**Note the account number change in red**

### Official correspondence and newsletter

If you 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.

The editor and committee wish everyone a blessed and safe Christmas.

Thank you from the editor to all who have contributed items for publication and to committee members for assisting in correcting and adding missing items!

### **A vote of Thanks.**

Although the editor is on the other side of the world, he is aware of some of the major events even though not in detail and feeling guilty by not being there to do his share! I think a great amount of appreciation & thanks is due to the committee and all those (both members of CSME, affiliated clubs and outside members of other organisations), the City Council and members of the public who rallied round to assist with clean-up and repairs. Many thanks to those persons and organisations who have donated money and any goods to assist with the restoration of the facilities.

### **Christmas Party**

Despite mother nature and her wrath, the Christmas party was not cancelled!

### **Next Club Meetings**

**Next running day will be Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

**Next committee meeting will be at the clubhouse on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**THE CSME AGM will be held in February 2020 date to be fixed.**

### **November Track Day.**

The November track day was Hot & sunny day with steam by Alex on his #73 and Leon driving his Garratt. The new blue, green and the red electric locos were also on duty Driven mainly by Jon, Derek, Norman and James and many other members that now have electric loco driving licences. We had a steady stream of visitors for rides with no queuing and trains being unloaded and loaded quickly most of the day. Public attendance was reduced probably due to major rugby matches and the pending expense of Christmas and holidays. As usual a great thank you to the ladies who again provided a much appreciated and well spread cake and tea table.

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> December running day** was well supported by the public, with quite a few people making remarks that it was. their first time visiting.

### **Pietermaritzburg model stationary engines**

Stock of the PMB engines, conversion kits, and boilers have been depleted after orders received at the September fair, woodworking show and since. A new waiting list will be started for those requiring items out of stock. Email [jonsamshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jonsamshaw@gmail.com) or [john.o@telkomsa.net](mailto:john.o@telkomsa.net) with your requirements. Unfortunately, prices will have to increase when new stocks are ordered and delivered in the new year.

### **Track and grounds**

The Area has been devastated by the worst flooding since the CSME took possession of the area. Never have the previous floods seriously invaded the clubhouse & library or reached the height of windows in the flat and workshop.







## Monday and Saturday Gangs

The Monday gang have been working on the maintenance of riding cars and the Saturday gang have lowered the traversers ready for the new loco storage.

### Chairman's notes

As you will see from photos, we experienced the worst flood ever at the club premises only a week after our new caretaker Swannie moved in. Water levels were close to half a meter higher than ever before. We flooded Sunday night 8<sup>th</sup> of December, and the water only cleared Tuesday afternoon. Due to the time everything was flooded, lots of mud and rubble was washed in.

A massive effort was needed to salvage our assets, clean the buildings and prevent further damage. Efforts started on Wednesday to clean away the mud in the buildings, and it took nearly a week to clean and lubricate all the locomotives and rolling stock. We suffered damage to basically everything, even the main compressor and all our tools. We also lost power for a few days. We suffered damage to most of the electrical equipment that was submerged, electric locos, gate motors, electrical tools and switchgear.

Thanks to all the members that came to assist with the cleanup, bringing generators, washers and extra labour as well as financial assistance. We received thousands of bags from Plastics SA, and also for the council removing the collected rubble. We also had assistance from members of the public, really appreciated. We managed to clean the station area, buildings and steaming bay, and recover most of the washed in rubble in these areas. We still need to do a lot of maintenance to our equipment, clean the rubble from the outer areas, and repair and lubricate the still stripped equipment. The priority was to get everything open and dried out to prevent further damage. We still need to do a lot of cleanup; we are not out of the mud yet.

We need to prioritise the new storage and raising of the existing bunkers. We do not have the resources to do it at the pace that we want, so all assistance and contributions will be appreciated. Please discuss any possibilities with the committee, from building materials to assistance with the construction. Our locos, rolling stock, tools and library cannot survive repeated events like these.

Attached is a section of the current proposal for the new area.

