



Centurions Captain's Letter August 2014

Dear Fellow Centurions

As our handbook says: "Now the matchless deed's determined, dared, achieved and done."

Southend AC and Centurions 100 miles race

Southend AC deserve the highest praise for organising an excellent 100 miles event at Southend's Garon Park track on 2-3 August. The club was a very good partner in every way. We thank them (June Cork, John Brock, Ray Pearce and Pam Dawson) most sincerely, along with Centurion Committee members Chris Flint and Kathy Crilley for their part in the planning and success of the race. The results are on our website. Thanks go to Pam Ficken who arranged the lap recording and to her team, to current and past Presidents Ann Sayer and Carl Lawton for their help in reviewing the results, to chief judge Jack Thomas for gathering together the dedicated trackside judges, last but not least, to those who helped at the athletes food and drinks table.

Hearty congratulations and a warm welcome to our five new Centurions:

- Antoine Hunting, C1130, 22.38.13
- Richard McChesney, C1131, 22.39.00
- Jayne Farquhar, C1132, 23.37.46
- Tony Hill, C1133, 23.40.57
- Mark Haynes, C1134, 23.46.34

Warm congratulations to: the race winner, Richard Gerrard C1106 on a fine performance, the Rotterdam [RWV] club's winning team, Sarah Lightman C1093 on her outstanding performance award and Midlands record, Frank van der Gulik C 1022 on his awards both for 2nd man and youngest finisher, and Robert de Wolf C 980 on the Eddie McNeir trophy for the first man over 65. The Chas Shelley trophy for the first W65, first awarded to Jill Green C 898 in 2007, was won by the Captain in 20.44.32, a W65 world record time.

Congratulations to all 13 who completed the 100.

I love our annual 100 miles event. I'm there for a fix, let's be honest - a fix of the purest inspiration and it comes from you, fellow Centurions. It's not just about the walkers, either, but those Centurions who come from far and wide - including our overseas friends - to support the race, acting as organisers, officials and helpers in every capacity to enjoy and be part of the very special atmosphere of the 100.

There are so many people to thank that any list is bound to be inadequate. On behalf of Centurions everywhere, a massive thank you to you all.

We hope those walkers who didn't make the 100 this year, including the two ladies who were so close, will try again - and succeed next time.

This year's 100, and the newly qualified Centurions, illustrate very well the inclusiveness and diversity of the Centurion family, including men and women, British and overseas walkers, race-walkers and athletes from cross-country walking and running backgrounds. The richness and diversity of the Centurions is a tradition which originates with our founder members,

such as John Edwin Fowler Dixon C1 and Ernest Neville C7, both of them ultra-distance walkers and runners, and GB and international officials. We continue to celebrate and draw strength from this diversity today.

Let's all spread the word about the Centurions in our various clubs, groups and communities, and let's encourage others to come and join in our activities - including our enjoyable social walks.

The Southend event received good media coverage, including from BBC's Look East which had an interview with past Centurion President, Carl Lawton. This was a bonus for the Southend club and community, and for the Centurions and walking generally.

I recently read a fascinating pamphlet about a famous early Centurion Tommy Payne, C18, a very successful athlete for some decades and a well-known professional musician. In this 1936 promotional pamphlet, he attributed his success in part to a tonic drink of the time called "Phosferine." I don't know about the properties of this drink, but I do think that the best tonic in the world is long-distance walking, and that Centurions are the greatest exponents of this!

Coming events

Our website is a great source of information about Centurion and other ultra-distance events on the Continent and around the world.

We shall be in action in Belgium, France and Holland this autumn. The Nijmegen to Rotterdam 100 miles social walk across Holland, and the Roubaix [Lille conurbation] 28h race-walk and 24h relay, both take place on 20-21 September.

For more information, see our website: www.Centurions1911.org.uk or contact Kathy at: Kathy.crilley@btinternet.com or myself.

Future Social Walks

Centurion social walks are a great way to meet fellow Centurions and friends for an interesting walk and a good day out. We welcome family, friends, and anyone who is interested to learn more about the Centurions and who may be thinking of trying 100 miles. We also welcome offers to lead a social walk, and suggestions for future walks.

Jill Green C898 has kindly offered to lead a social walk through "green" north London, visiting the home and burial place in Highgate of John Edwin Fowler Dixon, C1. Jill's walk will take place on **Sunday 7 December 2014, starting at 0930 at Archway tube station**. Please put the date in your diary now. The distance will be 12 to 15 miles, with stops for coffee [please bring a packed lunch]. This will be a great day out, with unique historical interest to Centurions as we visit the stamping ground of our first member.

Future 100 Miles Events

Surrey Walking Club is looking at a range of potential venues for the 2015 event. **Redcar Race-walking Club has confirmed its intention to put on a 100 miles race in 2016**. This will mark a welcome return of our qualifying event to the North of England and is great news. Please keep an eye on our website for further news about plans for 2015 and 2016 events. The Centurions rely on clubs coming forward to offer to put on a 100 mile or 24h event, with our organisational and financial help. **Could your club offer to organise a future**

100? Please contact us if you'd like to discuss your ideas.

We want your stories and photos please!

We want, through our archives, to put flesh on the names and numbers in our handbook. It's important that members' stories and photographs become part of our history and archives. Our archivist, Sue Clements, will be in touch further about this and would love to hear from you!

Email Sue at:

susancléments950@btopenworld.com

Our warm thanks to those who continue to contribute to our archives at the Surrey History Centre, Woking. Recent donations for our archives have included photocopies of two 1936 pamphlets about Tommy Payne C18, photos, programmes and press cuttings from the 1950s, and 1980 -2000, and lists of Leicester WC and York Centurions. The Surrey History Centre can now archive digital as well as paper records. Please keep these coming!

Donations and Legacies

We would not be able to put on our 100 miles qualifying events without the kind donations and legacies given by Centurions including both recently qualified and long-established members. One Centurion, happily still very active, recently informed us that he has made a very kind legacy to the Centurions in his will. A very big thanks to you all!

Donations should be sent to the Treasurer, Richard Brown, at our address below. If you are considering a legacy to the Centurions, please feel welcome to contact us. All donations, large and

small, are much appreciated and will be acknowledged.

My very best wishes to you all

Sandra Brown

C735 Captain

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