

## Centurions 1911



### Captain's Christmas Letter 2013

Season's Greetings to you all.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as your Captain for a second year, and to work alongside our President Ann Sayer C.599 and your committee. I thank them all for everything they do to promote and support the Centurions and the sport of race-walking.

#### In memoriam

Sadly, we record the death of the following Centurions during the past year. We shall remember them with honour and affection.

C No.	Name	Qualifying event	Time
379	Willem Timmer	1965, Chigwell	23.23.58
450	George Mitchell	1970, Leicester - Skegness	21.10.57
454	Larry Miles	1970, Leicester - Skegness	21.51.30
496	Gerrit Kunst	1972, Leicester - Skegness	22.15.52
497	Piet van Elswijk	1972, Leicester - Skegness	22.29.25
607	Pierre van der Kop	1977, Bristol	22.02.28
655	Ron Eaton	1979, Ewhurst	21.25.00

### Our Activities for 2013

#### The Tower Insurance 100 miles Race, IOM

On behalf of us all I sent warm thanks to Steve Taylor, his team and the Tower Insurance sponsors for organising the successful 100 miles event at the National Sports Centre, Douglas, IOM on 3-4 August.

The race saw a terrific field of almost 100 entries, no less than 35 walkers completing 100 miles within 24 hours, and among these a splendid 24 new Centurions. We hope the new Centurions will enjoy being members of this unique group of athletes, and that you will all stay engaged and get involved.

The first three men home were IOM Vets: Richard Gerrard in a winning time of 18.29.39, Vinny Lynch, 19.00.51, and Robbie Callister, 19.19.45, new Centurions C1106, 1107, and 1108 respectively. In the team event, the IOM Vets had a resounding victory. In the ladies' race, your Captain was 5<sup>th</sup> overall, dipping under 20h with 19.57.50; second and third ladies were Maureen Moffat, 21.36.12, and Janette Morgan, 21.46.12, new Centurions C1116 and C1117, both of the IOM. The Bill King trophy for the youngest Centurion finisher was awarded to Herwin Weststrate, C 1120, aged 29, who finished in 22.31.23. The Eddie McNeir trophy for the first M65 finisher went to Chris Flint (C 849) for his determined completion in 23.48.53.

Hearty congratulations to everyone who took part in the event. I thank again all who came to the IOM to walk or to help (and some did both!). We owe huge thanks to all those, organisers, officials, Centurions, families, friends, supporters, sponsors, who make our events possible. Not all went according to plan on the lap recording, but thanks to your President and others helping out, "all's well that ends well."

### **Centurion Vereniging Nederland (CVN)**

We were delighted, as always, to welcome our Dutch and Belgian friends to the 100 miles event, as walkers, officials, and supporters. Once again, their help to everyone proved invaluable. I take this opportunity to thank them again for all their continued involvement with the Centurions, and especially the CVN Secretary Piet Jansen C.389. Your Captain, Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Secretary had the pleasure of joining our Dutch and Belgian members and their families at their very enjoyable Reunion and AGM, where well-deserved awards were presented to the new Centurions and to all those who had completed the IOM 100.

### **Social Walks**

A warm, sunny June day saw a happy band of Centurions, families and friends come together for a 20 miles social walk from Bristol to Bath. It was fitting and joyful that our President, Ann Sayer, took part in this walk. She qualified in the 1977 Bristol 100 to become our first lady Centurion. Earlier in the year, a small group of Centurions were on a mission in North London to locate and visit the Highgate Cemetery grave of founding Centurion James Edwin Fowler-Dixon, C1. Not far away is the house in which he lived for some years. We aim to devise a Centurion social walk linking several of the attractive parks and green spaces of North London, and visiting the interesting village of Highgate.

Steve Kemp (C1075) has very kindly offered to lead a social walk, with Roman connections and much more, around Canvey Island and Hadleigh Castle, Essex on 22 March 2014. Details are on our website. The walk sounds very interesting and a day to look forward to. Please put 22 March in your diary now!

### **Other Activities and Achievements**

Centurions were in action this year in a wide range of events not just in Britain, where the popular Enfield League promoted by Ron Wallwork (C893) deserves special mention, but also abroad, including the World Masters Athletics Championships in Brazil. On the Continent, events in which Centurions participated included: the Nijmegen 4 day Marches, the Nijmegen to Rotterdam 100 miles walk, and the 60<sup>th</sup> edition of the historic Roubaix 28h walk, with its supporting 24h relay event - a modern innovation.

Among notable achievements by Centurions were the Dutch 50kms championship win by Dom King (C1098), British M65 records from 3kms to 20kms by Ian Richards (C 1064,) a British M65 6 days running record by Richard Brown (C760,) the 30th completion of the Nijmegen to Rotterdam 100 miles social walk by Annie van der Meer (C 1055,) and your Captain's W60 World Best for the 50kms walk.

### **Our Future Programme**

We are keen to see a continuing programme of Centurions' activities. We rely on the willingness of members and clubs to organise events, including the 100 mile qualifying event and social walks.

As I write, the position remains uncertain on a 100 miles event in the UK for 2014, despite best efforts. Please see if you or your club could take the lead in offering an event for a future year. The Centurions is your "club" - please help it to reach out to new and existing members, by offering to host a 100 mile event or lead one of our new and popular social walks. We have a lot of experience organising events and can advise. On the Continent in 2014, Centurions will be at the Nijmegen to Rotterdam 100 miles, the Roubaix 28h, and the 100 mile qualifying event of the Continental Centurions at Schiedam, Rotterdam on

7-8 June. Please come and join in! Keep in touch through our website, or drop an email for latest news.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our 2014 AGM, and at events during the year.

I wish a very happy Christmas and New Year to all fellow Centurions worldwide. Remember to raise a glass at 2.00pm on Christmas Day to “The Centurions.”

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