



**Minutes of the Centurions AGM held on Saturday 27th. January 2018 at 1 pm
at Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, LS1 5EB**

Present: Eric Horwill C390 (President), Pam Ficken C934, Richard Brown C760, Sandra Brown C735, Kathy Crilley C933, Chris Flint C849, Martin Fisher C788, Dave Evans C998, Richard Cole C928, Philip Carroll C794, Alf Short C993, Colin Bradley C853, Graham Young C383, John Eddershaw C299, Gordon Fisher C.796, Paul Briggs C431, Parminder Bhatti C909, and Dave Baker C782.

Apologies: Ron Wallwork C893, Wendy Watson C1000, Ann Sayer C599, Jack Thomas C606, Cath Duhig C986, George Beecham C716, Dave Ainsworth C540, Bob Dobson C786, Colin Vesty C1167, Andy Bainborough C670, Jill Green C898, Steve Kemp C1075, Carl Lawton C750, Sue Clements C950, Jim Skidmore C367, John Cannell C388, Geoff Tranter C507, Alex Ross C854, Dan King C1100, Kersten Mosig C1145, Ed Shillabeer C590, Colin Young C317, Kevin Perry C912, Ken Roost C557, Chris Berwick C902, Donald Harris C494, Mark Haynes C1134, Richard McChesney C1131, Suzanne Beardsmore C1094, Derek Pook C394, Norman Smith C976, Ian Richards C1064, Mick Barnbrook C661, Joyce Crawford C1183, Karsten Koehler C1059, Don Cox C787, Ian Statter C968, John Dowling C331, Mick Hague C424, and Mark Byrne C870.

1. Welcome by President

Eric Horwill C390 warmly welcomed everyone to Leeds for the Centurions Annual General Meeting and he thanked Martin Fisher C788 and his family and team of helpers for making all the arrangements, and he expressed his appreciation to those who had made the effort to attend. He added that it is important that we try to have our meetings in different parts of the countryside. He expressed his gratitude to Graham Young C383 and his son Martin for coming from the Isle of Man to brief the meeting on the projected 100 miles/24 hours event at Douglas in August 2018. The President said he wished to add an important item to the Agenda for discussion at the end of the meeting and, as the Agenda is a full one, the AGM would commence without further delay. The proceedings started by asking for Apologies (listed above).

2. In Remembrance of Centurions

- Trevor Chorley C435 - Qualified as a member of Bristol RWC in a time of 21.35.54 in the Bristol 100 of 1969. He was involved in race walking with Trowbridge AC and was a frequent participant in the now defunct Chippenham to Calne race.
- Geoff Dowling C635 - Phil Carroll C794 recalled that Geoff Dowling had written encouraging him to participate in the Bradford races, and Phil thereafter became a regular participant. John Eddershaw C299 said Geoff was a stalwart of the North, and had organised a national championship. He qualified in 1978 in the Leicester to Skegness 100 miles.
- Donald 'Jimmy' James C421 - He qualified in the Leicester to Skegness 1968 event in a time of 22.19.12 in the colours of Royal Sutton Coldfield which, after some

mergers, is now Birchfield Harriers AC. Early records show that Jimmy was an active athlete in Far East walks (Singapore/Malaysia) whilst in the Army. He was a regular competitor and known for his loud 'Charge' at the beginning of many Midlands league events. He died over two years ago but his death has only recently been reported by his daughter who said he was a proud Centurion.

- Ken Cardozo C941 - Pam Ficken C934 said Ken had completed many London to Brighton races and was a member of Enfield and Haringey AC. He had qualified in 1995 at the Surrey WC 'Battersea Park 100'. Apart from his race walking activities he is recorded in the Guinness Book of Records for Scrabble.

Following these short eulogies all stood in remembrance of the Centurions listed above, and also Continental Centurions Teunis van der Pol C960, Wiebren Teensma C399, Ernst Westerhoff C1008, Adri van Dirven C650 and Theo van de Wijst C814 whose deaths had been reported in 2017.

3. News of Centurions

At last year's AGM the Hon. Secretary, Chris Flint C849 had asked for information about certain Centurions whose whereabouts had been lost. He said Ian Richards C1064 had reported that Maurice Fullager C479, now aged 75, is living in Australia and competed at 5 km and 10km distances at the World Masters Championships. He hopes to come to Spain for the World's. The meeting wished Olive Dobson, Barbara Lawton, Suzanne Beardsmore and Mick Barnbrook quick recovery from illness and injury.

4. Minutes of Previous AGM held on 28th. January 2017

The Minutes were accepted as a true record and it was proposed by Richard Brown C760 and seconded by Sue Clements C950 that they be signed by the President. Agreed.

5. Matters Arising (Not already Agenda Items)

None.

9. 100 Miles at Douglas, Isle of Man (Graham Young C383)

This item was fast tracked up the agenda to enable Graham Young and his son Martin to meet other commitments during their short stay in Leeds. The President thanked them both for coming to the meeting to give an update on the arrangements for the 2018 100 miles/24 hours race on 18/19th August at the National Sports Centre at Douglas, commencing at 12 noon. Graham said Mark Byrne C870 had originally proposed to underwrite the event with the aim to establish best times for the 100 miles. This germ of an idea was developed and Graham agreed to undertake the organisation. It is an Open event and an original thought that it should include a 100 km race has been dropped in favour of just 100 miles and 24 hours. Consequently the maximum number of participants would be limited to 33. Participants would need to indicate which they intend to do. An entry fee of £40 will be charged.

A number of top ultra-distance athletes had been invited and 6 to date have responded positively, namely: Karen Chiarello, Erin Taylor, James Bassett, Dave Talcott, Sandra Brown and Liam Parker. The last named has still to confirm, and some others are still considering whether to take up the invitation. It is hoped the RWA at its meeting on 18th. March will endorse the event as its long distance championship. Graham said entries would be on a '1st Come, 1st Served' basis and this prompted some discussion. It was

agreed that this process is fair and that potential participants need to be alert when entries are opened, probably on 25th March.

Graham gave positive news that the race infrastructure was in place for both competitors and officials, and tents would be permitted in the central area round the track. The Manx Harriers AC club house will provide refreshments for the officials and a manned feeding station set up adjacent to the track. The organisers have secured sufficient qualified officials including three Grade 3 judges although there may be a need for mainland Grade 4 judges to be asked to officiate. There will be two teams of 4 each doing a 4 hour stint. A tested and reliable chip timing system will be supplied by Manx Timing Solutions, and sensors positioned at two separate locations on the track. A large TV screen will be positioned to display the last six who have broken the beam, and laps and times are to be given as the race progresses. There will be guest commentators. Presentations will commence at 5 pm at the Woodbourne Hotel, Douglas.

The meeting gave unanimous approval that the proposed event satisfied the overall Centurions criteria for it to be accepted as a qualifying event. Graham and Martin were thanked for their organisation and wished all success in August.

6. Hon. Secretary's Report

Chris Flint summarised his report. His main theme is the dramatic decline in the number of UK participants in long distance events, and that without the support of overseas participants 100 miles events would not be financially viable. The cost of hiring suitable venues increases year on year, entry fees will rise, and sponsorship will become a necessity. Coupled with the financial issue is the need for more Centurions to become involved in its running. The Centurions committee works hard to maintain a pipeline of 100 miles events year after year but every so often the committee requires an infusion of people to bring new ideas and support. This is needed now.

There is an urgent need to appeal to wider groups of potential participants, and attract athletes to our events. Last year the AGM endorsed our affiliation to England Athletics as an Associate body, and this brings the Centurions into mainstream athletics. We need to build on this new relationship and by doing so ensure the future of the Centurions.

The decision by both Richard Brown C760 and Sandra C735 to stand down is a loss to the committee on which they have served for many years, and have served as Treasurer and Captain respectively. Both have made a huge contribution towards the advancement of Centurionism through their active and very successful careers as ultra-distance athletes. All present thanked Richard and Sandra for their commitment, advice and friendship and we would continue to see them at events.

The Hon. Secretary highlighted the invaluable work being done by Sue Clements C950 as the official archivist whose role is to collect memorabilia of Centurions. This is archived at the Surrey History Centre at Woking, Surrey for Centurions and the public to view. Kathy Crilley C933 has served as a most active Captain for the past three years, participating in and reporting on many continental events and producing detailed newsletters updating all Centurions of the activities of the Brother/Sisterhood. This is greatly appreciated by all Centurions. In conclusion Chris thanked those who had made donations and particularly the generous legacy from the estate of the late Ken Munro C370.

In the subsequent discussion Dave Evans C998 said we should welcome the many continentals who come over to qualify as Centurions, and Alf Short C993 said the LDWA is a good source of likely participants. In the LDWA's 100 miles in 48 hours event the entry maximum of 550 is easily reached, around 500 start and about 350 finish the off road course. If the Centurions is to attract anything like these numbers it needs to adopt a more focused approach. Martin Fisher and Pam Ficken reminded the meeting that the Centurions are race walkers, not ramblers, and the aim is to attract more athletes to its long distance events. Richard Brown said our strength is in our inclusive nature and efforts should be made to get runners to gravitate to walking.

It was proposed by Phil Carroll C794 and seconded by Martin Fisher C788 that the Hon. Secretary's report be accepted. Agreed.

7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Richard Brown C760 presented the financial summary for year ending 31st. December 2017 which had been audited by Alex Ross C854. Richard said 2017 was a very successful year financially. Despite donating £1,000 towards the costs of the Centurion 100 event at Bury St. Edmunds and purchasing over £400 of new medals which will last us for several years, the accounts balanced. This is before taking into account the generous legacy of Ken Munro, a great Centurion, past Hon. Secretary and friend. His legacy will ensure we can continue to financially support future Centurion 100 miles events.

Richard said the current balance at 31st. December is £8,184.15. Apart from the Munro legacy £1,898 had been given as donations and he expressed his gratitude to those who had made contributions. He welcomed donations no matter how small, and he encouraged Centurions to buy merchandise.

Using a number of maritime metaphors Richard said the Centurions had now reached port after a choppy time and he was able to step ashore and hand over the tiller to a new hand. He thanked all Centurions and especially Alex Ross C854 our auditor for their support.

Pam Ficken asked if the Centurions trophies are still insured and, if so, was it still necessary. In discussion it was agreed that as we have a number of valuable trophies insurance is desirable and is relatively inexpensive. It was further agreed that as a general rule the engraving of team trophies would be paid by the Centurions but the engraving of individual trophies should be paid by the trophy holder.

John Eddershaw C299 proposed the acceptance of the Hon. Treasurer's report, seconded by Kathy Crilley C933, and agreed unanimously.

Thanks were expressed for Richard's careful stewardship of the finances over the past four years. He has devoted considerable time and energy to ensure the finances are stronger and this is greatly appreciated by all Centurions, as is the work done by our auditor Alex Ross. It was further agreed that Alex be invited to be the independent auditor for 2018/19.

8. Captain's Report

Kathy Crilley reported on another exciting and successful year for Centurions with many competing in races in numerous countries. The highlight has been the Bury St. Edmunds 100 miles which attracted an entry of 45, of which 15 qualified as Centurions. She

expressed her pleasure as Captain that so many will be elected into the Brother/Sisterhood. The winner was Guido Vermeir C1099 and first lady was Sharon Shultz C1174 from Australia. Organised most effectively by Kevin Marshall C1001 and Sue Clements C950 the event had been held round the quiet Moreton estate, and the Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds both started the event and presented awards. The supporting races of 50 miles and 20 miles attracted local support and again shows the benefit of having complementary races incorporated with the principle event. Ian Richards C1064 had expressed his appreciation to the Centurions for allowing the British Masters Athletic Federation to incorporate its long distance championship in the BSE event and he hoped to link up again.

Kathy detailed the exploits of Centurions in the World Masters and also the IAAF World Athletics championships, and the Parish 85 miles Walk. On the continent British Centurions acted as ambassadors by competing in the 24 hour races at Bourges, and Weert, and also the Paris to Alsace classic in which Tony Macintosh competed with distinction although without eventual success. Other events included the 28 hour race at Roubaix, the 6 Jours de France, and the Monaco 24 hours where 1st lady was Sandra Brown with 182 kms and Kathy 5th lady with 142 kms. The Africa Centurions 100 miles race at Robben Island was won by Robbie Callister with Andrew Titley C1038 in second position, an excellent overall result.

Kathy said she has enjoyed her three years as Captain and thanked everyone for their support. The President thanked Kathy for her fulsome report and active Captaincy, and proposed that it be accepted. Seconded by Richard Brown. Agreed.

10. Election of New Centurions and Award of Certificates

The Hon. Secretary read out the names of the 15 qualifiers listed on the Agenda and proposed to the AGM, seconded by Dave Evans C998, that they be accepted into the Brother/Sisterhood of the Centurions in recognition of their individual achievements to complete 100 miles in 24 hours. All agreed, and it was noted with regret that none of the qualifiers had managed to come to the AGM. The certificates would be forwarded by post to their respective clubs for presentation.

11. Elections

The following were elected to the positions shown:

- President: Eric Horwill C390. Proposed by C. Flint and seconded by Paul Briggs.
- Captain: Martin Fisher C788. Proposed by Pam Ficken and seconded by Bob Dobson.
- Hon. Treasurer: Richard Cole C928. Proposed by C. Flint and seconded by Richard Brown.

The following Centurions indicated their willingness to continue in the posts shown, as shown:

- Hon. Secretary and Merchandise Officer: Chris Flint C849
- Vice-Captains: Piet Jansens C389, Sue Clements C950 and Frans Leijtens C949
- Assistant Secretary and Archivist: Sue Clements C950
- Web Master: Kathy Crilley C.933
- Social Walks Secretary: Steve Kemp C.1075
- Committee: Pam Ficken C934, Carl Lawton C750 and Ann Sayer C599.

It was proposed that those nominated as Officers and committee members should be voted en bloc, and agreed.

Richard Brown C760 and Sandra Brown C735 had decided to step down from the committee and all present expressed their gratitude to both for their huge contribution to the furtherance of Centurionism and their careful and insightful advice and guidance over the many years they had been on the committee and the roles they had undertaken. They would be missed. Suzanne Beardsmore had also decided to step down for personal reasons and she was thanked for her contribution and hopes expressed for a full return to fitness. It was agreed the post of Immediate Past President was a temporary one to help assist a new President into the role. Ann Sayer C599 was thanked for her tireless involvement. An appeal was made for new Committee members. One or two present expressed some interest and this would be followed up.

12. Proposals

Two proposals had been received, as follows:

1. Martin Fisher proposed, seconded by Phil Carroll C794, that “When an Officer stands down from the committee they should not be able to take a new office for a set period”. Following discussion that the proposal lacked specific detail it was amended to:

“When an Officer stands down from the committee they should not usually be able to take up a new office for three years”.

The amended proposal received 16 votes in Favour and 9 votes Against, and therefore Carried.

2. John Eddershaw proposed, seconded by Jim Skidmore C367, that “The present rule governing the three year time limit for the President and Captain to serve be rescinded”.

Following discussion the proposal received 8 votes in Favour and 12 votes Against, and 2

Abstentions, and therefore the proposal was Not Carried.

13. Presentation of Trophies

The following Centurions trophies were presented by the Captain to those Centurions present:

- Bristol Trophy - Sandra Brown C735, Surrey WC
- Eddie McNeir Trophy - Richard Brown C760, Surrey WC
- Chas Shelley Memorial Trophy - Sandra Brown C735, Surrey WC
- Ko van der Kwaak Cup (Match between British and Dutch Centurions) - Winners: British Centurions

14. Archivist's Report

Unfortunately Sue Clements C950 was unable to attend and present her report which was circulated to those present. Sue is keen to archive valuable material and is working with the Hon. Secretary to ensure key documents are harvested. Tim Erickson, Secretary of the Australian Centurions, has prepared a Wikipedia article detailing Sandra Brown's achievements using material forwarded by Sue, and she is using data collected by Dutch

Centurion Gerrit de Jong to determine Best Performances in GB and other countries. Sue has prepared useful statistical analysis of the Bury St. Edmunds 100 showing that of the 23 finishers 18 were male and 5 female, and their ages ranged from 30 to 70+. A survey completed by 40 respondent's shows overall levels of satisfaction with the event were high and could be deemed a success. Finally, the total number of Centurions is 1185 of which 1111 are male and 74 are female. Sue was thanked for her informative report.

15. Centurions Website

Kathy Crilley said the website is the main channel of communication for the Centurions and its aim is to interact with Centurions throughout the world, and to encourage anyone interested in the challenge, advertising events, tips on training and nutrition, and encouraging a culture of friendship and social involvement. Other methods of communication are the Centurions Facebook page and even Twitter. She is compiling lists of age records and race results by race venue, such as Rouen, Bazencourt, Roubaix and others. There was some discussion about the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect in May 2108, and the need to update our Privacy Statement. The committee would review the use of social media at its next meeting. Kathy was thanked for her work on maintaining a lively website and for her report.

16. Social Walks

Steve Kemp said the two walks held in 2017, one at Cambridge led by Sue Clements in the Spring, and another in the Autumn led by David Hoben (Surrey WC) at Polegate along the disused Cuckoo Line attracted a growing number. It's hoped this will increase as the walks are sociable and held along attractive routes. Steve wishes further walks to be held in March/April this year and again in the Autumn, and he hopes that northern based Centurions would organise a social walk possibly in the Leeds area. Suggestions should be passed to him on 07860 617899 or at racewalker@sky.com
Steve was thanked for his enthusiasm and commitment to arranging these most enjoyable walks.

17. Date of Next AGM

Before the announcement of the date of the next AGM the President said he wished to raise the question whether the Centurions should have a Constitution which would include issues such as health and safety, data protection, financial accounts and merchandise records, use of social media, elections, nominations and proposals, etc. At present we have no such document but rely on decisions made by the committee and endorsed at the AGM. Is this adequate in today's litigious environment? It was agreed that this is a matter for the committee to consider.

The next AGM to be held on Saturday 26th January 2019 at a venue to be agreed by the committee, possibly in the Midlands.

The President closed the AGM at 4.20 pm with thanks to all those attending, and he was thanked for his chairmanship allowing full discussion and agreement on issues, and also to Martin Fisher and his family and team of helpers for arranging such a good venue and providing wonderful refreshments.

Signed.....

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Date.....

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