

## **Christmas Letter 2018 from the Centurions President Eric Horwill C390**

My 3 years as President are almost complete. During this period I feel we have made a lot of progress. There have been three excellent 100 miles/24 hours promotions at Redcar, Bury St. Edmunds and Douglas, Isle of Man. We are now Affiliated to England Athletics and therefore fully part of the athletics family. Centurions have been prominent worldwide! It has been a privilege to be associated with so many great athletes and superb promotions.

Please see my report on the 2018 track walk at the NSC, Douglas on the results page.

Looking ahead, the 2019 100miles/24 hours race is scheduled for Castletown on the Isle of Man. Two consecutive Manx promotions reflects the strength of walking 'over the water'! Please support Steve Taylor's efforts in any way you can. Looking further ahead, it is now confirmed that our 2020 event will be at Colchester, a town we have visited on a number of occasions for our events.

I was delighted to be able to attend the CVN celebrations at Broek op Langedijk (about 50 kms north of Amsterdam). I was joined by Sue Clements C950, Martin Fisher C788 and his wife Judith, and Chris Flint C849. The Dutch Centurions are splendid hosts. The event took place in a most unusual museum (Broeker Veiling) demonstrating the local culture of the area which is known as 'the land of a thousand islands'. When one wants to work in the garden one gets the boat out to reach the island plot (or plots). Our visit included a trip by tourist boat and an auction with the goods arriving on a floating wooden platform. It was a fascinating insight into a Dutch agricultural culture which was probably very hard and desperately poor. After all this we were able to present the medals and certificates and trophies to our Dutch and Belgian brethren.

Now that we are part of mainstream athletics I feel we must look ahead. We have existed for 107 years without a formal constitution, but we must realise that times have changed a great deal. I would like to propose to the 2019 AGM that a small sub-committee be formed to look into the possible drafting of a suitable constitution and to report back to the 2020 AGM.

I must thank our committee for their help and support over my three years, namely Chris Flint C849 (Hon. Secretary), Martin Fisher C788 (Captain), Richard Cole (Treasurer), Sue Clements C950 (Assistant Secretary/Archivist), Kathy Crilley C933 (Webmaster), Steve Kemp C1075 (Social Walks), Carl Lawton C750, Pam Ficken C934 and Ann Sayer C599, and Dave Jones C987 (co-opted member) and I include Richard Brown C760 and Sandra Brown C735 to whom we are immensely grateful for their involvement on the committee until they stood down at the 2018 AGM. I am also indebted to John Temperton (England Athletics) and Glyn Jones (RWA Chairman) for their help and sound advice.

Graham Young, this years 100 miles organiser, invites race walkers to an informal social evening on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the Woodbourne Hotel, Douglas, at 7.30 pm. Manx Harriers will hold an Open 20 km that day. Email: grahamyoung@manx.net or 07624 494165. Thank you, Graham.

Finally, may I wish you the very best for the Festive Season and for the future with lots of good walking. Please follow the long held tradition by raising your glass at 14.00 hours on 25<sup>th</sup> December to toast 'The Centurions'. Eric C390.