



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 2023

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2023 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, 14 October 2023, and club track day on 15 October 2023.

Members are welcome any other time by arrangement with Swannie 061 586 3490. 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

A very successful September Fair, with a new record number of rides. Well done and thanks again to all that assisted, and Carel for all the arrangements.

We decided to rearrange the crossing and enlarge the drainage gap in the loop, which means our long track will be out during this time. With all the help it should not take too long.

The inner track stone walls are complete, apart from the area where we considering building a short tunnel. Hopefully the work on the outer track will not slow it down, as there are plenty to be done. Come and join the Tuesday and Saturday work parties, there is lots to do.

We managed to remove the hyacinth from the small dam at the steaming bay, hopefully we can plan more silt removal in the next dry seasons on the larger dams.

We will arrange a Christmas function on the 16th of December, also a night run was proposed for the members. We can definitely arrange a public night run in the future as well.

Secretary's Bit

Driver's safety has once again reared its ugly head. All Drivers are required to be observant at all times. Practice situational awareness. Know who is in front of you and who is behind you, at all times. Keep at least 100 meters distance between you and the train in front of you at all times.

For the foreseeable future, the long track is closed for track repositioning and the enlargement of the water escape tunnel at the far end of the grounds on the horseshoe. This is in preparation for the next floods during the rainy season.

September birthdays: Rodney Michael, Norman Reyneke, Dam Wessels, Gerrit de Vries, Johan Louw, Carel Janse van Rensburg, Ballot Marx.

October birthdays: Sam van Rensburg, Lukas Nel.

We wish them all the best.

From the Editor

Thank you very much for all the contributions for this **ME FAIR 2023** edition of **THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX**.

A busy month indeed, with the Wood and Craft Expo at the New Hope school, the ME Fair 2023 as well as CSME club locos on display at Ludwig's Roses. Space and size of the news letter does not allow for all the photos to be included, and I hope what follows represent the core and atmosphere during the exhibition month of September 2023.

Thank you very much to each and every one who was involved in making September 2023 a very active month for the CSME. Active members makes an active club!

I would also like to thank the members of other clubs and hobby groups, vendors and hobby shops who participated during the ME FAIR 2023. The extended 3 day event, during one of the busiest long weekends of the year, made for challenges. That being said, the positive feedback is very encouraging, and we have already received bookings for next years event. Any feedback and suggestions for **ME FAIR 2024** are most welcome.

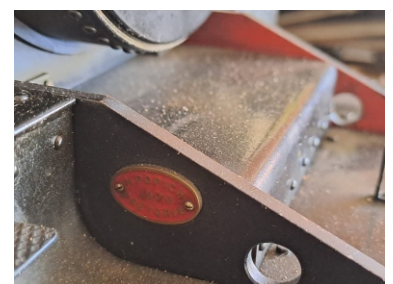
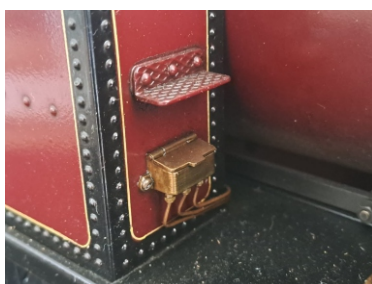
A suggestion for the night run in December 2023. We experimented with decorations during the previous night run, which created a different and interesting dimension to the track and park. We could divide the park in sections or focus points, with families or groups of friends selecting spots like bridges, tunnels and corners to decorate in any which way they would like to do. Let's explore this option to make the December 2023 night run a memorable one, which may very well turn into a CSME year-end tradition!

Please continue to send any contributions and/or suggestions to Carel at 076 7749 221 by whatsapp or mail to kgtmodelbouery@gmail.com.

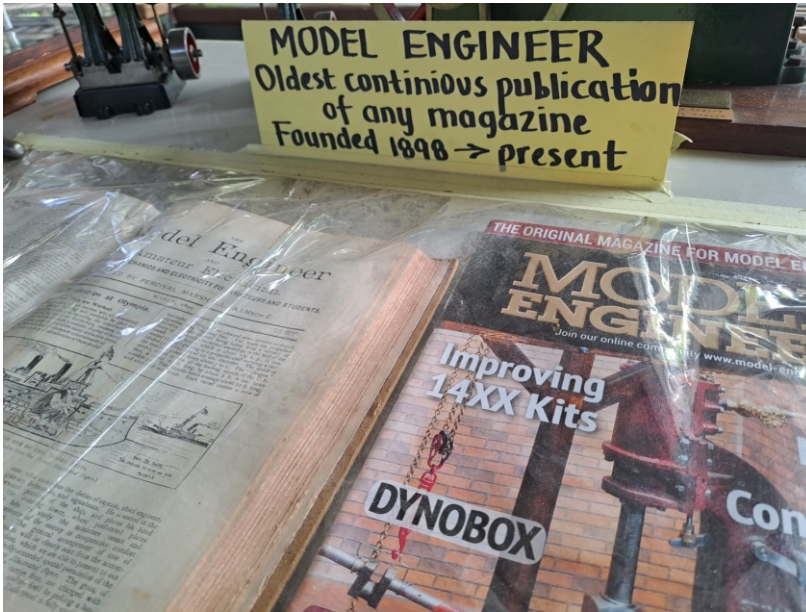
CSME at the Wood & Craft Expo 2023



CSME was represented during the Wood and Craft Expo 2023 at the New Hope School in Pretoria. Displays by Roko Popich, Eddie Lloyd and Carel Janse van Rensburg.



CSME Model Engineering Fair 2023



The static displays were well supported with world class work by Society members as well as invited members of other sections of various hobbies.

Roko made an impressive wall of CSME history, and he mentioned that he had many more photos to add to this display. Some detailed photos will be shared in future editions of the news letter.



CSME Model Engineering Fair 2023



Some of the model engineering treats at the ME FAIR 2023



CSME Model Engineering Fair 2023



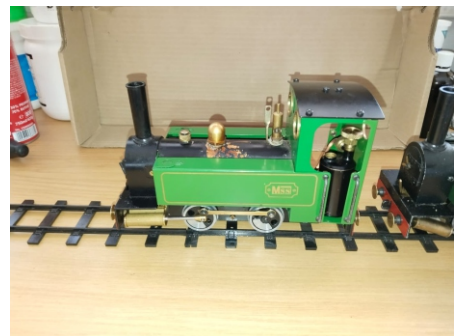
On the 32/45mm front, the layout featured a newly constructed concrete casted bridge simulating the Jean Avenue crossing, just north of Meerpark. The process of installing more “permanent” track is continuing to ensure more frequent runs by the 32/45mm group.



CSME Model Engineering Fair 2023



James Leenders is a tradition of the ME FAIR for many years with his live steam trains, cars and traction engines. James submitted a very interesting article for the news letter and due to space limitations in this edition, his article will be included in the November 2023 news letter.



CSME Model Engineering Fair 2023



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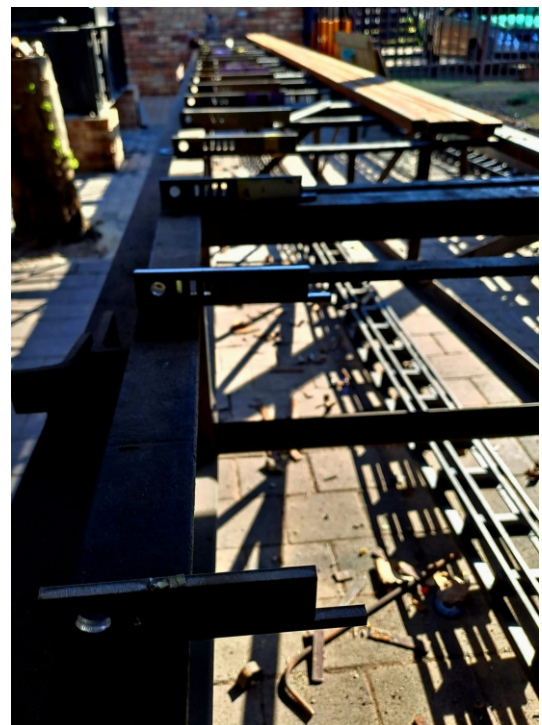
Who's doing what?



Before and "in progress" photos of the top section modification.



Building frame preparation for curved track sections.



Stack of inner/raised trackpole caps, ready for a volunteer to weld.



Milling the tracks for the 5 inch crossover for the modified track section.