



## **Captains Christmas Letter 2021**

Centurions, as we reach the end of our year we can reflect on the Secretary's list of those who have left our ranks, not just Centurions but friends who have given us their help and support. We remember them all and many I know will have competed with these Centurions in 100 mile events.

The year began with high hopes for our event planned for August but as the year progressed a decision was made to cancel the event it was a great disappointment to the committee that we were unable to organise a race in the face of uncertainty with Covid-19, plans are well in hand for 2022 and more of the planned event later.

Within the Race Walking calendar there are few events for the distance race walker however the Parish walk on the IOM remains a great challenge and with travel restrictions changing this is an event to be considered. Centurions were well placed in the race in 2021 and entries for next year's event in June are already open.

The committee has considered how we can support athletes looking to train for the 100. Committee member Richard McChesney and I have considered training events during the year for training up to 50 miles, but we can only do this with your interest and support. If there are walkers who feel this would be a help with their training, please contact the secretary through the website and we can organise training events for 2022 and if you know of any aspiring Centurions please direct them to the website.

Domestic Race Walking made a slow return from virtual walking in the spring and it was pleasing to see Centurions participating. The support given from Centurions in the organisation and running of events is a testament to their dedication and as walkers. We thank Dave Evans, Eric Horwell, Pam Ficken, Carl Lawton, Dave Ainsworth, Ron Wallwork and Pauline Wilson who have given their time.

The Enfield league remains popular and we hope that the league will provide a number of new Centurions in 2022. If you compete here then please do try to promote us by wearing the Centurions T-shirt or badge. Centurions again provided the winner in the historic Enfield 7 and we are pleased to congratulate Centurion Joe Hardy as the new president of Lancashire Walking Club. Lancashire run races throughout the year and look to be lining up a strong team for 2022.

Centurions participate in a wide range of events and I am not surprised when I see a familiar name pop up in an event I am supporting, if you have any news or event you are participating in let the secretary know and try to spread the word about Centurions were you can.

## **Middlesbrough Sports Village 2022**

We were disappointed that Southend were unable to support the race for 2022 and hopefully we can return in a future year. We are indebted to Centurion Dave Jones for his valued assistance in the initial contact with our partners at Middlesbrough and organisation of the 2022 event. Dave has experience from organising the Redcar 100 mile race and the initial meetings with Middlesbrough have been very positive and they are pleased to have this iconic event on Teeside.

The course is a tarmac lap of nearly 1km and hopefully will encourage first timers to try for the 100 and others to improve their times on previous years. All facilities are close at hand and with support from the Middlesbrough team we envisage a great international event.

We're also looking to promote the event to a wider audience reaching other endurance athletes while maintaining the integrity of the Race Walking rules and for the first time in many years there will be cash prizes for the first three in the Male and Female events.

Centurions, this is your event and we are looking for your support for the race, whether this is promoting the 100 or just letting the Secretary know you're coming on the day. All help is appreciated.

Entries are open at Entries Central

The 100 miles remains that iconic event of 'self against the clock' and everyone making that journey has their own story. We ask again that you jot down that story and send to the secretary to put on the website to inspire and encourage others thinking of following your achievement at Middlesbrough. Please look at the website to read others stories.

***It remains my privilege to join with you all at 2 o'clock on Christmas Day to raise a glass. The toast, as always, is "The Centurions"***

Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year

Martin Fisher C788  
Captain