



October 2015

Dear Centurions

This newsletter is a bit late, but I wanted to catch all the Centurion activities over the summer and early October. And we certainly have been busy - there has been plenty of activity and successes.

The successes of Centurions in the Parish Walk in the Isle of Man (reported in the July Newsletter) was quickly followed by many Centurions participating in the Nijmegen Vierdaagse (4 Days) Marches in the Netherlands.

Spotted in Nijmegen were Hon Secretary Chis Flint, Captain Kathy Crilley, Hans Rennie, Sean Pender and on the home (Dutch) front - Frans Leitjens, Piet Janssens, pictured, (Piet was honoured as this was his 50th participation - can that be possible?) Ad Leermakers (and daughter Yvonne). Apologies if others were missed!



July soon ran in to August and a 6 day race in France - aptly named the 6 Jours de France where Captain, Kathy Crilley along with Suzanne Beardsmore lined up on the 2nd August quickly followed by New Zealander Richard McChesney who was competing in the 3 day (72 hours) race. All I can say, is that... well you have to give it a go..... It was one of those great unknown unknowns. The circuit was not the best encountered (old cinder track), it was also in the middle of a heatwave and worst of all, in my eyes, they didn't cater for vegetarians! (Never have I walked so far on so little!) However, as we do, we kept going and looked after and supported each other in true Centurion style. Records came and went - new British and New Zealand records were created: with Suzanne in the 40-45 age category record; Kathy in the the 65-70 age category and Richard broke the New Zealand 48 hours record. Frenchman Dominique Bunel broke the world record (752,271 km) held by Centurion (C.331) John 'Paddy' Dowling since 1983 (744,212 km).

The excitement of the 6 day race was quickly followed by our flagship event - the 100 miles.

This year our Centurion qualifying race was held in Castletown on the Isle of Man. Organised by Steve Taylor, Robbie Callister, Jock Waddington and a host of amazing and dedicated volunteers. It can only be described as one of the best 100 miles races ever. A total of 93 walkers started - out of which thirty two new Centurions were "made" that weekend! Congratulations to everyone who took part. It gave me a great sense of pride watching everyone overcome the problems that such a race as this throws at us.

Well done to Centurion 1107 Vinny Lynch finishing in a winning time of 19:14:21 and to Centurion 1117, Janette Morgan, first lady and third overall, in a time of 20:23:11. There were so many Centurions taking part that it is impossible to mention everyone by name. Committee members Chris Flint, Sandra and Richard Brown all acquitted themselves well (as I would expect!) Once again, Dutch and Belgian walkers made the journey to take part, even though it was a bit further than usual. Personally, I was very pleased to be in Castletown to support friends who had earlier supported me on the 2015 Parish walk and it gave me great pleasure to welcome Tony Mackintosh into the Brotherhood of Centurions.

As ever, nothing goes to everyone's personal race plan and favourites abandon for various reasons. But with such a race as a 100 miles, it is all about getting to the start and then starting the race - this always takes such great courage. No shame for those who never make it to the finish. It is always (in my eyes) the talking part that counts.

Following on from the Isle of Man 100, the new season of French 24 hours started with the classic Roubaix 28 hours which incorporates a 24 hour relay. Centurions (and non Centurions) participated in both these

events. Congratulations to Suzanne Beardsmore who was 3rd Lady with 175km and Richard McChesney with 205km. Kathy Crilley took part in the 24 hour relay.

A busy weekend as many Centurions were also competing in the End to End on the Isle of Man. Centurions once more featured heavily in the top twenty finishers with Richard Gerrard, the winner in 6:43:49. The top three ladies were all Centurions: Stephanie Quayle, Karen Lawrie and Jayne Farquhar. Well done, ladies! (Yes, I'm prejudiced!)

Also that weekend was the annual Nijmegen to Rotterdam 160km challenge walk. This is a very popular event and British Centurions Sandra Brown and Sue Clements took part as well as a host of Dutch Centurions.

Two weeks later saw Kathy Crilley in action again along with Sandra Brown in the St Thibault des Vignes 24 hours race. Blessed with good weather (yet again!). Sandra was 1st lady with 175,225 km and Kathy 6th lady with 135,797 km. Full report and photos on the Centurions website: <http://www.centurions1911.org.uk/2015-st-thibault-.html>

On the home front, Centurions have competed in a wide range of domestic races. From the 5 milers to the RWA 50km Championship a couple of weeks ago where Sarah Lightman finished 2nd lady.

Future events

On the social scene, the Dutch/Belgian CVN are holding their annual reunion AGM and lunch on the 21st November at the Bistro De Postduif, Wijk en Aarburg. All Centurions are very welcome.

The 50th anniversary of the CVN will be celebrated on 19th March 2016 with an anniversary lunch to be held at the Amsterdam Central Station where the CVN held their very first meeting. Again, all Centurions are welcome to attend. Details will be posted on the website when they are available.

The first of the 2016 French 24 hours races is Bourges on 27-28 February; followed a month later with the 24H of Chateau Thierry (26-27 March).

The Continental Centurions qualifying race will be held in Schiedam (Rotterdam) 14-15 May. There are a variety of distances on offer - 50km, 50 miles, 100km, 100 miles as well as the 24 hours. So no excuse!

For those who prefer shorter races there is opportunity to excel in Yorkshire: 24th May sees the traditional Whit walk, now in Kirby Fleetham. There will be two races, a 35km and new for 2016 - 50km. Information at <http://www.northernracewalking.com/products/kirby-fleetham-24th-may-2015/>

The next Centurions qualifying race will be held in Redcar, 6-7 August. Details will be on our website as soon as they are finalised.

There is plenty of interest in all these races, so if anyone would like to join the travelling party whether to compete or support - please get in touch (kathy.crilley@btinternet.com) it will be great to see you there!

Kathy Crilley C933,
Captain, Centurions.