



## **CAPTAINS CHRISTMAS LETTER 2022**

Centurions,

Once again we can reflect on the passing of those Centurions who have left us and the friends who have given us support over the year.

The beginning of 2022 brought high hopes as entries for the Middlesbrough 100 opened and entries slowly began to come in. It's clear that the lack of race walking distance races acting as feeder events for the 100 miles may ultimately have a major impact on the Centurion 100 events. Since Covid-19 there has been a decline in participation in shorter athletic events, and while longer endurance running races are experiencing a boom we need to consider how can we attract some of these new athletes to our event.

We will continue to promote endurance races and of course acknowledge the performances of Centurions who continue to excel at distance events from overseas 100s, 6-day races and domestic long-distance events. As we outlined last year if there is a demand for training walks to help walkers train for the 100 we could consider organising this. Our thanks go to Richard McChesney for giving his time for training with prospective walkers this year and more could be done if there is a demand. Please contact the Secretary through the web site.

### **Middlesbrough 100**

The trials of bringing the race from the drawing board to race day would fill a book, a learning experience for all! The original concept for Middlesbrough was to have a blueprint for holding a 100-mile race at a fixed venue for several years in the future should other venues not be available, and thus providing a suitable course for race walkers. It would enable others to use our experience as to the facilities required. Some requirements were beyond our control: volunteers/helpers for feed stations, and the difficulties of obtaining enough judges to maintain the highest of standards demanded of an RWA championship. It is a worry that will be difficult to resolve in future years. Once again, thanks go to Eric for his help with organising officials and also to those officials who helped.

On many visits to the course, one worry was a windy day blowing down the lap and, unfortunately, that's what we got on race day. 34 walkers started and from the off Jonathan Hobbs C1212 walked strongly and with the confidence that comes from dedicated training and preparation. Untroubled by the torrential rain he came home to win in 18.44.32. We had a further 5 new qualifiers with Adrian Edwards C 1216 the other British qualifier, and others being Diederik van Nieuwenhove, Gunter Luypaerts and Johan Stesman from Belgium and Jacqueline van Drongelen from the Netherlands.



Full results are on our website. But some of the tribulations of lights failing and committee members queuing for a dozen plus portions of fish and chips for the judges are not so thanks go to all the committee. The event was finished with a presentation in the warm sunshine. Since the event certificates have been presented by myself and Eric Horwill to Adrian Edwards at a Lancashire walking club event and by myself and Chris Flint to the Dutch and Belgian qualifiers at the Dutch reunion.

Plans are advanced for the 2023 100 miles event which will see a return to Middlesbrough on 19-20<sup>th</sup> August.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM in January for your opinions as they count as a guide to the committee.

As always it is a privilege to raise a glass with you all at 2.00 pm on Christmas Day. The toast is The Centurions.

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

**M Fisher, C788**  
**Captain**