

1931

Starting the year comparing the Handbooks as per usual the most salient fact in 1931 was the very few changes that had occurred. A 'new' country Headquarters at Tom Smith's Crawley. W.T. (Tommy) Hall was added to the list of Vice Presidents. Fred Lee was not on the Committee but George Saggars is. George Razzell had been removed from the list of Timekeepers. Les Woolley had taken over George Saggars' role as Assistant Secretary and Reporting Secretary and that is the sum total of the changes for 1931.

The Special Awards listed in the Handbook include a Gold Medal from Arch Allin for the fastest time in the Club 50 miles Handicap. Four Gold Medals awarded by A. Hickford to the best 4 members riding the Best All-rounder Distances in Open Events (50 miles, 100 miles and 12 hours). A Silk Club Jersey awarded by George Colget to the Novice registering the best aggregate times for the Flying Quarter and Standing Start Mile.

At the Start of the 1931 season our Club Records stood as follows:-

25 miles	Frank Southall	1.01.05
50 miles	Frank Southall	2.11.41
100 miles	Frank Southall	4.35.25
12 hours	Stan Butler	
	Frank Cleeve	222.00 miles
Tandem		
50 miles	Frank Southall	
	Frank Cleeve	1.57.45
100 miles	Jimmy Dicks	
	Ernie Iles	4.29.35
12 hours	Jimmy Dicks	
	Ernie Iles	240.25 miles

One should bear in mind that these were times and distances recorded in CLUB EVENTS or TIME TRIALS. Rides completed in Open Events did NOT count.

At the AGM some old Rules were deleted from the Handbook. You were no longer 'penalised' on Standards. (E.g. one had to improve over 30" in a 25 miles time trial to qualify for a further standard. Longer penalty times were in operation at 50 and 100 miles). You could win more than one medal at a distance during the year or you could take a plaque instead. The Club also amended the way it calculated the Club Championship. It was proposed and accepted that the *Cycling* System as used in the All-rounder Competition should be used. It has been used ever since.

The Other Business part of the proceedings included a request by Mr. Hallerback that the Club purchase a set of four track jerseys, to be retained by the Path Secretary, for use by Club Pursuit Teams. He also suggested that the reserve man of the Team also be recognised and rewarded.

Mr. George Ongley suggested that the Club ran a Bicycle Polo Team. He was told to go ahead. Those who remember the great Polo Teams that won so many National Championships should remember this day. The 25th January 1931. That is when it all

started. At the following Committee Meeting on 13th February the Club agreed to affiliate to the Bicycle Polo Association and that George Ongley be asked to attend future Committee Meetings. He was also requested to attend the B.P.A. Meeting to be held on the 23rd February.

Jack Brash was elected a member of the Club at this Meeting. Later it was reported that the Club was to enter a Team in the Summer Polo League.

The tradition start to the Season was made with the Balham Roughstuff '25'. Of the 100 Entries only 29 failed either to start or to finish so it must have been a good year. B Bevan (Highgate) won and he beat Frank Southall by 48" in 1.39.47. Frank Cleeve completed the course in 1.47.18 and Alan Gordon in 1.49.21. This was enough to take the Team race.

The first club time trial day of the season was a '25' on the 15th March. We have no record of the result except that Frank Southall was fastest in 1.6.38 and Stan Butler did 1.7.37.

The first true Open event of the year was the Forest '25' and for once Frank Southall was eclipsed. Although with the leaders at the turn the headwind finish found out his fitness level. The Winner L.Woods (Norwich Amateur) came back with a time of 1.4.37 Frank was back in an unusual 6th place with 1.6.21. *Cycling* put it down to his maturity and that as he is getting older it now takes longer for him to reach his true speed and fitness. A mark of this event was that of 100 Entries 99 started, (the one failure offered his apologies through sickness), and 95 finished the race. Stan Butler did 1.8.47; Jimmy Dicks 1.10.17 and Frank Cleeve recorded a 1.10.38

The *Cycling* of 10th April 1931 show how 'pathetic' our riders have become. There, on the first page, is a picture of Sid Cozens crossing the line at Herne Hill in front of the German Champion Trauden in pouring rain. The spectators had umbrellas up as well. In the report it said that the rain stopped about ½ an hour before the start but this photograph gives a different view. As far as the Paragon riders went Charlie Hallerback drew Sid Cozens in his Heat of the Sprint and was eliminated. Monty Southall drew Jack Sibbit and he went out too, albeit by only a last minute lunge. The lads made up for this in the 880 yards Tandem Handicap that they won by 4 lengths. In the Palmer Cup Point to Point Monty started well collecting Points with Charlie picking up a few as well. Then Monty punctured and while he was able to get (borrow without permission?) a new machine he was someway in arrears. At half distance the weather was so bad that only 5 riders were left on the Track and three of them were Paragon men. Charlie then took over the reins and began collecting points for himself including the last sprint that he won by some 6 lengths (to win the Cup) with Bill Burl 3rd. Monty had accumulated enough Points for 3rd place overall. Frank Southall won the Australian Pursuit match for Roadmen clearing the Track in 9'11"

The Charlotteville '50' was billed as "the hottest field ever pushed off in the history of the sport". The Result? Out of the 90 starters 21 'packed' and of the remaining 69 29 of them were unable to beat 'evens' or 2.30.00. The Reason? The wind started blowing from the west giving a block headwind to the turn for the early starters and then swung round to the north to provide a crosswind to the whole of the course – apart from Pangbourne Lane that became a block headwind for the last 1½ miles. The

best ride to the turn was Bevan (Highgate) with 1.10.02 with Frank 2nd fastest in 1.10.37. He then lost 48” “untangling a broken mudguard” (!) at the actual turn. Only 32 riders beat ‘evens’ to the turn. On the way back Frank was undoubtedly fastest returning in 1.2.04 to finish in a record slowest win of 2.13.29. Bevan could only repeat his outward performance and returned 2.20.01 while F. Frost (Allondon) came through for 3rd place in 2.18.14. Stan Butler (2.24.16) for 20th place reached the turn in 1.13. The Paragon was 2nd Team with Frank Cleeve (2.26.17) being third counter. Jimmy Dicks finished in 2.38.35.

At the Polytechnic Meeting on Easter Monday (another grey wind and rain swept day) Monty Southall came 3rd in the Invitation 2 miles Scratch race behind Denis Horn and Jack Tibbit. Monty was keeping excellent company.

April 12th was SCCU ‘25’ ‘K-Z’ day. On a fine sunny morning there were 204 entrants and 173 starters! Frank Southall was fastest to the turn in 32’20” leading by 50” from F. Mason (Marlboro) and W. Percival (Tooting) by 52”. Percival was actually 19” faster than Frank on the return but had to be content with 2nd place. Frank’s time was 1.3.56, Percival 1.4.29 with E Evans (Kentish Whs) 3rd in 1.5.05. W. Jones came 5th with 1.5.32 and Alan Gordon 7th in 1.5.53 The three Paragons won the Team race by 3’ from the Kentish Whs. Also riding were Frank Cleeve, 1.7.37, Jimmy Dicks 1.7.44, Stan Butler 1.8.13, D Mitchell 1.9.09, George Woolmer 1.12.53, Eric Godman 1.13.30 and Les Woolley (tricycle) 1.21.59.

On the 19th April Frank Cleeve rode the WLCA ‘25’ but crashed. He eventually finished in 1.10.52. He reported that the Paragon won the Team race. Frank Southall and Stan Butler attacked the SRRA ‘50’ record and were timed in with 2.1.35. (It is family history that Stan could not believe it when Frank asked him to ride with him. He was elated that he had been asked and accepted and terrified that he would let Frank down!)

The Opener for the Club events was the 25 miles Handicap on 26th April, 1931. This was won in fine style by Jimmy Dicks his 1.4.56 being over 2 minutes too good for Frank Burton (1.7.20) with Reg Heath back in 3rd spot (1.7.50). George Saggars came out with a great ride of 1.8.53 that beat his brother Bill by 1’30” that couple with a generous 6’ allowance enabled him to walk off with the Handicap Prize. His 1.2.53 was 2’ too good for the Scratch man Jimmy Dicks with W Martin 3rd in 1.5.31 (5’), Charlie Bowtle 4th in 1.5.48 (3’) and Frank Burton 5th in 1.5.50 (1’30”).

On the same day north of London we had 4 pairs in the University Tandem ‘30’ where a new pairing made their auspicious open event debut. Frank Southall was paired with Stan Butler and they beat the ‘favourites’ Grant and Lundie (Imperial Whs) by 17” to win in 1.9.31. Our other pairings were the inseparable Monty Southall and Charlie Hallerback (1.11.57), Frank Cleeve and Alan Gordon (1.13.27) and George and W. Ongley (1.13.41). The first three won us the Team race. The closeness of Tandem racing is shown by the fact that the Southall/Hallerback pair were in 13th place.

Also racing, but on three wheels, was Les Woolley who rode the Tricycle Association ‘25’ was came in 12th place with a ride of 1.23.10.

At the Evening Track Meeting the 550 yards handicap was a win for D Mitchell with W Whitcher 2nd and W Smith 3rd. The 5 miles Championship for the Denton & Down Cup was a win for Charlie Hallerback, with Bill Burl 2nd and Stan Butler 3rd.

An interesting aside in the Minutes of 23rd May. Mr Wiggins of the Walnut Tree, Yalding regarding a claim for lunches that the Club Run had visited on the 3rd May. It would appear that either some member(s) had gone off without paying or ordered and left before the food arrived. Mr Wiggins was offered 10/- as compensation.

The following week the best racers were back north of London for the North London '50' as usual looking for a fast day on a fast course. What they got was described by the Cycling Reporter as "(riders) found they had to push in frantic endeavours to maintain a speed that could be claimed to come within the racing category". Frank Southall was 2nd fastest at the turn in 1.16.05. The honour of being best to the turn was B. Bevan (Highgate) in 1.15.45, his clubmate, R Redmill, was 3rd and W. Donovan (Kentish Whs) was 4th in approximately 1.18.30. Frank returned in the, then, amazing time of 55.42 to cross the line in 2.11.47. This beat the course record by 3'32". Bevan had no answer to this even though he returned in 1.0.58 to collect 2nd place in 2.16.43. Frank Cleeve and Stan Butler, although not mentioned with the 'cracks' at the turn, came home sufficiently fast for Frank to collect 6th place in 2.20.00 and Stan 7th place in 2.20.56. These times assured the Paragon of the Team race by a mere 11'46". Also riding in Paragon colours were Frank Burton (2.26.03) and Reg Heath (2.28.58).

The 10th May was the date for the Southern Roads Tandem '50' and a cold and misty morning it was too. It warmed up considerably when the first pair to finish recorded a time of 1.47.10! Competition Record by an 'unknown' pair of N. Barnes and F. Feakes (Poole Whs)! This was indeed news. Unfortunately it was soon realised that the turn marshal was in the wrong place and the course was 2 ¾ miles short. Meanwhile Grant and Lundie (Imperial Whs) had come in with 1.46.32 and all eyes were down the road to peer out for Southall and Butler. They had been delayed with a spot of bother with one of their chains and while they were coming back to the Imperial Whs pair they arrived at the finish 15" too late. So Grant and Lundie avenged their University '30' defeat. Frank Cleeve and Alan Gordon came in with 1.49.13 for 9th place that enabled the Paragon to take the Team prize and with 6'30" Handicap they took 2nd place in that category as well. Speculation was rife – would Southall and Butler have beaten Grant and Lundie over the full course considering the way they were regaining lost ground? We shall never know! Other Paragon rides on the Result Sheet were the Ongley brothers (1.53.05), the Saggars brothers (1.54.22) but Les Woolley and A House had problems and failed to finish.

The London Centre 25 miles Tandem paced race at Herne Hill on the 20th May saw Frank Southall complete his hat-trick of wins. The opposition on paper was strong but after 7 laps Frost (Allondon) lost most of his pacing crew in a tandem crash following a puncture to one of them. H Pearson (Marlboro) led Southall and Grant (Imperial Whs) after 5 miles were covered in 10'15.5" but just before the 10 mile mark Grant punctured but had no spare wheel or machine available and so he was forced to retire. The 10 miles were covered in 19.52 and Southall moved away from the field. At 15 miles Frank was 2 laps in front and by 20 miles 3 laps. Frank eventually won in 50'29.2" with Pearson 2nd and Hawkes (Kentish Whs) 3rd.

At Bourneville Sports the BSA Gold Vase 10 miles race was held. It was run in heavy rain that, on grass, meant very heavy going. The winning time was 28'11" somewhat short of the 25 mph one would expect from this class of field! Monty Southall was riding and while he got clear of the field with 3 laps to go he could not hold it and was caught with a lap to go. Later on he made some amends by getting 2nd place in the Devil-take-the-Hindmost.

By this time in the season people were asking not 'Would Southall win?' but 'How much will Southall win by?' The Catford '50' was a case in point. Everyone knew that Frank would win but what was to be the winning margin. At 16 miles he led by 30" from R. Varney (Catford), 1' from W Donovan (Kentish Whs) and 1'30" from R Hammond (Reading). At 37 miles Frank led by 2' from Varney with Hammond and Cave (Vegetarian) at 4' and Donovan a further 2' back. By 42 ½ miles he had put another 2' into his rivals and eventually crossed the line in 2.8.24. Varney held onto 2nd place with 2.13.16 with Hammond 3rd in 2.15.11. Stan Butler produced a personal best of 2.15.56 for 5th place that combined with an allowance of 8', gave him 2nd Handicap. Frank Cleeve came in with 2.20.50 and enabled the Paragon to win the Team race.

Whit Monday was University '100' day and Frank Southall did a double! He won the University '100' in 1930 in 4.38.42 and he won it again in 1931 in 4.38.42! At 28½ miles he led the field in 1.14.00 with Frost (Allondon) and Temme (Glendene) at 1'30". At 50 miles he led in 2.13.15, Frost was at 1'45" and Temme at 2'45" but he retired shortly after. By 71 ½ miles Frank went through in 3.12.30 and had opened up a gap on Frost of 6'30". From this point on Frost 'died' and lost another 9 minutes. Frank finish, as mentioned, in 4.38.42 and W. Marsh, (University) came through to take 2nd place in 4.50.50 with W Donovan (Kentish Whs) 3rd in 4.51.34. Stan Butler was 7th in 4.57.20 including a stop with a puncture. Although the Paragon won the Team race it was Frank Burton who came through to take the third spot after Frank Cleeve collected a puncture. Burton recorded 5.12.09 to Cleeve's 5.12.58 and that is what team riding is all about. Reg Heath did 5.26.20.

Back on southern courses the Balham Second Class '100' was being run for riders that had not beaten 2.30.00 for 50 miles or 5.30.00 for 100 miles. The wind was all wrong for this event with only the first 22 miles being 'easy'. Consequently 36 riders failed to finish. Seven riders were mentioned as leading the field at 22 miles – none of them are mentioned on the final Result! Our man Alan Gordon rode through steadily and came home in 4th place with a ride of 5.13.35.

The Arch Allin prize for the Club 50 miles Handicap went to Frank Cleeve with a ride of 2.17.50. D Mitchell was 2nd in 2.20.20, Reg Heath 3rd in 2.20.50 and Alan Gordon 4th in 2.22.30. These four were so far ahead that they also wrapped up the Handicap places between them. Mitchell was best 2.14.20 (6') with Alan Gordon 2nd in 2.17.30 (5'), and Frank Cleeve equal 3rd in 2.17.50 (Scratch) and Reg Heath (3').

Over at the Marlboro Tandem '50' the Southall/Butler machine took all honours. Not only were they fastest time by 2' exactly with a ride of 1.51.35 but they beat the existing Competition Record by 22". If proof were ever required as to the success and popularity of Tandem racing one would only have to look at the published result of

this race. In 2nd place was Dovaston and Brazier(Southwark) in 1.53.35 the 6th pair (Grant/Lundie) was only 30" behind and the 7th only another 23".

Back at Herne Hill the next Saturday the SCCU Sprint Championship was won by Stan Chambers (Brighton) from Charlie Hallerback. Unfortunately this was Charlies' swansong as in the Final of the London Centre Tandem Sprint Championship he and Monty crashed at the 200 yards mark. Monty collected the usual abrasions but Charlie broke his arm again and had some internal injuries that required a trip to Kings College Hospital.

The first effect this had on the Club was that we had no team available for the next round of the National Team Pursuit and would have to give the Ealing CC a walk-over. At the following Committee Meeting on June 19th it was agreed to arrange a collection at the next Saturday Meeting to give Charlie a reasonable financial return rather than promote a Benefit Meeting, which could get a very wet night and no crowd.

At the end of the Meeting the Chairman 'Sammy' Bartlett reported that he had had a conversation with a Mr Moon of 'The Alhambra' with reference to the Corporation Shield that the late Walter Moon had won. Mr E Moon wished to present this shield for competition amongst local riders. He suggested a 50-mile race and the Hon Sec. Was then asked to write offering our co-operation. This Shield is still raced for every year in a Croydon and District CA race.

The Warren Tandem '50' on 7th June was not the Southall/Butler benefit that the spectators expected. The 'unknown' pair from Poole (Barnes and Freakes) who frightened everyone with a competition record that never was in the Southern Tandem '50' came good. They were fastest to the turn in 50' over 1' faster than Southall and Butler. Our pair started too easily leaving something in hand for the hard finish but left the final effort too late and missed by 3". The Poole lads took 1.53.40 and our pair 1.53.43. Frank Cleeve and partner record 2.1.12 and the Paragon won the Team race.

The National Tandem paced Championship was a bad day for Frank Southall. Although he got away to a good start Harry Grant soon overtook him and was leading at 5 miles. At eight miles Southall punctured and had his work cut out to regain the lost ground. Then, at about 14 miles, the front wheel of his pacing Tandem collapsed and Frank shared the crash. His injuries appeared minor, abrasions to the hand but they proved too painful to hold the bars and he retired. The National Tandem Sprint over 1 mile saw Bill Burt teamed with G Allen (Marlboro) and with a couple of excellent ride arrived in the Final. They were up against Sibbitt and Higgins (Manchester Whs) and Stone and Andrews (Poly). Burt and Allen 'went' with just over a lap to go and with 250 yards to go looked as if they had got the race but Sibbitt and Higgins were in a class of their own that afternoon. The time for the last 200 yards was 11.8" but at that point the winners were 4 lengths behind Burt and Allen and they finished 1½ lengths in front! Their time must have been well under 11". So Bill had to settle for the Silver Medal.

At the Imperial Whs. Evening Meeting at Herne Hill W. Whitcher was 3rd in the 550 yards Handicap and Frank Southall and Bill Burl won the 5 miles Team Point to Point.

On 14th June we had a team in the Kingsdale '50'. Frank Cleeve was our fastest rider with 2.17.18 for 10th place with Frank Burton (2.20.21), Alan Gordon (2.28.16) and Reg Heath (D.N.F.).

Great things were hoped for in the Highgate '100' and to start with it seemed to be going well. Frank Southall appeared start well in his customary fashion and by 38 miles, covered in 1.41.00, he was a minute faster than Marsh (University) and 2' faster than Donovan (Kentish Whs) and H Townsend (Speedwell). However by 50 miles Marsh had closed to 30" and A. Brumell (Vegetarian) only another 7" slower. Frank stopped shortly after this. His wrist that he had injured in the Tandem Paced '50' was troubling him and his feeding arrangements had gone awry. Stan Butler finished in 5.2.43 and Frank Cleeve plugged away and finished, according to Cycling, in 4.58.45. However in his records he had written his time as 5.2.45. The Cycling had copied his Handicap time! A few weeks later there was a note in Cycling to the effect that Frank had correctly recorded his own time! Alan Gordon finished with 5.12.29.

A morning of damp mist and drizzling rain was the lot of the riders in the Brighton Mitre '50' on July 5th. Smooth band tyres were not a good idea that morning and many of those that took the chance rued their luck as they picked themselves up on various corners. The supporters of G Jenkins (Hastings & St Leonards) were hoping that their man would topple the great Frank Southall, or at least run him a close 2nd, after all he had won the North Road Invitation '50' in 1929 and 30. Unfortunately their man had a strip of metal flick through his spokes that stopped him in 'mid-stride' and landed him on his ear. At the time he was leading Frank by 30". Southall completed the course in 2.11.31 some 16" slower than Jenkins' course record set last year. Len Cave (Vegetarian) came through for 2nd place and Stan Butler improved again to claim 3rd place in 2.15.07. With Alan Gordon finishing in 2.20.35 that was good enough to give the Paragon the Team race and still have D Mitchell and Frank Cleeve in reserve with 2.23.07 and 2.23.12 respectively.

The Grand Prix of London Meeting saw Frank Southall attack the 2 miles Standing Start Human Paced Record that was in the name of F Wyld. If he collected this one Frank would 'own' all the Paced records from 1 to 40 miles. Frank went from Tandem to Triplet and back to Tandem. "It was a rhythmic effort of movement, organisation, co-operation and speed which the crowd appreciated to the full" (Cycling). The result was a reduction of 6.2" in the Record to 3'35.8". Great work!

July 12th was the North Road Invitation '50' miles Race. 12 of the best 50 miles riders in the country invited to compete against each other for the unofficial title of 'Champion 50 miler'. Frank Southall took command from the start and at 12 ½ miles he was leading by 46" from Bevan (Highgate) and Bloodworth (Broad Oak) in 29.09. The 25 miles were covered in 59.20 (indicating a fast start and a hard finish). Bevan had dropped back to be 1'45" down, Frost (Allondon) had moved into 3rd spot at 2'10 and Bloodworth was at 2'15". At 37½ miles, that Frank reached in 1.33.15, Frost had actually gained on him coming through only 1'40" in arrears in 2nd place. Bevan was

now at 2'43" Bloodworth 3'09 and Brown (Potteries) 3'25". The last quarter, the hardest stretch, saw Frost equal Frank's efforts. Frank crossed the line in 2.8.05 with Frost still 1'40" slower with 2.9.45. Brown had put in a steady ride and collected 3rd place in 2.11.31.

South of London the 100 miles Championship for the Dunlop Cup was a great ride for Stan Butler. Not only did he record fastest time of 4.50.25 for a personal best but he was fastest on Handicap from the Scratch mark. Frank Cleeve was 2nd but took 1st place in the Handicap with a ride of 4.59.31 (less 5' for 4.54.31). These two were miles clear of the rest of the 8 finishers, as Ernie Iles was next fastest in 5.21.35. (NB In Club events one cannot take both 1st place prize and 1st Handicap).

In Cycling on the 24th July it was reported that Monty Southall and Bill Burt had put in an application that they be re-instated as Amateurs which was granted and would take effect from 1st July 1932 provided they did not ride any un-registered meetings in the meantime. This meant that they had been caught taking cash prizes at events not run under NCU Rules. It would appear from the decision that there must have been some uncertainty that the event was un-registered otherwise they would never have been promised a reprieve if they were good boys. Strange that this does not appear in the Club Minutes! However in a later Meeting they were given permission to ride in Time Trials for Standard Medals although no mention is actually made of their suspension.

Some interesting points are found in the Minutes of the Committee Meeting on the 17th July. It was proposed to hold a Dance at 'The Locarno' Streatham Hill. Little did the Committee think that this venue would be a favourite with Club members for many years afterwards and be responsible for quite a number of marriages. Also D Mitchell was to be warned about his conduct. He 'took pace' from Reg Heath for about 100 yards. A greater sin could not be imagined. Extremely unsporting behaviour so all members were to be reminded of the 'rules' when one had been overtaken.

Frank came back to top form in the Belle Vue '50' on the 19th July. He recorded his best 50 miles time ever with 2.5.44. He had recorded a time of 2.5.07 but the course was subsequently found to be a little short. That morning the air was damp but invigorating and the roads were rain soaked and hard(!). Frank got to the turn in 1.6.20 with Jenkins (Hastings) at about 1' back. Brown (Charlotteville) was at 1'51, Frost (Allondon) at 2'05 and Donovan (Kentish Whs) at 2'35". Elementary mathematics will tell you that Frank took 59'24" to get back home with the last 3 miles being the fastest on the course. Unofficial timing said that Donovan took 7 minutes to cover this distance but Frank took another minute out of him on the same stretch of road.

At the Finish Frank had pulled away even further from the opposition to win by 4'52" from Frost (2.10.26), 6'17" from Donovan (2.12.01), 6'23" from Brown (2.12.07) and 6'56" from Bevan (Highgate- 2.12.40). Jenkins unfortunately punctured on the return but still recorded 2.13.20 for 7th place. Frank also collected a well-deserved 2nd place on Handicap and the Club were 2nd Team with an aggregate of 6.45.21. We believe Frank Cleeve did 2.21.26 and presume the third counter was Stan Butler who, by calculation, must have done a 2.18.11.

A round of the National Team Pursuit was run off at the Belle Vue Evening Meeting and the Paragon beat the Fulham Whs by 1.4" in 4'21.4". The only other Club mention was W Whitcher came 2nd in the 880 yards Handicap.

After the great ride comes the downfall and in the Ealing '50' on the 26th July Frank Southall punctured in the first few miles, had problems with changing his tyre, and retired. Stan Butler was reported as having his share so it was left to Alan Gordon to get his name in the Results with a 2.18.11 for 12th place. Frank Cleeve also finished in 2.21.26.

The Bath Road '100' – the 'Blue Riband' of the time-trialling world was to be held on the 3rd August. It had attracted the fastest field ever. 64 of the 100 accepted riders had recorded a time under 5 hours and the slowest man was inside 5.10.00. It was also to be a selection race for the World Championship Road Race to be held, as a time trial, in Denmark later in the month. This year instead of the usual rising south-westerly wind the riders had a rising north-easter. This meant a hard first 22 miles and an even harder last 28 miles. Not at all what the doctor ordered for fast times. (By chance, however, it mirrored the conditions that were to be met with in Denmark!)

By 22 ½ miles at the turn at Abingdon Frank Southall had gone into the lead with 1.2.45. Freddie Frost was 15" slower and Orrell (Anfield) a further minute back. Another 9 riders were within the next minute. Although Frank was moving faster than the rest of the field he was not moving with his customary gusto and by 50 miles had only extended his lead on Frost to 1'. Turner (Cheshire Roads) was now at 3'32, Orrell at 4'47 and Len Cave (Vegetarian) at 5'20. By the 72 miles check Frost was in the lead with 3.14.15 with Frank back 4'15". He had been suffering from a stomach disorder and had been off his bike three times. Shortly after he retired and returned to the Finish in a car. Frost was exactly 5' faster than Turner at the far turn, 5'10" up on Cave, 9'05" on Stan Butler and 12'45" on Frank Cleeve. Frost returned to the Finish to record 4.39.40 an excellent ride on the day with Cave 2nd in 4.47.19 and Brown 3rd in 4.47.40 and these three were selected to go with Frank to Denmark. While the Cycling does not mention our riders they do appear in the Results with Stan Butler in 12th spot in 4.53.13 and Frank Cleeve 24th in 4.58.37.

At the London Centre Championships the Norwood Paragon won the Centre Team Pursuit Championship beating the Belle Vue by 3.2" in the Final.

Our best Team went down to Bath on the 9th August for the Bath CC '50'. A strong crosswind ensured that there would be no really fast times but Frank Southall duly won comfortably in 2.12.09 with Stan Butler riding into 2nd place with 2.17.34 and Alan Gordon 5th in 2.19.52 that ensured a comfortable win for the Paragon in the Team race. Frank Cleeve finished in 7th place with a ride of 2.22.58.

On the 16th August was the Anerley 12 hour event. Our only record is that Stan Butler equalled his Club Record of 222 miles for 6th place but suffered 2 punctures on the way round.

The World Road Race Championship was held in Denmark and as it was a 107 miles Time Trial it would not be too pushy to say that Frank Southall must have been one of the favourites. The report in Cycling is scathing in its report of the way the race was run. The roads were not closed or even controlled so that anyone could go onto the course and follow riders. The timekeepers were at ground level and were unable to see the line properly as journalists kept coming up to the table to check times and the numbers, names and times of the finishers. The race too was a bit of a shambles. You also have to remember that in 1931 all food and drink had to be carried and all repairs carried out by the rider personally. So when Frank punctured at about 30 miles he had to change his own tyre. In the process he dropped a bottle and rode off without it. He then had to turn and come back for it. Consequently at the first check after 33 ½ miles he was 36th out of 37 starters 9'15" behind the leader Leo Nielsen (Denmark). Frost was equal 11th at 4' and Cave 29th at 8'30". At 61 miles Nielsen still led in 2.29.00, Frost was equal 10th at 7', Southall had moved up to 24th at 11' and Cave was 28th at 13'.

The last 46 miles were back to Copenhagen and into the wind. Hansen, the Danish favourite, had a retinue of cars and motor cycles surrounding him and by the 81 1.2 miles point he had regained the 3'30" he had been behind Nielsen and was by then 40" to the good. Frost was 17th at 15'50", Southall 18th at 16'20" and Cave 23rd at 20'50". The entourage had swept up Southall and later the Italian Olmo (The same man whose frames we still purchase today) eventually crossing the line with a bunch of 6 riders. They were all faced with the same problem. Do you hold the convoy or do you struggle on by yourself to the Finish. Considering the numbers of vehicles with Hansen most of them decided to stay. Thus Frank Southall rose from 18th to 7th and reduced his deficit to 15'37". The 30,000 spectators at the Finish, of course, swarmed all over the Course once Hansen had finished and thus prevented anyone from reaching the line at anything like racing speed and the Timekeepers from actually observing their passing. Frost finished 30'07" down in 18th place and, as a late starter, was one of those delayed by the crowd. Cave, an early starter had already finished but eventually 32'37" in arrears.

The real loser was the other Dane Leo Nielsen who did complete the course in true, unpaced, style. He lost 6' in the last 26 miles to Hansen and 2'54 to Olmo. The moral winner of the Championship as the Cycling Reporter said.

Hansen's time for the 107 ½ miles was 4.50.53, Olmo 4.56.54, Nielsen 4.57.33, Southall 5.6.30, Frost 5.21.00 and Cave 5.33.30. Not a satisfactory event at all.

There had been a Meeting regarding the Shield that Mr Moon was offering in memory of his son. It had been agreed to run a '50' for local clubs with the best 4 times from each Club counting to decide the Winners of the Shield. The first running to be in 1932. Mr. Moon had offered £5 towards the prizes.

Back home and the Best All-rounder Competition - Frank continued to dominate. The Westerley '100' on 30th August was his next win but it is no surprise to see that the fastest three riders were the World Championship team. Frank winning in 4.32.46 for Competition Record but with Frost finishing in 4.38.30 for 2nd place and Len Cave 3rd in 4.39.45 over 7' clear of the next rider the Selectors were justified. Frank was in command at 21 miles leading in 1.00.00 by 1' from Frost and 2'30" from Harrison (Westerley) and a host of riders on or about the 1.3.00 mark. By 50 miles, reached by

Frank in 2.14.30, he had 3' in hand on Frost and a little more on Cave and Stan Butler. Harrison had had the first of his two punctures and had dropped back. At 60 miles the gap on his Great Britain Team-mates had stretched to 4' and 8' but then on the way back from Savernake there was a small hesitation as Frost regain one of those minutes. However it was a false alarm. All was right with the world and Frank pulled away again leaving Cave to do the surprise work by cutting into Frost's lead over him from 4' to only 1'15 at the line.

The Competition Record time was also good enough for Frank to collect 1st Handicap but behind Frank the Team was also doing well. Stan Butler came back in 5th place with a personal best of 4.48.01, Alan Gordon also came in with a personal best of 4.54.36 for 13th place that with 17' handicap gave him 2nd place in that part of the prize list, Frank Cleeve finished in 5.1.02, and the Paragon collected the Team race. Quite a good day out!

The Meeting of Champions included the Semi-Finals and Final of the National Team Pursuit Championship. The Norwood Paragon were up for the Hat-trick of three wins on the trot. Our team of Frank Southall, Charlie Hallerback, Jimmy Dicks and Stan Butler easily disposed of the Brighton Stanley in the Semis and the Belle Vue did the same to the Doncaster Whs. In the Final Wyatt (Belle Vue) was pushing the pace too hard and opened up a gap on his team-mates. When told to ease he did so but so rapidly his team-mates piled into the back of him. Our lads passed the tangled mess of riders and thereby 'won' the event. It was unfortunate mishap but all part and parcel of cycle racing. Our lads immediately offered to re-run the contest. A sporting gesture that, according to the book, was not necessary. However sportsmanship won the day and a re-run was arranged. The Belle Vue lads were torn and battered and one of their quartet, Madelaine, only completed one lap. However Murphy's Law came into play and Frank Southall punctured! This left two very evenly balanced teams on the track and as fate decreed it was the Belle Vue that won by just 0.8". There is no mention of any other involvement of the Paragon at the Meeting. One could be forgiven in thinking that they were somewhat put out and went off to drown their sorrows.

The next day, to make amends, the team were riding the Forest '50'. It was a cold morning with a cross-wind from the north that put nearly everyone outside their best times. The course had received some road repairs in the shape of the regritting of small patches of the surface. One of the early victims was Frank Burton. At the turn Frank had made good time with 1.5.30" for the 25 miles only matched by L. Woods (Norwich) who beat him in the Forest '25' earlier in the year. Bevan (Highgate) was 1'45 back and there were many more about 2'30" adrift. The way back took Frank just 1.3.00 and enabled him to take over 1'30" from his own course Record and to figure in the handicap in 3rd place. Woods disappeared on the way back and Harrison (Westerley) eased in front of Bevan for 2nd place on 2.14.17 to Bevan's 2.14.45. Stan Butler came home in 5th place with a 2.16.04; Frank Cleeve recorded 2.19.48 and Alan Gordon 2.20.01. The Paragon took the Team race easily. Frank's time plus any two of the other would have been sufficient.

On the same day south of the river the Club 12 hours was run off. This was a win for Ernie Iles with 210.75 miles, W. Martin was 2nd with 204.875 and J Shaw 3rd with

204.00 miles. The Handicap was won by Shaw with an allowance of 8 miles giving him 212.00 miles with the scratchman Iles 2nd and Martin 3rd with 207.875 (3 miles).

After the terrible weather of the 'Gayler' 12 hour of 1930 no one in their right mind would have thought that 1931 could be worse. Admittedly the wind was not so strong but there was a cold persistent rain that fell all day. Yes, it made the roads fast but you had to keep upright. Punctures there were by the score. At 58 miles Frank was leading in 2.44 with Freddie Frost at 2' and W. Marsh (University) 3rd at 3'. At 100 miles, covered in 4.50.30, Frank was leading by 4'30" from Frost and 5'45 from Marsh. Around this point Stan Butler punctured, crashed and was forced to retire. This left Frank Cleeve and Alan Gordon as back-up for Frank in the Team race so they HAD to finish. In the meantime at the front of the race at 160 miles Frank had pulled out to be 11'15" ahead of Marsh who had a further 7' in hand over Frost. Shortly after this Frost fell smashing his rear wheel and eventually borrowing a steel replacement.

Frank rode out time with 236.375 miles including one puncture. He was actually trying to keep inside evens and planned for a 240 miles ride but the cold weather and the missing of a feed (extremely important in cold, wet weather) around the 180 miles mark lost him minutes he could not regain. Frank Cleeve was another of the 24 (!) finishers in 6th place with 220.5 miles and Alan Gordon made the Team, and the Team race with 200.75 miles for 22nd place. Have some sympathy for R Gower (Luton Whs) who had 8 punctures but finished with 204.75 miles.

Our riders were out of luck at the Racing Cyclists Accident Fund Meeting on the 19th September. Charlie Bowtle was riding the 5 miles motor paced handicap and his motor packed up with 2 laps to go leaving the victory to go to Harry Grant (Imperial Whs). Charlie Hallerback failed to get through the 1st round of the Sprint and D Mitchell managed 3rd place in the Novices 1 lap scratch. However, the name of one A.C.G. Bristow appears for the first time as winner of the 550 yards (second class) Scratch riding in the colours of the Delta RC. More, much more, of this gentleman will appear later on.

The 20th September was the day for the Southgate '25' and another course Record by Frank Southall. He won in 1.1.35 that gave him a 2'20" advantage over R Bevan (Highgate) and 2'40" over C Sutton (Kentish Whs). Charlie Hallerback was riding his first time trial since his bad crash on the Track and with D Mitchell the Paragon took the Team race in 3.18.46.

The North Road '100' on 27th September was the last event to count for the Best All-rounder Competition. There was no problem about the winner, Frank Southall, but there was considerable speculation as regards the Team Prize. The Vegetarian C & AC were leading but if the Paragon riders could improve 6'30" on their 100 times they could take the Title. It all rested on Frank Cleeve as he was the only entrant from the Paragon to the North Road '100'. The fact that Charlie Holland (Midland C & AC), W Marsh and L Cave were locked in battle at the front of the field was a mere nothing. Our eyes were on Frank Cleeve who had to beat 4.51.44 that was over a minute faster than he had ever done before on a day that had winds blowing from all directions. Frank went through the 50 miles check in 2.23.25. At 70 miles he was timed through in 3.23.50 only 6' slower than Holland but the hoped for, wind assisted,

fast finish failed to materialise and Frank came over the line in 5.53.33 just 1'50" too late. So we had to settle for 2nd team – again!

On the same day Frank Southall rode the Adys '25' and got closer to the 'magic' hour and showed that he is still as fast as he was at the start of the season when he crossed the line in 1.0.59. In 2nd place was last years winner, Bevan (Highgate) 1.2.01, with W Hawkins (Watford) 3rd in 1.3.01. Jummy Dicks was 10th in 1.5.30 and with D Mitchell completing the course in 1.6.59 the Paragon won the Team race.

The 4th October was Mayne Cup day. Unfortunately we have lost the result of this event Stan Butler did fastest time of 1.6.35 for a personal best and Ernie Tugwell won the Mayne Cup but that is the whole of our information!

The following weekend Frank had another go at the 'hour' riding the Comet '25'. His winning time was 1.1.37 nearly 4' faster than F Lipsombe (Ingleside) with 1.5.31 and A Turk (Eagle Road) 1.6.10. In fact, Frank just missed 1st on Handicap, from scratch, by 4". It was a colder morning and therefore times were slower.

He had a third crack at the hour in the Southend Whs '25' but conditions were against fast times as a thick mist covered the course throughout the event and this made the roads extremely slippery and treacherous. However, Southall is Southall and he scorched home in 1.1.47 to win by exactly 3' from W Hawkins (Watford) and 3'47 from F Lipscombe (Ingleside). Once again Frank was backed by D Mitchell, (1.6.24), and Jimmy Dicks, (1.7.52), to take the Team race.

Frank Cleeve and Alan Gordon attacked the SRRA Worthing and back Tandem Record on the 4th October but were unlucky. They missed by 2'30" when recording 5.2.44 for the distance.

At any earlier Committee Meeting Bill Saggars had informed the meeting that he would not be able to carry on with the Secretary's job. It was with considerable relief that the Committee accepted E. Woolnough's offer to take over this wide ranging and, sometimes, arduous job. (Received with acclamation – quotes the Minutes!) Frank Cleeve would take over the post of Assistant Secretary.

The Catford Hill-climb on Brasted Hill was its usual vibrant event. Frank tried out a 56 inch gear (instead of the 63 he used last year) but could not achieve any real speed over the final stretches of the Hill finishing in 7th spot some 16.8" slower than the winner E. Hussey (Finsbury Park). The surprise of the day was Stan Butler who finished in 6th place beating Frank by 2 clear seconds in 2.9'6". It quite made his day! Even though the Club had 2 riders in the first 10 finishers we could only get 3rd in the Team race with Frank Cleeve finishing in 2'32". The Catford had three in the top ten so they won by 24".

Two weeks later the Redhill Athletic Club held a Hill Climb on White Hill, (Bletchingley to Caterham on the Hill road). Stan Butler was 2nd in 1.55 just 1" behind the winner G Copeland (Clarion). Even with Alan Gordon (2.21) and Frank Cleeve (2.31) we were only good enough for 3rd Team prize.

As riders were able to ride more and more Open events and were able to ride for Standards in the main Club Handicaps the number of time trials ridden dropped appreciatively. During the whole of 1931 only 20 members achieved standards on the specified 'Time Trial' days. During the season as a whole the Committee awarded 1 Special Gold, 11 Gold, 34 Gold Centre, 24 Silver and 5 Bronze Medals.

The results of the year included 16 Team race wins. One Centre Team Pursuit Championship (and a silver in the Nationals). Frank Southall as British Best All-rounder and, for the second time, the Paragon was 2nd in the Team Competition. Stan Butler being listed as 16th in the Cycling's Table.

During the winter the Cycling organised a Poll to find the 12 best Pathmen of 1931. The Contest was a tie between Dennis Horn and Jack Sibbitt but two of our men, Frank Southall and Charlie Hallerback were 14th and 15th. The Cycling found that while 47 different names were put forward the top 16 riders were far ahead of any of the others.

The Club Attendance Prize was a tie between G Millard and W Martin. The winner of the Silk Jersey was D Mitchell. The Freewheel Competition was won by A.E. Davis.

The medals presented by A Hickford went to Frank Southall 21.852 mph, Stan Butler 20.511 mph, Frank Cleeve 20.211 mph and Alan Gordon 20.047 mph. Stan Butler won the Club Road Championship.

Special Gold Medals, above those given for Standards were won by Frank Southall and Stan Butler for their Competition Record of 1.51.35 for 50 miles and Frank Southall for his 4.32.46 for the '100' miles.

In the list of Path Records of the World published in Cycling at the end of 1931 Frank was listed as holding a single World record that of the unpaced standing start mile in 2' 2.2". However in the National List Frank had 12 of these, Charlie Bowtle had 3 in the Tricycle Section, Frank and Monty Southall had 2 in the Tandem Section along with Monty and Charlie Hallerback (4 Records), Frank Southall and Alf Watkins (1 Record) plus a half share in the one Tandem record held by Bill Burt and G Allen.

On the Road Frank held the RRA Brighton and Back Record and the SRRA '50' and '100' records, not to mention Competition records at 25, 50, and 100 miles.

At the Committee Meeting on the 4th December Frank Patterson was elected. While Frank was not to set the cycling world alight with his exploits he was the man responsible for keeping the Club alive during the 1939 -45 War keeping in contact with all our service men.

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		26.4.31				
22	Entries					
20	Starters					
20	Finishers					
1	Dicks J	1.04.56	1	Saggers G	6.00	1.02.53
2	Burton F	1.07.20	2	Dicks J	Scratch	1.04.56
3	Heath R	1.07.50	3	Martin W	5.00	1.05.31
4	Mitchell D	1.08.41	4	Bowtle C	3.00	1.05.48
5	Bowtle C	1.08.48	5	Burton F	1.30	1.05.50
6	Saggers G	1.08.53	6	Mitchell D	2.00	1.06.41
7	Saggers W	1.10.22	7	Heath R	1.00	1.06.50
8	Martin W	1.10.31	8	Heasman W	3.00	1.07.43
9	Heasman W	1.10.43	9	Walker J	3.30	1.07.50
10	Willshire F	1.11.05	10	Saggers W	2.30	1.07.52
11	Walker J	1.11.20	11	Godman E	4.30	1.08.00
12	Shaw J	1.11.37	12	Willshire F	3.00	1.08.05
13	Iles E	1.12.07	13	Shaw J	3.30	1.08.07
14	Godman E	1.12.30	14	Jones W	4.30	1.08.10
15	Jones W	1.12.40T	15	Diplo W	4.30	1.08.20
16	Wolnough E	1.12.45	16	Iles E	2.30	1.09.37
17	Diplo W	1.12.50	17	Wolnough E	2.30	1.10.15
18	Hawes E	1.15.38	18	Berridge H	7.00	1.10.30
19	Berridge H	1.17.30	19	Hawes E	3.00	1.12.38
20	Brash J	1.22.09	20	Brash J	4.00	1.18.09
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		31.5.31				
13	Entries					
13	Starters					
12	Finishers					
1	Cleeve F	2.17.50	1	Mitchell D	6.00	2.14.20
2	Mitchell D	2.20.20	2	Gordon A	5.00	2.17.30
3	Heath R	2.20.50	3	Cleeve F	Scratch	2.17.50
4	Gordon A	2.22.30	4	Heath R	3.00	2.17.50
5	Bowtle C	2.25.37	5	Bowtle C	7.00	2.18.37
6	Dicks J	2.26.40	6	Godman E	9.00	2.20.08
7	Godman E	2.29.08	7	Saggers G	9.00	2.20.08
8	Saggers G	2.29.45	8	Shaw J	8.00	2.22.34
9	Shaw J	2.30.34	9	Dicks J	3.00	2.23.40
10	Woolmer G	2.33.40	10	Woolmer G	9.00	2.24.40
11	Baldock J	2.37.35	11	Baldock J	9.00	2.28.35
12	Berridge H	2.46.05	12	Berridge H	12.00	2.34.05
	Scratch Result	25 tt				
		14.6.31				
1	Shaw J	1.10.57				
2	Brash J	1.11.55				
3	Tucker C	1.14.55				
		50 tt				
1	Martin W	2.26.44				
2	Willshire F	2.28.58				
3	Woolmer A	2.30.26				

4	Heasman W	2.35.06				
5	Brash J	2.45.51				
	Scratch Result	100 h/c		Handicap Result		
		12.7.31		Dunlop Cup		
12	Entries					
12	Starters					
8	Finishers					
1	Butler SM	4.50.25	1	Butler SM	Scratch	4.50.25
2	Cleeve F	4.59.31	2	Cleeve F	5.00	4.54.31
3	Iles E	5.21.35	3	Woolmer A	29.00	4.55.10
4	Woolmer A	5.24.10	4	Martin W	23.00	5.04.15
5	Willshire F	5.25.20	5	Willshire F	21.00	5.04.20
6	Martin W	5.27.15	6	Shaw J	22.00	5.06.30
7	Shaw J	5.28.30	7	Iles E	15.00	5.06.35
8	Godman E	5.38.50	8	Godman E	25.00	5.13.50
	Scratch Result	12 hours				
		16.8.31				
1	Butler SM	222.00	Anerley			
2	Gordon A	216.75	Anerley			
3	Burton FA	209.12	Anerley			
4	Heath R	206.62	Anerley			
	Scratch Result	12 hrs h/c		Handicap Result		
		6.9.31				
5	Entries					
5	Starters					
5	Finishers					
1	Iles E	210.75	1	Shaw J	8.00	212.00
2	Martin W	204.87	2	Iles E	Scratch	210.75
3	Shaw J	204.00	3	Martin W	3.00	207.87
4	Woolmer A	197.25	4	Woolmer A	6.00	203.25
5	Tucker C	187.12	5	Tucker C	8.00	195.12
	Scratch Result	12 hrs h/c		Handicap Result		
		6.9.31				
5	Entries					
5	Starters					
5	Finishers					
1	Iles E	210.75	1	Shaw J	8.00	212.00
2	Martin W	204.87	2	Iles E	Scratch	210.75
3	Shaw J	204.00	3	Martin W	3.00	207.87
4	Woolmer A	197.25	4	Woolmer A	6.00	203.25
5	Tucker C	187.12	5	Tucker C	8.00	195.12
	Scratch Result	25 tt				
		20.9.31				
	Godman E	1.14.40				
	Woolmer A	1.17.12				
		50 tt				
	Butler SM	2.20.55				
	Cleeve FL	2.23.23				
	Iles E	2.35.47				

	Scratch Result	50 tt				
		27.9.31				
Tan	Ongley G/Domoney W	2.07.15				
	Heasman/Shaw	2.10.37				
	lles E	2.29.33				
	Scratch Result	25tt h/c		Handicap Result		
		4.10.31		Mayne Cup		
1	Butler SM	1.6.35	1	Tugwell E		
	Complete result lost					