

**Carl Lawton C.750 Centurions President**  
**Centenary Christmas Newsletter.**

The Centurions Centenary Year has been busy one both for the Centurions and for me workwise and it has meant I have regrettably not been able to attend the funerals of some of our departed brethren (listed by the Captain in his Christmas newsletter) and other events.

Thank you to all those who attended the Centenary Dinner at the House of Commons on 14<sup>th</sup> May, as near as possible to the actual date of 11<sup>th</sup> May 1911 when the Centurions was formed. A splendid evening! Far too short and I did not manage to meet all of you. It gave me great pleasure to receive on behalf of the Centurions the engraved plate presented by our great Dutch brethren friends. My thanks to Bob Russell MP for Colchester who hosted the event, and also to the organising team for making it all happen, and many hours of work went into its fulfilment. I will mention later those whose efforts produced such a successful evening. Sue Clements C950 thanks all those who have responded to her request for your personal thoughts on what it means to be a Centurion.

The 100 Miles in 24 Hours event took place at Lingfield racecourse during the weekend of 2-3 July and attracted an excellent field and a resulted in 15 new Centurions. This is an exceptional number and our thanks go to Mark Easton and Surrey Walking Club for this well organised event, and for the first time in a number of years we had no rain! The use of the chip system eased the pressure on the recorders although there were times when walkers were unable to ascertain their laps. My thanks to all the officials and helpers who, as always, make the event such a success.

Many thanks again to Piet Jensens C389, Gerrit de Jong C.456 and Frans Leijters C.949 for bringing over, yet again, a large group from the Netherlands and Belgium to join us.

The presentation of medals to new Centurions and the award of trophies immediately after the event is a testing time as everyone is feeling a little jaded and occasionally mistakes are made. I am sure, however, that this is preferable to no presentations at all.

Due to work commitments I was unable to attend the Dutch AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> December but Hon. Secretary Chris Flint C.849 and Assistant Secretary Kathy Crilley C.933 were able to make the journey to present the Certificates to new Centurions and make awards to the winning team and other individuals.

**Annual General Meeting – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. January 2012**

We are due to have a change of Captain at the AGM. Charlie Weston C584 has been our Captain for 8 years and has decided to step down. I thank Charlie very much for his work and unstinting support over the years, for his Christmas newsletters and for sharing with me the pleasure of welcoming finishers, and of course new Centurions, at the finishing line of the 100 mile races.

The AGM will be at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London, SE1 8UJ on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012 starting at 1 pm sharp in the Gascoigne Room. (Doors open at 12 noon and refreshments can be obtained at the Bar). I hope to see as many as can make it to hear how the Centurions are faring financially and the plans for the future, and to welcome new Centurions into the Brotherhood/Sisterhood.

**Nominations for Posts on the Committee**

You will see from the enclosed nomination sheet that this year we are asking you to nominate a new Captain, and all the current post holders (President Carl Lawton, Secretary Chris Flint, Treasurer Hans Rennie, Asst. Secretary and Web Master Kathy Crilley, and Merchandise Officer Ian Statter, and the Committee) are willing to stand for re-election. However, if you would like to see changes you have the opportunity to nominate any Centurion for a particular post and at the AGM all the nominations will be put to those Centurions attending to vote on.

The purpose is to give all Centurions many of whom cannot attend the AGM the opportunity to put forward fellow Centurions they would like to see on the Committee and taking up one of the specific roles. As you know we are keen to get new volunteers to be involved.

If you are happy with the present set-up please return the nomination form indicating no change and add on the form confirmation that your address is correct. We would appreciate your email address to be added to a Centurions database (this would be in accordance with the Data Protection Act). If we can communicate electronically with as many Centurions as possible it will ease the postage costs and will make contact far easier.

Our small working group has met many times during the year using extra help on various topics. As with many organisations we have people who sacrifice much of their busy time to progress things and we are fortunate in having the likes of Chris Flint C849 as Hon. Secretary, Kathy Crilley C933 as Assistant Secretary who worked hard to ensure the Centenary Dinner was a success, Hans Rennie C915 whose management of scarce Centurions funds still managed to make a profit on the Dinner which has assisted in funding the publication of the new Handbook for which we give generous thanks to Sue Clements C950.


#### **Future Events**


Charlie Weston has included in his newsletter some dates for your diary of races both on the Continent and here in the UK. We are working hard to have a 100 miles in 24 hours race in 2012 at Colchester and the date is provisionally set for the weekend of 22-23 September. This is later than usual but the pressure on dates in Olympic year is intense.


The Race Walking Association is holding a tribute lunch for former Olympian race walkers on 7 July in central London, and if interested in attending Peter Marlow can be contacted on 01284 754177. His email address is [pmarlow@btinternet.com](mailto:pmarlow@btinternet.com)


There is one missing Olympian: Howard Timms. Does anyone know where he is?

#### **The Union Jack Club - the Gascoigne Room - AGM on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. January 2012 - Directions**

 **Nearest Underground Station**  
The nearest underground station is Waterloo on the Northern Line.  
Exit through the mainline station, Exit No 2

 **Nearest Train Station** - The nearest mainline station is Waterloo.  
We are directly opposite Exit No 2.

 **Train Links** ([Train Line](#))

 **Bus Stops**  
Waterloo Station, Waterloo Road.  
26,59,68,N68,X68,76,168,171,N171,172 & 176.

Please join me in our customary toast on Christmas Day at 2 pm to 'The Centurions'.

*Carl Lawton*

C.750, Centurions President.