



President's Christmas Letter 2016

It was a great honour to be elected your President at the AGM in January this year. I am delighted to be able to contribute to this annual Festive Season's newsletter.

My biggest disappointment was to miss the very special CVN celebrations in Amsterdam and I'm so glad that our Captain, Kathy Crilley C.933 was able to attend.

Later in the summer we had a most successful 100 miles promotion at Redcar - new ground for us! Despite very hot weather and then later strong winds particularly during the night we were able to welcome 6 new Centurions in the total of 10 athletes who completed the course. Our thanks to all officials and helpers, and particularly the organisers Dave Jones C.987 and Trevor and Linda MacDermot, and also to the club chairman Trevor Taylor.

I have managed to attend all the Centurions committee meetings although I must apologise for having to leave early to catch the train home in the evening.

At the last AGM there was an important discussion regarding our future. The Centurions was formed in 1911. Quite remarkably there has been little or no change in our administration and management for 105 years. But times have changed and we need to look ahead. Following advice and assistance from John Temperton at EA/UKA, a resolution will be on the agenda for the forthcoming AGM on Saturday 28th. January 2017. This will recommend that the Centurions affiliate as an Association to England Athletics. If you wish to make any comments about this please do contact me or the Hon. Secretary, Chris Flint, or other committee member. The proposal is fully laid out in the accompanying document.

Promoting ultra distance events such as 100 miles in 24 hours is becoming more and more difficult. Very few clubs are in a position to organise such projects on their own. Finding suitable safe venues and ever increasing costs are the main issues to be overcome. With this in mind I launched a President's Appeal to help fund our promotions. To date we have raised over £1000 from a relatively small number of donors. If you have not already made a contribution please consider making a donation - however small - so that we can continue to give more walkers the opportunity to qualify.

This autumn Sandra Brown C.785 became the first (and only) athlete to qualify for all of the world wide Centurions organisations. A truly remarkable achievement!

We look forward to our 100 miles scheduled to take place at Bury St. Edmunds on 5-6 August 2017 organised by Kevin Marshall C.1001 with assistance from local Centurion Sue Clements C.950. Please do your best to support this excellent project. I learnt recently that there is likely to be a good group of athletes from the Continent taking part.

We are most grateful to our hard working officers who continue to give an enormous amount of time and effort to Centurionism on our behalf. I will conclude by wishing all Centurions, their families, and supporters a very happy Festive Season and a bright and

prosperous New Year. As is customary, please raise your glass at 2 pm on 25th. December and the toast is 'The Centurions'.

Eric Horwill C.390

President, The Centurions.