



Dear all,

I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee in the first instance, for their support over the last year. It is their commitment to the Centurions which keeps this race and community of Athletes together.

I would like to draw attention particularly to our outgoing Secretary Chris Flint C.849, who qualified at Hendon, a race remembered for its short steep slope down to the road from the track. Many thanks to Chris for his commitment; I am sure he will still be fully active with us and be helping Sue. Also, thanks to our outgoing President Eric Horwill C.390, who qualified at Skegness and came back to complete another 100 at Ware on the track. I had the pleasure of walking with both on these events and both show the true Centurion spirit.

It's been an honour to represent the Centurions this year. I have not only endeavoured to compete but also to meet with Centurions to discuss the future of our event. I remain impressed by this eclectic group of Athletes who are competing in a huge variety of events at every distance. In this coming year, I hope we can continue to be inclusive whilst also maintaining the British Centurions core values and use the media avenues open to us to promote ourselves. I look to my fellow committee members for their support in this challenge.

The British Centurion 100 Mile Race took place August 18th -19th 2018, organised by Graham Young on the Isle of Man. The 400m track is not a popular for 100-mile events and this was reflected in a lower entry but to some the track remains the true challenge of distance and time, under the constant eye of the judging team. The early hours of the race with commentary and music later gave way to wind persistent heavy rain; thanks again to judges and feeding teams for their support, especially through the night. The new technology of chip timing performed faultlessly, with the updates and results posted live online which received positive feedback. A way to keep in touch with the race remotely with a live video feed via the internet for our event surely cannot be far away.

As each competitor walked up to the mark, the sense of achievement was obvious; especially for those eight new Centurions to join our ranks. Dave Talcott the eventual winner walked strongly throughout with Karen Chirrello the first Lady walking an impressive race and Frank van der Gulik taking the 24-hour race. Those who fell short this time are urged to return to try again.

We are now a truly an international event with the associated costs that go with it and we are indebted to Mark Burn for sponsoring the race. Our thanks also go to Graham who organised a fine race with a reception before and after; an event to be proud of.

Later in the year Chris, Eric, Sue and myself represented the British Centurions at the Dutch reunion, presenting badges to new Centurions. The Dutch remain strong supporters of our event and our attendance was appreciated.

Looking ahead, plans for 2019 are well advanced, with the event taking place at Castletown on the Isle of Man on August 17th - 18th and entries already numbering over 40. The course, which is a mile loop is available on the internet as a video for competitors to have an early look at what lies ahead. Beyond that plans are developing for 2020 at the Colchester Park course.

Centurions, I will continue to spread our message at races as I hope will you all and to wear that hard-won badge with pride.

Martin Fisher C788
Captain