



DEAR CENTURIONS

Well, what a year it has been - and it is only mid March!

First of all, though, I would like to thank you all for electing me as your Captain. It is a great honour, especially when looking back at all my illustrious predecessors!

The next two years sees our future "100s" secure in the hands of the Isle of Man (2015) and Redcar (2016). We now have to work hard in securing the follow-on years. And as Chris has written in his 2014 Secretary's report, many clubs are understandably reluctant to take on the heavy burden of organising and financing a 100 mile race. Somehow, we have to work together to make future hundreds happen, but between us, we do have a wealth of knowledge and experience to enable the Centurions to put on these events. We all have to decide on how we should approach 2017 and beyond.

Since the Canvey Island Centurions (with others) started the social walks in 2011 with a very long walk Hadrian's Wall, they have grown in popularity. Distances are varied. At first we were plugging long distances with view to "getting the miles in". Now we are much wiser and concentrate on chat, cups of tea and a pint at the end. However, there is still room for longer distances for training and social walks. These walks are a wonderful way to keep in touch with what is going on, who is doing what and where, etc.

If you have ideas for social walks please do get in touch with our Secretary, Chris Flint and Steve Kemp. Steve was elected to the Committee at the 2015 AGM with special responsibility for co-ordinating future social walks.

A social walk round Roman Colchester may be on the list for 2015 - no, not 100 laps of Castle Park for 24 hours! Something a little more relaxing. So watch this space.

So here we are, setting the scene for 2015.

On the racing side... at the end of February, a small group of Centurions took part in the Bourges 24 hours also the venue for the French National Championship which ensured a large field of 79 starters. The results and report (with photos) are on the website at <http://www.centurions1911.org.uk/bourges-2015.html>

Future races abroad include 24 hour race in Chateau Thierry (28-29 March) where more Centurions hope to compete. Following this, on 25-26 April, is the Dijon 24 hours which many Centurions have taken part in over the years.

The qualifying race for the Continental Centurions, this year (23-24 May) will be hosted by Olat in the small town of Weert on the eastern side of the Netherlands. Once again, there will be a Centurion contingency participating. If you wish to join us - please do get in touch. Details are on the website at <http://www.centurions1911.org.uk/weert-2015.html>

On the domestic side, the Centurion qualifying race will be held on the Isle of Man. Entries are open - so sign up now! Details at <http://www.isleofman100milewalk.co.uk/index.html>

The Enfield League attracts many Centurions and they are always acknowledged by organiser and fellow Centurion, Ron Wallwork. The next 5 miler is on 21 March at the Donkey Lane venue. I hope to see some of you there.

On the social side, last week saw walkers of all shades gather for the annual Metropolitan Police Walking Club at the Civil Service Club in London. This always attracts fellow Centurions and once again, it was a great event. which enabled us to chat with fellow Centurions.

I know we tend to concentrate on events happening in the South East, but if your club hosts a race (or a series of races) or have events where you or fellow Centurions have taken part, do let us know and we can publicise them on the website.

I will be writing of our endeavours on the website and through Secretary Chris Flint, we will be sending news to everyone of what we are up to and hopefully encourage some of you to come and join us.

Kathy Crilley

C 933, Captain