



President's Christmas Letter 2017

Dear Centurions,

I am pleased to write my Christmas letter to you as this busy and successful 2017 comes to a close, and the highlight without doubt has been the excellent 100 miles event at Bury St. Edmunds. It produced 15 new Centurions, and was won in convincing fashion by Guido Vermeer from Belgium. The Captain's Christmas letter gives all the details, as well as the Centurions website. Suffice to say that our thanks go to Kevin Marshall C.1001 and Sue Clements C.950 as well as their hard working team of volunteers for making this possible.

We now look forward to 2018 and beyond. Graham Young C.383 has put a lot of effort into a proposed track event at the National Sports Centre at Douglas, Isle of Man on the 18-19th August 2018. The Centurions committee has spent time in trying to ensure that the race will satisfy our qualifying standards. This is an Open event but somewhat unusually the organisers are inviting a small number of individuals to participate who are believed to be capable of setting best performances. We need to ensure that the criterion required by the RWA and England Athletics/UKA is satisfied to recognise such performances. Although progress has been made I have suggested that the committee meets in early/mid January so that outstanding issues can hopefully be resolved and a comprehensive package presented to the AGM on Saturday 27th January at Leeds.

I would like to acknowledge the co-operation and support we receive from the RWA and England Athletics. As you will recall we agreed at the last AGM to become Affiliated to EA and this association gives the Centurions the protections and benefits to enable us to be more flexible and adventurous in our race activities. As with other voluntary organisations we depend on Centurions who give of their time and effort to keep Centurionism alive and functioning through its events and social activities. We have reached a stage, however, where new additions to the committee are required as some of our stalwarts have indicated that they wish to stand down. One of these is Richard Brown C.760 who has done an excellent job as our Hon.Treasurer over a number of years, and a replacement is very necessary to ensure our finances are kept in good order. I thank Richard and the other officers and committee members for their consistent support to me as President and to the many Centurions in the UK and worldwide.

The AGM on Saturday 27th January 2018 will be hosted by Martin Fisher C.788 at Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds, LS1 5EB which is within walking distance from Leeds railway station. The doors open at 12 noon, and car parking has been arranged at the venue. A buffet will be provided. Further details are contained in the Hon. Secretary's note. We are indebted to Martin and his team for these arrangements and hope that Centurions from the North and the Midlands, as well as the South, come and attend.

I will close this annual letter by wishing all Centurions a Very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year with lots of good walking. Please remember to raise your glass at 2 pm on Christmas Day and the toast is 'The Centurions'.

Eric Horwill C.390

President.