

## 1926

The 1926 Handbook tells us on its front cover that the Club Headquarters is now at 'The Windmill' St James' Road on Wednesday evenings. The Windmill was at the junction with Whitehorse Road but it has since been renamed.

New names on the list of Vice Presidents are C.G. Lefever, H.W. Bartlett, F L Langton and W.A. Smith whilst G Laver, G Lomas, A Pazzi, and P Richards disappear. The Captain was F Nightingale with A E Davis and A R Watkins as Vice Captains. The Committee had been increased to nine members; John Carter, Bill Kite, Vic Ware, George Colget, Bill Saggars, E C Woodall, Reg Heath, Frank Southall and G Millard. Seven out of these nine men were competing regularly. It is a feature of Paragon Committees that current, and often top class, racing men have always been part and parcel of the 'Management'.

Runs were now to start from Croydon Town Hall (and continued to do so until St Georges Walk was built in the 1960s).

In the Rules for Time Trials additional counting rides for the Club Championships could be ridden in conjunction with the SCCU '100', SCCU 12 hours, the Anerley 12 hours and the Catford 24 hours.

Special Gold Medals were on offer from AH Allin for fastest time in the 50 miles Handicap, from Charlie Davey for fastest time in the Dunlop Cup 100 miles Handicap and Bert Pulling offered a Prize for the Novice who scores most points in the Club Championship.

As a demonstration of the continuing success of the Club and its rise the Handbook lists no less than 84 Standard medal winners in the previous year! There were 30 at 25 miles including 1 Special Gold and 9 Gold medals, 23 at 50 miles including 3 Special Gold and 11 Gold Medals. In addition there were 17 at 100 miles including 5 Special Gold and 14 at 12 hours including 5 Special Gold and 2 Gold Medals.

Probably because of the success of our riders, the gradual improvement in road surfaces and, to a lesser extent, equipment it was decided to tighten some of the Standard Time

		<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>
25 miles	From	1h 12m	1h 15m	1h 18m
	To	1h 10m	1h 14m	1h 18m
50 miles	From	2h 32m	2h 39m	2h 45m
	To	2h 28m	2h 34m	2h 42m
50 miles	From	2h 12m	2h 19m	2h 25m
Tandem	To	2h 06m 30s	2h 12m	2h 20m
100 miles	From	5.35	5.50	6.35
	To	5.25	5.40	6.00

100 miles	From	4h 50m	5h 10m	5h 25m
Tandem	To	4h 45m	5h 00m	5h 15m
12 hours	From	190 miles	175 miles	160 miles
	To	200 miles	180 miles	165 miles
12 hours	From	210 miles	195 miles	185 miles
Tandem	To	220 miles	205 miles	195 miles
24 hours	From	340 miles	310 miles	280 miles
	To	380 miles	350 miles	310 miles

A 24 hour 'Utility Ride' (Reliability ride or Audax) was to be organised on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> June (17/6 including all food and drink at the Controls). While this had an organiser it failed to attract any riders. They were all concerned with racing!

The Belle Vue Cycling Club had asked the Paragon to jointly promote an Evening Open Track meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June and this was agreed.

It was agreed that the Club should procure jerseys to be worn on the Track. **The Colours are to be Black with Green and Gold Bands.** (For time trials you wore black – as it was 'inconspicuous').

At the beginning of the year, January 17<sup>th</sup>, the SCCU organised their Annual Paper Chase from the Glyn Arms, Ewell. We have the start sheet listing 308 runners with the Paragon fielding no less than 8 teams of 4 runners. Dick Purchase, Jack Hayward, Jack Carter and Alf Watkins were the 'A' team. Unfortunately, lost to posterity, is the Result!

In March 1926 the first addition of 'The paRAGon' appeared under the editorship of John Carter. (Only 2/6 for the year). The first article described a Club Run to Chanctonbury Ring and over the Downs to Bramber. In itself a beautiful ride when the sun is shining with wonderful views over the Sussex Weald and across to Cissbury Ring with the sea beyond. Our party of ten managed to do the trip on a dull, damp and draughty day when thick mist enveloped them on the Downs. However, they all persevered, through the mud and slippery chalk, and showed us that bike-riders are no different then than they are now; to quote 'by the time the party reached Bramber it was too late for lunch and too early for tea so the hungry ones decided to have both'. Now doesn't that ring a bell?

Membership was noted as 1 President, 20 Vice Presidents, 88 active members and 8 honorary members.

Notice was given of the Grand Carnival Dance at the Pembroke Halls 7.30 until 12 midnight - (last one of the winter season). Tickets only 2/6. Date – March 4<sup>th</sup>, and of the Carnival Dance at the 'Greyhound Hotel' High Street, Croydon. Balloons, special hats and carnival novelties. Spot, limelight and novelty dances. 8.45. – 11.45 Tickets 2/6 (strictly limited).

The footballing members were able to draw with the Waverley CC (3-3). “We regret that we can report no serious injuries to our opponents”. Also Charlie Davey and Alf Watkins rode their tandem about 400+ miles to watch Crystal Palace play Manchester over a week-end. Soccer enthusiasts have not changed either!

An interesting article showing the difference in race organisation between 1926 and 2004 was by the Racing Secretary. 3 events were to be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> the Forest ‘25’, the WLCA Longmarkers ‘25’ and the Kentish Wheelers Novices ‘25’.

The Forest ‘25’; “This is a limited event and the 4 entry forms we have received have been allocated to...etc. In order to secure accommodation competitors and others should note that an advanced booking fee of 2/6 is required and early application should be made to me (the Racing Secretary)”.

“The WLCA is open to riders who have not beaten 1.12.00 and who can show three rides on an entry form. Accommodation is at the Ostrich, Colnbrook. Participants and others communicate with me please”. (Racing Secretary)

The Kentish Wheelers Novices. “Four forms had been received and have been distributed to the selected riders”. (Racing Secretary).

The Racing Secretary had to balance the number of riders wanting to ride against the very few open Event opportunities. You had to be in close contact with the Secretary to ensure he knew YOUR programme and you HAD to be down at the Club Headquarters to arrange team selection. In fact if you entered an event without sending your form through the Racing Secretary he could ensure that you had a great deal of trouble getting other rides during the season by contacting race organisers (easy as there were so few of them) or by ignoring your entry forms when selecting/arranging the teams. Compare this with today when there are so many open races, we rarely need accommodation to be arranged and efficient communication is by phone or email. The Racing Secretary’s job now should be a sinecure – except that no one informs him of the Results!

One point that does become clear is that the number of open races gradually increased from 1920 onwards so Club Events became the province of the aspiring rider with only an occasion visitation from one of the ‘Gods’. It became obvious that at some time there would have to be a Club Open Championship and a separate Club Events Championship as it was extremely difficult for the better rider to qualify for the Club Championship in its existing state.

The season started, as usual and as mentioned above, with the Forest ‘25’ and to our satisfaction Frank Southall recorded fastest time with a ride of 1.2.26 nearly 4’ faster than his nearest rival and 2½ minutes faster than the course record. Unfortunately the hoped for Team Prize failed to be delivered as while Monty Southall managed a satisfactory 1.11.08. Alf Watkins was suffering from a heavy cold and Dick Purchase only managed a 1.16.00 ride some 7 minutes off his best; but it was the first race of the season. The Kentish Wheelers Novices was another individual success with Reg Heath providing fastest time with a 1.10.02, including a crash at the ‘Dukes Head’. The club had seven other riders F Stokes (1.11.53), F Felstead (1.12.30), W Domoney

(1.13.41), L Sanger (1.16.52), W Jones (1.18.24) Jack Lee (1.20.29) and W. Wiseman (1.22.37). Unfortunately we could not pull off a hat-trick on the first week-end of the season. In the WLCA race H Hennis recorded 1.12.30, Frank Burton 1.16.49, E Newcombe, 1.17.25, F Walker 1.16.38, A Pitcher 1.14.22, A Domoney 1.13.15 and G Nottley 1.13.56.

On Easter Monday the Etna '50' was run and Frank Southall duly obliged with 2.8.28 (3 seconds faster than last year) and another Competition Record. However nothing pulls out top riders than another top rider on form and this year rather than winning by over 6 minutes Bill Temme closed to almost within 2' of Frank with a 2.10.36 (The finest second-fastest ride ever done – Cycling). Both riders used an 83" gear. The rides were unexpected as instead of the ideal conditions of 1925 this year's event had a nagging cross wind that was head on for the last 1½ miles down Pangbourne Lane to the Finish.

Also on that week-end three riders under the 'management' of Alf Potter travelled to Leicester for the local Open '25'. Ferdy Fell did 1.13.57, J Baldock 1.16.37 and H Henn 1.15.02. We have no record of their placing or the team result.

The first Club Event, the Handicap 25 was run off on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. Thirty riders started and F Stokes came back quickest with a 1.09.38, C Kirby was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 1.10.05 and Reg Heath 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1.12.09. The Handicappers were in a generous mood as they gave Stokes 2' allowance which enabled him walk off with that side of the competition with a nett 1.07.35. A Cheeseman came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 1.08.47 (5'30"), L Sanger 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1.09.02 (6') and C Kirby 4<sup>th</sup> in 1.09.05 (1').

An interesting piece of information in the Club '25' was that several new members strayed from the course at 'The Chequers', Horley, because our marshals could not recognise them. At that time on Club Event days each club had its own start and finish point and had to provide its own timekeepers and marshals (unless some reciprocal arrangement was made with another club). This could, and often did, mean that a number of races were being run simultaneously. As everyone was dressed in black alpaca jackets and tights rider recognition was of paramount importance to marshals. This was not a problem with established riders a) because the marshals knew them and b) because the riders knew the course. (That was the theory anyway!) Later on in the year the problem was multiplied as not only were different clubs promoting their own races but each club could be holding time trials over 25, 50 and 100 miles or even a 12 hour event.

As a point of interest even in the 1960s for our Purley to Brighton races on several occasions we had coloured 'flashes' pinned to our left sleeve as the Redmon 30 was starting at the 21<sup>st</sup> Milestone going south and the Kentish Wheelers 100 had reached the Crawley by-pass by the time we arrived. Our problem was not as acute as the 1920s as we were racing in Club colours and could be distinguished far more easily. Unfortunately it did mean that we could not pick up a crafty drink from helpers on the '100'.

Going back to the Club 25 near the bottom of the finishing times was Fred Lee in his first and what was to be his last race. After the Club Event he decided that racing was not his cup of tea. The pain and the agony of his throat and chest, let alone his legs,

were too much. So what, one may ask, makes Fred so different? Firstly because while assured that racing was not for him he became a life long member of a Racing Club. Secondly he became Honorary General Secretary and his employment, in a Solicitors Office, ensured the Club got its Rules and Official dealings on a legal footing. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, he collected and annotated much of the information that we have on the early years of the Club. He wrote a résumé of the first 60 years of the Paragon for our Jubilee Dinner that will be used to present an updated version for our 100<sup>th</sup> Dinner.

When he retired he bought a cottage in the wilds of Wiltshire to enjoy his bike riding in some peace and tranquillity. He knew his roads and was a demon descender seemingly without any nerves. He was also a very fastidious eater. He would masticate each mouthful 32 times, (a severe handicap at Club Teas) and was ragged continually about this habit. However when he was admitted to hospital near the end of his life they reported to us that he had a very narrow gullet. No wonder he could not race hard; no wonder he could not eat as quickly as the rest of us. Perhaps a belated apology is due from us all.

On the same day as the Club '25' was the WLCA '25' and Frank Southall improved yet again to record 1.01.27. Ferdy Fell backed this outstanding ride with a 1.08.02, as did Alf Watkins 1.08.21 to ensure the Paragon won the Team Race. Other times were recorded by Jack Hayward 1.12.16, John Carter 1.10.15, Frank Cleeve 1.09.32 and Dick Purchase 1.10.20.

The following week was the SCCU '25' (Clubs L – Z). It was one of those delightful summers days we never forget – there was a terrific gale blowing. The Club had 19 entries from which 17 started. Frank Southall was fastest in a time of 1.05.42 that will give us some clue as to the severity of the day as this was over 4' slower than his winning ride in the WLCA '25'. Alf Watkins did 1.11.17, C. Kirby 1.11.32 (including 20" late start), Frank Cleeve 1.12.47, John Carter 1.13.39, Dick Purchase 1.13.51, Jack Hayward 1.14.37, H Henn and F Felstead both recorded 1.15.50, A Cheeseman 1.16.22, G Nottley 1.16.35, Jim Baldock 1.17.23, L Hargraves 1.18.13, Fred Stokes 1.20.07 (including 4' late start), Reg Heath 1.20.15 (including 4'30" with a puncture) and C Waters 1.25.46. We won the Team Race very easily from the Rodney CC.

On the same day on the Bath Road Frank Cleeve (2.28.32) and Jack Carter (2.29.47) rode the WLCA '50'. The course is 25 miles straight out with the wind behind you – then you have to get back.

May 16<sup>th</sup> was Catford '50' day and yet another windy one with a strong, cold north-easterly wind blowing across the course. Frank Southall won by over 6'. Behind him Fred Stokes and Frank Cleeve came in with rides of 2.28. and 2.29. respectively to enable the Club to win the Team Race. (Actual times are not given in the 'RAG'.)

May 24<sup>th</sup> (Whit Monday) was Anfield '100' day. (This was one of a trio of top class 100 mile events held during the season. The other two were the Bath Road 100 at August Bank Holiday (then the first week-end in August) and the University 100). The Anfield 100 is still held on the same day and on the same roads. It is not the fastest of courses. It is decidedly lumpy and the road surface is nothing to write home about. It is a true test for a top class 100-mile time triallist and only the best and

fittest riders finish, let alone win. Those sentences are written in the present tense as they apply just as much today as they did in 1926.

Frank Southall did NOT win in 1925 and was determined to succeed in 1926. It was a windy day but hot so that the tar started to melt which made it very sticky and treacherous in places. By 28 miles Frank was 1'15" faster than his nearest rival and just pulled further and further away as the race progressed. 3' at 51 miles became 8½' at 89 miles and 9'59" at the Finish. He did as he promised and came home in 4.55.10 (20" inside the course record). Frank Cleeve came in with 5.23.07 for 12<sup>th</sup> place and Jack Carter 5.31.04 that was good enough to take the Team Race comfortably by 17' from the Speedwell BC.

On the same day down south the Balham Second Class '100' was held on the Bath Road course and we had three riders none of whom had previously ridden a '100' miles time trial. Ferdy Fell came in with a 5.15, C Kirkby 5.28., and Reg Heath 5.20. (The RAG does not give their seconds) and that was sufficient for them to take the Team Race. Coupled with this result was an observation that would be pertinent for all Club members and Coaches/Trainers to remember even today:-

The funny thing about this race was the fact that, according to the riders, each man wanted to "pack" at some period during the ride but as there were only three of them in the race each thought he would be letting the Team down and so stuck on. If there had been four riders no doubt each one would have thought he was the only one with the "knock" and there would have been no finishers at all! (Moral - ALWAYS FINISH YOUR RACE).

Weatherwise 1926 did not seem to be a great year. The report of the SCCU '50' on May 30<sup>th</sup> reports Mud, Gloom, Wind and Potholes and it could not have been a picnic as Frank Southall won in 2.18.53 over 10' slower than his winning Etna '50' time. Behind him Reg Heath came in with a 2.26.45 ride that with 16' allowance assured him of the Handicap. Then Frank Cleeve recorded 2.26.28 and the Team Race was ours. Other performances by our intrepid Clubmen were Bill Saggars 2.35.15, F Stokes, 2.34.24, George Saggars 2.46.20, C Kirkby 2.47.16 and G Nottley 2.42.09.

June 6<sup>th</sup> was a Time Trial day and to underline the comments made above the Club had 16 riders down for a '25', 4 for a '50' and 4 pairs for a Tandem '50'. In the Tandem department Sanger and W Domoney were best with 2.12.06 with Kirby and Nottley just shading Allin and Roe 2.16.0 to 2.16.25. Amongst those doing the solo '50' Frank Cleeve must have been grateful for a decent day as he came home in 2.19.18 some 7' faster than his SCCU ride. Jack Carter did 2.22.22, A Domoney 2.44.06 and F Walker 2.37.34. Best of the '25' miles rides were F Stokes 1.8.45, Reg Heath 1.9.34 and F Felstead 1.12.27.

On June 13<sup>th</sup> we had our top riders in the Kingsdale '50' on Essex Roads. Frank Southall duly obliged with a 2.10.01, including a trip 'off-course', to beat the existing course record and producing a winning margin of 1'47". Frank Cleeve improved again with a 2.17.58 with Jack Carter completing the Team with a 2.23 ride. Unfortunately these times were only good enough for 3<sup>rd</sup> Team.

Back on southern roads we had our Club 50 miles Handicap. Twenty-four entries had been received of whom 15 covered the course to record times. Fastest was Fred Stokes in 2.23.07 who was 'down' on Reg Heath for the first 40 miles but pulled away over the last 10 miles to win by 1'42". These two were well clear of Ferdy Fell who recorded 2.28.24 for 3<sup>rd</sup> spot. The Handicap section was won by Stokes with an allowance of 1'30" (2.21.37) from Ferdy Fell (5') 2.23.24 and Arch Allin (7') 2.23.47, L Bignall (4'30") 2.24.09, Bert Pulling (24') 2.24.39, M Eggert (10') 2.24.47 and Reg Heath (Scratch) 2.24.49.

At an evening meeting in June Frank and Alf Watkins attacked the National 1 hour Tandem unpaced record held by C and E Sewell with 27½ miles. Riding a gear of 101 inches they started with a first mile of 2'0.8" and held that 30 mph pace for about 3 miles before settling into a regular 2'6" per mile pace. The old record was passed with over a minute in hand and they rode out the hour with a ride of 28 miles 453 yards for a new Record.

The following week was a Time Trial week with 14 down for a '25' and 2 for a '50'. George Saggars did 2.42.00 to beat E Newcombe in 2.45.55 in the '50' and in the '25' riders had the pleasure of being beaten by Frank Southall. He won in 1.03.34 to beat Frank Cleeve by nearly 5', 1.08.22, with Ferdy Fell 1.10.02 and Jack Carter 1.10.22 a little bit further back.

In the Open Event of the Week-end of the 27<sup>th</sup>, The Shaftesbury '50', run on the Newmarket Road saw Frank Southall in his customary position winning in 2.09.09 from S Artaud (Essex Roads) 2.10.05. Frank Cleeve improved yet again to record 2.17.28 and Jack Carter 2.19.33 but this was not good enough, by 19", for the Team race.

Herne Hill Track was the venue for our Evening meeting with the Belle Vue. We have no record of the Open events held bar the fact that there were to be races for Novices – 1 lap scratch, 880 yard Club Handicap and a 5 mile Club Championship and Frank Southall was to attack the World's Amateur Hour Record. He did and collected it with a ride of 26 miles and 838 yards.

The Result of the 880 yards Handicap was 1<sup>st</sup> A Pitcher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monty Southall and 3<sup>rd</sup> Alf Watkins. The 5 miles Championship was a win for Peter Dyble with Arch Allin second and Monty Southall third.

Time Trials that week-end saw Monty Southall record 1.06.54 for a '25' just faster than Alf Watkins 1.07.02.

The Shaftesbury '50' was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> June and on a lovely morning. Frank Southall won in 2.9.09 but, according to the Cycling, was not at his best as he had had a fall the previous day and damaged his shoulder. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was S Artaud (Essex Rds) who had beaten Frank once in the Forest but this time he had to be satisfied in producing the best second-fastest '50' ever with 2.10.05. Although Frank Cleeve came in 12<sup>th</sup> fastest in 2.17.28 we missed the Team race by 17".

Shortly after the NCU selected Frank Southall for the Amateur World Championship Road Race in Italy on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

The following week-end, July 4<sup>th</sup>, the only excellent time produced was C Kirby recording 1.09.10 for a '25'.

July 11<sup>th</sup> was SCCU '100' day and rather windy. 124 names were on the card. Frank Cleeve punctured whilst leading the event but took about 6' to change tubes as he had some 'helpers'. (Moral – change your own tubs or tubes). Frank recorded 5.12.38 leading in Reg Heath (5.14.43) and Fred Stokes (5.17.07 in his first '100'). Heath finished on someone else's bike as he punctured near to the Finish. Of the 124 entries the Paragon had 18 with 16 starters and 8 finishers. Only 61 finished in total.

Next week was a Time Trial day but with few 'takers'. 8 for a '25' and 5 for a '50'. The only rider qualifying for a Gold Standard was G Razzell with a 1.09.28 for his 25 miles.

The Dunlop Cup Handicap '100' had the smallest field since the club had restarted after the Great War with 10 entries. On a steamy, windy morning 7 of these started but spectators had the pleasure of watching a tremendous scrap between Frank Cleeve and Fred Stokes. Fred was some minutes up on Frank at the 25 mile point most of which he held until about 50 miles. From then on Frank increased the pace and turned at 76 miles just in the lead which he held to the Finish. Frank Cleeve did 5.08.29 (Dunlop Cup for 1<sup>st</sup> place plus 2<sup>nd</sup> Handicap) and Fred Stokes 5.11.03 (1<sup>st</sup> handicap (7') 5.04.03). 3<sup>rd</sup> Handicap and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Jack Carter 5.21.33 (11') 5.10.33.

27<sup>th</sup> July. Frank Southall rode the Amateur World Championship Road race in Turin. When he returned he wrote a five page article on his experiences. The race started at 5.50a.m! (And this was a World Championship road race in Italy and not an English Time Trial!) There were lots of crashes going through the first village where Frank got bounced into a brick wall but came off with only grazed fingers. Then a Level Crossing gate was down and Hansen, Denmark got away by whipping through a side gate. He was soon caught and the race continued with the Italians sprinting through the 'bumpy, narrow and tortuous streets of the villages'. Then through Arona and up the long hill out of the town to the Control at Biella (70 miles). All four Englishmen (Temme, Wyld, Harbour and Southall) arrived together with the field. A Frenchman (Brossy) escaped at the Controle and Frank and about 14 others got clear chasing him down. Harbour had a problem with his wheel then crashed while chasing when a Frenchman fell in front of him. (He was to crash twice more – not his day!).

Wylde and Temme were in the chasing group about 30'' down on Frank's group. Then Temme had to retire through straining a tendon in his leg. Shortly after on the Serra Pass Wylde punctured and crashed thus losing his chance of getting in the front group.

Southall had been going great guns. He dropped his fellow competitors, caught Brossy and got to the Serra pass 3' ahead of the first group of chasers. Unfortunately Brossy refused to work but was too good for Frank to get rid of him. So Frank eased off and allowed the chasers to come back up to him. This left fourteen in front of the race. Came the final sprint and Frank was placed 8<sup>th</sup> behind Dayen (France). Wylde came in 18<sup>th</sup> on his own and Harbour 24<sup>th</sup>.



August 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank Holiday Monday, was Bath Road '100' day. This was 'THE' 100 mile event of the year. In 1926 there were no National Championship events. The Course, the Competition the Cups and the Crowds were all. Pangbourne Lane just west of Theale was the heart of the Course. It went north through Wallingford (set of traffic lights both ways from the 1930s onwards), Shillingford and Dorchester before turning off towards Abingdon. The turn was on the outskirts of Abingdon. It then retraced to the Start and then on to the Bath Road turning westwards through Thatcham, Newbury and Hungerford to turn by Savenake Forest just after Froxfield. Then it was back to Pangbourne Lane. The course is lumpy at both ends but does have long flat stretches. The last 13 miles after dropping through Speen and Newbury are flat and fast. Very fast if the wind is in the west.

The atmosphere was electric, the organisation better than most events today. A mobile canteen serving drinks from 6am onwards, public toilets (primitive but clean), a car park, loud speakers giving out times of those passing through at 47 miles, announcing split times from the turns and immediate Finishing times, a large Result Board inside the HQ Field and the Crowd. From all over the country they came. The landladies and householders of Theale, Pangbourne, Calcot and the other small villages around made a very steady income from B & Bs for bike riders all year but August Bank Holiday was sell out day.

Frank Southall had been racing in the World Championships in Italy but he started. Wylde and Temme were on the card but were too shattered from the race and travelling to face the Starter. Frank went off in his usual fashion – fast. At the 50 miles check he led the field in 2.15.30 from A Biggs (Etna) 2.17.38 and Jack Rossiter (Century) 2.18.58, (Frank Cleeve 2.20.21, Jack Carter 2.26.02 and Reg Heath 2.27.13) and he reached the Savenake turn in 3.36.00. Biggs had fallen back and left Rossiter, 3.41.40, in 2<sup>nd</sup> spot A West (Bath Road) 3.42.45, 3<sup>rd</sup>. C Marshall (Vegetarian C & AC) 4<sup>th</sup> in 3.43.20 and Frank Cleeve 3.43.30 had moved up to 5<sup>th</sup> place. (Jack 3.49.40 and Reg 3.58.55). After the turn his World Championship rides caught up with him and he 'toured' back taking 1.9.58 for the last 24 miles against the eventual 2<sup>nd</sup> place man (Marshall) time of 1.4.25. Frank Cleeve took 1.9.31 for this section, Jack 1.10.18 and Reg 1.15.08.

Finishing times were Frank Southall 4.45.58 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, Frank Cleeve 4.53.01 for 5<sup>th</sup> place and Jack Carter 4.59.58. This gave us a Team Aggregate of 14.38.57 for First Team and Competition Record. History was made as it was the first time that all three counters were under 5 hours. Reg Heath finished in a time of 5.14.03 after puncturing on the way back from Savernake. Quite a Day!

August 14<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) was the day of the Anerley 12 hour event. National interest was in the fact that the first 3 riders in the Bath Road '100' (Southall, Marshall and Rossiter) were to be matched against each other again. We had three riders, Frank Southall, Frank Cleeve and Jack Carter. Frank started very steadily in so far at the Fareham turn (82 miles) he was some 9' down on Marshall (Vegetarian C & AC). Things had not improved by the time he got back to Horsham as he had had two punctures and was now 15' behind – and Marshall had also 'collected' two closed level crossings. By 150 miles Frank had started to move and on the section Pound Hill to Godstone and back he reclaimed nine of those minutes! Unfortunately another

puncture set him back a bit and although he continued to close on the leader he ran out of time with 220 miles just  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles less than Marshall but a new Club Record all the same. Rossiter came 3<sup>rd</sup> covering 217.875 miles. Frank Cleeve suffered early on but soldiered on to finish with 207 miles. Jack Carter desisted at Dial Post.

The day after the Anerley 12 was another Time Trial day. Ferdy Fell teamed up with Herbert Henn for a 50 miles effort and were rewarded with an excellent 2.06.48. Four others finished a '50' (best George Razzell 2.28.26) and nine the '25' (best rides Fred Alexander 1.11.35 and A Dolmoney 1.12.57).

The following week-end Ferdy Fell did a great ride on a poorly attended Time Trial day to collect a Gold Medal with a 1.09.56. Only two others finished.

Just to prove that the modern way is not the 'new' way the Club ran a Veterans '25'. Not that it was a great success. Freddie Cooper, Bill Kite, Freddie Gardiner, George Milland, Ernie Cleeve and Bert Pulling were entered but four of them ducked it. Mr Cooper returned the fastest time – 1.15.31 but Mr. Gardiner had the better allowance of 4'30" to make his 1.19.50 into 1.15.20 and thus just shade Mr. Cooper for the Handicap Award.

It was also reported that at the Caterham Sports on 28<sup>th</sup> August the 1 mile Handicap was a win for Monty Southall with Alf Watkins 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Around this time the Minutes of the Club Committee record that the Timekeeper's watch stopped whilst the contestants were attempting to better their 50-mile times. The rider's comments were not printed in the RAG, probably because they would have set light to the paper! However it was agreed they had the choice of a free ride in a later time trial or their money back.

Three riders went for the SCCU 12 hour on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. Best of them was Reg Heath running out time with 211 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles beating the 'evergreen' Bill Kite, 208 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles and A Finn 186 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

Our fast lads went off to Bishops Stortford to ride the Forest '50' on the 'Thirty second' course. This starts at the 32<sup>nd</sup> milestone north of London on the Cambridge Road and then veers off onto the Newmarket Road. It is a very pleasant course winding through Newport and sundry other small villages as it gradually descends from the start to the edge of the fens before bumping off to Newmarket. The wind often comes up from the south-west and you go out to the turn going great guns and knowing that THIS is THE day for the ride of your life. Then you turn to come back...!

Frank Southall got to the turn in just over 1 hour. The others, Frank Cleeve, John Carter and Fred Stokes were in the 1.5 – 1.6 bracket. A veil ought to be drawn over the return but one has to report that Frank S came *second* in 2.18, Cleeve 2.21, Carter 2.29 and Stoke 2.30 (The Rag did not report the seconds). It would have been something to see four glorious cases of the deaded 'Knock'. There were rumours that some got off to admire the sunrise. There were other rumours of a late arrival at the digs and a tumultuous pillow fight that went on past midnight that may have affected our heroes.

After a second breakfast three of them slunk off for a quiet and picturesque return through the lanes. It was just not their day. They managed to collect nine punctures between them; Frank Cleeve finally abandoned his bike at a garage in the Holloway Road and taking the train home. The others crept in about midnight. Not a week-end to celebrate.

September 19<sup>th</sup> was the Club Handicap 12 hour event. This was a very warm Day with a breeze coming up from the south-west. Fred Stokes enlivened the early hours by putting to the test his theory that if a man can do 1.10 for a '25' then by keeping up that speed he should be good for some 252 miles. Unfortunately he found, as many others have since, that while the theory is extremely sound and accurate it requires a standard of athletic fitness not found in those who are 'only' able to complete the first 25 miles in one hour and ten minutes. To Fred's credit he was still the right side of 'evens' (20 mph) at 82 miles but shortly after he was seen to sit down by the side of the road to work out another theory.

Of the 15 entries 13 started and 7 made it to the finish. Reg Heath ran out of time with 204 miles covered comfortably beating A Dolmoney, 191 miles and Bill Kite, 183<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles. With an allowance of 15 miles Dolmoney took the Handicap from Heath (206 to 204 miles) with Charlie Waters (166 +25 = 191) just edging out Johnny Walker for 3<sup>rd</sup> handicap (170 + 20 = 190).

A few Time Trials were held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September with only two rides of note Fell and Henn did 2.07.31 for a Tandem '50' and Reg Heath got a Gold Medal for a 2.23.54.

The last race on the Calendar for 1926 was the Mayne Cup on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Frank Southall posted fastest time as could be expected but not too far back were C Kirkby 1.08.15, Fred Stokes, 1.08.42 and Alf Watkins, 1.09.20. However the Man of the Day was Jim Baldock whose 1.11.30 with an allowance of 12'30" gave him a nett time of 59.00. This gave him nearly 3' on G Nottley (8'30") 1.1.45 with Charlie Waters 3<sup>rd</sup> (14') in 1.2.07, Bill Kite 4<sup>th</sup> (8') 1.2.08 and W Warrington 5<sup>th</sup> (8'30") 1.2.32.

The Club Road Race Championship was a win for Frank Cleve with 429 ½ points from Reg Heath 409 ½ points these being the only two riders to complete all qualifying distances in Club Races.

12 Open Team Races were won in 1926 WLCA '25', SCCU '25', Catford '50', Anfield '100', SCCU '50', Bath Road '100', Clive Trophy '25', Southgate '25', Portsmouth '25' Southend '25', Balham '100' and Sid Gray '100'.

There is a note at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> paRAGon that Frank Southall rode and won the SCCU and Catford Hillclimbs along with sundry Club Members. It was reported in *Cycling* that 11 Paragon riders rode and Frank won by climbing Wray Lane, Reigate, in 3'22.6". The following week the Catford Hill Climb was held on Brasted Hill. There were 92 riders and plus a Tandem from the Charlotteville CC and another from the Comet CC. Frank won in 2'10.2" and Frank Bale was 13<sup>th</sup> in 2'36.6".

So endeth the 1926 season.

## Club Time Trial Results

	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>25 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>18.4.26</b>				
33	Entries					
30	Starters					
22	Finishers					
1	Stokes F	1.09.38	1	Stokes F	2.00	1.07.38
2	Kirby C	1.10.05	2	Cheeseman A	5.30	1.08.47
3	Heath R	1.12.09	3	Sanger L	6.00	1.09.02
4	Henn H	1.12.50	4	Kirby C	1.00	1.09.05
5	Ware V	1.13.14	5	Saggers G	6.00	1.09.46
6	Felstead F	1.14.13	6	Henn H	3.00	1.09.50
7	Cheeseman A	1.14.19	7	Felstead F	4.00	1.10.13
8	Domaney A	1.14.50	8	Hargrave L	5.30	1.10.19
9	Eggart J	1.15.00	9	Cooper F	5.00	1.10.25
10	Saggers W	1.15.02	10	Eggart J	4.00	1.11.00
11	Sanger L	1.15.02	11	Willsmore G	6.00	1.11.01
12	Kite W	1.15.04	12	Baldock J	5.30	1.11.05
13	Cooper F	1.15.25	13	Domaney A	3.00	1.11.50
14	Hargrave L	1.15.40	14	Heath R	Scratch	1.12.09
15	Saggers G	1.15.46	15	Ware V	0.30	1.12.44
16	Baldock J	1.16.35	16	Nottley G	4.00	1.12.47
17	Nottley G	1.16.47	17	Newcombe E	6.00	1.13.01
18	Willsmore G	1.17.01	18	Saggers W	1.30	1.13.32
19	Newcombe E	1.19.01	19	Kite W	1.30	1.13.44
20	Lee F	1.19.53	20	Waters C	11.00	1.14.15
21	Sutton A	1.23.17	21	Lee F	4.00	1.15.53
22	Waters C	1.25.15	22	Sutton A	4.00	1.19.17
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>50 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>13.6.26</b>				
24	Entries					
24	Starters					
15	Finishers					
1	Stokes F	2.23.07	1	Stokes F	1.30	2.21.37
2	Heath R	2.24.49	2	Fell F	5.00	2.23.24
3	Fell F	2.28.24	3	Allin AE	7.00	2.23.47
4	Bignall L	2.28.39	4	Bignall L	4.30	2.24.09
5	Allin AE	2.30.47	5	Pulling A	24.00	2.24.39
6	Kite W	2.34.33	6	Eggart J	10.00	2.24.47
7	Eggart J	2.34.47	7	Heath R	Scratch	2.24.49
8	Wakefield E	2.35.03	8	Wakefield E	10.00	2.25.03
9	Kirby C	2.35.50	9	Kite W	8.00	2.26.33
10	Saggers W	2.35.50	10	Roe H	13.00	2.29.25
11	Felstead F	2.36.53	11	Kirby C	6.00	2.29.50

12	Ongley G	2.41.08	12	Felstead F	7.00	2.29.53
13	Roe H	2.42.25	13	Saggers W	4.00	2.31.50
14	Finn A	2.46.06	14	Finn A	14.00	2.32.06
15	Pulling A	2.48.39	15	Ongley G	7.00	2.34.08
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>100 h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>25.7.26</b>		<b>Dunlop Cup</b>		
10	Entries					
7	Starters					
5	Finishers					
1	Cleeve F	5.08.29	1	Stokes F	7.00	5.04.03
2	Stokes F	5.11.03	2	Cleeve F	Scratch	5.08.29
3	Carter J	5.21.33	3	Carter J	11.00	5.10.33
4	Willsmore G	5.53.28	4	Willsmore G	30.00	5.23.28
5	Nightingale F	5.59.57	5	Nightingale F	22.00	5.37.57
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>Vets h/c</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>25.7.26</b>				
6	Entries					
2	Starters					
2	Finishers					
1	Cooper F	1.15.31	1	Gardiner F	4.30	1.15.20
2	Gardiner F	1.19.50	2	Cooper F	Scratch	1.15.31
	<b>Scratch Result</b>	<b>12 hours</b>		<b>Handicap Result</b>		
		<b>19.9.26</b>				
13	Entries					
13	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Heath R	204.00	1	Domaney A	15.00	206.00
2	Domaney A	191.00	2	Heath R	Scratch	204.00
3	Kite W	183.75	3	Waters C	25.00	191.00
4	Hargrave L	170.00	4	Walker F	20.00	190.00
5	Razzell G	170.00	5	Kite W	5.00	188.75
6	Walker F	170.00	6	Hargrave L	16.00	186.00
7	Waters C	166.00	7	Razzell G	5.00	175.00
	<b>Scratch Result</b>			<b>Handicap Result</b>		
				<b>Mayne Cup</b>		
13	Entries					
13	Starters					
12	Finishers					
1	Southall F	1.05.53	1	Baldock J	12.30	59.00
2	Kirby C	1.08.15	2	Nottley G	8.30	1.01.45

3	Stokes F	1.08.42	3	Waters C	14.00	1.02.07
4	Watkins A	1.09.20	4	Kite W	8.00	1.02.08
5	Kite W	1.10.08	5	Warrington W	8.30	1.02.32
6	Nottley G	1.10.15	6	Finn F	12.30	1.04.29
7	Warrington W	1.11.02	7	Kirby C	3.30	1.04.45
8	Baldock J	1.11.30	8	Stokes F	3.30	1.05.12
9	Newcombe E	1.14.34	9	Alexander F	9.00	1.05.40
10	Alexander F	1.14.40	10	Watkins A	3.30	1.05.50
11	Waters C	1.16.07	11	Southall F	Scratch	1.05.53
12	Finn F	1.16.59	12	Newcombe E	6.00	1.08.34