



April 2016

Dear Centurions

This newsletter is a bit late, but there has been so much going on in the first few months of 2016. And, as ever, Centurions have certainly been busy - qualifying for Rio Olympics, qualifying for the Paris Alsace, winning races, taking part in races and officiating.

On the home front

Centurions have taken part in races around the country: Enfield, Sutcliffe Park, Isle of Man, Coventry, Lee Valley, Gravesend just to mention a few - competing, officiating and organising.

I 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 organising.

Below are a selection of results:

Molly Barnett Open Walks (Inc England Athletics 10km Championships) Coventry 6 March 2016.

Good results for Centurions in this Championship race: 10th Jock Waddington (M50) Manx Harriers 52:13; 21st Sean Pender (M60) Enfield & Haringey AC 71:01; 22nd Chris Flint (M70) Surrey Walking Club 71:06. Sarah Lightman (W45) Leicester Walking Club came 6th (29:59) in the Women's 5km.

Indoor 3000m Championships, Lee Valley 13 March 2016

Men: 3rd Ian Richards (M65-1st) Steyning Athletic Club 15:00.39; Women: 4th Cath Duhig (W60-2nd) Ryston Runners AC 18:14.83. Well done everyone!

At a new venue - Gravesend Cyclopark the Vets joined forces with Enfield on 9th April in a successful range of race distances which meant a large start list. In the 10km race, Centurion Gary Smith came 9th followed by Steve Kemp in 12th position. Going for a longer distance (15km) were Centurions Sean Pender (7th), Chris Flint (8th) and myself in 12th place. Quite a testing course - but hopefully race walking will return there in the future.

Your race not mentioned? Please send in a report and we can publicise our endeavours both in the newsletters and on the website. (Contact details below)

Away races

The first "big" away race took place in Bourges, France at the end of February. This was a 24 hour qualifying race for the 2016 Paris Alsace.

Centurions Sandra Brown, Andrew Titley (Isle of Man) and myself took part. Despite the freezing cold, I think we all performed well with Sandra winning the ladies race. Andrew came 7th in the mens race. with myself bringing up the rear as 9th lady.

Four weeks later, Sandra and myself were back in France at the 24 hour race in Chateau Thierry. This was also the French National 24 hour championship.

The weather was marginally kinder but with the addition of rain during the night. However it didn't stop Sandra from winning the ladies race once more - by an amazing 99 metres; some way behind I was having my own battle holding off my nearest rivals during the last couple of hours.

But the best news of all is the number of Centurions who have been invited to compete in the 2016 Paris Alsace: 7 in all.

Sandra Brown, Suzanne Beardsmore (already accepted) Andrew Titley, Richard McChesney, Alexei Rodnirov, Frank van der Gulik and myself. This must be a record! The Paris Alsace race director, Jean Cecillon, is himself, a Centurion.

What an advertisement for Centurions.

Meanwhile at the IAAF Challenge Races in Dudince, Slovakia (19 March), Dominic King finished 32nd in the 50km in 4:08:00, winning the British Olympic Trials to book his place in the team for the Rio Olympics.

Brother, Daniel was 39th with a time of 4:19:12. Well done both!

CVN 50th Anniversary

In between Bourges and Chateau Thierry, I travelled to Amsterdam to attend the CVN 50th reunion event. The current Secretary, Piet Janssens (ably supported by wife Janni), has built up this large community of Belgian and Dutch (British) Centurions walkers.

The reunion took place at the Grand Cafe, Platform 2b Amsterdam Central Station. The cafe having been refurbished, is slightly more grand than the first CVN meeting 50 years ago but it is a most appropriate venue for Centurions to come together. As usual, and according to tradition, all Centurions present were introduced and applauded. We then walked through Amsterdam to board a boat for a tour around the canals. This done, it was hot foot back to the station for a beautiful meal and a flurry of presentations. On behalf of the Centurions, I presented the President of the CVN, Gerrit de Jong, with a beautiful Dartington glass clock. Frans Leijtens (the new Secretary) got it! Time....24 hours...

Sadly, I had to dash off at 7pm to catch the last flight back to the UK. President, Eric Horwill (with wife Pam) was due to attend but had to cancel at the very last minute due to ill health. We wish Eric a speedy recovery and I'm sure we will see him out at future races soon.

Social

On Saturday 2nd April, the Centurions held their first social walk of 2016 around the boundary of Camulodunum, the Roman city which today we know as Colchester. Jim Catchpole, a supporter of the Centurions, led the walk around a 25 mile route on a warm spring day, with ideal conditions to enjoy the mix of off-road riverside and woodland walking. Sights passed included the Roman River, fine examples of Essex pargetting on various buildings, the new football stadium - home to Colchester FC, and an abundance of lovely countryside. Taking in the sights were Centurions Steve Kemp, Jill Green, Chris Flint and Wendy Watson along with friends and would-be Centurions,

The next social walk, around 'London's historic bridges' is planned for 11th June - Tower Bridge to

Westminster Bridge. Details of this walk at <http://www.centurions1911.org.uk/social-.html>

Please let Steve Kemp know if you have ideas for social walks. Contact: Steve Kemp (racewalker@sky.com)

Future races

23 April RWA National 20k 2:15pm at Hillingdon Cycle Circuit, Minet Country Park.
14-15 May Continental Centurions 100miles/24hour Schiedam (Rotterdam)
24 May Northern RWA Champs Kirkby Fleetham, N.Yorkshire.
1st-4th June Paris Alsace - Neuilly sur Marne - Ribeauville
12th-19th Aug Olympic Games, Rio
27th-28th Aug Wadlincourt (Belgium) 24 hours
17th-18th Sep Roubaix28h and 24H team relay.

Redcar 100 miles

The next home "big" racing event for Centurions is, of course, the Redcar 100 miles.

Chris Flint and myself travelled up to Redcar in January to meet with David Jones and Trevor McDermott to discuss their organisation of the Redcar 100. The Centurions Committee have worked very closely with the organisers to ensure the race is a success.

The race will take place on 6th-7th August. Visit www.northernracewalking.com for details and entry form.

Thinking of racing abroad?

If anyone would like to join the travelling party to races in France, Belgium and Holland - whether to compete or support - please get in touch (kathy.crilley@btinternet.com) it will be great to see you there!

Wishing everyone success in whatever you do.

Best wishes,

Kathy Crilley

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