

## 1925

From 1925 onwards the History of the Club becomes easier to tell as we have the Minute Books, the 'Rag', (the information magazine of the Paragon), the Handbooks, the Time Trial record books and the Track Record Books PLUS, increasing numbers of extracts from *Cycling*, (which shows the name of the Paragon spreading to all parts of the country), and personal recollections of past endeavours.

The Handbook tells us that once again there are wholesale changes amongst the Vice Presidents. Freddie Baker, E Coppard, George Flint (off to Australia), G Langford, A.E. Moon, George Taylor and G Webb are out and in come A Fuller and Bill Pett. The Club has a Country HQ at the Aero Café, Halstead. The Captain was Jim Smith with Vice Captains Ben Mason and H Tarrant. The Committee was John Carter, George Colget, G Millard, Vic Ware and E.C. Woodall. Timekeepers Freddie Gardiner, A.E. Davis and Ernie Tugwell and Handicapping under the auspices of none other than Bill Pett of the N.C.U. The one significant change was the appointment of A.E. Potter as Honorary Social Secretary.

Just how far the Paragon had spread its wings was shown at the AGM (52 members attended). It was actually proposed (and passed) at the AGM that the club should also affiliate to the CTC (Cyclists Touring Club) as so many members were awheel both in the United Kingdom and abroad. However it was then realised that it would require each member to pay about 2/- on top of their normal Subscriptions whether they were to become active tourists or not. It was decided not to pursue the matter further.

A new section appears in the Handbook for Wednesday Evening Runs (unofficial – i.e. no Club Runs Points) from April 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Stops included Mrs Curds at Godstone, 'The Fox' on Coulsdon Common, The Teapot, Biggin Hill, the 'Leather Bottle' Warlingham, the Aero Café, Halstead, naturally, and the Glyn Arms, Ewell. These supplement the Saturday afternoon Runs (also unofficial).

Only two Special Awards are listed for 1925; a Gold medal for Fastest time in the 50 mile Handicap from A.H. Allin and a Gold Medal for the Fastest time in the 100 mile Handicap from Charlie Davey.

There is a note in the Minutes that Frank Cleeve was elected a member on 22 January 1925 and that 80 members were affiliated to the NCU (National Cyclists Union) the organisation that controlled Track Racing and insured its members riding on the open road. The CTC also had a similar scheme but would not cover one for racing.

In April there was an interesting note that Caterham Sports Club wanted to amalgamate with the Paragon - but the idea was rejected 'after considerable discussion' but with a wish that the friendly feeling between two clubs would continue. Was this a missed opportunity to develop our sport or plain common sense. Who can now tell?

Alf Watkins became a member on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Two course amendments were also agreed. The Club '50' course was to start and finish by the 'Sun Inn' Crawley. It went north to Lowfield Heath (across what is now

the runway at Gatwick Airport) to Povey Cross, then to the Angel, Woodhatch (on what is now the A217). The course turned right passing the back of Earlswood Lakes to meet the Brighton Road (now A23) just north of Salfords. (There was once a school between the fork roads hence the name 'Schoolhouse Hill'). It then continued to 'The Chequers' Horley where it took the left fork to Pound Hill. Turn left here (this is now a roundabout) and go across Copthorne Common (no slipway to the M23 in those days!) to the Duke's Head Roundabout. Turn left to Newchapel Green. Turn left at the junction with the Eastbourne Road (now A22 by the Mormon Temple) to the railway bridge at South Godstone. You then turned in the middle of the road and retraced to Crawley.

The 12hour course was to be changed, as far as I can ascertain, to go from Angmering directly to Arundel rather than going through the village to Littlehampton then back to Arundel.

A Dance was to be arranged at the Winter gardens instead of the Pembroke Halls on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1925 and a momentous decision was made on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Ladies were to be invited to the Club Dinner on 5<sup>th</sup> December. (Tickets 5/6).

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September arrangements were made for a Club Photo on the first Winter Run plus the usual Freewheel competition. A 5 miles Walking Handicap starting and finishing by Bales Tea Rooms in Ewell (FS Bale was a Vice President of the Club) and a Hare and Tortoise race. This was a pairs event. One rider went as fast as he could to a given point and back again. The other rode as slow as he could down the course. The rider who had covered the LEAST ground by the time his partner returned was the winner. All good fun when you had the winter roads to yourself.

It should also be borne in mind that many of the people who did own cars garaged them during the winter (which also avoided paying Road Tax and Insurance for 6 months) as the minor roads were generally so bad.

The Club Hill Climb was to be held in conjunction with the SCCU event on 11<sup>th</sup> October. E.E. Cleeve was elected at this Meeting.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> November a 'Steak Supper' was held at Crawley.

A further interesting point surfaced on the Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November when the question of Prizes was raised. In those Amateur days riders could not accept monetary prizes. In many cases one had to spend the money on a 'suitable' prize and send the receipt to the club for reimbursement. The Committee decided that ALL prizes should be obtained from Messrs Denton and Down. 'Wearing apparel and cycle accessories being considered unsuitable as prizes and therefore banned!'

Three new members who were to prove themselves excellent riders were elected at this Meeting Fred Stokes, O.R. Heath (Reg) and R Cooper

If you thought Frank Southall had ridden well in his first two seasons with the Club you were right. He had shown talent that others could not match locally. In 1925 he was ready for National recognition and on Easter Monday 1925 in the Etna '50' on the Bath Road he tore the Record Book to shreds. His 2.8.31 was Competition

Record by 5 minutes in the first 50 of the year! It was probably the most sensational ride of his career as no one, apart from Paragon riders, was expecting it. The Timekeeper refused to allow the Result Board man to post Frank's time. He thought Frank had turned short. They had to wait for the Turn Marshal and Checker to ride back from Savernake Forest after the last man had turned. The Bath Road Course was a true out and back with 25 miles both ways. So these two fellows rode the whole distance not being aware that the 'whole world' was waiting their arrival and you are not at your fastest after standing in the middle of the road in the early hours of the morning for two or more hours. Sufficient to say Frank got the Record and the Race. It should also be pointed out that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed riders -Bill Temme, (Glendene) and R Wells (Poly) and also broke Competition record with rides of 2.14.33 and 2.14.46 – a fact often overlooked.

The SCCU '25' for Clubs L to Z saw Frank Southall in action again. No fast times today though as two machine changes because of punctures slowed him somewhat. However he was still fast enough to win in 1.7.06 just beating Dick Purchase by 1'2" and with Vic Ware coming in 4<sup>th</sup> with 1.9.47 the Paragon won the Team race. The Paragon also claimed 2<sup>nd</sup> Team prize but the only time known is EA Mason with a ride of 1.10.28 for 7<sup>th</sup> place.

While these momentous events were taking place the Club continued its programme of Club Handicaps and Time Trials. The first of these being the 25 miles Handicap on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Three well-known names appear for the first time among the 29 riders, Frank Burton, Monty Southall, Frank's little brother and only 17, and Frank Cleeve.

Monty started as he meant to continue with the fastest time of 1.9.29, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Ben Mason 1.10.11 and 3<sup>rd</sup> one Alf Watkins with 1.10.15. The Handicap was won by a Mr Powis in 1.6.16 (6') from Monty Southall 1.7.29 (2'). J Hayward was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1.7.45 (3'), Frank Burton was 4<sup>th</sup> 1.8.10 (6') and Watkins 5<sup>th</sup> 1.8.15 (2'). (Frank Cleeve punctured and retired).

On the same day Frank Southall won the WLCA '50' with a ride of 2.17.22 from 144 other competitors of whom 101 finished.

The SCCU '50' was held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and a real surprise as A Satchell (Fulham Whs) beat Frank Southall by 1" with a ride of 2.15.27. To say this was unexpected is an understatement. Satchell had 10' Handicap Allowance! Also because of this superb ride the Fulham Whs beat the Paragon for the Team Race with 7.6.23 to the Paragon's 7.10.15. Jack Hayward and Frank Cleeve were the other members of the Team but their times are unknown.

Herne Hill on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> was the venue for Frank Southall's attack on the National 1 hour Track Record. The existing record was 25 miles 129 yards set by HG Bramwell in 1921 and it was considered that ideal conditions would be required to better that distance. On the night there was a blustery wind blowing across the Track – nowhere near ideal conditions. Riding a gear of 91 inches Frank started with a first mile of 2'11.8" against Bramwell's 2'17.6" and increased his lead every mile. By half distance he was 1'15" inside the Record increasing this to 1'58.2" by 21 miles. From then the conditions, distance and speed began to tell and Frank lost a few seconds passing the old record with 1'52" in hand. In the remaining time he added

another 2½ laps of the Track to run out time with 25 miles 1520 yards. The report from 'Cycling' said "It was a terribly punishing ride and he was noticeably flagging at the end....(!)"

The organisers of the Anfield '100' had invited Frank Southall to their annual classic in the wilds of Shropshire on Whit Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Frank, as usual, started fast and at 28.37 miles his time of 1.17.30 was 15" faster than Pilcher (Poly) and 30" better than Andy Wilson the Yorkshire RC flyer. However the weather turned rather nasty after this and Frank took 1 hour 5 minutes for the next 21 miles but Andy Wilson didn't. He led at half distance in 2.22.54 from Frank's 2.24.37. From then on Wilson drew further and further away winning in 4.55.31 – a course record. Frank Southall finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 5.8.37 just holding off G Matton (Highgate) 5.8.42.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> John Carter and R Purchase attacked Southall and Mason's 50 miles Tandem Record and missed by 25" with a ride of 2.6.33. They won a Gold Standard Medal but it's not the same.

The 50 miles Handicap on June 14<sup>th</sup> saw Frank Cleeve back where we expected to find him returning fastest time with a ride of 2.26.21 beating Bill Sagggers by 3'30" (2.29.51) and F Nightingale by a further 13" (2.30.04). Nightingale collected First on Handicap Medal with 2.20.04 (10') with Bill Hitchmough 2<sup>nd</sup> with 2.21.29 (13') and Bill Sagggers 3<sup>rd</sup> with 2.24.51 (5').

North of London Frank Southall was riding the Kingsdale '50' on a cold and windy morning. Although fast times were out of the question Frank duly won in 2.13.36 beating Bill Temme (Glendene) by nearly 3' (2.16.20) and having the satisfaction of beating Satchell (Fulham Whs) who beat him by 1" in the SCCU '50'

Amongst the Time Trials on the 21<sup>st</sup> June there were three outstanding rides. Watkins and Mash had a go at the Tandem '50' Record but they missed by 51" with a very creditable 2.6.59. John Carter and R Purchase went for the Tandem 100 miles Record and got it with a ride of 4.36.03. This took 7'08" off Vic Ware and John Carter's Record. Then Frank Southall produced a ride of 1.2.21 to beat his own Record by 3'49".

The following week Frank rode a 50 miles time trial that was also an attack on the S.R.R.A. Record. Once again he lowered both his own Record by 12'14" with a ride of 2.11.41 and the Southern Roads Record.

It was reported in Cycling on the 10<sup>th</sup> July that before the Imperial Wheelers Club '25' Frank Southall had ridden a time trial over their course in 1.01.33.8". There are many today who would like to have that time as a personal best!

July 19<sup>th</sup> and yet another Club Record, not for Frank, but for Mash and Watkins who had another crack at the Tandem '50' Record and this time got it. 2.5.53 was the time and 15" better than the previous Record.

A week later was the 100 miles handicap and from the Result it was probably a rather nasty day. Twenty riders were on the Start List, two failed to answer the Timekeeper and nine failed to finish. It did not seem to affect Frank Cleeve as he came back with

5.08.24 to take the Dunlop Cup, Charlie Davey's Gold Medal, a Gold Medal for 1<sup>st</sup> on Handicap and a Gold Medal for the new Club Record. Not only that he beat Frank Southall. (Not many people could say that in 1925 or for years after). Quite a good mornings work! Frank recorded 5.9.11 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place (did he have trouble?) John Carter was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 5.15.43 and J Hayward 4<sup>th</sup> with 5.16.45. The Handicap was won, as mentioned, by Frank Cleeve with 4.58.24 (10'), 2<sup>nd</sup> was J Hayward 5.2.35 (14') and 3<sup>rd</sup> was John Carter 5.3.43 (12').

Frank Southall was 21 on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1925

Around that time of year Frank Cleeve also won the S.C.C.U. 'Syd Gray' 100 miles race with a time of 5.13.58.

Encouraged by their successful attack on the '50' Record Mash and Watkins decided to go for the '100' on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Their efforts paid off and with a time of 4.35.28 they took the Record by 35". Yet another Gold Medal for the Club Treasurer to pay for.

Club 12 hour day was August 30<sup>th</sup> and even more Club Records. J Hayward rode the greatest distance with 205<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles beating John Carter's old Club Record by <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile. 2<sup>nd</sup> was Bill Saggars with 193<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Hitchmough with 192<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles. In the Tandem Section were John Carter and R Purchase on one machine and Mash and Watkins on another. Both beat the existing Record held by George and Bill Kite with 213<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles; Carter and Purchase covering 231<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles, Mash and Watkins 221 miles. Unfortunately Mash and Watkins started 20' behind the other pair so their Record was ignored. On the other hand both pairs had ridden so well that in the Handicap although they 'owed' 23 and 18 miles respectively Carter and Purchase were 1<sup>st</sup> and Mash and Watkins 3<sup>rd</sup>. J Hayward was the man in the middle in 2<sup>nd</sup> spot.

The Forest '50' on September 13<sup>th</sup> was another win for Frank Southall. Riding his usual 83 inch gear on a cold and misty morning he took 3' off the course record. His 2.10.33 beat D Nash (Poly) by 3'46" with F Stott (Century) even further in arrears 2.17.38.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, a time trial day, Frank Southall attacked the S.R.R.A. 100 miles Record and established two new Records for the S.R.R.A. and Paragon with a ride of 4.55.07. This took 13'17" off Frank Cleeve's Club Record!

Twenty seven riders were entered for the 1925 'Mayne' Cup '25' and twenty one of them started. Alf Watkins came in with the fastest time of 1.9.30 beating R Purchase by 36" (1.10.16) and W Jones by 1'35" (1.11.05). Man of the Day was F Baldock whose 1.14.35 was subject to 8' deduction giving him 1.6.35. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Freddie Gardiner 1.7.05 (12'30"), 3<sup>rd</sup> H Roe 1.8.02 (7'), 4<sup>th</sup> W Jones 1.8.05 (3'), 5<sup>th</sup> H Mash 1.8.11 (6'30"), 6<sup>th</sup> A Watkins 1.8.30 (1') and 7<sup>th</sup> E Newcombe 1.8.40 (6'30").

I would imagine that there were long and detailed discussions over the Club Championship this year. The way the Rules were written one would assume that the Winner had to complete at least one ride at each of the four distances of 25, 50 and 100 miles and a 12 hour. In 1925 6 riders achieved this goal but the Club Championship was awarded to Frank Southall who did NOT ride the 12 hour event!

Granted that on Points score he had 537 for his three races as against his nearest rival, R Purchase, 405 for his four. (J Carter had 399, H Mash 381, A Watkins 377, Bill Saggars 287 and A Finn 114). Interesting!

### Club Time Trial Results

	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>25 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>3.5.25</b>				
29	Entries					
29	Starters					
18	Finishers					
1	Southall MG	1.09.29	1	Powis	6.00	1.06.16
2	Mason E	1.10.11	2	Southall MG	2.00	1.07.29
3	Watkins A	1.10.15	3	Hayward J	3.00	1.07.45
4	Hayward J	1.10.45	4	Burton F	6.00	1.08.10
5	Allin AE	1.11.02	5	Watkins A	2.00	1.08.15
6	Powis	1.12.16	6	Bull	6.00	1.08.33
7	Colget G	1.13.46	7	Pulling A	10.30	1.09.19
8	Burton F	1.14.10	8	Mason E	Scratch	1.10.11
9	Bull	1.14.33	9	Allin AE	0.30	1.10.32
10	Hitchmough W	1.16.22	10	Willsmore	5.30	1.11.09
11	Saggars G	1.16.24	11	Tarrant H	7.30	1.11.11
12	Willsmore	1.16.39	12	Finn AW	7.00	1.11.56
13	Billingham CF	1.17.08	13	Newcombe	6.00	1.12.29
14	Newcombe	1.18.29	14	Colget G	1.00	1.12.46
15	Tarrant H	1.18.41	15	Hitchmough W	3.30	1.12.52
16	Finn AW	1.18.56	16	Billingham CF	3.00	1.14.08
17	Brenchley A	1.19.00	17	Brenchley A	4.00	1.15.00
18	Pulling A	1.19.49				
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>50 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>14.6.25</b>				
20	Entries					
18	Starters					
12	Finishers					
	Roe/Allin AE (Tand)	2.19.23	1	Nightingale F	10.00	2.20.04
1	Cleeve F	2.26.21	2	Hitchmough W	13.00	2.21.29
2	Saggars W	2.29.51	3	Saggars W	5.00	2.24.51
3	Nightingale F	2.30.04	4	Colget G	5.00	2.26.13
4	Colget G	2.31.13	5	Cleeve F	Scratch	2.26.21
5	Hitchmough W	2.34.29	6	Henn	10.00	2.29.10
6	Watkins A	2.38.06	7	Roe/Allin AE (Tand)	plus 12.00	2.31.23
7	Henn	2.39.10	8	Willsmore	10.00	2.32.46
8	Willsmore	2.42.46	9	Watkins A	5.00	2.33.06
9	Tarrant H	2.49.36	10	Tarrant H	15.00	2.34.36
10	Newcombe E	2.52.58	11	Newcombe E	18.00	2.34.58
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>100 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>26.7.25</b>		<b>Dunlop Cup</b>		
20	Entries					
18	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Cleeve F	5.08.24	1	Cleeve F	10.00	4.58.24

2	Southall F	5.09.11	2	Hayward J	14.00	5.02.35
3	Carter J	5.15.43	3	Carter J	12.00	5.03.43
4	Hayward J	5.16.35	4	Purchase R	20.00	5.08.13
5	Purchase R	5.28.13	5	Southall F	Scratch	5.09.11
6	Saggers W	5.29.58	6	Saggers W	20.00	5.09.58
7	Allin AE	5.44.20	7	Saggers G	29.00	5.24.55
8	Newcombe E	5.53.07	8	Allin AE	18.00	5.26.20
9	Saggers G	5.53.55	9	Newcombe E	25.00	5.28.07
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>12 hours</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>30.8.25</b>				
15	Entries					
15	Starters					
13	Finishers					
1	Carter/Purchase (Tand)	231.50	1	Carter/Purchase (Tand)	owe 23	208.50
2	Mash/Watkins (Tand)	221.00	2	Hayward J	Scratch	205.75
1	Hayward J	205.75	3	Mash/Watkins (Tand)	owe 18	203.00
2	Saggers W	193.50	4	Hitchmough W	6.00	198.75
3	Hitchmough W	192.75	5	Saggers W	4.00	197.50
4	Burton F	188.25	6	Bull	9.00	197.00
5	Bull	188.00	7	Finn AW	7.00	194.75
6	Finn AW	187.75	8	Burton F	6.00	194.25
7	Colget G	185.75	9	Pitcher AR	9.00	192.50
8	Pitcher AR	183.50	10	Willsmore	11.00	191.00
9	Willsmore	180.00	11	Colget G	1.00	186.75
10	James HA	178.25	12	James HA	6.00	184.25
11	Fell FM	164.75	13	Fell FM	6.00	170.75
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>25 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>4.10.25</b>		<b>Mayne Cup</b>		
27	Entries					
21	Starters					
20	Finishers					
1	Watkins A	1.09.30	1	Baldock F	8.00	1.06.35
2	Purchase R	1.10.16	2	Gardiner F	12.30	1.07.05
3	Jones W	1.11.05	3	Roe H	7.00	1.08.02
4	Allin AE	1.11.49	4	Jones W	3.00	1.08.05
5	Nightingale F	1.12.35	5	Mash HL	6.30	1.08.11
6	Cleeve F	1.13.32	6	Watkins A	1.00	1.08.30
7	Henn H	1.13.33	7	Newcombe E	6.30	1.08.40
8	Baldock F	1.14.35	8	Henn H	4.30	1.09.03
9	Mash HL	1.14.41	9	Tarrant H	8.00	1.09.06
10	Pitcher AR	1.14.48	10	Nightingale F	3.00	1.09.35
11	Roe H	1.15.02	11	Purchase R	Scratch	1.10.16
12	Newcombe E	1.15.10	12	Allin AE	1.50	1.10.19
13	Tarrant H	1.17.06	13	Pitcher AR	3.30	1.11.18
14	Baker F	1.17.33	14	Cleeve F	2.00	1.11.32
15	Finn FG	1.19.17	15	Davis AE	7.30	1.12.01
16	Davis AE	1.19.31	16	Baker F	5.00	1.12.33
17	Gardiner F	1.19.35	17	Finn FG	6.00	1.13.17
18	Fell FM	1.20.05	18	Finn AW	7.00	1.15.12
19	Finn AW	1.22.12	19	Fell FM	2.30	1.17.35
20	Newcombe A	1.28.41	20	Newcombe A	9.30	1.19.11