



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 2022

COMMITTEE

Chairman – Leon Kamffer
Vice chair. – John O'Mahony
Treasurer – Ballot Marx
Secretary – Imogene Groothuizen
Committee – Jon Shaw
Committee – Carel JanseVrensburg
Safety – Norman Reyneke
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Alarm system & Website – Norman Reyneke
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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 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 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 3rd 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 16th & 17th of April will be the member's weekend. Members are welcome any other time by arrangement with Swannie 064 520 8572 (office hours only) The gates are again operational by cellphone.

Plans for the Future

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.

June 16th to 19th inclusive, August 6th to 9th inclusive. September 24th & 25th. Will be our usual September fair all things permitting!

These dates (except if open to public) will be a children's opportunity 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

March was an excellent month for the club, with good weather and busy running days. Thanks to our regular drivers, multiple locos were out on every Sunday. We appreciate your efforts to draw the public and give them an opportunity to ride on different locos every Sunday.

We also plan to open a few of the public holidays in April and hope we will be able to draw public and build up some reserves.

Covid restrictions are slowly relaxed, and hopefully we can return to some form of normality in the future.

We are busy with plans to see if we can raise the caretakers flat, having someone on the premises from a security perspective is critical. Some of our signs in the outer areas walked away.

After 4 years and regular use we have a failure on one battery in one of our electric locos, so we will have to start planning a replacement program.

Focus is currently to catch up on work in the steaming bay area and finishing off the raising of the last old storage for carriages.

We also had another lawnmower donated that the Tuesday gang is repairing, honing their skills for their next locomotive project, I hope. - **Leon**

Track and grounds

The mess left by the floods is mostly cleaned up around the grounds and buildings but repairs to buildings and equipment continue. No damage incurred to the track as it is embedded in concrete except the points. Some of the points have needed adjustment and attention.

Certain areas have had the grass cut especially around our buildings and picnic places, but some areas have been left wilder for the benefit of the local fauna. Trees are still in need of attention due to time restraints. We are now experiencing damage and metal theft from the squatters across the river. The work is left to the few regular attenders and Tuesday gang.

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!

Roko Popich continued cutting and welding to modify the doors to fit the old storage tunnels.

As soon as the ground has dried out and settled work can continue this winter with the concreting of the track to the old storage tunnels and raising the tracks within.

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, flood cleaning and lubricating. Work has focussed on cleaning and repairing electrical tools and equipment not replaced by insurance claim.

We experienced a flood at the end of January higher than the Dec 2019 floods. Our photo records of floods started in 2016 and since then floods have been an annual event and the levels seem to creep higher each year with this year's level probably about 6" higher than the 2019 level recorded on the workshop door frame. Our completed flood prevention plans saved all our locomotives stored in the new bunker as water reached just below loco wheels. Some of the equipment in the workshop got wet and items not subject to insurance claim will hopefully be restorable.

The work of raising some of the lower items in the station building paid off, the only damage was to items left below the waterline. Some of the books, magazines, record files etc., were sopping wet and had to be thrown out. Everything in the station platform area not bolted down was saved as it floated away, by the higher-level loop track, otherwise would have been lost downriver.

Our caretaker's flat was again completely flooded to above windowsill level, and all items inside the flat were damaged or destroyed. Our chairman is busy with plans for the Flat changes.

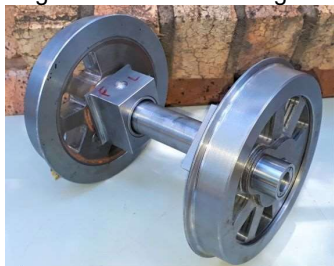
We had an excellent attendance of the public over the long w/e of 19th -21st March, with several campers, the 30-45 mm section and Centurion Truckers displaying their hobbies as well as continual operation of several trains fully loaded leaving one after the other for most of the public days. On Saturday the members had an excellent play day including Morris Spaan driving his electric loco until batteries were flat then recharge and off again – no stopping him! Also, Shawn Spaan was riding around on his traction engine. On Sunday Shawn Spaan and Roko Popich brought out their locos to add to the club contingent of passenger haulers.



Four generations of a visiting family on Sunday 20th March



Excellent driver Morris Spaan with our Vice Chairman



Progress on Lizzy sister loco "Teresa" with design changes by Leon for better passenger hauling duty. Machined wheel set, painted chassis, fire hole door, machining conrods. No stopping Leon, by the time this is published progress will be much further. More soon.



Eddie Lloyd's portable steam engine boiler after nice clean silver soldering!

Secretary's bit

It was sad after so many years to note, due to various circumstances, the demise of the CMBC. But we are happy to welcome those CMBC members who have decided to join CSME as associate members. We sincerely trust that they will enjoy their time with us.

For the benefit of all members, the arrangement with the former CMBC club is that those members will still have the use of their facility for their own private use on open Sundays and the first Saturday of each month. At all other times, the CSME may hire out the area for private parties or functions. Members who wish to make use of this facility on such other days, must please make prior arrangements with Swannie.

Since the AGM we have had a significant swell in applications for membership resulting in our members now totalling over 80! Let us keep growing..... **Imogene Groothuizen**



For sale & Wanted

Ben smith @ 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.



Picture 1 is parts for a Bandsaw (frame, 2 x aluminium wheels Dia. 360 mm and some parts for the top adjustment.

R 1000.00

Pictures 2 and 5 are parts for the Fowler 0-4-0 well tank engine in 5" gauge .2 x water tanks, wheel castings, smoke box, axle boxes and bearings. Lot of small parts R1000.00 Pictures 3 and 4 are the Clayton Steam lorry chassis and some bits and pieces. (water tank, cab floor front and back and sides, Sump, engine lower part, Chimney, and a lot of small parts,) R750.00

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Parts suitable for a 3½" gauge locomotive, willing to swap for a car battery. **Kevin Mey, 0822234581**

