



Centurions President's Christmas Newsletter 2012

Dear Centurions,

This annual newsletter is an opportunity to reflect on the past year during which I have been looking at ways to encourage more from the non race walking community to attempt the 100 miles in 24 hours challenge and if successful to become a Centurion. With its wide experience the Committee has also been discussing ways to promote more external activity and we would like to hear your thoughts and ideas.

But first I have some news about my position as President, a position I have been honoured to hold for the past eight years. After careful consideration I have decided to step down. My health has taken a turn for the worse and I feel that it would be very difficult to continue the duties of a President whilst tackling the necessary treatment I am currently receiving. I have had a great time and we have managed to maintain the tradition of holding an annual 100 miles event and have seen the numbers of Centurions increase, and especially female Centurions. It is becoming increasingly difficult to arrange these events with so many clubs now no longer having the resources, both financial and manpower, to host the race. At the time of writing an event in 2013 has not been finalised and any club interested in hosting the 100 miles should contact our Captain, Sandra Brown, or Hon. Secretary, Chris Flint.

At this year's Colchester 100 we were particularly fortunate in having the support of Colchester Harriers AC and we thank their Chairman, Lance Williams, and the Colchester Borough Parks Department, for their respective help and encouragement. We extend our congratulations to our eight new Centurions, and especially to Dominic and Daniel King whose remarkable performances displayed great determination and totally surprised the sceptics who thought their early pace would be too much to maintain. Congratulations to them and to Guido Vermeir, Jantinus Meints, Steve Allen, Karen Ann Lawrie, Wilko van Nieuwenhuyzen and Luc Soetewey. A special mention goes to Robert de Wolf who finished with 42 seconds to spare before the 24 hours expired! We thank our Continental brethren for their great support.

The 100 miles was held in conjunction with the national 50 km and was notable for the need for a restart when the early leaders in the 50 km went off course. The event was officiated and managed with the minimum required and a number of officials had to spend far too long at their respective positions. Future events need to have more assistance from volunteers within the Centurions community. Due to the generosity of Centurions and coupled with entry fees we were able to cover our financial outlay and also make a donation to the Help for Heroes charity.

Although I say this every year I do hope that you are able to support the Centurions by making a donation so that we can continue to hold our 100 miles races and also cover our expenses which we control very carefully. I greatly appreciate the generosity of Centurions and thank all those who help out. It is greatly appreciated.

Email: Chris Flint, Hon. Secretary, is compiling a list of Centurions email addresses as this is a far quicker and more efficient way to maintain contact, and if you are receiving this by post it means he does not have your email address. If you have one and are happy to pass it to him please do so on flintc@scr-ltd.co.uk

Centurion Handbook

I would like to thank Sue Clements on the re-printing of the Handbook which has proved a success and copies can be purchased for £10 (P&P £1.50) from Sue, Pam Ficken, Kathy Crilley and Ian Statter. As regards Centurions merchandise there are special Centenary items available, and the overall standard of the stock is of excellent quality and at very reasonable prices. Please see the website (www.Centurions1911.org) for details. Ian Statter has significant stock and we hope you will be keen to buy and by doing so assist our general finances.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Saturday 26th. January 2013 starting at 1 pm (doors open at 12.30 pm) at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo (East), London, SE1 8UJ. Telephone: 020 7902 6000. The venue is near the Waterloo East station and has an excellent bar and restaurant, and it is hoped that those Centurions able to attend will stay for a meal after the meeting. Those arriving early will be able to obtain a bar snack. I hope as many as possible will attend. All Apologies to be passed to Chris Flint, Hon. Secretary.

Nominations for Posts on the Committee

As mentioned earlier I shall be standing down as President, and so is Hans Rennie as Hon. Treasurer, and also Ian Statter as Merchandise Officer. Both Hans and Ian have done sterling work in their respective roles and I thank them on behalf of the Committee and the Centurions. Hans has commitments which make it difficult for him to attend the AGM and other meetings, and Ian has decided to hand over to another volunteer. Each position requires a Centurion to be nominated and if you have any specific person you wish to nominate (accompanied with the approval of the nominee) please forward to the Hon. Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM. We are always keen for new Centurions to come onto the Committee and interested persons should put themselves forward. My thanks go to the enthusiastic committee for ensuring the Centurions maintain an active profile. Sandra Brown following her election as Captain has produced a monthly newsletter and is keen to encourage Centurions to get involved in any capacity to help promote the Centurions.

Club support for the Centurions

We are immensely grateful to clubs who display their support for Centurions and those who officiate at the 100 miles events and elsewhere, and Centurions themselves are particularly active in the Enfield League. Ron Wallwork has recorded thirty Centurions who took part in one or more Enfield League race in 2012 and a further eight officiated. The *Centurion League* winner was Alan O'Rawe who raced nine times and finished sixth overall, and second and third placed Centurions were Sean Pender (eighth overall) and Peter Ryan (fifteenth overall). In the Friendship Walks Australian Centurion Tim Erickson joined sixteen of his British brothers and sisters in a memorable event staged on the Tuesday between the Olympic walks. Full details of Centurion League walkers and Officials are on the Centurions website. The opening race of the 2013 series is on 19th January at QEII Stadium, Enfield. Ron can be contacted on 01638 751 869 or randjwallwork@btinternet.com

In closing, I wish you all a successful 2013 and please join me in a toast to The Centurions at 2 pm on Christmas Day.

Carl Lawton C.750 President.