



April 2017

Dear Centurions

As many of you will know, at our AGM in January, Centurions voted in favour to affiliate to England Athletics as an "affiliated Association". In so doing we took an historic step in our 100 plus year history; a step which will put the Centurions into the mainstream of British athletics.

The affiliation will give The Centurions

- the opportunity to advertise its events through the EA newsletter so raising awareness;
- UKA liability insurance protection should the Centurions wish to put on its own races in the future;
- affiliation to the Race Walking Association.

The Centurions wish to continue its traditional approach of working with clubs willing and able to host a 100 miles in 24 hours event. The decision gives the Centurions the confidence to look forward to regular annual events leading to the 100th 100 in 2023! The affiliation commences 1st April 2017.

A quick look back - rankings for 2016

Centurions feature in the top of the 20km (Men and Women) as well as the 50km rankings.

Daniel and Dominic King: 3rd and 4th respectively; 11th: James Quirk and in 13th spot - Ian Richards.

Top of the 50km list is Dom followed by Dan. Also featured are Colin Vesty (8th) and Martin Fisher (9th).

In the women's 20km rankings - Cath Duhig lies 8th with Jayne Farquhar in 9th place.

Well done everyone.

Speaking of Cath Duhig - we wish her (and Pete) Bon Voyage as they depart our shores to reside permanently in Spain. We do hope they come and pay us the occasional visit!

And now it's Spring already and we certainly have had a good start to 2017 as Centurions have been busy competing and officiating in races throughout the winter months.

On the local scene....

Quite a gathering of Centurions have been taking part in the Enfield races organised by Centurion Ron Wallwork. This includes athletes as well as officials - so well done every one. And many thanks, once more to Ron for making Centurions especially welcome at these races.

The January race was presentations for the 2016 season with Carl Lawton awarded with the ERWL Official of the Year and Sean Pender the highest placed Centurion.

- January also saw the Steyning 15km featuring Centurions Ian Richards and Chris Flint, quickly followed the next day at the London Open/Southern Champs where Hon Secretary Chris Flint competed in the 10km race.
- Leicester Walking Club held their 10 Mile walk on the 21st January with Colin Vesty winning in a time of 1:46:10; 4th was Sean Pender (M60 – E&H) 1:58:08
- The annual Leicester 15 miles held on 25 March saw Colin Vesty in action again with a 2nd place in a time of 2:54:47
- Cecil Gittings Gravesend Memorial Races 15km, 1st April: 8th John Borgars 1:39:19, 10th place Chris Flint 1 hr 43 min 47 sec. Participating in the 10km: Sean Pender and Dave Ainsworth in the 5km.
- 8th April : Bury St Edmunds [6 or 8 miles or even 2 or 4 miles!]

This was a tester for the Bury St Edmunds 100 mile race to be staged 5th-6th August. Registration was at the brand new Skyliner Sports Centre - where it will be in August. 15 race walkers came to test the event including Centurions Dan King, Colin Vesty, Chris Flint and Kathy Crilley. John Borgars and Ron Wallwork were there to help as well. From the post race feedback, everyone enjoyed the event and the course. So the countdown to August 5th begins!

Away races

3rd-4th March Bourges 24 hours saw several Centurions from England and the Isle of Man compete in the 2017 Paris-Alsace-Ribeauville qualifier races. Swedish Christer Svensson (qualified in the Isle of Man) also tried his hand at the 24 hour - but sadly the weather defeated him.

Of course, not everyone who competes actually wants to do the ultimate of races walks - the Paris Alsace/ Ribeauville. However, Centurion Tony Mackintosh from the Isle of Man, certainly does. And he was rightly rewarded with an invite. Well done Tony.

This race was also the French National Championship but that did not deter Sandra Brown who beat all the French ladies by winning the ladies race. And to my delight, Centurion Karen Lawrie from the Isle of Man was 2nd Lady! As ever, the French include a two stage 6 hour race within the 24 hour race. This is very useful for aspiring 24 Hour athletes as well as those like myself, recovering from injury.

Interesting to note that it had over 70 athletes in the 24 hour race and 19 taking part in the 2 stage 6 hour race. A report and full results of the race can be found on our website at www.centurions1911.org.uk/2017-bourges.html

Word Indoor Championships, Daegu, South Korea

3km (indoor): 2nd Ian Richards (M65) 15 min 0.69 sec; 6th Roger Michell (M65) 17 min 43.39 sec.

10km road: 2nd Ian Richards (Steyn M65) 52 min 13 sec; 4th Roger Michell (Sy WC M65) 59 min 27 sec.

Not deterred by his defeat by the Bourges weather, Christer Svensson moved on to warmer climes and had success in the M45 10,000 metre coming in 2nd man with a time of 48:09:00

Forthcoming races ...

- 22nd-23rd April: final qualifier for the 2017 Paris Alsace will be held in Dijon (new venue)
- 29th April RWA National 10K Championship + YAG Coventry
- 21st May Northern Area RWA 20km Champs Thornton Le-Clay
- 3rd Jun Moulton Open 5 Miles/Enfield League
- 3rd-4th June: The Continental Centurions qualifying race will be held in Weert (Netherlands) This is a new venue and looks to be an interesting course (and for those who have competed in Weert previously - you will know what I mean!)
- Paris Alsace Neuilly sur Marne on Wednesday 31st May and finishes in Ribeauville on Saturday 3rd June.
- 17th June - Parish Walk Isle of Man
- 17th-18th June Festival of Walking in Langport, Somerset organised by Centurion, Hans Rennie.
- 25th June National RWA Champs 20km (inc Southern Area Champs) to be held in Leeds.
- 5th-6th August - Bury St Edmunds 100 miles. Qualifier for the Centurions. A 20 mile and 50 mile race are also on offer. More information; <http://www.centurions1911.org.uk/bury-st-edmunds-2017.html>

More fixtures can be found on the website at www.centurions1911.org.uk/fixture-page.html

Social

The next social walk, will be a 10km ramble around "historic Cambridge" on 30th April led by Sue Clements. Start 10:30 am outside Cambridge railway station.

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

8 July 2017 at the The Tower Thistle Hotel, London: another major reunion to pay tribute to Britain's World Championship Race Walkers as the 2017 IAAF World Championships come to London. The cost is only £30.00 and tickets are available from Pam Ficken, Owl Cottage, 101 Meldreth Road, Whaddon, Royston, SG8 5RS Cheques should be made payable to the Race Walking Association. For further information contact Peter Marlow - pmarlow@btinternet.com

Wishing everyone success in whatever you do.

Best wishes,

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