

## 1924

A change of Headquarters is the first new sign for 1924. HQ is now the Glo'ster Tavern, Whitehorse Road on the opposite corner to A.H. Allin's shop and the number of Vice Presidents had grown to 24! They were:- Arch Allin, Frank Bale, Freddie Baker, E Coppard, Charlie Davey, George Flint, Freddie Gardiner, H Newman-Godward, A Ingram, G Langford, George Laver, G Lomas, Tom Mayne, Walter Moon, A P Pazzi, Bert Pulling, F Richards, H Rofe, George Taylor, Norman Upton, T Wardley, G Webb and E C Woodall.

The Captain was Ben Davis with Ben Mason and Jim Smith as Vice Captains. The Committee was John Carter, George Colgate, S Hinds, Bill Hitchmough and Bill Kite. Timekeepers were Freddie Gardiner, Charles Laidlaw, Ben Mason and Ernie Tugwell, Handicappers were Bill Burgin, John Munns and Ernie Tugwell. All other posts were the same as 1923.

A few changes were made to the Rules for racing. Only 25% of Club Run points (18 points) is required for qualifying for Club Events. Special Prizes included a Prize from Bill Hitchmough to the most improved rider during the season, a Gold medal to the Member who makes fastest time in the *Club 30* (a new event) and Walter Moon offered a Gold medal to the Club Member who wins the most Open Events on the Track during the season. John Carter was also offering four small cups for 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest in the Club 100 miles Handicap, the fastest rider who has never finished a 100 miles event before, the longest distance in the Club 12 hour plus the 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 12 hour Handicap.

Some notes have come down to us from Ernie Tugwell that Club membership was about 120. The Winter runs had averaged 29 riders. The Club's Winter season Dances were also extremely popular. Frank Southall and George Flint had been short-listed for the Olympic Games! Four little snippets of information that show us that the Club had 'arrived' yet had not forgotten its roots!

Frank started the season well but not quite as expected as he 'only' came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Forest Open '25' by 9" from S. Artaud (Essex Roads) 1.11.21 to 1.11.30 on a particularly foul and wet day. In the archives is a picture of the crowd at the Finish all in capes and caps completely blocking, what was then, the A11. In the Cycling report Frank was described as "one of the most promising roadmen south of the Thames".

Then two weeks later won the W.L.C.A. '25' in 1.6.48.

The Club Races started on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Once again Frank Southall was first man off, first man back and the Club had a new 25mile Record in his time of 1.6.10. Second place of the 30 riders was A.E. Allin nearly 6' back with a time of 1.12.0. Vic Ware was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1.13.05 and Ben Mason 4<sup>th</sup> in 1.13.35. Ware had 11' allowance so won the Handicap comfortably with a nett time of 1.2.05, John Carter was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 1.2.47 (11') H Roe 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1.6.05 (15') This was also the Saggars brothers first event with the Paragon; Bill did 1.14.33 and George 1.24.43.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> Frank Southall rode the W.L.C.A. 30mile Event and broke Competition Record (i.e. the fastest time achieved ever in an Open or Association race) with a ride of 1.17.35.

The Polytechnic CC had organised, on May 17<sup>th</sup> an Olympic Road Trial and as Frank Southall had been short-listed he rode. Unfortunately nearly all the other riders that had taken part in the previous years World Championships declined the Invitation. The Cycling described the event as 'Hamlet without the Prince'. The course was of 117 miles all on the A5 starting near St Albans it came south to Barnet for 8 miles then turned and went all the way to near Daventry before returning back to St Albans. Watling Street has not changed much still being very straight for an English, or rather Roman, road but it is definitely not flat. The riders also had to contend with a southeasterly breeze that meant the last 50 miles were straight into it. Our man started, as usual, pretty quickly and at the 8 mile turn was 30" up but the whole field was only spread over 2'. By the first feed at Hockliffe Frank was leading in 1.36.00, H Fowler (Poly) was at 3', D Hunt (Kentish Whs) was at 4' as was A West (Bath Road) with the other main contenders out as far as 7'. Shortly after this West hit a cow (!) injuring his shoulder and ankle and while he continued for a while he had, eventually, to retire. Frank was the first to reach the far turn where he stopped for a feed! While this would be unthinkable today it was standard practice on long distance events both here and abroad. Actually turn times gave Frank the lead by only 1' from Pilcher who was riding very strongly after mechanical problems with F Stott (Century) at 4'30" with a trio of riders at 6' C.A. Morris (Speedwell), W Donovan (Kentish Whs) and H Fowler. The real race started after the turn.

By the time the riders returned to Hockliffe (81 miles) Frank was paying for his fast start and 'blew' in a big way. He was now 7' slower than Pilcher and shortly after he retired. Pilcher won in 6.12.23 just over 12' faster than Jack Holdsworth (Kentish Whs). The winner's speed was 18.87 mph!

A change was seen on May 18<sup>th</sup> when the second club event was changed to a 30mile Handicap. Twenty six riders had entered. First off was Ben Mason and he duly returned first and fastest but only just. A few minutes later John Carter came in and missed a win by 2". Ben had recorded 1.26.03, John 1.26.05! The E C Woodall Prize awarded to the winner must have been worth something to achieve that close a result. There was then a long wait to establish the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest as Bill Saggars, who got it, was No. 23 on the card. He came in with 1.27.45. The Handicap went to E A Brenchley whose nett time was 1.12.04 (18') 2<sup>nd</sup> was W Jarrett 1.14.01 (15'30") and 3<sup>rd</sup> place A E Davis 1.16.08 (13').

Overnight heavy rain, a persistent drizzle and a cold westerly wind met competitors for the University '100'. Frank Southall punctured early on taking 23 ½ minutes to get to the 7½ mile point that meant he was already 5 minutes behind the leader F Stott (Century RC). A second puncture before 50 miles took Frank right out of contention and he was 'satisfied' to finish in 15<sup>th</sup> place in 5.17.59 some 25'42" slower than the 4.52.17 of the winner Dave Marsh (University)

In the archives we have the Start Sheet of the S.C.C.U. 50 miles handicap for the Newman Godward Trophy on May 25<sup>th</sup>. 169 riders and first man off at 4.31am! Frank Southall (No.49 and on Scratch), A E Allin, Ben Mason, John Carter, Vic Ware

A E Davis and F Nightingale were our riders. The Newman Godward Trophy was won outright by Frank Southall and on his death was given to the Club for our Club Open Time Trial Championship. We do not have the result of this race.

Came June 15<sup>th</sup> and the first Handicap 50 mile event of the year. Everyone wanted to see what time Frank Southall would do but he punctured and retired. Judging by the times it was a rough day. 10 of the 24 entries failed to record a time. It was then left to John Carter to take the fastest time award with a ride of 2.28.02 beating Vic Ware by 20" (2.28.22) and Bill Saggars by 3'54" (2.31.56). The Handicap was taken by E Walter 2.17.11 (25') from H Tarrant 2.18.28 (26') and Vic Ware 2.20.22 (9').

The 6<sup>th</sup> July was the date of the London Associations '100' this year on the 'home territory' of the SCCU course. Once again Frank Southall fell foul of the puncture bug to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> spot with 5.18.51 but he was appreciably closer to the winner, Dave Marsh, than in the University '100'. On this day and course Marsh came in with 5.5.47 to win by 10'23" from Jack Holdsworth.

Frank Southall turned out again for the 100mile Dunlop Cup and Handicap on, it would appear, another rough day, to collect yet another new Club Record. Fourteen riders faced the timekeeper but seven of these failed to finish. Frank, as expected was head and shoulders above the remaining riders with a ride of 5.11.55 taking 9'57" off George Colget's record that had stood since 1913. 2<sup>nd</sup> was George himself in a time of 5.39.42. 3<sup>rd</sup> was J Hayward 5.54.55. His handicap time of 4.59.55 (55') enabled him to collect one of John Carter's cups for the 1<sup>st</sup> Handicap award. Frank Southall claimed 2<sup>nd</sup> handicap (5.11.55) and A Finn in 3<sup>rd</sup> spot with 5.18.22 (50').

The WLCA '50' saw another Southall win but only by 12" from Hughes (Marlboro) from a field of 199 riders. A rising headwind on the return 25 miles slowed riders considerably.

August also saw another Paragon First. The Club's first Open Team Win. This was achieved in the S.C.C.U. 'Syd Gray' 100. Frank Southall recorded 5.12.27 (with a puncture), Vic Ware 5.17.13 and George Colget 5.26.35 for an aggregate time of 15.56.15 beating the Catford CC by 11'.

Also around this time Frank rode and won the Anerley 12 hour event with 217¼ miles, Vic Ware covered 210 miles and John Carter 197 miles. This was unusual in two ways a) it was run on a Saturday and b) entry was by invitation only. Frank also surprised the pundits by riding this event on a freewheel to give his legs a bit of a rest on the downhill bits. Nearly every other ride mentioned during these early days of the Club's History would have been achieved on a fixed wheel.

There was a very good field for this event. W Donovan (Kentish Whs) led at 81 miles (near Fareham) by 4' but by 110 miles he had lost this lead to J Rossiter. At this point he was 1' faster than Frank Southall 15' faster than Vic Ware 5<sup>th</sup> place. However, from this point Frank took charge at 152 ¾ miles he had a lead of 7' over Rossiter and at 182 ½ miles he led by 8' from W Donovan and 9' from J Rossiter. At 201 miles Frank led by 14' from Donovan, 17' from J Holdsworth (Kentish Whs) and 20' from Rossiter. All day Vic Ware had had a fine scrap with Brown of the Charlotteville but unfortunately it was Brown who won. Brown was eventually 4<sup>th</sup> place just passing

Rossiter who tied with Vic Ware for 5<sup>th</sup> place. A pointer to the 'failure' of Jack Rossiter is that he had raised his gear to 85 inches. It is considered normal and more beneficial to lower ones gearing for long distances racing. In those days a gearing of 76 – 81 inches would have been considered reasonable. (N.B. Even in today's climate of multiple gears, very light equipment and very fast road surfaces the best riders use much lower gears in the long races than they would over 25 miles).

On August 30<sup>th</sup> Frank Southall joined Ben Mason on a Tandem and they proceeded to take nearly 5' off the existing 50 miles Record held by Bill Hitchmough and R Corner with a time of 2.6.08.

The Club 12 hour event was on September 7<sup>th</sup>. This was held in conjunction with the Southern Elite CC and it was reported as a 'splash'. One presumes that it rained rather heavily. Also reported was that 6 of the Elite riders went off course! In the end the greatest distance was ridden by Vic Ware with 204 miles (to collect a John Carter Cup), John Carter was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 197 miles with 3 riders collecting 176 miles F Nightingale, S Weatherhead and K Newcombe. Newcombe took the Handicap (and another John Carter Cup) with 226 miles (176 plus 50) with A Potter 2<sup>nd</sup> 224 miles (174 plus 50) and S Weatherhead 3<sup>rd</sup> with 221 miles (176 plus 45).

Sometime in September Frank Southall won the W.L.C.A. '50' with 2.18.07. *Cycling* tells us there were 185 riders! He also won the S.C.C.U. '25' again with a time of 1.5.22.

Another Club Record was broken when on September 28<sup>th</sup> Vic Ware and John Carter recorded 4.43.11 for the Tandem 100 miles, taking 27' off the previous Record and on the same day Frank Southall broke the 50 mile Record with a ride of 2.23.03 taking 44" off his own Record.

The last 25mile race of the season, the Mayne Cup, saw 21 riders face the Timekeeper. R Purchase came in with fastest time with 1.11.35 beating A.E. Allin by 23" (1.11.58) and Bill Saggars 1.12.30. Man of the Day was the Former Club President Freddie Baker who was given 10' allowance to take off his 1.16.16 and took the Mayne Cup from under the nose of J Hayward by 27". Haywards time was 1.6.43 (6'30"), 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Bert Pulling with 1.8.16 (12'). Behind Pulling the pack came in with Bill Kite and Freddie Gardiner tying with 1.9.06 for 4<sup>th</sup> place. Kite off 1'30" Gardiner off 11'. 6<sup>th</sup> place was F Nightingale 1.9.15 (5'15"), 7<sup>th</sup> K Newcombe 1.9.25 (6') and 8<sup>th</sup> H Mush 1.9.28 (8'). The Former President wins with a Vice President in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – who framed the Handicap, if that is not the wrong expression? How many pints did it take! It would never happen in our day – would it?

Also in October Frank Southall rode the S.C.C.U. '25' and recorded 1.5.22 to win. Alan Gordon won 4<sup>th</sup> Handicap. 199 entries of whom 171 started!

The Club also won the 'Clive' Trophy donated by Jack Clive of the Aero Café, Halstead. It was for Teams of 6 riders, fastest 4 to count, on a Kentish Course. (It was probably the Polhill course). The course was about a mile short and heavy rain fell but this did not deter the Paragon. Frank Southall was fastest with 1.4.28, 2<sup>nd</sup> was

Harry Grant. The Paragon won the Team with Frank, Vic Ware, Eric Gordon and Ben Mason

Forty four Standard Medals were awarded in 1924. Fourteen of them were Gold or Special Gold for the Club Records.

An interesting snippet taken from 'Cycling'. In 1924 there were only 24 Open Time Trials in the whole of the Country. This goes a long way to explain the multitude of Club Events and Time Trial Days the results from which enabled riders to enter, and be accepted for, Association Events (S.C.C.U., W.L.C.A. etc) that, in turn, gave the possibility of selection for an Open Race. As can be appreciated from the sparse number of available races competition was somewhat fierce. If you were a regular rider in 'Opens' you were undoubtedly 'An Ace'.

A further snippet – in the University Open '100' Frank Southall and John Carter collected 8 punctures between them. Frank 'only' came 3<sup>rd</sup> with 5.17.39 to the winners' 5.16.57 (H Stott).

### Track Racing

The earliest records we have of members competing in Open Track Meeting occurred this year. In the Caterham Sports (Grass) at Whitsun A.E.Allin collected 2 3<sup>rd</sup> places in the 880 yards and 1 mile Handicaps then the following week-end at Redhill collected a win in the 880 yards and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Mile. E.E. Gordon was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Mile at Eastbourne. Harry Brown took part in the N.C.U. Tandem Paced 50 miles at Herne Hill.

August Bank Holiday and again at Caterham A.E. Allin and E Gibbs collected 2 1<sup>st</sup> places and 2 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the 880 yards and Mile races. George Burgin, son of Bill, won the slow bicycle race! E.E. Gordon collected 3 1<sup>st</sup> places at venues unknown.

A 'Closing Run' was held and Ladies were invited to attend. 'Closing' and 'Opening' celebrations date from the very earliest Cycling days. The roads were so bad in the Winter that it was usual to stop riding early in October and not venture out into the byways until March. Often these two Runs finished with a Social gathering in the afternoon or evening, with food, dancing and entertainment (most of which was supplied by the members). The Paragon was unusual in that it had runs throughout the winter months. Over the years as more and more roads were macadamised the necessity for abandoning the cycle during the winter decreased. The Old Portlians Cycling Club were still holding their Social Openers and Closers well into the 1960s.

Nothing changes! It was reported that 35 chainless members dropped down Tilburstow Hill in the Freewheel Competition (And we still do it in 2004 on the same hill and at the same time of year!). In 1924 the winner was Fred Nightingale, 2<sup>nd</sup> Freddie Gardiner and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Hitchmough.

The following winter 1924/25 the Social Sub-Committee organised 6 monthly Carnival Dances at the Pembroke Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in each month from October through to March - a pattern that was to remain unbroken for many years.

## Club Time Trial Results

	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>25 tt</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>27.4.24</b>				
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	Saggers 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	Saggers 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
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>30 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>18.5.24</b>				
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
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>50 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>15.6.24</b>				
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
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>100 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>27.7.24</b>		<b>Dunlop Cup</b>		
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
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>12 hours</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>7.9.24</b>				
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
	<b>Scratch Result</b>			<b>Handicap Result</b>		
				<b>Mayne Cup</b>		
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