

Centurions Committee Meeting - Thursday 13th July 2017

Willis Building, Lime Street, EC3M 5AD

Present:

Richard Brown, Sandra Brown, Ann Sayer, Martin Fisher (and Judith also in attendance), Carl Lawton, Sue Clements, Kathy Crilley, Eric Horwill (President), Chris Flint, and Pam Ficken.

1. Welcome

Eric Horwill C.390 welcomed everyone to the Summer meeting, and said he is pleased that there is an almost full attendance of the committee as there are a number of important items on the agenda to discuss. He said he is attending the funeral of Ann Lewis tomorrow, Friday 14th. July, and would need to leave the meeting early to get to his hotel in Bracknell.

2. Apologies

Steve Kemp C.1075 apologised for absence due to a work commitment. He has asked that his Social Walks report be made by the Hon. Secretary. Also, regrettably, he is unable to assist at the BSE 100 as he is committed to attend the World Championships. There has been no communication with Vice Captain Suzanne Beardsmore C.1094.

3. News of Friends

It was announced that Trevor Chorley C435 has died. He qualified in the Bristol 100 in 21.35.54. All present expressed their condolences. It was also reported that Theo Plate C.1021 has asked for a replacement Centurions badge for Aat van t'Oor C.917 whose family have destroyed his walking and Centurion memorabilia whilst Aat was seriously ill. He has now recovered and the Hon. Secretary said he would try to get a replacement and also for Alan Barber C.535 who has mislaid his medal. It was noted that Albert Stokes C.451 is now in a care home, and his wife has recently died. Condolences were expressed.

4. Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 24th. March 2017

The Minutes were agreed as being an accurate record, and signed by the President. It was asked if there are any unaccounted monies arising from the Redcar 100 Miles and it was confirmed by the Hon. Treasurer that all is in order.

5. Matters Arising (not already Agenda items)

[Paragraph 2] Martin Fisher queried the need for another Vice Captain as it appeared to him to be an unnecessary position. It was pointed out that Vice Captain's act as stand-ins for the Captain on occasions at races and events both here and abroad. It is a necessary position and essential that they remain active. Agreed.

6. Hon. Secretary's Report

Chris Flint kept his report to a brief comment about general correspondence and requests for replacement badges and merchandise, and there are no outstanding issues. Martin asked if future venues for committee meetings could be varied and this was discussed. Agreed that the Hon. Secretary would research the possibility of combining a meeting with a race event outside London, and report.

7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Richard Brown C.760 presented his financial update showing a current balance of £4107.42, an increase from his March update of £84.64. The first instalment of donations towards the Bury St. Edmunds 100 miles of £500 for chip timing has been made, and the Hon. Secretary has been reimbursed £100 for payment of the EA Affiliation Fee. Richard said there is sufficient kit for the foreseeable future. He was thanked for his management of the Centurions finances, especially at a time when there are increasing demands made to support events and individuals. It is hoped the Munro legacy will come through once probate has been completed.

8. Centurions Affiliation

England Athletics has issued its Affiliation Certificate to the Centurions, valid 12 months for 2017-18. Some present doubted whether it is necessary and has any value, particularly whether it provides third party insurance cover for the Centurions, and moreover EA has never recognised long distance race walking. The President said the advantages of Affiliation had been fully discussed at the AGM and overwhelmingly approved. The Hon. Secretary has processed the application. In discussion it was noted that if the decision is to be reversed a fully argued proposal should be submitted to the next AGM through the Hon. Secretary.

9. Captain's Report

Kathy Crilley C.933 gave a full report of the activities of Centurions since the last meeting in March, in particular:

- Tony Macintosh C.1157 attempted the Paris-Alsace ultra distance race but was forced to abandon the event. It had been very hot and despite good support from his friends and other Centurions, notably Kathy Crilley and Karen Lawrie C.1103, Tony had retired. He was the only British competitor this year.
- The Dutch Centurion 100 miles and Continental Centurions qualifier at Weert saw Sandra Brown C.735 finish 2nd Lady in 22.07.27, with Frank van der Gulik C.1022 the overall winner.
- Another successful Parish Walk on the Isle of Man saw an emphatic 2nd place for Karen Chiarello C.1136 and 4th place for Karen Lawrie. In hot conditions a number of other Centurions completed the 85 miles course.
- Dom King C.1098 competed in the IAAF 20 km in La Corunna and finished in 1 hour 27 minutes, and he has been selected for Team GB in the 50 km event in the World Championships this August.
- The Moulton 5 Miles organised by Ron Wallwork C.893 again saw a number of Centurions participating, with Colin Vesty C.1167 the highest placed Centurion finisher.
- Ian Richards C.1064 has been elected the BMAF race walking secretary.
- The 101st. Nijmegen Marches will take place between 18th-21st July and numerous Centurions are participating.
- The CVN Annual Meeting and Reunion is scheduled to take place at Heusden on 2nd December. The venue is about 10 km from Rotterdam.

Kathy was thanked for her full report and it is encouraging to see Centurions active in events.

10. Bury St. Edmund's 100 Miles

Sue Clements C.950 reported that she and her co-organiser Kevin Marshall C.1001 of Positive Steps are making good headway and numbers for each of the races have increased, and it is now confirmed that the BMAF will incorporate its 20 miles championship with the BSE 20 miles. It is now accepted the Community Relay involving the local hospice has fallen aside and would not be pursued. Sue raised the following:

- Draft maps of the course have been circulated and also a programme.
- Because the start points for the 100, 50 and 20 miles are at different points around the course extra mats for chip timing have had to be purchased. This is viewed as a learning issue and hopefully they can be used again.
- Chip Timing - the equipment is being operated in-house and each competitor/ supporter will receive an hourly print out. The question of a manual back-up was discussed. It was agreed that confidence in the equipment does not require a fully manned back-up team but the assistance of volunteers willing to keep a check on an individual's times and laps completed should be encouraged.
- The Hon. Secretary to ensure all trophies and medals are available on the day. Chris said he has received a quote from the BRT Group for a new stock of medals.
- Centurions Merchandise, including the new buffs and T shirts, would be bought to BSE.
- Budget - Richard circulated a budget prepared by Kevin showing anticipated income and expenditure. He made the following comments: the figures suggest a surplus after direct expenditure but before apportioning overheads. He aims to secure a 10% contribution to equipment and a 20% contribution to overheads on each race event. However, when these are added the surplus becomes a loss of £712. The committee was asked to confirm a donation of £500 and authorise the Hon. Treasurer to make that payment. Agreed that the payment be made without delay. There is a hope that the BMAF will make a donation.
- No publicity has been put in the LDWA publication Strider, and it was agreed that there is still time to put an entry in the LDWA Facebook page. Sue agreed to do so.
- Entries close on 31st July.

Sue was thanked for all her hard work on the BSE 100, and the committee asked that Kevin be thanked for his industry and enthusiasm. There is strong feeling the event will be a great success.

11. Surrey WC 100 Miles 2018

Before discussion commenced on the Surrey WC 100 miles Chris reported on a recent conversation he had had with Graham Young, an Isle of Man race event organiser and trainer. He is proposing to hold an Elite 100 miles at the NSC, Douglas next year, and has already booked the national athletics stadium for 18-19th August 2018. This is a direct clash with the proposed Surrey WC 100 and raises questions about its legitimacy as an Open event. Graham wishes the event to be an opportunity for an attack on the track record. The committee raised the following questions:

- To what extent is this an individual initiative or an event discussed and agreed with the appropriate RWA Area?

- To what extent has the Isle of Man 2019 organising committee been made aware?
- Would Surrey WC wish to continue with its proposed 2018 event, especially as some financial implications may arise if numbers of participants are lower than anticipated.
- The status of Graham Young was questioned.

The President commented that it should not go ahead as a Centurion's qualifier if it clashes with another agreed 100 miles event. However, there is nothing to stop Graham from organising and holding a 100 miles race on the Isle of Man but it would probably affect numbers entering the proposed 2019 100 miles at Castletown and this would reduce its viability and attractiveness to the Castletown Commissioners, and also to the Surrey WC whose committee would need to consider this intervention.

Agreed the Hon. Secretary to speak to Graham Young, although he is abroad for the next few weeks, and also to Steve Taylor, although he is busy with the World Championships at present, and also to Peter Hannell/Mark Easton of Surrey WC. Further discussion on next years' 100 would be held in abeyance until more information is known.

12. Archives

Sue Clements has been in discussion with Richard Vlotman C.529 who has relevant information for the archives, and she is sketching out ideas for the 100th Hundred Miles commemorative edition of the Handbook.

13. AGM 2018

Martin Fisher reported that arrangements for the next AGM on Saturday 27th. January 2018 are in hand, and the venue is the Central Chapel, Leeds, near the railway station. There is ample car parking. The doors open at 12 noon and the meeting will start at 1 pm and a buffet will be provided. It was agreed that details will go on the website together with maps of the location, local hotels, etc with a view to encourage attendance from Midlands and Northern Centurions. Martin and Judith were thanked for making the arrangements. It was suggested that a speaker from the High Performance unit at the Leeds Metropolitan University could be invited but as arrangements have already been made it would have to take place before the meeting started, or alternatively a separate visit to the unit.

14. Fowler-Dixon Trophy

This now defunct trophy has been offered to the Centurions by the RWA on a long term loan, particularly as Fowler-Dixon was Centurion No. 1. The committee considered possible gaps which the trophy could fill but there are none apparent, and following a proposal by Pam Ficken and seconded by Carl Lawton it was agreed that the RWA offer be declined in favour of the proposal that it be handed to Bromley & Blackheath AC of which Fowler-Dixon was a one-time member for display in its trophy cabinet.

15. Social Walks

Steve Kemp reported that the next social Walk will take place in December at Eastbourne, and would be led by David Hoben. Further details would be circulated nearer the date.

16. Web Masters Report (Kathy Crilley)

The website continues to receive regular ‘hits’ and is kept up-to-date with results and activities. Martin commented that the website does not reflect who the Centurions are and what as an organisation it actually does, and that it should adapt itself more towards mainstream athletics and reach out to other sports who could be our partners. Our profile needs to be raised using Twitter and Instagram to attract more interest. He encouraged the committee to consider new ideas and that this is the time for the Centurions to adapt to being a more inclusive body. His comments were noted and Kathy responded that she has plans to set up a Twitter account but the process is slow and tedious.

17. Centurions Medals

The Hon. Secretary reported that the number of Centurions medals is now down to single figures, and he has negotiated with Bromsgrove and Redditch Trophies Ltd to supply 200 bespoke badges at a total cost of £432.95 including VAT. He showed the committee the artwork. Helen Jinks is the BRT Group contact and says the medals are manufactured abroad, and that there should be no reduction in quality from the badges already used. The committee agreed to accept the quotation, and it is anticipated they will arrive in time for the BSE 100.

18. Any Other Business

Martin asked that consideration be given to moving Committee meetings to different locations, and it was agreed the Hon. Secretary would explore linking a meeting with a race event at a suitable venue in October.

19. Date of Next Meeting

Awaits outcome of Paragraph 18 above.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm with thanks to all for their attendance and for a useful discussion on a wide range of issues.

Signed.....

Date.....