



## Centurions Christmas Letter 2015

December 2016

### Season's greetings to all Centurions

What an amazing year it has been (yet again!) for Centurions and, as ever, I have taken great pleasure in reporting all the successes of Centurions world wide through my newsletters and on our website.

This year our flagship event, the 100 miles, was held in Redcar and organised by Redcar Race Walking Club led by Centurion Dave Jones. A start list of 30, produced six new Centurions: Colin Vesty C1167 (winner of the RWA 100 miles Championship) Jimmy Milard (NED) C1168; Rob Robertson (USA) C1169; John Borgars C1170; Kim Reed C1171; Gino Masto (BEL) C1172.

The overall winner was Dutch walker Frank van der Gulik in 20:30:56. 1st lady home (4th overall) was Sandra Brown. Existing Centurions placed in the top 10 were: 5th Kevin Marshall and in 8th place, Martin Fisher. Congratulations go to John Borgars who now has the privilege of being the oldest person to complete a British Centurion 100 mile race in 24 hours.

As to the race itself: the heat of Saturday and very strong winds during the night and Sunday morning took it's toll (Ok, so nothing new there!) Additionally, it was not the easiest of courses with our athletes having to negotiate a very busy sea side promenade. There is always a balance (compromise?) to make. Should we hold the race somewhere public to gain maximum publicity, etc, or somewhere quieter such as a park or athletics track tucked away for the benefit of the walkers progress.... Your choice. Let us know your preferences.

Our Dutch and Belgian friends travelled to the race, and once more I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your continued enthusiasm and especially to the CVN Secretary Piet Jansen C.389 who has served as CVN Secretary for over fifty years.

Your Captain, travelled to Amsterdam in March to join Centurions and their families to celebrate 50 years of Dutch and Belgian Centurions who really do take great pride in being British Centurions. Piet Janssens has now stepped down and Frans Leijtens has taken over as Secretary. Our thanks go to both Centurions.

#### **Other Activities and Achievements**

Oh so many! Where to start....

Centurions have taken part in races around the country: Enfield, Coventry, Gravesend, Isle of Man, Southend, Guernsey, Lee Valley, Moulton, up north in Manchester, Kirby Fleetham .... just to mention a few. I know I have said this before, but I do think all walkers owe special thanks to all officials who stand, often in cold, wet and windy conditions to ensure the rest of us can race. So, on behalf of all Centurions, I would like to say a big thank you to our very own Centurion officials who do the recording, timekeeping and marshalling.

Among notable achievements by Centurions: Dom King (C1098) qualified for 2016 Rio Olympic Games but sadly Dom was DQ'd. (well, it happens...) But to get there is such an honour. Well done Dom!

Centurions also participated in many 24 hour races in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Bourges, Chateau Thierry, Wadelincourt, Schiedam. ...

In the Continental Centurions 100 miles/24 hours race held in Schiedam there was success for Centurions Sandra Brown and Richard McChesney (24 hours) and for the many Manx walkers (and existing Dutch walkers) in the 100 miles: winner Vinny Lynch IOM VAC; 2nd Michael Bonney; 3rd Robbie Callister IOM Vets; 4th Jantinus Meints RWV; 5th and 1st Lady Janette Morgan IOM VAC; 6th Frank van der Gulik LAT.



In June, Suzanne Beardsmore completed the prestigious Paris Alsace (formerly Paris Colmar) - an amazing performance - well done Suzanne; in October, British W65 record for 6 days went to Captain, Kathy Crilley.

New Zealander and British Centurion, Richard McChesney broke the NZ 48 hour record.

Centurions Cath Duhig and Ian Richards took honours in the World Vets held in Perth, Australia.

Many Centurions also participated in the 100th Nijmegen 4 day Marches and the Nijmegen to Rotterdam 100 miles walk.

Closer to home, it was good to see plenty of Centurions in the top finishers in the Parish Walk held in the Isle of Man in June. First home was Richard Gerrard and 1st Lady was Karen Chiarello. In fact there were loads of Centurions in the top 20 as well: James Quirk, Bernie Johnson, Karen Lawrie, Tony Mackintosh, Jayne Farquhar.... It really is good to see that there are so many enthusiastic race walkers - especially the long distance/ultra variety alive and well on the island.

### **And what of our overseas Centurions?**

So much has happened in 2016.

The organisation of the US Centurions has been taken over by Erin and Dave Talcott, but thanks must go to Centurion Ulrich Kamm for his support over the years. Erin and Dave should be extremely proud of their efforts with the international 24 hour walking event they hosted in late September in Owega, New York State.

British Centurions who qualified:

1. Eddie Goeman Belgium 19:16:50 C.81.
2. Christer Svensson Sweden 20:14:50 C.82.
3. Stewart Jones Isle of Man 21:53:52
4. Caroline Mestdagh Belgium 22:46:28 C.83.
5. Luc Soetewey Belgium 23:06:23 C.72 (2010)
7. Sandra de Graaff Netherlands 23:45:12 C86
8. Albertus van Ginkel Netherlands 23:48:17 C87

### **Out of Africa ... on Robben Island...!**

Quite a new venture. And no surprises that it was dominated by existing Centurions - mostly from the Isle of Man. So who won the coveted African C1 number? Congratulations go to Richard Gerrard and also to the winner of the ladies race - Janette Morgan (IoM).

Results of UK Centurions:

2nd C2 David Walker IoM; 4th C5 James Quirk IoM; 5th C6 Peter Miller IoM; 6 C7 Chris Cale IoM; 9th C11 Rob Robertson USA; 12th C14 Antoine Hunting NED; 13th C15 Frans Leijtens NED

Women: 1 C4 Janette Morgan 20:56:47 IoM; 2nd C9 Sandra Brown 22:22:14 GBR

Full results on the Centurions website : <http://www.centurions1911.org.uk/african-centurions.html>

Given the expense, time, etc, that it takes to get to these overseas races - all in the space of a month or so ... is it possible to coordinate?

### **Social walks**

Still going strong and popular....

This year we have held walks in Colchester followed by London's Bridges and at the beginning of December a walk through London's parks. The walks have been organised by our Strolls Co-ordinator, Steve Kemp and led by George Beecham and Ken Livermore. All were well supported by Centurions, their family and friends. . Ideas for 2017 are very welcome.

Talking of George Beecham... George has been awarded yet another honour for his distinguished service to the RNLI. Congratulations George!



### **So what's happening in 2017?**

The Centurions AGM - 28 January at Bankside Community Space, London.  
French 24 hours race in Bourges 3-4 March (French National Championships)  
Continental Centurions qualifying race is in Weert (new venue) 3-4 June

100 miles qualifying race in Bury St Edmunds, 5-6 August.  
IAAF World Champs 13 August. The Mall London.  
Roubaix 28H and 24H relay - 16-17 September.  
US Centurions 23-24 September  
African Centurions October

### **and looking even further ahead...**

We are investigating possible venues for 2018 onwards with an eye to our 100th 100 miles in 2023.

See the fixtures list: <http://www.centurions1911.org.uk/fixture-page.html> for forthcoming walks

There is plenty of interest in all these races and events, so if anyone would like to join the travelling party whether to compete or support - please get in touch ([kathy.crilley@btinternet.com](mailto:kathy.crilley@btinternet.com)) it will be great to see you there!

As ever, there is plenty of information on our website [www.centurions1911.org.uk](http://www.centurions1911.org.uk) to keep you informed of all things Centurions.

The Centurions Christmas letters do give us a chance to think of our many friends around the world, so please raise your glass for the traditional 2 o'clock toast.

All the very best for 2017!

**Kathy**

C933  
Captain