

1927

The handbook tells us that the Headquarters has been moved again to 'The Alhambra' Wellesley Road, Croydon. The Vice Presidents show some changes A Fuller and A Ingram are not listed and 1926 saw the death of a great benefactor to southern cycling H Newman-Godward. It was this man who donated the Newman-Godward Cup to the SCCU for their Open '50' mile Time Trial which Frank Southall won three times to claim the Trophy. In turn he donated the Cup to the Club for the Open Time Trials Championship.

Captain was George Sagggers ably assisted by Freddie Baker and Fred Lee. The Committee was George Colget, Reg Heath, Bill Sagggers, Charlie Davey, Bill Kite, Frank Southall, AE Davis, GE Millard and Alf Watkins. Handicapper was Bill Pett and Timekeepers were Bill Burgin, Freddie Gardiner, J Simpson, Charlie Davey, Bert Pulling and T Wardley. Reporting Secretary was Jack Carter, Social Secretary Ernie Tugwell, Racing Secretary Freddie Gardiner.

The AGM was a somewhat tense affair. George Moffat, both General Secretary and Treasurer could not sign the accounts as a) he had been in ill-health for some time and b) some accounts had not been submitted before audit. This included the Accounts for the last Dance for which it was noted that 400 cloakroom tickets had been issued but only 340 Dance Tickets had reputedly been sold. The out-going Committee was instructed to arrange a meeting very soon to look into these matters.

It was agreed that Membership Fees be increased to 11/6 to include NCU cover but those who did not want to avail themselves of such cover could claim a 1/- rebate. Frank Southall proposed that Prizewinners could purchase their own prizes from whatever source they desire, provided it met with the Committee's approval – this was carried as was the suggestion by Alf Watkins that a Club '25' mile time trial be held prior to the first Open Event on the calendar.

The success of the Track Meeting in 1926 assured the motion for its promotion in 1927, again in conjunction with the Belle Vue. Date June 15th.

Then - a landmark decision. It was proposed that the Clive Trophy, won outright by the Paragon, should be renamed the Southall Trophy and that it should be awarded for the best aggregate performances in OPEN Events. This was the official acknowledgment that the Paragon had become a top class racing club. The Club Events were for the beginners, the unambitious or those unwilling or unable to travel to the major events. The Open Trophy was to enable the high-flyers to compete at their own level. These were the men that made the club famous, who could enter and ride in any of the numerically few Open Races (42 were listed in the 1927 handbook). and be in the Prizes.

The Committee Meeting held on 22nd February had a sensational start when Frank Southall tendered his resignation! Frank disagreed with the Club Championship Points system and the proposals at the AGM that 'No member shall be entitled to take a Medal unless beating his own previous best Time Trial performance.' This was actually lost but an amendment was passed that said – "That members must beat their previous best time before taking a Standard medal in the same Class. Should a

Member fail to beat his previous best but beat the Standard time he will be awarded a ribbon and bar to his first Medal”. This was carried. A Special General Meeting was called on 16th March.

The planned meeting with the Social Secretary took place and the figures mentioned above were agreed but with the only explanation that 60 people must have slipped by the Doorkeeper. However at the next Committee Meeting Ernie Tugwell reported that the Social Secretary had handed over his books, some money and was about to put in his resignation to the Club. (60 @ 2/6 equals £7 10s – that would have been about a months’ wages in 1927)

The Special General Meeting was held and it was agreed to rescind the motion passed at the AGM after Frank Southall pointed out that any of the Club’s Flyers would be restricted in their ability to win Medals on Time Trial days if they had always to beat their previous best. He also thought that the awarding of bars and ribbons was the ‘cheap’ way out and not in the best interests of a top Club like the Paragon. He was also in favour of the raising of standards and would agree to a revision of Standard Times.

It was also agreed to Delete the ‘Club Championship’ Points systems and the Championship to be calculated on the best aggregate time in time trials over 25, 50 and 100 miles plus a 12 hour. (Actually, the method used by the National Best All-rounder Competition that was not adopted until 1930. Another example of the Paragon leading the way?)

The Standards were shortened in time but lengthened with an additional grade. A Gold Centre Medal was available between the Gold and Silver Standards. So the Standards for Solos and Tandems were now:-

| | Gold | Gold Centre | Silver | Bronze |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 25 miles | 1h 08m | 1h 11m | 1h 14m | 1h 18m |
| | | | | |
| 50 miles | 2h 25m | 2h 30m | 2h 35m | 2h 40m |
| Tandem | 2h 06m 30s | 2h 09m | 2h 12m | 2h 18m |
| | | | | |
| 100 miles | 5h 15m | 5h 30m | 5h 45m | 6h 00m |
| Tandem | 4h 43m | 4h 50m | 5h 00m | 5h 10m |
| | | | | |
| 12 hours | 200 miles | 190 miles | 180 miles | 165 miles |
| Tandem | 225 miles | 215 miles | 205 miles | 195 miles |
| | | | | |
| 24 hours | 350 miles | 335 miles | 320 miles | 300 miles |
| Tandem | 390 miles | 365 miles | 350 miles | 325 miles |

The 1927 Handbook list 38 Standards won at 25 miles last year, 9 of them Gold. There were 25 at 50 miles (4 Gold), 8 at 100 miles (3 Gold) and 10 at 12 hours (4 Gold).

On Page 13 of the Handbook it was announced that there was an extra Trophy to be raced for on the Track with the Hutchinson Cup for the winner of the Club 5 miles Track Championship. (Three wins and you keep the Cup). Unfortunately Messrs Hutchinson fell upon hard times and deigned to produce said trophy. There was much toing and froing reported in the Minutes but, alas, no Trophy ever materialised.

The first Open Race of the year was the Balham Open Rough Riders 22 miles event on the 26th February. The Traditional Season Opener until early 1960s and, at present, the first Result Card we have in the archives. It does not give us the course but it was one of those early season events that, understandably, can suffer from bad weather. 1927 was no exception. Of the 100 entries 51 failed to start and 18 failed to finish and times stretched from the 1.39.00 (13.3 mph) of Frank Cleeve (the Winner) to 2.48.18 (7.75 mph) of the slowest finisher. The Paragon had 5 riders of whom three started and all finished. As mentioned Frank Cleeve was fastest time. He won by over 5 minutes from T McCullough of the Catford CC and 6.03 from our Alf Watkins in 3rd place. Number 2 on the card, Jack Hayward had a really lonely ride as his minute man failed to start and he came in with 1.51.22 which was good enough for 7th place and to ensure the Paragon collected the Team Prize.

About this time our Founder Member, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer George Moffatt was taken ill. In the 1920's if you did no work you received no pay so not only was George very ill but he had no means of looking after house, home and family. On the 20th April, Charlie Davey and Ernie Tugwell agreed to write to 'Cycling', the 'Southern Cyclist' and various Cycling Associations and clubs with a view to getting their support for a Fund. The Belle Vue offered 20% of their profits from the Open Track Meeting to go to the George Moffatt Fund. Eventually the Fund reached £78.5s.3d.

Unfortunately, at the same time, it became apparent that the Club did not have the money it should have had in its coffers so the Club Books had to be collected from George Moffatt's house and an Audit undertaken. It then became clear that George, in his hour of need, had used some of the Club's money to keep body and soul together. It is to the Club's credit that once the total had been agreed no further action was taken and no mention is ever made of any repayment although it eventually was. It was shortly after this that the club opened its first Bank Account and at the next AGM George Moffatt was proposed and accepted as a Vice President. It was very much a case of 'there but for the grace of God go I'.

Coming to the Racing scene the first Club Event was the 25 miles race on the 20th March to give our riders a 'lung-opener' before the first open Event of the 1927 season. Fourteen names on the Start Sheet of whom 12 started. Frank Southall made fastest time with 1.04.26, 2nd Fred Stokes 1.08.00, 3rd Alf Watkins 1.08.03, 4th George Razzell 1.08.25, 5th C Kirkby 1.08.40 and 6th Frank Cleeve 1.09.08.

On a cold, wet, windy, miserable day after 14 hours of rain the Forest '25' was held on the 4th April. Frank Southall won in 1.2.34 to underline his supremacy at 25 miles. Second was A Biggs (Etna) 1.5.07 and 3rd F Stevens (Belle Vue) 1.5.47. However the Paragon riders were up with the leaders Alf Watkins was 6th in 1.7.16 and Fred Stokes 15th in 1.8.59. The Paragon won the Team Race from the Belle Vue.

Two points of interest gathered from the *Cycling* report. The first shows how standards were rising. It was reported that – “only 2 riders were slower than ‘evens’” (i.e. 1.15.00 for 25 miles at 20 mph). The second was the photograph of the Start that shows a rider being pushed off from the middle of the road and the crowd stretching from kerb to kerb. Not a motor vehicle in sight!

On April 10th on another cold wet day with a troublesome north-westerly wind Frank Southall beat 187 rivals to win the WLCA ‘25’ in 1.4.22. Frank Cleeve did 1.07.58 for 7th place and Fred Stokes 1.8.03 for 8th place that ensured that the Paragon won the Team Race.

Good Friday in 1927 was the 15th April and the traditional day of the SCCU Meeting at Herne Hill. Frank Southall was riding the De Frece Cup race for the 5 miles Point to Point. In this event the first man over the Finishing Line each lap gets 3 points, the 2nd 2 points and the 3rd 1 point. The rider with the most points wins not necessarily the first over the line at the end of 5 miles. It is quite surprising to learn that while Frank had attacked records on the Track this was his first actual Race. The normal method of contesting such an event is a sprint for the line followed by an ‘easy’ while everyone gets their breath back ready for the next sprint. Frank was not a great sprinter so when everyone eased after the line he carried on. Such was his pace that only 4 other riders could hold his wheel. The time of the race, 11’10”, was extremely fast for the day and it was enough to nullify the sprinters edge of speed.

At the same Meeting Harry Grant won the 3 miles motor-paced Handicap in 5’12.8”.

On Easter Monday was the Etna ‘50’ and Frank Southall collected his Hat-trick of not only fastest time in this event but the setting of new Competition Record figures. He was helped by a warm, calm sunny day but his time of 2.5.07 (just under 24 mph) put him into a class of his own. His World Championship Team-mates were flattened. Bill Temme came in with 2.11.39 for 2nd place, Harbour was 4th with 2.13.38 and between them was A Biggs with 2.12.13. A clear win by 7’06”. Frank Cleeve recorded 2.18.17 for 19th place. The Paragon was second team to the Etna. The Etna beat the existing Competition Record with 6.46.26 that was 2’47 too good for us. We do not have the name of our third man but he came in with a 2.25.49 ride.

On April 24th in the SCCU ‘25’ (Clubs L – Z), Frank Southall was fastest with 1.1.11 to win by 4’29 from W Jones (Redhill). Fred Stokes was 3rd in 1.6.43, Alf Watkins 6th in 1.7.40, Reg Heath 8th in 1.8.05, Frank Cleeve 9th in 1.8.16 and George Razzell 10th in 1.8.28. Needless to say the Paragon won the Team Race.

May 1st was the first Club Scratch and Handicap 25 miles Time Trial with 32 names on the start sheet four of whom did not make it to the Timekeeper and one man failed to finish. Frank Cleeve recorded fastest time with a 1.06.45 ride comfortably beating F Stokes, 1.07.40 and Reg Heath 1.07.45 with the next rider, Jack Carter another 2’ slower. The Handicap section was a little closer. George Ongley was first with 1.04.30 (7’30”) beating J Stokes 1.05.05 (6’30”) with Frank Cleeve 1.05.15 (1’30”), E Iles 1.05.40 (5’30”), G Nottley 1.05.44 (4’30”), Reg Heath 1.05.49 (2’) and Jack Carter 1.05.50 (4’) right on his heels.

The Southern Roads Tandem '50' was held on 8th May and the 100 pairs were rewarded with cloudless sky. Frank Southall was paired with Alf Watkins and, on paper, there was no one to touch them. However in these circumstances Lady Luck usually has a few words. Today was no exception as the Puncture Bug struck. With a tail-wind start our pair reached the turn in 51' that was 1' faster than Pilcher (Poly) and Effner (Corrance) with another 5 pairs within the next 30". Frank and Alf were some 4 miles into the return leg when they punctured. The return into the wind, however, saw many tandems pairs wilting but the front-runners remained unchanged. Pilcher and Effner held onto their lead by 22" from Frank and Alf (1.57.06 to 1.57.28) with three other tandems very close behind. Harbour and Best (Bath Road) 1.58.01, Stevens and Corke (Belle Vue) 1.58.04 and Temme and Creasey (Glendene) 1.58.12.

A 25 miles Time Trial day was held on 15th May when 31 riders entered 29 started and 28 finished. Fastest time was Frank Cleeve in 1.08.04 from F Bale 1.08.27 with G Razzell 3rd in 1.09.19, Reg Heath 4th in 1.09.28, M Eggert 5th in 1.10.46 and 6th Ferdie Fell 1.10.52 all of whom won Gold Centre Medals.

The SCCU '50' on 22nd May produced another reasonable day and ensured not only a win by Frank Southall but a course record and a SRRA record in 2.9.36. Frank Cleeve was 6th in 2.20.37 and Fred Stokes 8th in 2.21.25 to give the Paragon the Team race.

On the 29th May the Catford CC held their Open 50 miles Time Trial on the same course as the SCCU but on a much colder day. Frank Southall duly won with a ride of 2.09.59. The ever improving Frank Cleeve was 2nd in 2.15.20 with a personal best time and F Stokes 4th in 2.18.33 also clocked his personal best time. Needless to say the Paragon won the Team Race with a time of 6.43.52. The fastest team time recorded for this event.

The Anfield '100' was run on 5th June and it was run off in a continuous downpour. Every photograph shows people in capes. That of Frank finishing shows banks of caped figures stretching some hundreds of yards into the distance. It is reported that the overnight gale had abated but it was cold. At 28 miles Harbour (Bath Road) and Southall went through in 1.17 about 1' clear of W Bicknell (Bath Road) with L Cave (Vegetarian) at 1'30", A Biggs (Etna) at 2', Frank Cleeve, A West (Bath Road) and Crawford (Hull Thursday) at 3'.

By 50 miles (2.19.45) Frank had pulled out 1'37" on Harbour. Biggs had retired after managing to puncture 3 times for which he was extremely vexed as he was using identical tyres to Frank. Only Marshall (Vegetarian) was holding his own with Frank with a time of 2.28.30. Frank Cleeve's time was 2.23.51. At the 66 miles check Frank went through in 3.05 some 8' clear of Harbour who, in his defence, had suffered a crash and a puncture. Cleeve was only 1' slower and Marshall was another 2' back.

From this point on it was a question of survival. Frank increased his lead to 13' but then was slowly pulled back by the smooth pedalling Marshall to have just 9' left at the end. His time of 4.47.21 beat his own course record and was an exceptional ride in the conditions. Marshall came in with 4.56.18. Harbour had problems with horses

on the road and lost more time but his team-mate West kept going and they managed to tie for 3rd place in 5.3.58. Frank Cleeve also slipped back over the last few miles Allen (Speedwell) 5.5.21 and Holland (Midland) 5.9.38 just got passed him but it was still a very creditable 7th place in 5.9.47. The Paragon were 2nd Team with, we presume, Jack Carter recording 5.35.04.

On June 12th the Kingsdale Open 50 miles Time Trail was held in sunny weather but with a strong northerly wind that made for very hard going. Few riders approached their best times. Frank Southall 'only' did 2.11.46 to win by 4'33 from J Torry (Mansfield Victoria), 2.16. 19. Frank Cleeve did 2.19.19 for 11th place and Fred Stokes returned 2.21.31 for 18th place. The Paragon won the Team Race in 6.52.36 from the Essex Roads 6.58.02.

The Evening Track Promotion with the Belle Vue was held. A profit, to the Paragon, of £23 was made. During the evening the Club 880 yards handicap was held resulting in a win for F Bale with Ferdie Fell 2nd and Alf Watkins 3rd. The 5 miles Championship resulted in a win for Pat Dyble from F Bale and F Stokes.

June 19th was a Time Trial day and not a very good one. Jack Lee (1.14.15) and R Roach (1.17.12) were the only finishers at 25 miles and F (Johnny) Walker the only finisher at 50 miles with 2.34.27.

The next week-end was no better for the Club '100' miles Handicap. 17 riders were down for it 15 of whom started but only 6 recorded times. Frank Cleeve won by a distance. His 5.03.40 was 28'24" faster than 2nd place man E Iles (5.32.04). Bill Saggars was 3rd in 5.37.00, Frank Burton 4th in 5.44.24, Johnny Walker 5th in 5.55.20 and 6th was W Domoney 5.58.23. Frank Cleeve took the Handicap section from Scratch although the others did close on him E Iles had 23' so had a nett time of 5.09.04, Bill Saggars 5.15.00 (22'), Johnny Walker 5.20.20 (35'), Frank Burton 5.26.24 (18') and W Domoney 5.31.23 (27'). Not a happy day awheel!

The Syd Gray '100' completed the hat-trick of bad week-ends. The weather must have turned really nasty as of the 135 entries only 11 failed to meet the Starter, (a fairly normal percentage for a 'local' event) but 58 riders failed to complete the course! In the event it turned out to be a Paragon Benefit race. Although Reg Heath, C Waters, Jack Carter and Jack Hayward failed to finish Frank Southall broke the record for the fastest ride on Southern Roads with 4.51.07 that also counted as a new Club Record. Frank Cleeve was 2nd in 4.57.48 and F Stokes was 3rd in 5.00.08. The Paragon won the Team Race (14.49.03) and, to put the icing on the cake, G Razzell (5.06.40) won the Handicap with F Stokes 2nd. Bill Saggars was our other finisher in 5.40.00.

On July 10th Frank Southall rode the Invitation North Road Memorial '50'. Just 12 of the best 50 milers in the country are invited to race. It was the 'Blue Riband' of the Day. Virtually a National Championship in its own right. It was the sort of event that one would have thought that a lot of careful preparation was required. Frank was a different breed. On the Saturday afternoon he was at Fallowfield, Manchester, riding a 10 mile Track race. He then drove (or was driven) 170 miles to Bishops Stortford, where he arrived after midnight, giving himself 4 hours sleep before the 'BIG' race. Typically, he slaughtered the field. At the first check, into the wind, Frank went

through in 34'30", Stevens (Belle Vue) did 35'26", Salt (Clowne Whs) 35'36", Bill Temme 36'10". At 25 miles Frank had taken 1.9.08 and led Salt by 2'05" (1.11.13), Stevens 1.12.04 and Artuad 1.13.05.

The wind assisted return enabled Frank to record the fastest second 25 miles ever timed. He came back from the turn in 57'32", about 26 mph, an unheard-of time in 1927. Last year's winner Bill Temme started 9' before Frank and had only 18" in hand at the Finish such was Frank's speed. He recorded 2.6.40 to win by 6'28 from Salt (2.13.08) and 7'54" from 3rd placed man Artaud (North Road).

We have all had days when it was not worth getting up. It was Bill Holland's (Midland C & AC) turn. At the Finish he was slowest of the 12 riders in 2.27.31. A good time for a local club rider in his local event one would suppose. Of the 12 riders he was the only one to experience any problems – and such problems. Before the 12½ miles point he had punctured and he estimated he lost 2'. At 33 miles he punctured again and then had to wait at least 3' for the next competitor to come along to beg for a spare tubular. The spare tubular, sporting given, had a wide valve that would not fit through Holland's rim so he tried, unsuccessfully, to grind the hole wider. He then borrowed a steel wheeled, low gear 'tourer' complete with bag and baggage and rode 8 miles (plus another stop to adjust the saddle height) before borrowing a more suitable mount, again undergeared, to reach the Finish. The sort of day you never forget.

Frank Cleeve recorded 2.22.53 in the Brighton Mitre '50' for 3rd place.

July 17th was another Time Trial day and another new Club Record when G Razzell and Ferdie Fell came back in 2.03.29 for the best Tandem Time. Frank Cleeve also collected a Gold Medal for his 2.18.54.

On the 24th July Frank Southall attacked the London to Brighton and Back RRA Record. The Record stood at 5.06.46 by C. Marshall (Vegetarian C & AC).

Frank rode an 84 inch freewheel on this rather hilly out and back course. He started at 3.01am to avoid traffic problems in London (sic) and he had a dead calm to start with, with a light breeze getting up from the south after about 3 hours that caused no problems and assisted over the last few miles.

At Hyde Park Corner, 14¾ miles, he was 2'30" up on schedule and by the time he had retraced to the start, 29½ miles, he had been riding 1.16.42 some 12' inside evens and the old record. This part included two traverses of Brixton Hill that was badly cobbled in those days and uncounted crossings of tramlines. The 50 miles point was reached in 2hrs 12 mins; the turn at Brighton (76 miles) in 2.59. At Bolney (79½ miles) he was 11' up on schedule and 22'30" inside 'evens'. The last 25 miles of the Brighton and Back are the hardest. There are the climbs of Bolney, Warninglid and Handcross before the drop into Crawley. Then after the flat around Lowfield Heath and Horley there are the slopes of Salford and the Redhill 'Bumps' before the final drag out of Merstham, actually passing the Joliffe Arms without stopping! Then came the final 3 miles downhill to Coulsdon and the Finish.

Frank appeared to be suffering on Merstham but was still clocked at 30 mph down through Hooley to finish just before 8 a.m. in a time of 4.53.20. 13'26 faster than ever before! (His time at the 100 miles mark was 4.39.50!)

Bath Road day this year was August 1st and all eyes were on Frank Southall. Would he win for a third time as so keep the Bath Road 100 miles Cup? West, Harbour and Bicknell (Bath Road) were all on good form and so was Marshall (Vegetarian) and Donovan (Kentish Whs). Frank had just broken the Brighton and Back Record but had he done too much?

For once Frank did not appear to start fast. At 19 miles Biggs (Etna) and West went through in 50'. Southall with Rossiter, Harbour, Stott (Century), Keen (Unity) and Fred Stokes all just over 1' down. Marshall was at 5' after a puncture.

It started to rain persistently about the time the first rider reached the 34 miles mark. This meant, in 1927, that the tarmac was hard and fast although treacherous on the bends. If one stayed upright one could achieve a fast time. Southall was still riding well within himself as he passed the 50 miles point in 'only' 2.14.45. West was only 11" behind at this point and it was a surprise when A Newland (Bath Road) was clocked as 3rd fastest at 2.18.47. Marshall, Harbour and Thompson (Vegetarian) were on the 2.19 mark with Bicknell, Donovan Frank Cleeve and Fred Stokes in the next minute.

Shortly after this Frank crashed cutting his arm and leg and bending a crank. While he remounted he was not a happy man and mentioned retiring but his helpers 'persuaded' him to continue.

At the Savenake turn, 76³/₄ miles, Southall had covered the distance in 3.30.00 exactly and, in spite of his discomfort, had pulled out to be 3'13" faster than West. Marshall was back at 7'03" including a spell in the hedge when he collided with a spectator, but he pulled out the same strong finish as last year closing the gap to just over 4' at the Finish.

Frank finished with a ride of 4.37.22 with West 2nd in 4.41.02, Marshall 3rd, 4.41.51, Harbour 4th in 4.50.05 Bicknell 5th in 4.50.56 and Donovan 6th in 4.52.27. Frank Cleeve was 12th in 4.58.04 including two punctures and 13th was Fred Stokes in 4.58.06 that also included a stop with a puncture. Through these misfortunes the Club was only Second Team but they would have needed much more to beat the Bath Road who had 5 riders in the first 10 places.

The NCU London Centre Track Meeting at Herne Hill had a 25 miles Tandem Paced race between, primarily, FH Wyld and Frank Southall. Harry Grant and Bill Temme were also riding but in the event they just made up the numbers.

Records for various distances were broken on route. Wyld broke the 4 and 6 miles record then Southall broke the 7 mile figures. Wyld took the 8 and 9 miles before Southall broke the remainder up to 25 miles. Such was the pace that even Frank was calling for his pacers to ease after 16 miles. At on time he was 37" inside his June figures but fell away his 25 miles time was 48'14" just 11.4" inside the Record.

At the same Meeting the Paragon beat the Belle Vue for the NCU Team Pursuit Championship in 4'12.1" to the Belle Vue's 4'15.8". This was the inaugural 'National Team Pursuit Championship' and the first Club had won on the track.

Ah interesting photograph in Frank Southall's scrapbook shows him starting in an attempt at the 1 mile record. He is starting from the top of the banking with two pusher-offs both of whom are about to fall at full length on the Track. For a record attempt today one would have to start at the foot of the banking with either no push at all or being held by a timing device. Times Change!

August 7th was a Time Trial day and while George Ongley and G Willsmore could not quite match Razzell and Fell their 2.05.15 was good enough for a Gold Medal. Jack Lee managed a 2.27.45 for a Gold Centre '50' Medal all other failed to start or finish. (There were 5 riders down for a 100 time, 4 for a '50' and 1 for a '25').

On August 8th Frank Cleeve attacked and broke the existing SRRA Worthing and Back record with a time of 5.41 (114 ½ miles).

The next Time Trial day was August 14th. 5 '100' milers, 6 '50' milers and 2 '25' milers faced the Timekeeper. Pride of place must be with George Ongley and G Willsmore taking a Gold Medal for a 4.37.38 Tandem '100'. F Stokes also collected a Gold for a 2.21.05 '50'.

At the Tooting BC Evening Meeting Frank attacked both the 1 mile unpaced standing start and flying start records (plus intermediate distances). He failed to beat any of the standing start times by 3" but did not have the best of wind conditions. However he did break the ¾ mile flying start record with 1'28.4" and the 1 mile flying start record with 1'59.8". These records had been on the books for 25 years!

According to the Club Minute Book there should have been another Time Trial day on the 21st August as at the Committee Meeting of the 24th August Charlie Davey proposed, and Alf Watkins seconded, a proposal "That those riders who lost their chance of a Time Trial on the 21st August should be allowed to book for a Time Trial on the date of the Mayne Cup". Then Charlie Davey proposed and Ernie Tugwell seconded a further motion "That a further Time Trial be held on the 16th October". What the Minutes do not say is WHY there was no event on the 21st August!

We have an interesting Result Card for the SCCU 12 hour event (4th September). Apart from recording that Frank Cleeve came 2nd with 219 7/8 miles it shows that 11 Tandems competed within the race itself. (In 2004 they would be started separately). The SCCU '12' was also a Club Handicap and the Paragon had 7 riders plus Ongley and Willsmore on their Tandem. Jack Holdsworth and W Perkins of the Kentish Wheelers won the Tandem section with 242 ½ miles (a tremendous ride in 1927) but Ongley and Willsmore covered 227 ½ miles to claim 2nd place.

Frank Cleeve won the Paragon Handicap from Scratch, Reg Heath had 211 miles as did G Razzell with Bill Sagers on 206. No one else finished.

On 11th September Frank Cleeve was 2nd in the Imperial Wheelers '50' with 2.20.51.

September 18th was a Time Trial day but not a very good one with six non-finishers from 10 contestants. Best ride was George and Bill Saggars on Tandem recording 2.10.55 for a Silver medal.

On 25th September Frank Cleeve attacked the SRRA Dover and back Record (140 miles) and broke it with a time of 7.56.00. We have a copy of his schedule in the archives. Frank started at 4.15a.m from the 36th milestone and came into London. He was scheduled to turn at London Bridge at 6.02a.m, passing his start point at 7.54, to turn at Dover Pier at 9.50a.m. and getting back to the 36th milestone at 11.52. (7.37.00). The existing record was held by W.R. Hammond in 8.01.35 and dated from 1913.

On the same day Frank Southall won the Comet '25' with a superb ride of 1.1.49 to beat the course record and previous holder of that record, Stevens (Belle Vue) by 2'36". Fred Stokes was 7th in 1.6.02, a personal best that also gave him 3rd handicap. Frank Bale completed the winning Team.

The Mayne Cup was held on the 2nd October with a field of 23 riders. Fastest time, by over 4' was Frank Southall in 1.03.41, 2nd fastest was F Stokes in 1.07.59 who, in turn, was nearly 2' faster than 3rd place man George Ongley. Man of the Day was however the same George Ongley who managed to get an allowance of 9'30" from the handicapper to give him a nett time of 1.00.18. Second on Handicap was Johnny Walker 1.01.30 (12'30"), 3rd Frank Southall 1.3.41 (Scr.) 4th Fred Stokes 1.3.59 (4'), 5th Jim Baldock 1.04.00 (9'30"), 6th G Nottley 1.04.02 (9'), 7th = M Eggert and E Iles 1.04.22 (9'45") and (9'), 9th Charlie Waters 1.4.45 (14'30") and 10th Stan Roach 1.04.51 (11.30). That is not a bad job of Handicapping.

Although the Mayne Cup was usually the last event of the season some extra Time Trials were arranged for the 16th October mainly, one assumes, because Frank Southall and Frank Cleeve wanted to attack the Club '50' Tandem Record. Their subsequent 1.57.45 put them into a class of their own with a time that would not be out of place in a tandem event of 2004!

Frank Cleeve won the new Club Championship with 19.4 mph from G Razzell (18.5 mph) and Bill Saggars (17.4 mph). It worked like this:- Add the normal mileages of 25, 50 and 100 to the distance covered in 12 hours (i.e. 175 plus (in Frank's case) 220 = 395. Add the times of the riders 25, 50 and 100 mile time trials (Franks made 8.23.00) plus 12 hours = 20.23. Divide total distance by total time to get a figure of miles per hour.

Later in the year Frank Cleeve wrote to the Committee requesting that they award this Trophy to Frank Southall as he was undoubtedly THE Club Champion. The Committee refused but made the distinction that still applies that Frank Cleeve was the Club Events Champion and Frank Southall the Club Open Events Champion.

Open Team Wins during the year amounted to nine. Forest '25', WLCA '25', SCCU '25', SCCU '50', Catford '50', Kingsdale '50', SCCU '100', Comet '25' and Brighton Excelsior '25'. We have no date for the Brighton Excelsior event but the Team was Alf Watkins, W Watkins and Ernie Iles.

Monthly Dances during the winter months at the Pembroke Hall or the Winter Gardens were to be held. These were a continual source of revenue for the Club. Although individual Dances might lose the odd pound or so through bad weather overall the Club was in profit. The 1926/7 Dances resulted in a gain of £25. 3s 5d. for the Club.

At the January 7th Dance a Stopwatch Competition would be held for a ladies or gents Five Guinea watch. A Stopwatch was wound up and placed in a sealed container. You had to guess the time the Watch stopped and the nearest to that time was the winner. The Committee would open the container on the 23rd January and announce the Winner in the local Press.

There was obviously a thriving winter football ‘season’ as the Committee were asked to give official sanction for games to be played in the name of the Club. They also paid for a ‘Club’ ball. At the AGM a motion was put forward “That in view of the poor support of Club Runs, Football should, next season, be only played on Saturdays”. The Motion was lost 21 –28!

A club 5 mile Walking Handicap was to be held from ‘The Fox’ on Coulsdon Common

Cross-country running was also popular. The Committee were asked to officially contact the Belle Vue CC with a request that the Paragon could field a team in their inter-club 5 miles run against the Balham on December 11th. This event, although by then open to all cyclists, was still being held in the 1980s.

The Committee Meeting on the 27th November found itself in a dilemma that has faced so many later Committees. The number of medals that had been won, and would be won in the future, was so great that they became quite a drain on the Club’s Finances. It is a fact of Paragon History that the more successful the Club became the more parlous its finances were. In 1927 they had to award 5 Special Gold Medals, 17 Golds, 11 Gold Centres, 22 Silvers and 21 Bronze. A one dwt. (pennyweight) reduction in weight would save the club between £5 and £7 and so it was ordered.

Club Time Trial Results

| | Scratch Result | 25 h/c | | Handicap Result | | |
|----|-----------------------|---------------|----|------------------------|------|---------|
| | | 1.5.27 | | | | |
| 32 | Entries | | | | | |
| 28 | Starters | | | | | |
| 27 | Finishers | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | Cleeve F | 1.06.45 | 1 | Ongley G | 7.30 | 1.04.30 |
| 2 | Stokes F | 1.07.40 | 2 | Stokes J | 6.30 | 1.05.05 |
| 3 | Heath R | 1.07.49 | 3 | Cleeve F | 1.30 | 1.05.15 |
| 4 | Carter J | 1.09.50 | 4 | Iles E | 5.30 | 1.05.40 |
| 5 | Nottley G | 1.10.14 | 5 | Nottley G | 4.30 | 1.05.44 |
| 6 | Chapple R | 1.11.00 | 6 | Heath R | 2.00 | 1.05.49 |
| 7 | Iles E | 1.11.10 | 7 | Carter J | 4.00 | 1.05.50 |
| 8 | Stokes J | 1.11.35 | 8 | Bowtle C | 6.00 | 1.05.50 |
| 9 | Baldock J | 1.11.50 | 9 | Burton F | 6.00 | 1.06.16 |
| 10 | Bowtle C | 1.11.50 | 10 | Baldock J | 5.30 | 1.06.20 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----------------|----|------------------------|---------|---------|
| 11 | Saggers W | 1.11.58 | 11 | Saggers W | 5.30 | 1.06.28 |
| 12 | Ongley G | 1.12.00 | 12 | Chapple R | 4.30 | 1.06.30 |
| 13 | Burton F | 1.12.16 | 13 | Dorward W | 10.00 | 1.06.38 |
| 14 | Alexander F | 1.13.40 | 14 | Willsmore G | 8.30 | 1.06.45 |
| 15 | Colget G | 1.14.16 | 15 | Stokes F | Scratch | 1.07.40 |
| 16 | Domoney W | 1.15.15 | 16 | Waissin P | 7.30 | 1.07.45 |
| 17 | Waissin P | 1.15.15 | 17 | Waters C | 8.30 | 1.07.46 |
| 18 | Willsmore G | 1.15.15 | 18 | Alexander F | 5.00 | 1.08.40 |
| 19 | Waters C | 1.16.16 | 19 | Domoney W | 6.30 | 1.08.45 |
| 20 | Dorward W | 1.16.38 | 20 | Newcombe E | 8.00 | 1.09.00 |
| 21 | Newcombe E | 1.17.00 | 21 | Colget G | 5.00 | 1.09.16 |
| 22 | Saggers G | 1.17.45 | 22 | Saggers G | 8.00 | 1.09.45 |
| 23 | Waissin S | 1.17.47 | 23 | Wunderlick | 7.30 | 1.10.38 |
| 24 | Wunderlick | 1.18.08 | 24 | Waissin S | 6.30 | 1.11.17 |
| 25 | Purchase R | 1.18.12 | 25 | Finn A | 6.30 | 1.12.45 |
| 26 | Finn A | 1.19.15 | 26 | Whiting F | 6.00 | 1.15.15 |
| 27 | Whiting F | 1.21.15 | 27 | Purchase R | 2.30 | 1.15.42 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Scratch Result | 50 h/c | | Handicap Result | | |
| | | 12.6.27 | | | | |
| 26 | Entries | | | | | |
| 22 | Starters | | | | | |
| 16 | Finishers | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | Heath R | 2.19.08 | 1 | Saggers G | 16.30 | 2.15.51 |
| 2 | Razzell G | 2.26.42 | 2 | Ongley G | 13.00 | 2.16.08 |
| 3 | Watkins A | 2.26.56 | 3 | Walker F | 15.00 | 2.18.17 |
| 4 | Burton F | 2.28.34 | 4 | Burton F | 10.00 | 2.18.34 |
| 5 | Ongley G | 2.29.08 | 5 | Heath R | Scratch | 2.19.08 |
| 6 | Iles EW | 2.29.31 | 6 | Iles EW | 10.00 | 2.19.31 |
| 7 | Colget G | 2.30.09 | | Domoney A | 14.00 | 2.19.31 |
| 8 | Saggers G | 2.32.21 | 8 | Watkins A | 5.00 | 2.21.56 |
| 9 | Stokes J | 2.32.39 | 9 | Baldock J | 15.30 | 2.22.15 |
| 10 | Walker F | 2.33.17 | 10 | Stokes J | 10.00 | 2.22.39 |
| 11 | Domoney A | 2.33.31 | 11 | Razzell G | 3.00 | 2.23.42 |
| 12 | Baldock J | 2.37.45 | 12 | Colget G | 6.00 | 2.24.09 |
| 13 | Eggert M | 2.37.46 | 13 | Eggert M | 11.00 | 2.26.46 |
| 14 | Alexander F | 2.38.19 | 14 | Alexander F | 10.00 | 2.28.19 |
| 15 | Lee F | 2.40.09 | 15 | Lee F | 8.00 | 2.32.09 |
| 16 | Roach S | 2.48.32 | 16 | Roach S | 11.00 | 2.37.32 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Scratch Result | 100 h/c | | Handicap Result | | |
| | | 26.6.27 | | Dunlop Cup | | |
| 17 | Entries | | | | | |
| 15 | Starters | | | | | |
| 6 | Finishers | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | Cleeve F | 5.03.40 | 1 | Cleeve F | Scratch | 5.03.40 |
| 2 | Iles EW | 5.32.04 | 2 | Iles EW | 23.00 | 5.09.24 |
| 3 | Saggers W | 5.37.00 | 3 | Saggers W | 22.00 | 5.15.00 |
| 4 | Burton F | 5.44.24 | 4 | Walker F | 35.00 | 5.20.20 |
| 5 | Walker F | 5.55.20 | 5 | Burton F | 18.00 | 5.26.24 |
| 6 | Domoney W | 5.58.23 | 6 | Domoney W | 27.00 | 5.31.23 |

| | Scratch Result | 12hours | | Handicap Result | | |
|-----|-----------------------|----------------|----|------------------------|---------|---------|
| | | 14.9.27 | | | | |
| 8 | Entries | | | Dunlop Cup | | |
| 8 | Starters | | | | | |
| 5 | Finishers | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Tan | Ongley/Willsmore | 227.50 | 1 | Cleeve F | Scratch | 219.87 |
| 1 | Cleeve F | 219.87 | 2 | Heath R | 4.00 | 211.00 |
| 2 | Razzell G | 211.00 | 3 | Saggers W | 10.00 | 206.50 |
| 3 | Heath R | 207.00 | | Ongley/Willsmore | n/a | |
| 4 | Saggers W | 196.50 | | Razzell G | n/a | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Scratch Result | 25 h/c | | Handicap Result | | |
| | | 2.10.27 | | Mayne Cup | | |
| 18 | Entries | | | | | |
| 16 | Starters | | | | | |
| 14 | Finishers | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | Southall F | 1.03.41 | 1 | Ongley G | 9.30 | 1.00.18 |
| 2 | Stokes F | 1.07.59 | 2 | Walker F | 12.15 | 1.01.30 |
| 3 | Ongley G | 1.09.48 | 3 | Southall F | Scratch | 1.03.41 |
| 4 | Nottley G | 1.13.02 | 4 | Stokes F | 4.00 | 1.03.59 |
| 5 | Iles EW | 1.13.22 | 5 | Baldock J | 9.30 | 1.04.00 |
| 6 | Baldock J | 1.13.30 | 6 | Nottley G | 9.00 | 1.04.02 |
| 7 | Walker F | 1.13.45 | 7 | Iles EW | 9.00 | 1.04.22 |
| 8 | Eggert M | 1.14.07 | 8 | Eggert M | 9.45 | 1.04.22 |
| 9 | Spashett C | 1.14.48 | 9 | Waters C | 14.30 | 1.04.45 |
| 10 | Roach S | 1.16.21 | 10 | Roach S | 11.30 | 1.04.51 |
| 11 | Stokes J | 1.19.14 | 11 | Spashett C | 8.00 | 1.06.48 |
| 12 | Waters C | 1.19.15 | 12 | Newcombe E | 12.45 | 1.07.46 |
| 13 | Newcombe E | 1.21.31 | 13 | Stokes J | 10.30 | 1.08.44 |
| 14 | Whiting F | 1.23.12 | 14 | Whiting F | 10.00 | 1.13.12 |