



**Minutes of the Centurions AGM held on Saturday 28th. January 2017 at 1 pm
at Bankside Community Space, Southwark, SE1 0FD**

Present: Ron Wallwork C893, Wendy Watson C1000, Ann Sayer C599, Jack Thomas C606, George Beecham C716, Dave Ainsworth C540, Bob Dobson C786, Colin Vesty C1167, Pam Ficken C934, Richard Brown C760, John Borgors C1170, Dave Neagle C527, Carl Lawton C750, Sandra Brown C735, Kathy Crilley C933, Danny Long C877, Sue Clements C950, Chris Flint C849, Eric Horwill C390, Steve Kemp C1075, Sean Pender C1067, Martin Fisher C788, Bob Watts C838 and Norman Smith C976.

Apologies: Cath Duhig C986, Andy Bainborough C670, Dave Jones C987, Doug Hopkins C347, Jim Skidmore C367, Keith Chesterton C.704, Geoff Tranter C507, John Dunsford C.734, Brian Kelly C1113, Martin Payne C1153, Alex Ross C854, Andrew Thacker C805, Dan King C1100, Eddie Grocock C685, Alan O'Rawe C791, Ed Shillabeer C590, Pauline Wilson C798, Bill Sutherland C890, Colin Young C317, Guy Goodair C327, Paul Tiley C459, Kevin Perry C912, Tony Hill C1133, John Eddershaw C299, Micky Sutton C1078, Peter Hodgkinson C848, Ken Roost C557, Kim Reed C1171, Kevin Marshall C1001, Bill Lawrence C.872, Tony Perkins C685, Reg Colver C585, Steve Till C768, Jack Rose C517, Sarah Lightman C1093, Alan Barber C535, Len Creo C871, Richard Gerrard C1106, Simon Cox C940, Maureen Cox C940, Peter Baxter C.806, Roger Michel C724, Donald Harris C494, Richard Cole C928, Mark Haynes C1134, Richard McChesney C1131, Suzanne Beardsmore C1094, Carl Abolins C233, Ken Watts C.859, Philip Vermeulen C1121 and Angie Underdown C1095.

1. Welcome by President

Eric Horwill C390 warmly welcomed all present to the Centurions Annual General Meeting and expressed his appreciation to those who have travelled far to attend, and as the Agenda is a full one he would without further delay start the proceedings by asking for Apologies (listed above).

2. In Remembrance of Centurions

- Wilf Smith C275 - Pam Ficken C934 recalled a tall distinguished race walker who qualified in the colours of Leicester WC in the Leicester to Skegness 100 in 1958 in a time of 18.02.37.
- Johnny Morris C474 - Carl Lawton C750 knew him as a fellow member of Belgrave Harriers AC and recalled he was a London Docks police officer who qualified in the Surrey WC 'Ewhurst' 100 in 1971 in a time of 20.49.27.
- Vic Murray C256 - Eric Horwill C390 said Vic was a long serving member of Lancashire WC who qualified in the 1955 London to Brighton and back event in a time of 22.29.50. Only a few weeks earlier Vic had helped at the Horwich 5 km race. He had supported Richard and Sandra Brown in the Manchester to Blackpool race and they had kept in regular contact.

- Bernard 'Jack' Rawlings C212 - Colin Vesty C1167 said Jack had joined Leicester WC in 1951 and in 1953 had walked the Birmingham to Wembley Stadium 100 miles to qualify in a time of 22.07.52.
- Ernie Bishop C654 - Ann Sayer C599 said Ernie was a member of the LDWA and had qualified in the Surrey WC 'Ewhurst' 100 in 1979 in a time of 21.02.59, the same year that Ann had broken the Three Peaks Challenge record held by Arthur Eddlestone C531 now deceased and at which Ernie had been one of her support team.
- George Birchall C220 - Ron Wallwork C893 said George was a fellow member of Lancashire WC and one of a clutch of club members who became Centurions, and George had qualified in the 100 miles in the Manchester to Blackpool event in 1954 in 19.32.27.
- The wives of Centurions Doug Fotheringham C373 and Denis Vale C549 were remembered as regular supporters of both Centurions, and they had assisted others involved in long distance events.

3. News of Centurions

The Hon. Secretary C849 said contact had been lost with a number of Centurions and asked for any updates of their whereabouts.

- Dave Ainsworth C540 said he had established contact with Ron Boxell C504 now in his 84th year and living near Lincoln who had qualified in the 1972 Leicester to Skegness 100 in 23.33.25 as a member of the RAF Chivenor team.
- Barry Daymond C508 who qualified as a member of the Essex Police in the 1973 Bristol RWC 100 miles has moved to Wales and is well.
- It is believed the Fullager brothers C479 and C480 respectively have moved and are living abroad. Both qualified in the colours of Surrey WC as did W.F. Nichols C374 who is believed to have died.
- Brian Ashmead C565 of Bristol RWC was known as a good clubman and qualified in the 1975 Surrey WC 'Ewhurst' 100 but contact has been lost.

4. Minutes of Previous AGM held on 30th. January 2016

It was noted that under Remembrance of Centurions Harry Holmes C303 had been a member of Boundary Harriers, not Yorkshire WC. Apart from this correction 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.

6. Hon. Secretary's Report

Summarising, Chris Flint said Centurions had been active in national and international events and Dominic King C1098 had represented Team GB in the 50 kms at the Rio Olympics, and others had participated in the inaugural South Africa 100 miles at Robben Island.

The background to possible affiliation to England Athletics had been explored with EA officials during the year and the Centurions committee had agreed that the AGM should have the opportunity to vote on a proposal to affiliate with EA.

There is a need to recruit Centurions to the committee, and both the website and increasingly Facebook are the main means of communicating with Centurions. The Surrey History Centre at Woking is the depository of Centurions archive material and Centurions are asked to pass their memorabilia to Sue Clements C950.

Sandra Brown C735 proposed, seconded by Sean Pender C1067 that the report be accepted, and agreed.

7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Richard Brown C760 presented the financial summary for year ending 31st. December 2016 which had been audited by Alex Ross C854. Richard said 2016 saw the end of year balance increase from £3978 to £4085, after donating £500 and a further £500 for chip recording to the successful Redcar 100. Merchandise stocks had also been increased. It was particularly pleasing to report that the President's Appeal had resulted in over £1000 being donated. There is expectation that a legacy from the estate of Ken Munro C370 will be forthcoming and his daughter is in contact with the Centurions.

In answer to a question from Martin Fisher C788 why £151.02 had been spent in excess of the £500 to Redcar it was explained that this was incurred by Chris Flint and Kathy Crilley C933 to check the Redcar course and the event infrastructure. It was agreed that this was a justifiable expense. It's important that qualifying events are properly scrutinised. A further question whether the £115 air fare to the Isle of Man incurred by the Captain to present Centurions certificates to the IOM qualifiers was necessary. After discussion it was agreed that as Kathy Crilley had been invited and represented the Centurions committee the payment of her fare was justified, and that there is a limit to personal expenses being used for such journeys. Pam Ficken C934 said Centurions trophies should be engraved by the winners of individual trophies, and team trophies paid by the Centurions. It was agreed that as a general principle this should be followed but sometimes it is not possible if a winner is from abroad.

It was proposed by David Ainsworth C540 and seconded by Pam Ficken that the Hon. Treasurer's Report be accepted, and agreed with thanks to Richard and Alex Ross C854. It was further agreed that Alex be invited to be the independent auditor for 2018.

8. Captain's Report

Kathy Crilley congratulated Richard Gerrard C1106 on his win at the South African qualifying 100 miles at Robben Island. She described some of the difficulties for participants taking part in the Redcar 100, mainly negotiating around people on the promenade and very windy conditions. Nevertheless the event produced 6 new Centurions:

Colin Vesty C1167, Jimmy Millard C1168, Rob Robertson C1169, John Borgars C1170, Kim Reed C1171, and Gino Masto C1172. They were all congratulated by the Captain. There was discussion about the cost of the event. The Centurions supported the event with a donation of £500, and other costs incurred by Redcar RWC was a matter for that club. Sandra Brown C735 said it had been an adventurous decision to hold the race in the heart of the community and congratulated the organisers.

The arrangements for the 2017 qualifying event at Bury St. Edmunds were reviewed. Sue Clements said there had already been interest from the Continent, and she and her co-organiser Kevin Marshall C1001 were confident of a good field and a number of new Centurions. The course on the Moreton Hall Estate was a 2 mile lap and would be an RWA championship. It was noted that the event clashed with the World Championships in London and this may impact on the availability of stewards and marshals, and other officials. Both Sue and Kevin would maintain contact with the committee as to progress.

Kathy was thanked for her report and active Captaincy.

9. Elections

It was agreed that those nominated as Officers and committee members (listed on the Agenda) should be voted en bloc, and that Sandra Brown be added to the committee (her name had been omitted in error). All voted in Favour.

Additionally, Kathy Crilley proposed and Sue Clements seconded a nomination that Suzanne Beardsmore C1094 be elected a Vice Captain. In the subsequent vote her election was agreed with three voting Against the nomination. The post of Merchandise Officer remains vacant and the Hon. Secretary would assume responsibility for sales and orders for the foreseeable future.

Following the elections Kathy Crilley proposed and Pam Ficken seconded that the new Centurions be admitted to the Brotherhood of the Centurions, and agreed by all present. Only two of the new qualifiers were present, namely Colin Vesty C1167 and John Borgars C1170, and they were presented with their certificates and congratulated. Colin thanked everyone for making him welcome, and said that having watched the Leicester to Skegness race in 1978 he vowed never to undertake a 100 miles race. Now he had done it, and John Borgars was similarly grateful for the support he had received enabling him to succeed.

10. Presentation of Trophies

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

- Hew Neilson C145 Trophy - Colin Vesty C1167, Leicester WC
- Bristol Trophy - Sandra Brown C735, Surrey WC
- Eddie McNeir Trophy - John Borgars C1170, Loughton AC
- Chas Shelley Memorial Trophy - Sandra Brown C735, Surrey WC
- Ko van der Kwaak Cup (Match between British and Dutch Centurions) - Winners: British Centurions

11. Proposal

That the Centurions Apply to England Athletics to be an Affiliated Association' was placed on the table for discussion.

The President explained that the main reason for Affiliation is to put the Centurions in the mainstream of athletics, and whilst it would not affect how the Centurions function it does provide the Centurions as a disparate group of individuals with insurance cover. In discussion it was pointed out that the Centurions would have the capability to host 100 miles events themselves with the protection of insurance for participants and officials. Martin Fisher C788 expressed his concern that clubs may not wish to hold such events and would expect significant funding from the Centurions if they did host a 100 miles race. He said that the £500 donated to Redcar RWC hardly made an impact on the cost of ambulances, public toilets and other infrastructure needs. Others felt the affiliation fee of £100 was relatively modest. Affiliation to EA would mean the Centurions would be affiliated with the RWA.

A vote on the proposal was taken by a show of hands and the Hon. Secretary announced that 43 (includes proxy votes) had voted in Favour, with 3 Abstentions, and 8 Against. The proposal was passed.

12. Archivist's Report

Sue Clements said she hoped there would be a new issue of the Handbook to coincide with the anticipated 100th 100 miles, and expressed her thanks to Gerrit de Jong C456 for his data on performances. Dave Ainsworth expressed his concern that fewer walkers are willing to take on the challenge of a 100 miles race and this raised fears for the future of the Centurions. Consequently the archives will be an all important resource of performances, record times, venues and clubs, photographs of individuals, etc. This was agreed, and thanks given to Sue for her work.

13. Centurions Website

Kathy Crilley said she tries to keep the website up-to-date and she relies on information from Centurions to enable her to do so. Her plea is to all Centurions to let her know of their activities. Interestingly, there have been over 1 million hits on the website since 2014.

14. Social Walks

Steve Kemp said two walks would be held in 2017, one at Cambridge led by Sue Clements in the Spring, and the other led by David Hoben (Surrey WC) at Polegate along the disused Cuckoo Line in the Autumn. All are welcome, and they are very sociable events. Norman Smith C976 has held walks in the Cotswolds and it is hoped that other Centurions would hold similar walks in their own areas. Steve was thanked for his efforts to establish these walks.

15. Date of Next Meeting

To be held on Saturday 27th. January 2018 at a venue to be agreed by the committee.

Martin Fisher kindly offered to host the meeting at Leeds.

The President closed the AGM at 4.25 pm with thanks to all those attending, and expressed his hope that the Centurions would flourish in the forthcoming months. He was thanked for his chairmanship.