

1923

The Handbook shows that the Country and Racing HQ had been moved to Tushmore House, Crawley (just before the Manor Royal traffic lights on the Brighton Road).

There was a new President in Harry 'Goss' Green. Green was one of the greatest unpaced riders of the pre-1914 era. He was an ex-professional. He had started racing at the age of 14 winning Grass Track handicaps in Carshalton Park before joining the Camberwell Wheelers. In their colours he made a name for himself in long distance races on Putney cement track. He then joined the Silverdale CC who had a number of fast track and roadmen in their ranks. Pairing up with W. Nelson on tandem they won many races. In 1896 he broke the Brighton and Back record – paced but as it was not 'claimed' it does not appear on the Record Books – only in Cycling. After this he turned 'pro' and rode for the 'Dunlop' Team and put many R.R.A. Records 'on the shelf' for more than 20 years. These included the 12 Hour Record (226 ¼), the 24-hour (402 ½), London to York (10hrs 19 mins), London to Liverpool (11 hours), Lands End to John O'Groats (2 days 19 hrs 50 mins)

The Vice Presidents had changed again F.S. Bale, G. Flint, G Langford, G Lomas, Walter Moon, A.E. Moon, A.P. Pazzi and Norman Upton appear on the list but off went Freddie Grubb, G Nutt, C Norrington and Ernie Sheppard.

The constant changing of the Vice Presidents is so different from today when it is rare for a VP to drop out of the list unless taken from us. One can only assume, as mentioned before, that they were considered more as Patrons and if you did not pay up you were not a VP next year. Who can enlighten us?

John Munns took over as Treasurer; the Captain was T Corner with Bob Bevan and A.E. Davis as Vice captains. The Committee was John Carter, George Colget, Freddie Gardner, S Hinds and Bill Kite. Timekeepers were Gardiner, Moffatt and Ernie Tugwell and Handicappers were Bob Bevan and Bill Burgin. Reporting Secretary was Ernie Tugwell and Racing Secretary was Bill Burgin.

While most of the information in the Handbook was the same as 1922 there was one very noticeable addition on the Medal Awards that really show you where the Paragon were heading. "A Gold medal will be awarded to any member who, riding in the name of the Norwood Paragon, wins a N.C.U. or British Empire Championship".

There were a few changes on the Special Prizes Page as well. Bill Hitchmough offered a Gold Centre medal for the fastest novice in the first 25 miles Handicap. A Novice was one who had never entered a race but it carried on to say "with the exception of the Kentish Wheelers Novices 25". (This event was the first race in many a career (including the writers') and it was promoted until the 1970s. Around that time the British Cycling Federation Rules were changed to allow under16s to take part in races on Track or Circuit. In addition the Inner London Education Authority was bussing children into Herne Hill as part of their PE lessons and a whole new range of Juvenile events were staged. This effectively took away the 'catchment area' of the KWs 25 as the youngsters were racing before they started riding properly with any club).

Amongst the adverts was one for Palmer Tyres. Road racing tyres were on offer for 12/- and tubes for 3/9. The standard Roadster tyre was offered for 12/6 W.E cover of 14/- B.E. cover (Wired edge/Beaded edge) with the tubes at 3/9. The Buccaneer cover was only 9/6 W.E or 11/- B.E. and the tube 3/3. Leader's Racing machine cost from £8.10.0d and G.E. Pepper, Watchmaker and Optician, of 1 Station Parade, Norbury was offering Alarms and Striking Clocks.

Thirty riders were down for the first Handicap 25 mile on April 29th and what a start. Over the winter young Frank Southall had bought a proper racing machine and had benefited from a winter season of Club Runs. The result - Fastest time, winner of the Palmer Tyre Company prize and a new Club Record, by 5", of 1.9.40! He was 4'02" faster than Ben Mason and 5'42" faster than 3rd man R Corner. He won the Handicap as well but to give the Handicappers their due Frank was on Scratch. After all they had been riding with him all winter! 2nd on Handicap was W.J. Smith 1.10.42 (10.30" allowance) and 3rd place F Nightingale 1.11.39 (6'). E.E. Davis won the Bill Hitchmough Medal for the fastest novice with a ride of 1.23.32.

The 50mile Handicap had 22 entries and R Corner, who has always appeared in the results as 2nd or 3rd finally had his Day, winning in 2.31.58 and to add to his joy his 8'30" allowance also ensured First handicap with 2.23.38. Ben Mason was 2nd in 2.32.45 and John Carter 3rd in 2.34.50. Corner's excellent ride gave him the Handicap by nearly 4' from F Nightingale 2.27.20 (9'30") with H Spurling 3rd with 2.28.44 (12').

A feature of these events was that the fastest men on Handicap, the scratch men, started FIRST and the slowest rider on Handicap started LAST. Today we tend to do the reverse to give a climax to the event. Other Handicaps during the year are not quite so strict in the field layout probably due to 'improvements' being reported the previous week-end and the Handicappers subsequent amendments.

On June 3rd Frank Southall was invited as one of the fastest 25 milers in the country to a Scratch Road Event promoted by the Fulham Wheelers. The Winner was H Hughes in 1.5.14, S Artaud was 2nd 1.5.35 and Frank Southall was 3rd in 1.6.20. He also won the North London '50' with a time of 2.21.59.

The second 50 miles Handicap on July 1st also had a large entry with 27 names on the card. Frank Southall was off No.1 and came back in 2.23.37 to take first prize and first on Handicap. He beat the old Club Record by 4'51. Ben Mason rose to the occasion also beating the Record with 2.27.15 and although he only had 1' allowance he claimed 2nd Handicap prize with 2.26.15. The rest had a good scrap amongst themselves but the top riders were in a different League. L Bignall was 3rd in 2.27.27 (5'), George Colget 4th in 2.27.34 (2') and A.E. Davis 5th in 2.27.35 (11'30").

July can be a nasty month for racing and the 29th was one of those days. 11 riders were down on the sheet for the 100 miles Handicap and the Dunlop Cup but only 3 made it to the Finish! George Colget held off Ben Mason by 1'34" (5.26.32 to 5.28.06) to win the Dunlop Cup but Ben collected the Handicap with 13' allowance. 3rd place and 3rd Handicap and the only other finisher was A.E. Davis in 5.59.25.

The 12-hour event was held on the 9th September and saw a new record established for the Tandem event when Bill and George Kite rode out time with 213¼ miles. Behind them, on their solo machines, was George Colget with 199 miles, Frank Southall 196 ¼ miles, and A.E. Davies 190 miles. E Gardner took the Handicap with 238 miles (183 plus 55). 2nd was A.E. Davis 230 miles (190 plus 40) and 3rd was T Corner 227 ¼ miles (182 ¼ plus 45).

Frank Southall's first representative race occurred on the 23rd September when he rode the London Association's '100' miles event as a member of the London South Team. Heavy rain before the race and many showers during it ensure a large number of non-finishes. Frank won in 5.4.08 3'52" too good for Dave Marsh (University) for London East and 7'10" faster than 3rd place man C Hearn (Marlboro) London West. No other rider from London South appears in the top 12 which stretched down to 5.29. This was a truly excellent ride in foul conditions.

The following week-end Frank continued his winning ways in the SCCU '25' coming home in 1.6.05 to win by 1'23" from S Loutit (Corrance) and 1'52" from D Hunt (Kentish Whs). The Kentish Whs won the Team Race in 3.25.37 from the Paragon Team of Southall, Ben Mason and Arch Allin – 3.26.29

October 7th was Mayne Cup day and 24 hopefuls were on the card. Scratchman off first, slowest on handicap last as per usual. Ben Mason duly obliged with fastest time, 1.11.10, but was closely pursued by Arch Allin with 1.11.21 and R Corner back in (his usual) 3rd place on 1.13.03. Man of The Day was George Moffatt who managed to get 7' allowance to win with a nett 1.7.28 but he only just made it as M.J. Gillard did 1.7.36 (also 7') and K Newcombe returned for 3rd place in 1.8.12 (9'). Last man off was G. Millard, the Tailor who advertised in the Handbook. He took 1.44.35 and was placed 19th in the handicap with 1.19.35! It gives you some idea of how difficult racing could be 80 years ago.

Frank Southall won the Club Championship. By dint of riding a 100 miles time trial on August 12th in 5.29.12 he collected 412 points that has been amended, in the record Books, to 390 without any alteration in the points awarded for the individual events. No one else listed appears to have completed the four distances. However on checking this seeming anomaly we found that both A.E. Davies (158 points) and A Ewart (122 points) did qualify – albeit at some distance from the winner. It would appear that the Recorder could not be bothered to finish the job once he had ascertained Southall's overwhelming point's score.

Earlier in the year Frank Southall had accomplished another first for the Paragon. In the W.L.C.A. Longmarkers 25" for riders who had not previously beaten 1.13.0 he won the race with a ride of 1.8.09. The first Association Race win for any member of the Paragon. This, of course, explains his scratch mark in the first 25 miles Handicap.

The Club Time Trials held at other times during the year should not be written off as rides for the boys to keep them amused. Some serious rides were done. Back on May 27th young Frank Southall astounded everyone by taking nearly 3 minutes off the Club Record with a ride of 1.6.45. If you are thinking that Frank's ride of 1.8.09 should have ranked as Club Record before the 1.9.40 in the Handicap 25 you have to read the Rule Book at that time. It says that it could not count because it was not done

on 'Southern' Roads, i.e. Surrey or Sussex. The W.L.C.A. promoted on the Middlesex and Berkshire courses.

During the year the S.C.C.U. organised an Open 25 miles handicap and H Spurling gained a 3rd place with a nett time of 1.3.03 2 minutes behind R Purchase of the Redhill who later joined the Paragon.

Also in the record Books is a reference to a 1 mile Grass Handicap at Caterham won by Frank Southall from A.E. Allin and Ernie Tugwell.

Then on September 2nd Bill and George Kite set up the 100 miles Tandem Record of 5.10.15 the week before they established the 12hour Record mentioned above. Then to round off the season Bill Hitchmough and R Corner took 34" off the 50 mile Tandem record set by Norman Upton and George Moffatt in 1911 recording 2.11.01. In all 43 Standard Medals were awarded this year. Nine were Gold and three were 'Special Gold'. To Frank Southall for his 1.6.45 '25' and to George Moffatt and Norman Upton for their Tandem '50'.

The SCCU Hillclimb on Titsey Hill saw another Open win by Frank Southall with 1st handicap to boot with a ride of 3'42.2" from N Robins (Polytechnic) 3'47.6" and A Little (Nightingale) 3'52.8". The Paragon was 2nd Team but we have no record of the other riders or their times.

Later on in the autumn a Club Hill Climb was held (on White Hill?) Fastest time was by Frank Southall and the Handicap went to S Weatherhead from Bill Burgin and F Nightingale.

Later in the year we had some other 'new' members from the Croydon Wheelers when it folded namely Bill and George Sagggers, E Gibbs and R Hole of whom more anon.

Quite a season! What will 1924 bring us?

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	25 tt		Handicap Result		
		27.4.24				
30	Entries					
26	Starters					
23	Finishers					
1	Southall F	1.06.10	1	Ware V	11.00	1.02.05
2	Allin AE	1.12.00	2	Carter J	11.00	1.02.37
3	Ware V	1.13.05	3	Roe H	15.00	1.06.05
4	Mason E	1.13.35	4	Southall F	Scratch	1.06.10
5	Carter J	1.13.37	5	Finn AW	14.00	1.06.58
6	Sagggers W	1.14.33	6	Baker F	12.00	1.07.03
7	Bignall LH	1.14.38	7	Allin AE	4.30	1.07.30
8	Nightingale F	1.15.46	8	Sagggers W	7.00	1.07.33
9	Hole R	1.16.30	9	Bignall LH	7.00	1.07.38

10	Gillard WJ	1.16.40	10	Powis W	15.00	1.07.44
11	Francis J	1.18.59	11	Nightingale F	7.30	1.08.16
12	Baker F	1.19.03	12	Francis J	10.00	1.08.59
13	Smith WJ	1.19.42	13	Hole R	7.30	1.09.00
14	Ward JP	1.19.42	14	Tarrant H	13.00	1.09.00
15	Weatherhead SH	1.20.15	15	Gillard WJ	7.30	1.09.10
16	Finn AW	1.20.58	16	Smith WJ	10.30	1.09.12
17	Roe H	1.21.05	17	Mason E	4.00	1.09.35
18	Tarrant H	1.22.00	18	Saggers G	15.00	1.09.42
19	Powis W	1.22.44	19	Ward JP	10.00	1.09.42
20	Spurling HL	1.22.48	20	Sutton LJ	15.00	1.10.03
21	Walker F	1.23.42	21	Weatherhead SH	9.00	1.11.15
22	Saggers G	1.24.42	22	Walker F	10.30	1.13.12
23	Sutton LJ	1.25.03	23	Spurling HL	6.00	1.16.48
	Scratch Result	30 h/c		Handicap Result		
		18.5.24				
26	Entries					
25	Starters					
24	Finishers					
1	Mason E	1.26.03	1	Brenchley EA	18.00	1.12.04
2	Carter J	1.26.05	2	Jarrett W	18.00	1.14.01
3	Saggers W	1.27.45	3	Davis AE	13.00	1.16.08
4	Ware V	1.28.42	4	Spurling HW	18.00	1.17.08
5	Davis AE	1.29.08	5	Finn AW	16.30	1.17.53
6	Brenchley EA	1.30.04	6	Carter J	8.00	1.18.05
7	Corner T	1.30.09	7	Sutton LJ	20.00	1.18.05
8	Spurling HL	1.30.55	8	Saggers W	9.30	1.18.15
9	Allin AE	1.31.02	9	Baker F	15.30	1.18.29
10	Gillard WJ	1.31.43	10	Mason E	7.30	1.18.33
11	Jarrett W	1.32.01	11	Gillard WJ	13.00	1.18.43
12	Newcombe K	1.33.46	12	Spurling HL	12.00	1.18.55
13	Smith WJ	1.33.53	13	Newcombe K	14.30	1.19.16
14	Baker F	1.33.59	14	Smith WJ	14.30	1.19.23
15	Finn AW	1.34.23	15	Ware V	8.30	1.20.12
16	Spurling HW	1.35.08	16	Walter EF	15.30	1.20.21
17	Walter EF	1.35.51	17	Hindson F	20.00	1.20.50
18	Sutton LJ	1.38.05	18	Roe H	18.00	1.21.16
19	Hole R	1.39.15	19	Corner T	8.30	1.21.39
20	Roe H	1.39.16	20	Davis EE	18.00	1.22.43
21	Davis EE	1.40.43	21	Allin AE	7.30	1.23.32
22	Hindson F	1.40.50	22	Sutton AR	20.00	1.23.49
23	Tarrant H	1.42.05	23	Tarrant H	18.00	1.24.05
24	Sutton AR	1.43.49	24	Hole R	11.00	1.28.15
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		15.6.24				
24	Entries					
21	Starters					
14	Finishers					
1	Carter J	2.28.02	1	Walter EF	25.00	2.17.11
2	Ware V	2.29.22	2	Tarrant H	26.00	2.18.28
3	Saggers W	2.31.56	3	Ware V	9.00	2.20.22
4	Brenchley EA	2.38.51	4	Carter J	7.00	2.21.02

5	Nightingale F	2.39.03	5	Saggers W	10.00	2.21.56
6	Walter EF	2.42.11	6	Ward FP	22.00	2.22.20
7	Ward FP	2.44.20	7	Nightingale F	13.00	2.26.03
8	Tarrant H	2.44.28	8	Newcombe K	18.00	2.26.47
9	Newcombe K	2.44.47	9	Brenchley EA	11.00	2.27.51
10	Jarrett W	2.45.27	10	Weatherhead SH	16.00	2.30.37
11	Weatherhead SH	2.46.37	11	Smith WJ	18.00	2.31.05
12	Smith WJ	2.49.05	12	Sutton LJ	26.00	2.31.05
13	Baker F	2.51.15	13	Baker F	18.00	2.33.15
14	Sutton LJ	2.57.05	14	Jarrett W	12.00	2.33.27
	Scratch Result	100 h/c		Handicap Result		
		27.7.24		Dunlop Cup		
14	Entries					
14	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Southall F	5.11.55	1	Hayward J	55.00	4.59.55
2	Colget G	5.39.42	2	Southall F	Scratch	5.11.55
3	Hayward J	5.54.55	3	Finn AW	50.00	5.18.22
4	Gillard WJ	6.00.55	4	Ward FP	50.00	5.21.35
5	Baker F	6.07.30	5	Colget G	16.00	5.23.42
6	Finn AW	6.08.22	6	Gillard WJ	35.00	5.24.55
7	Ward FP	6.11.35	7	Baker F	40.00	5.27.30
	Scratch Result	12 hours		Handicap Result		
		7.9.24				
16	Entries					
16	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Ware V	204.00	1	Newcombe K	50.00	226.00
2	Carter J	197.00	2	Potter A	50.00	224.00
3	Newcombe K	176.00	3	Weatherhead SH	45.00	221.00
4	Nightingale F	176.00	4	Carter J	23.00	220.00
5	Weatherhead SH	176.00	5	Ware V	15.00	219.00
6	Fox R	174.25	6	Hole R	50.00	215.75
7	Potter A	174.00	7	Fox R	40.00	214.25
8	Hole R	165.75	8	Nightingale F	35.00	211.00
9	Ward FP	161.00	9	Ward FP	50.00	211.00
	Scratch Result			Handicap Result		
				Mayne Cup		
21	Entries					
19	Starters					
16	Finishers					
1	Purchase R	1.11.35	1	Baker F	10.00	1.06.16
2	Allin AE	1.11.58	2	Hayward J	6.30	1.06.43
3	Saggers W	1.12.30	3	Pulling A	12.00	1.08.16
4	Hayward J	1.13.13	4	Gardiner F	11.00	1.09.06
5	Nightingale F	1.15.06	5	Newcombe K	6.00	1.09.25
6	Newcombe K	1.15.25	6	Mash H	8.00	1.09.28
7	Moffatt G	1.16.02	7	Nightingale F	5.15	1.09.51
8	Baker F	1.16.16	8	Moffatt G	6.00	1.10.02

9	Mash H	1.17.28	9	Saggers W	2.15	1.10.15
10	Fox R	1.18.44	10	Tarrant H	9.00	1.10.22
11	Tarrant H	1.19.22	11	Allin AE	1.30	1.10.28
12	Ward FP	1.19.26	12	Sutton LJ	9.00	1.10.28
13	Sutton LJ	1.19.28	13	Ward FP	8.00	1.11.26
14	Gardiner F	1.20.06	14	Purchase R	Scratch	1.11.35
15	Finn AW	1.20.16	15	Finn AW	8.30	1.11.46
16	Pulling A	1.20.16	16	Fox R	4.00	1.14.44