



President: Pam Ficken C934

Dear Centurion,

I am writing as the new Centurions Secretary. Sue (Clements) C950 did a huge amount during her three years in the post and we are indebted to her for taking the Centurions through the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that contact was maintained in this difficult period. This hasn't been easy as our 100 mile events and other activities have all been put on the back burner. But now we look forward to the Centurions 100 miles and RWA long distance championship at the Middlesbrough Cycle Circuit, TS4 3AE on 20/21 August 2022.

The AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> January this year was a zoom meeting and attended by 24 Centurions with 15 Apologies recorded. This letter gives a summary of some of the issues discussed.

Customarily those Centurions who had died during the past 12 months were remembered, namely:

- John Price C214
- Freddie 'Perry' Baker C266
- John Barraclough C382
- Hans Leendertse C427
- David Jones C458
- Derek Harrison C466
- Peter Goodchild C471
- D A Wissekerke C595
- Graham Peddie MBE C605
- Martyn Greaves C614
- H W C Okkes C660
- Pia Rijploeg-Eisema C808
- Derek Appleton C888
- T. Damen C932
- Ray Platt C939

Their extraordinary achievements have been noted.

Sue and Carl Lawton C750 were thanked for their efforts to re-connect with those Centurions who had fallen off the radar, and there has been considerable success locating many although round 40 remain unaccounted for. **If you are connected to the Internet and have an email address which you haven't told us about please do so now.** It makes contact so much easier. My mail address is shown at the end of this letter.

### Finance

The Centurions financial situation is very sound following generous legacies and Richard Cole C928, Treasurer, reported that the examined accounts remain fairly static with a capital sum of around £17,500. He was thanked for his clear accounts, as was auditor Alex Ross C854.

## **Middlesbrough 100 Miles 2022**

The committee's decision to withdraw from the 2021 Southend-on-Sea track 100 was disappointing for athletes but extenuating circumstances made it difficult for the host club to proceed with the arrangement but are keen to welcome the Centurions back another year.

It is to the credit of Centurions Captain Martin Fisher C788 and committee member Dave Jones C987 that they identified an excellent lap course and facilities at the Middlesbrough Cycle Circuit. They have received considerable support from Middlesbrough Council and the Sports Village has discounted their hire charges by 50%, and chip timing is already booked.

This venue has not previously been used by the Centurions. It offers the opportunity for people from all sports disciplines to qualify as a Centurion, a feat achieved by only 1209 athletes since the inception of the Centurions in 1911 (other countries do have qualification events which follow our guidelines and standards). This location in the north east of the country should attract people from the Midlands and the North, and all Centurions should encourage participation from athletic clubs, the Long Distance Walkers Association, The Ramblers, and identify individuals who could complete 100 miles in 24 hours and qualify as a Centurion. Entries are open at [Entrycentral.com](http://Entrycentral.com) and already a steady stream have entered including from the Continent.

## **Preparation and Training**

Richard McChesney C1131 is organising an informal 12 hour training walk to be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 at Richmond Park in Surrey, starting at 7.30 am. It will consist of seven laps of the 11.75 km perimeter road. The intention is to complete each lap in a little under one and three-quarter hours, and will start at the Pembroke Lodge car park. Seven laps total 82.25 km (51.1 miles).

It is hoped that anyone who wishes to benefit from guidance on ultra-distance race walking technique will come along and get advice provided by experienced walkers. The training walk is flexible and walkers can start at whatever time they wish and do as many laps as they want, and use it as preparation for the ultimate challenge. Further details can be obtained from Richard at [richard@richardmchesney.com](mailto:richard@richardmchesney.com) His telephone No. is 07786 395779.

Other similar preparation walks are being discussed to identify appropriate courses around the country and details will be circulated in due course.

## **Centurions Constitution**

The Constitution provides a real step forward to clarifying our roles and how we operate, and the proposal by Richard Brown C750 and seconded by Sandra Brown C735 that 'The revised Constitution be Accepted' was approved. It was also agreed that the Covid pandemic over the past two years has been an 'exceptional circumstance' and the Constitution enabled a proposal by Eric Horwill C390 and seconded by Bob Dobson C786 that the President and Captain be invited to stand one extra year. It would provide the opportunity for Pam and Martin to realise their aims and objectives each had for their terms of office. Proposal approved.

## **Elections and Succession Planning**

The Committee was re-elected with Sue Clements adding the Web Manager role to that of Archivist, and the Merchandise Officer added to the committee. The decision by Sue Clements to step down from the Secretary role on personal grounds led the President, seconded by Carl Lawton C750, to nominate Chris Flint C849 to maintain continuity until a Centurion comes forward to take on this important role. Agreed.

The urgent issue facing the Centurions is for members to come forward to become committee members and take on roles, especially Assistant Secretary. It's an opportunity to understand what the Secretary does administratively and how he/she can influence the future direction of the Centurions and work to form a clear vision how to achieve it. Why not think about getting involved? Go on, put your name forward to be a committee member. As most meetings use zoom your geographical location doesn't arise.

The website <https://centurions1911.org.uk> contains a wealth of information and should be your first point of contact.

## **Social Walks**

Steve Kemp C1075 coordinates the social walks. They are widely publicised but not always as well attended as they should be which is a shame as they offer an opportunity to join a group exploring a route in different locations around the country and do what it says, socialise!

Walks in 2022 are likely to include a return to the White Cliffs of Dover, and a trail through Constable Country at East Bergholt, and possibly The Snickelways of York, a collection of small streets and footpaths in the City of York. Steve will keep everyone aware of dates and the route selected.

## **Centurions Merchandise**

Fleece £20



Polo Shirt (navy blue) £16.50



Polo Shirt (royal blue)  
£16.  
50



Polo Shirt (white) £16.50

Reversible fleece £30.00

Technical top £12.50





The kit can be ordered through the Merchandise Officer (see website)



### **Contact**

The email is [centurions1911@hotmail.com](mailto:centurions1911@hotmail.com)

Mobile telephone 07923 174883

Home telephone 01304 368324

I look forward to working and walking with you and please give me a call if you want to get more involved and do keep me informed of your walking exploits and achievements.

Chris Flint C849