

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 JANUARY 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 January 2025, and the club running day is 19 January 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

Despite worries about possible rainy weather, our Christmas function turned out a very enjoyable day. Carel did again a magnificent job braaiing the sheep. Thanks to every person that attended and made it a very special day again.

We had our first flood of the season just before Christmas, higher than usual with even damage to the road at the low water bridge downstream from the club. We had some water into the clubhouse and workshop. Thanks to Francois arranging and supervising a few extra labourers to clean up and the members that were around to come to help clean.

The year started wet, with the first 2 running days impacted by rain. The terrain is still very wet and muddy in certain places, but our track is in good conditions despite the high rainfall.

The club was donated 2 part-built locomotives from Athur Hepburn by his widow Monica. We slowly are growing our collection of completed and part-built items for display. Hudson also entrusted us with his Simplex, it is making a nice exhibit in the Clubhouse.

We did not get to work on the track and raised track in the beginning of December, none of us had the energy to work in the heatwave. We plan to work on the raised track this Saturday weather permitting. Please join us, every hand help even if it is only moral support.

Please send us a few pictures of current projects and bring a few parts along for the display table.

Leon

Secretary's Bit

Wishing all our members a Happy and Peaceful 2025.

Since it is January again, time for Membership Fees to be paid.

Fees remain unchanged from 2024: Full Members R500,00 per year, Retired Members and Student Members R250,00 per year. Bank Account details remain unchanged.

Unfortunately there are still members who have not paid their membership fees for 2024. In accordance with the Club constitution, your membership has therefore lapsed. However you can still rectify the situation by contacting the Secretary by email on admin@centuriontrains.com or Tel: 082 553 7344

This month we wish Marianne du Plessis, Charnelle Stander, Michael Eykelhof and Theunis Kotzé many more years of trains and good health.

Norman

From the Editor

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

We have a very interesting event lined up for March 2025. We hope that all SAR engine owners will be able to bring at least one, but not limited to, SAR engines to run or display over the long weekend.

Also. the 45mm live steam and stationary engine display promises to showcase these little wonders of engineering.

We have seen several exciting tools and consumable sales the last month or two. We believe there are many more of these finds around. Please feel free to advertise unwanted tools, nuts, bolts and material in our newsletter, and keep it in the community.

We have two exciting items for sale in this month's **SELL/SWOP/WANTED** section. Please feel free to contact the sellers if there are any questions or details required for the items on offer.

Carel



The CSME invites owners of South African Railway models including pre 1910 NZASM, NGR, CGR, right up to Transnet Freight Rail and PRASA, in all gauges, from T to 7 1/4 inch, to participate in the SAR/SAS Get Together during the long weekend of 21 to 23 March 2025.

This includes any projects in process that builders want to display.
We will set-up the display track under the Meerpark Station roof.

We will also have tables in the club house to display the smaller gauges, like T, N, TT, HO, SAR Cape Gauge HO, HO SAR, O Gauge, G gauge, Cape Gauge 1 and 2 1/2 inch, but not limited to!

We are planning to have special edition hat pins available for sale specific for this event.

Let us see how many SAR/SAS models we can get under one station roof. We will record and document each model in attendance. It is about having train fun over the first long weekend of 2025, but we might as well record a world record while we are at it!

On the 45mm side of Meerpark Station, we will be having an exclusive 45mm live steam weekend, plus a stationary engine display on the 45mm platform deck. Please support this exhibition if you have live steam 45mm locos, or stationary engines. We will supply air for those who prefer running an air rather than steam.

Camping as per usual available.

See everyone at Meerpark Station.

CSME 2024 Year End Function



CSME's own Farther Christmas hauling a load of presents into Meerpark Station for the young ones.



Nothing wrong with a lekker skaap braai, pap and sous, and talking about trains, while Leon is monitoring the sous!



A Christmas REO Speedwagon by Alex plus a Christmas 1954 Tich by Marius and Paul added to the festive atmosphere. Well done guys!

CSME 2024 Year End Function

The traditional year end awards giving followed the CSME chairman's year end speech:



**Member of the Year:
Ballot Marx**



**Driver of the Year:
Francois Hanekom**



**Best Support Member
of the Year:
Norman Reyneke**



**Builder of the Year:
Carel Janse van Rensburg**



**Token of Appreciation to
Leon Kamffer for
his dedication as
Chairman of the CSME**



**Rookie of the Year:
Sam van Rensburg**



CSME 2024's Boo Boo Awards



Roko receiving a recovery kit to bring Oompie back to the station whenever he jackknives Oompie again on the outer loop!

It has been alleged, that a certain club loco was not cleaned after a run. Here, Shaun received a bag of new rags to ensure he is ready for the next run and cleaning!



It was well documented here of the coal shovel that could not handle, well coal or at least hot coal. The club thought it well to replace Leon's coal shovel with a modern shovel, and it came with a handy bucket as well.

Nick Carr could not make it on the Saturday, but he was in anyway issued with an official speeding fine for being the fastest driver of 2024!



Francois is the club's signal man, but like Eskom, his signal lights need help sometimes. If candles work for Eskom, it should work for our signal man!

When you drive big locos, you want to pull big trains. Dirk getting a fine for pulling trains that is way longer than the station.





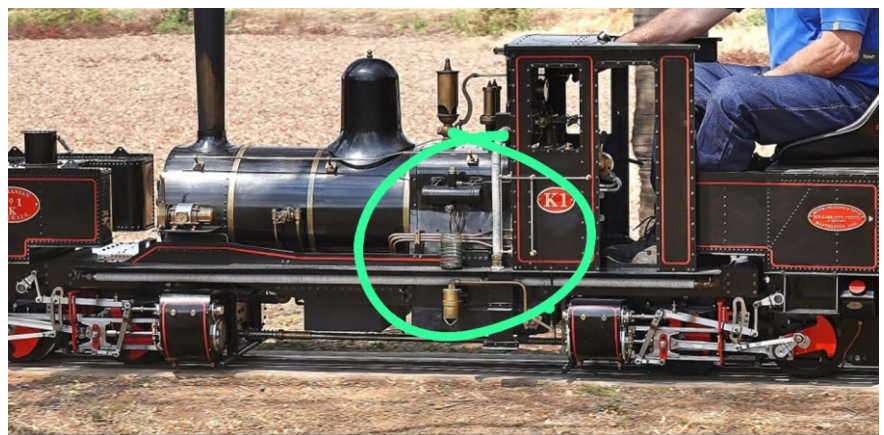
CSME 2024's Boo Boo Awards



During the ME Fair 2024, Marius and Paul was double heading two Tich locomotives. When coming in to lane 7, Marius was getting off the leading Tich, when his foot hooked on the engine. He ended up in the ash pit, with the engine on him, and Paul on the second Tich heading the same way. The club don't mind all this, as long as you wear proper PPE! So two red CSME hard hats for the double headers!



With the "custom-steam-oil-recycling-apparatus" on Johnny's K1 garratt lubricator heading for three years or more, the club thought it good to give Johnny a new one to replace the spent one. It is also filled with steam oil that should last a good couple of steam ups.

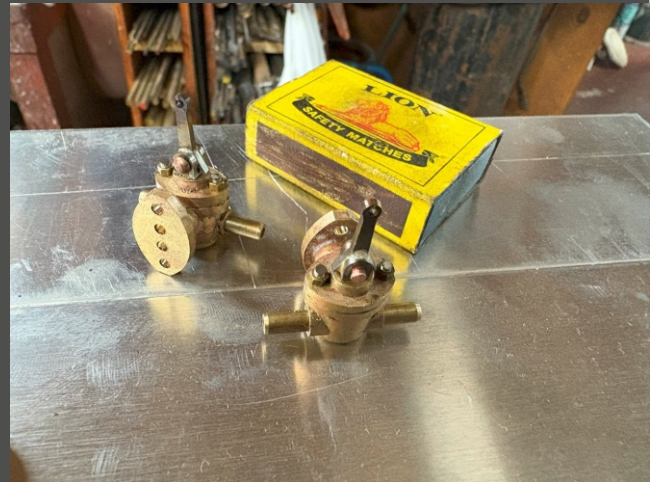


Who's doing what?

From Leon's workshop:



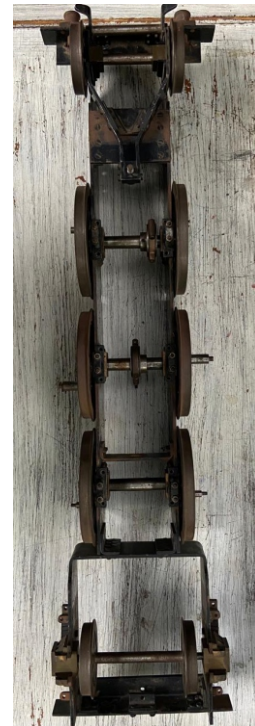
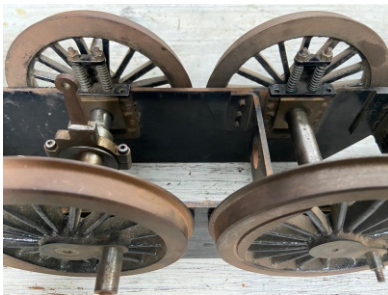
Vacuum cylinder valves for 7.25 inch SAR water truck, who said one do not need 10BA for a large SAR model.



Some T pieces cast by Carel and fabricated ones, with split collet for easy and accurate drilling and tapping.

CSME Sell, Swop or Wanted

Partially Complete LBSC BETTY 2-6-2 Outsider Cylinder Locomotive in 3 ½ gauge



Completed Work: Main Frames, Buffer and Drag Beams, Pony Bolster, Hornblocks and Axleboxes, Wheels and Axles, Crankpins and Eccentrics, Connecting and Coupling Rods, Boiler Feed Pump, Cylinders, Pistons, Steam Chests, Slide Valves, Mechanical Lubricator, BOILER complete and tested but not Certified

Partially Complete Work: Cross heads, Guide Bars, Motion Brackets Mechanical Work Not Started Radius Rods, Expansion Links, Return Cranks, Eccentric Rods, Reversing Shaft and Screw Reverser

Boiler Related Work Not Started: Safety Valves, Snifting Valves, Bypass Valves, Header, Superheaters, Water Gauge, Regulator Valve, Regulator, Smoke Box, Smoke Box Door, Saddle Mount, Chimney, Dome, Grate and Ashpan, Cab.

Tender: No work has commenced on the tender. ALL the castings for Wheels, Horncheeks, Dummy Leaf Springs, Axle Boxes, Buffer Sets and Hand Pump are included. No steel plate for the tender is included.

Other Included Items: Complete set of full size plans, Instruction booklets for BETTY and MONA as published in Model Maker, large assortment and quantities of Copper, Brass and Steel Rivets, Brass and Steel Screws and Nuts, 2 Injectors, 2 Clack valves, 1 Pressure Gauge.

Price: Reasonable offers around R20,000

Professor Vevek Ram Lynnwood Manor Pretoria
Mobile: 0824913301 Email: ramv1954@gmail.com

CSME Sell, Swop or Wanted

5 Gauge 16E(Karoo) loco up for sale. Built by my Great Grandfather Robbie Robertson. It would be great to see it put to good use again and back home where it belongs, on the tracks!

Price: R95,000

Please contact Darian Robertson at 078 154 7047



5 Gauge freelance Locomotive
4-6-2 Type.
Boiler: Tested 160 lb °.
Working Pressure 80 lb °.
Superheated.
Copper construction throughout.
Cylinders: 1 3/4 x 2 1/4 Stroke.
Wheels: 7 diameter.
Weight of Engine in working order 200 lbs.
Designed and Built by Owner.



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Treasurer Mr. G. Wilson Tel 2596 Kriel
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Editor: G. Weststrate - Tel 3802

Witbank Model Engineers Society
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Treasurer: Mr. G. Wilson - Tel 2596 Kriel
Track Manager: - Vacant
Editor: G. Weststrate - Tel 3802

OUR BRING AND BRAL:
We can say that our bring and bral steaming was a success. The weather was fine and we can look back at "something" that we should arrange more often.
Our visitors look showed that we had twenty visitors and seven loco's:
1. P. Van der Merwe from Schagen with his "Hagpies".
2. D.J. De Villiers from Klerksale with his "Metta".
3. M.A. Mitchell from Hamburg with his "Wreath".
4. D.B. Robertson from Verwoerburg with his "16E Free Lance".
5. M.A. Leifer from Johannesburg with his "Clayton Steam Car".
6. J.K. Palling from Witbank with his "Boasia".
7. D. Steyberg from Witbank with his "Newspaper".

INSTALLATION:
Dave and myself managed to have the subpumps operating during the bring and bral steam meet, but the next step is to have the permanent piping and cable work done as well as the compressor installation and housing for it.
The compressor has been overhauled. New piston rings and rod valves were bought and fitted. The electric motor had also been seen to and ready for installation.

STEAMING DAY:
Thanks to Graham Wilson who supplied the pipes and fittings for the compressed air reticulation in the steaming bay. This installation is now complete. We also thank Des Van Biljoo for cylinders and tubing.
During the steam meet we made use of Hannes Palling's portable compressor for which we thank him very much.
We have now installed an extension rail so as to make it easier to load and off-load loco's at the steaming bay.

SIGNALS:
The signals (see type) were fabricated by myself and Dave on drawings made by Hannes Palling. One of the signals are operational and worked well in conjunction with the matching sub-point. They caught our attention as we would have had the other signal in operation too. Frank Viljoen from Pretoria is busy with another signal system using coloured lights.

3/.....

Galaxy S22

The spirit of steam....

The gleaming, spotlessly clean class 16E Pacific came thundering down the straight, its sturdy exhaust beat mingling with the rhythmic clackety-clack of wheels over rail joints.

Ahead lay a bend and the Pacific slowed down, slightly to negotiate the curve. Robbie Robertson and son-in-law Merce, opened the whistle and the engine's sound, mingling with the rhythmic clackety-clack of wheels over rail joints.

Emerging from the tunnel, it rattled over a well-maintained bridge and headed along another straight, whistling once again before slowing down and coming to a smooth stop at the station, black smoke pouring from its square smokestack and steam rising from the boiler.

Driver - Robbie Robertson and son-in-law Merce, opened the whistle and the engine's sound, mingling with the rhythmic clackety-clack of wheels over rail joints.

There, when all passengers were seated, the whistle sounded through the station and the engine's sound, mingling with the rhythmic clackety-clack of wheels over rail joints.

Emerging from the tunnel, it rattled over a well-maintained bridge and headed along another straight, whistling once again before slowing down and coming to a smooth stop at the station, black smoke pouring from its square smokestack and steam rising from the boiler.

There is little doubt that this beautiful model of approximately 1:8 scale of the most prestigious steam locomotive ever to have run in this country, was the star attraction at the Witbank Model Engineers Society's 1982 Steam Days event at Witbank Pleasure Beach during the weekend of 12 and 13 October when W.M.E.S. played host to members from other clubs.

Robbie told our correspondent that he had worked as a clerk for the Railways and, after retiring, he built his Pacific over a period of 18 months, working 40 hours a week.

His main equipment consists of a small lathe and drill press, and assortment of small tools.

He emphasized that the model was not strictly according to scale, especially the boiler, which had been, he would have said, a 1 3/4 x 2 1/4 stroke, whereas he was almost 2 1/4 x 2 1/4.

He had also modified the axle boxes and fitted Walschaert's Valve gear instead of the RC Puppet

Valves as on the original design to facilitate repair work.

However, any steam train would not fail to recognize the classic 16E design.

Robbie, who hails from Lyttelton, other guests included Dave and myself from Edendale with his "Hagpies", Peter and Merce and "Simplex" from Morningside, Bill Mitchell from Johannesburg, who, with his "Highway 69", were the regular W.M.E.S. members - Dave Steyberg and "Newspaper" Hannes Palling with "Senta 2" and Gerhard Weststrate with his Nigel Grey.

The little trains attract a great number of visitors to the site and children, especially, get a kick out of riding on them.

However, adults also enjoy the thrill of riding behind live steam, albeit in miniature, and this past weekend everyone at the event certainly had a golden opportunity of seeing these little models running steam very much alive and leaving only their hearts out, thus in an age when the real memories behind.

one's fast fading memories behind.

Galaxy S22

Merce and 'Simplex'.

• The 16E Pacific on show at the Witbank Recreation Resort on the weekend.