



The Centurions Annual General Meeting – Saturday 26th January 2020

Hon. Secretary's Report

The 2019 Centurion race, held over the weekend of 17th-18th August 2019 was organised by Steve Taylor. The 2 mile lap followed a route round the streets and harbour of Castletown, Isle of Man, resembling the three-legged emblem of the island. The undulating route proved to be testing and the gusty wind at various points on the course added to the challenge. Nonetheless, 16 walkers qualified and we welcome them to the Centurions, their performances are a testament to their determination to succeed and the excellent support they were given. We are very grateful to Steve for the efficient organisation and extend our thanks and appreciation to him and his team. The most recent Centurion number is now 1211 so, as two numbers were not allocated (number 99 in 1933 and 453 in 1970 – full details in the Centurion Handbook), the total who have qualified is now 1209.

The Committee met on three occasions during 2019 at various locations to administer our affairs. Plans for this year's 100 miles are well advanced. It will be held on the 8th – 9th August 2020 in Lower Castle Park, Colchester. We have received enquiries from the Isle of Man, Holland, Belgium Germany and already have a number of entries which is very pleasing. Managing our finances for Colchester is going to be challenging. As the Isle of Man have organised the previous two races we have been oblivious to the rising costs of staging the 100 miles, so the cost of staging this year's race has therefore been a wake-up call. Our financial resources are slender and income stream unpredictable, and the indications are that our current mode of operation is unsustainable for the long term. This matter will be an item for discussion.

In November our Captain Martin Fisher C788, Chris Flint C849 and I attended the annual reunion of Dutch and Belgian Centurions, the CVN AGM. The Dutch have a flair for booking interesting venues and this year was no exception. We were given a warm reception when we arrived at the Textielmuseum in Tilburg (Holland) and, after socialising and touring the

museum, we presented badges and trophies to the Dutch Centurions. The trophies make a spectacular display and the Dutch always appreciate seeing them. On this occasion it was only possible because of Chris was willing to go the extra mile and transport the trophies in his car.

During the course of his first year in post, the Merchandise Officer Andrew Thacker C805 recognised that his work commitments meant that he was unable to fulfil the duties required of the role so he tendered his resignation. We are grateful for the work he carried out on our behalf and express our best wishes to him for the future. Merchandise is a key income generator for us so, in order to ensure continuity of sales, Chris Flint C849 resumed the role in an unofficial capacity until a new Merchandise Officer is appointed. We are grateful to Chris for taking this on and hope it will be a temporary arrangement.

I wish to extend our thanks to Richard Cole for keeping detailed accounts. These accounts will be presented to the AGM.

I also wish to record my thanks to the President, Pam Ficken, and to the Officers and Committee who have given their time, advice and encouragement throughout the year to conduct Centurion affairs. We have a busy year ahead as we organise the Colchester 100 miles and look to the future.

I wish the Centurions success in all their endeavours during 2020 and beyond,

Sue Clements C950

Hon. Secretary