

Captains AGM Report 2018 - Kathy Crilley C.933

2017 has been another exciting and successful year for Centurions.

I won't go into great much detail as my Newsletters and our website will have kept everyone up to date throughout the year.

Since the 2017 AGM, Centurions have competed in a host of races travelling far and wide including several continents.

Our flagship event, the Centurion qualifying 100 miles, was held in Bury St Edmunds in August and from an entry list of 45, 15 new Centurions emerged.

And as Captain of the Centurions, I am very pleased to welcome them to the Brotherhood:

C.1173 Justin Scholz (AUS)
C.1174 Sharon Scholz (AUS)
C.1175 James Bassett (IOM) RWA Championship winner 21:24:38
C.1176 Hardeep Minhas (GBR)
C.1177 Gustav Salu (BEL)
C.1178 Adrie Ros (NED)
C.1179 Gabriel Farmer (GBR)
C.1180 Martin Vos (NED)
C.1181 Hein Sanders (NED)
C.1182 Jean-Baptiste Bernard (FRA)
C.1183 Joyce Crawford (GBR)
C.1184 Jos van de Wyngaert (BEL)
C.1185 Arie Kandelaars (NED)
C.1186 Gertrude Achterberg (NED)
C.1187 Larissa Droogendijk (NED)

The overall winner was Belgium walker Guido Vermeir C.1099 in 20:39:35.

1st lady home (3rd overall) was Australian Sharon Shultz

2nd lady and 6th overall was Sandra Brown

10th place was Leicester WC's Hardeep Minhas in 22:37:59

The event was hosted by Centurion Kevin Marshall of Positive Steps and co-organised by Sue Clements.

It was a very quite part of the town around the Moreton estate and we were very fortunate to the enthusiastic Mayor of Bury St Edmunds to start the race and present awards at the finish. There were also two supporting race that weekend - 50 miles and 20 miles.

Full results and report are on the Centurions website.

Sue Clements will be presenting her own race report following on from this, so I'll leave Sue to go into greater detail.

Earlier in the week Centurions were successful in various events the World Masters in Denmark. Ian Richards, John Borgars, Roger Michel to name but a few...

Indeed, August was certainly a very busy month for Centurions as we also had Dom King competing in the IAAF World Athletics which took place in the The Mall. Sadly dq'd...

But nevertheless, it was a great day out and it was very much a "spot the Centurion" occasion on the The Mall - such a pleasure to see many of out there supporting.

To celebrate the World Athletics, Centurion Ron Wallwork organised a Friendship Walk in Enfield and many Centurions turned out in the pouring rain- to take part in 5 mile and 3 mile races on offer. Ron has also plenty of Enfield League races throughout the year and Ron always recognises Centurions taking part.

Centurions have, of course, competed in many other races around the UK and further afield - so just mentioning a few that I know of...

In June, the Parish Walk (IoM) produced a finishing list of many British Centurions. Literally too many to mention, but congratulations do go to 1st male Richard Gerrard and 1st Lady and 3rd overall, Karen Chiarello and to 2nd Lady - Karen Lawrie (ably supported by a couple of Centurions!) A further 9 Centurions appeared in the top 20.

Karen (Lawrie) also blasted her way winning the ladies race in the End to End.

Of course Centurions just don't compete - they officiate and act as volunteers at many races in the UK which keep the races alive. At the first Enfield League race of 2018, Pauline Wilson (C798) received the trophy as "Enfield League Official-of-the-Year" having helped out at 9 of their 2017 events. A honour truly deserved.

Travelling further afield, the away matches have included ...

- 24 hour race in **Bourges**, France at the end of February 2017. Centurions Sandra Brown, Karen Lawrie and Tony Mackintosh (Isle of man) and myself took part. Sandra won the ladies race with Karen following in 2nd place with Tony in 14th place (jointly with Karen) - not bad out of a field of 70 walkers.
- In May 2017 there was a big turnout from Centurions whether of British, Dutch or Belgian nationality at the **Continental Centurions** race held in Weert.
- Continuing the tradition of, very, long distance racing, British Centurions appeared in the 2017 **Paris Alsace**: competing was Isle of Man race walker, Tony Macintosh who was well supported by a great team including Centurion Karen Lawrie and myself. Sadly Tony didn't quite get to the end - but hats off - its a very tough race.
- In August, 3 Centurions went back to France for the **6 Jours de France**. Richard McChesney, Suzanne Beardsmore and myself. Another hot week in France but we all survived. Well, we are Centurions after all!
- Roubaix wouldn't be Roubaix with out a British contingent - and as ever, Centurions stepped up to take the challenge of this 28 hour race and the supporting 24 hour relay. Richard McChesney and Suzanne Beardsmore competed in the 28 hours with myself, Joyce Crawford and non Centurion, Norma Grimsey holding our own in the 24 hour relay - where, I am pleased to say we were placed 2nd team after a tremendous battle with another ladies team.
- In November, Sandra Brown and myself travelled to Monaco for the charity event "No Finish Line" 24 hour race. Sandra was 2nd lady with 182km and I was placed 5th with 142km - however despite chip timing and someone going round with a surveyors wheel, the

organisers failed to record our last last - so just notch our results up by a couple of kilometres!

Meanwhile on another continent... the second African Centurions 100 mile race was held on Robben Island in October ... and inevitably British Centurions took the top spots. Robbie Callister came in 1st with Andrew Titley 2nd. Both from the Isle of Man.

On The Social Centurion scene

Steve Kemp will report on walks held in the UK last year.

Three Centurions travelled to Marbella in Spain in October to take part in a 4 day walking event. It was a very pleasant social occasion especially in the beer tent at the finish! But I found it a really good end of season "warm weather" event and a good start to the winter training season. Lots of hills to get the legs going. Quite a few people have expressed an interest in going to the 2018 event.

The CVN held their annual AGM and reunion on 2nd December in the historic town of Heusden. There were around 43 attendees including Chris Flint (Hon Secretary), Kathy Crilley (Captain), Sue Clements (Archivist) and Jill Green. Certificates and trophies were presented to successful finishers of our 100 miles at Bury St Edmunds. Many thanks to the CVN Secretary, Frans Leijtens for organising such a great occasion.

Looking to 2018

- London Open Walks at Donkey Lane - 4 Feb where Centurions are always welcomed. Indeed we are required to enter our C number on the entry form now.
- Plenty of Enfield Leagues coming up in the south... and Lancashire WC has a good fixture list covering 2018.
- In France the first 24 hour race of the year sees, Sandra Brown and myself travelling to Bourges for a 24 hour race.
- 17th-18th March is the 24 hour race in Chateau Thierry, France.
- 19th-20th May sees the Continental Centurions medley of races - held in Schiedam near Rotterdam. Always a good weekend away whatever distance you chose to do.

And beyond...

- Parish Walk in June
- A 100 mile track race and Graham Young is here to share his plans for the 2018 race which will be held in Douglas in August.
- September, of course, is Roubaix where I hope we keep the tradition of British participation alive.

Of course, results of most races (shorter distances) can be found in the Race Walking Record and on our website where I know Centurions have taken part.. as are race reports from the various long distances race. But whatever you are doing - do write in and share your adventures - it's a good way to keep everyone involved and join in!

It has been a good three years as your Captain and I have enjoyed every minute. Thank you everyone for your support.

Kathy Crilley, C933.
Captain Centurions