

## 1932

The first changes noticed for 1932 were the election of four new Vice Presidents. Johnnie Munns whose interest in the Club goes back to its formation years. E.J. (Teddy) Winn was the World's Amateur 1 hour Motor Paced record Holder and the proprietor of Winn's Dining Rooms in Holborn. Jack Carter and A.E. Davis were the other two. As mentioned, at the end of 1931 E. Woolnough and Frank Cleeve had taken over the General and Assistant Secretary's roles and Fred Lee had become Treasurer. Frank Cleeve had also become Reporting Secretary. W Martin had taken over the Captaincy with Eric Godman and Fred Willshire as his assistants. The Committee was Freddie Gardiner, Charlie Hallerback, Reg Heath, Bill Saggars, George Saggars, Frank Southall, Ernie Tugwell and Stan Butler. Stan was to serve on the Committee in one guise or another until his death in 1993. J.E. Stephenson was elected to the Timekeepers list.

At the AGM there were 53 members present (from a membership of 97) at the meeting held at St Jude's Hall, Thornton Heath on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1932. It was proposed that an Open Veterans 25 miles race be run in 1932 with a minimum age of 40 years. The President offered to donate £4.4s as Prizes to this event. Also the Standards for the 1mile Standing Start unpaced were amended to 2'9" Gold, 2'12" Gold Centre, 2'15" Silver and 2'20" Bronze and so were the Standards for the 1hour ride. These would now be 24 miles Gold, 23 miles Gold Centre, 22 miles Silver and 21 miles Bronze. This is the only time in the history of the Club that the Standards have been 'eased'. It should also be stated that the previous standards were extremely difficult to achieve even by our best Track riders.

The All-rounder Concert at the Albert Hall attracted a full house including many, many Paragon members. However not only did they see Frank Southall collect the Cycling Trophy they had Stan Butler to cheer as he reached the Semi-Finals of the Home Trainer (Roller) Competition

On the 9<sup>th</sup> February 6 members were elected to the Club including Arthur Bristow who was to become a stalwart of the Club and especially Track racing. The date for the Veterans '25' was fixed for 17<sup>th</sup> July and the Evening Track Meeting was to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. October 16<sup>th</sup> was set aside for a club photo run to 'Sammy' Bartlett house. George Colget offered another silk jersey as a prize 'at the Committee's discretion'.

The Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February learnt that a cabin had been booked at Herne Hill and A.E. Davis offered to see if any repairs were necessary. Lockers were to be rented out for 2/6 and a Cabin key would cost riders 1/-. The Addiscombe CC were trying to resurrect the Addiscombe Traders Sports and delegates were appointed to go to the meeting and learn what it was all about but Freddie Gardiner also pointed out that arrangements were already in hand for a Croydon Hospital Meeting should there be a clash of dates and/or interests.

The 28<sup>th</sup> February was the occasion of the Balham Rough Riders '25'. It was cold, very cold, and the wind howled and blew. Standing water was frozen but at least the sun shone. To the Paragon it was a great day because Stan Butler 'came good'. He won in a Record time, although the course had been lengthened by  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, of 1.37.50

beating the existing record by 27” and last year’s winner Len Cave by 1’22”. At the halfway mark the two riders were level on time but Stan pulled away towards the end. Frank Southall and Alan Gordon both punctured and retired. Frank Cleeve got round in 1.59.41 including a stop for a puncture and problems with a rear wheel. (19 of the 69 starters failed to finish). An excellent start to the season.

Two weeks later on the 13<sup>th</sup> March was the Kentish Wheelers Novices ‘25’ and the Club had three entrants. E Harland recorded 1.13.22 and Frank Patterson 1.13.42 for two creditable first performances and Bill Henn got round in 1.17.39. Tucked away at the bottom of the Result was Ernie Mills, Addiscombe, (1.13.57) later to become Track rider of note and whose 1 hour Tandem Record (with Bill Paul) set in 1938 on the Vigorelli Track was not beaten until 2002 at the new Manchester Velodrome.

The Forest ‘25’ was down for the 20<sup>th</sup> March and the pundits thought that it was both too early for the, now, older Southall and he looked as if he had put on a bit of weight during the winter. Well, he might have been carrying a little weight around the stomach but there was nothing wrong with his legs. Frank came in with 1.3.14 for the 25 miles and R Bevan (Highgate) once thought to be a likely winner was put into his place by 1’25” with W. Bailey (Wyndham) back on 1.5.28. Alan Gordon was in 7<sup>th</sup> place with 1.5.57 and with Stan Butler recording 1.7.21 the Team race was ours. We actually had three other riders in the event. Frank Cleeve finished with 1.8.28, E Staplehurst, 1.9.49 and Jimmy Dicks 1.10.52 that suggests he had some trouble.

Good Friday is SCCU Day at Herne Hill. Frank Southall was our first man in action being matched with E Harvell (Poole Whs) in a 1000m Time Trial. Harvell beat Frank by 1’6” in 1.19. However Frank got his revenge in the 1 hour Tandem Paced event when he covered 29 miles 1142 yards to win by over 3 laps.

On Easter Monday the weather had turned nasty and in front of quite a small crowd Frank took part in a Four-cornered match with Hussey (Finsbury Park), Harbour (Bath Road) and Harvell but he was not at his best and came third. In the 70 laps Madison he was partnered by C. Horn (Norwich) and they finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind F.H and P Wyld (Derby).

Out on the road our men were riding the Charlotteville ‘50’. A typical spring day with showers of rain, bursts of sunshine and a howling south-west wind. Frank Southall was expected to win but a puncture on the way to the start left him with no spare and a second puncture early in the race stopped him in his tracks. Cycling reports that quite three-quarters of the field punctured at least once! Such was the wind that W. Bailey (Wyndham) was ‘fastest’ to the turn in a time of 1.13.48. Alan Gordon was up with the leaders as he turned in exactly 1.15.00. Alan’s return half lasting 1.2.53 gave him 9<sup>th</sup> place (2.17.53). Stan Butler was 24<sup>th</sup> in 2.21.36 with a puncture and Frank Cleeve 49<sup>th</sup> in 2.27.39 also with a puncture. We did not win the Team race. (The Result Card was the first we have in our archives with the riders listed in their finishing positions rather than their start times as more usual at that time).

The University Tandem ‘30’ was held on 10<sup>th</sup> April with Frank Southall and Stan Butler starting as favourites. Unfortunately on their first kick they pulled their rear wheel over. The Timekeeper gave them a restart and while they were behind W.

Barrett (Wheatsheaf) and B Bevan (Highgate) at the turn our pair came flying back into the wind to record 1.5.42 to the Wheatsheaf/Highgate pair's time of 1.7.30. According to the Rules at the time re-starts were not (are still not) allowed in Open Events thus 1st place was eventually awarded to Barrett and Bevan even though Southall and Butler could still use their 1.5.42 on Entry Forms as it was a true time trial! As Stan Butler also remarks in his scrapbook that it was reported that the Timekeepers watched stopped on two occasions. The University were also asked to provide our pair with a special prize.

In the Club Handicap '25' Jimmy Dicks came home with the best time in 1.7.48 but the Handicap was won by E. Harland with W Heasman 2<sup>nd</sup> and J. Shaw 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The following week was the WLCA '25' and after 3 successive wet and windy weekends 8 riders opted to ride tricycles for this event. While the weather was not wet it was certainly extremely windy. 177 riders had entered for the '25' of whom 143 started and 119 finished. To give a further example of the severity of the conditions it was Frank Southall's slowest rides for some years. His 1.5.19, though, was far too good for the rest of the field. Starting about an hour after Southall was Stan Butler who came in with 1.7.11 to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place from Freddie Frost (Allondon). We also collected the Team race with Jimmy Dicks recording 1.9.24. Stan notes he was riding a 'Southall' bike. Note of interest - Frank Southall was No.35 in a field of 177. Stan Butler 96 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place man FG Frost No. 22. These were, and still are, very unusual (for 2004) field placings.

Another 1 – 2 for the Paragon was in the SCCU 'K-Z' '25'. There were 168 names on the Start Sheet and Frank Southall recorded another win. It was noted that at the turn Alan Gordon was in 2<sup>nd</sup> spot only 1' down on Frank and 10" in front of Stan Butler. Alan faded on the return but was placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Frank Southall's time was 1.3.15, Stan Butler 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 1.5.36 and Alan Gordon 1.6.46. The Paragon won the Team race. Also in the field were George Ongley 1.11.07, J Shaw 1.11.29, Bill Diplo 1.15.36 and W Brough 1.22.35.

There was an Olympic Selection meeting at Herne Hill on the 30<sup>th</sup> April but the only mention of a Paragon rider was Arthur Bristow who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 880 yards Handicap.

Sunday was Southern Roads Tandem '50' and a surprise defeat for the Southall/Butler partnership. While leading at the turn by 20" in 54'10" from Frost/Capell (Allondon), 54" from Barnes/Freakes (Poole Whs) and 1'25" from the Ferris/Harris (South Western RC) pairing they were not going well together. At 42 miles the Allondon pair were leading by a few seconds and while our men pulled away from everyone else they were losing ground to Frost and Capell. To make amends Frank Cleeve and Alan Gordon made 9<sup>th</sup> fastest time (1.58.46) to enable the Paragon to take the Team race.

In the Western Roads (Second Class) '25' J Shaw was upholding the Paragon name with 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1.9.42 to the winner's 1.8.59.

Frank Southall's first complete '50' of the year was the Catford event. He nearly missed the start having overslept at a friends house and had had no time to breakfast.

Fortunately his friends had a car and were able to drive down the course and hand up a sustaining bottle! As it was a cold morning that bottle was extremely important. W. Donovan (Kentish Whs) led the race for some time with a ride of 2.14.27 until Frank came in with a 2.11.12 but no one else got close to him. Frank Cleeve got to the Finish in 2.19.11 for 11<sup>th</sup> place and Stan Butler was 15<sup>th</sup> being slightly slower in 2.20.36 having started too fast and fading in the last miles. Two other Paragonians finished with Alan Gordon coming home with 2.22.23 for 26<sup>th</sup> place and S. Orrell 2.24.52 for 35<sup>th</sup> of the 75 finishers. The Paragon won the Team race.

Whit-Monday was University '100' day. It was a dull day and Frank Southall and Stan Butler both rode a freewheel (plus a back mudguard in Frank's case) as the roads were running with water after early morning showers. To the cognosi of the time the use of a freewheel was a disadvantage as it does not 'roll' like the normal fixed wheel on the flat. However on long races with a number of hills the advantage of being able to coast down to ease the leg muscles rather than spinning madly when ones muscles are tired are obvious to modern eyes.

At 28 miles Freddie Frost (Highgate) had established a lead of 1' over Frank but three punctures before returning to Pangbourne Lane put pay to his efforts. By halfway an 'unknown' was in the lead when E Sparrow (University) was reported to be 3' faster than Southall - 2.11.00 to Frank's 2.14.00. Harrison (Westerley) was 3' behind Frank, Capell (Allondon) at 4'. By 72 miles Frank had regained the lead turning in 3.38.00. Jones (Viking) was at 2', Harrison at 6' and Stan Butler 11<sup>th</sup> fastest 10' down. The seemingly inexplicable changes to the race order is actually explained by the numerous punctures that were suffered by riders. If you ride 'fast' tyres on damp days you pick up the flints and you collect the punctures.

At the Finish Frank Southall crossed the line to record 4.36.20 and a fine victory but Stan Butler put in a storming finish (which was to become his trademark at 100 miles), being 3' faster than Frank over the last 20 miles, to record a personal best time of 4.43.15 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Frank Cleeve came in with a 4.56.22 and Alan Gordon 5.6.36. The trio of Southall, Butler and Cleeve won the Team race by 28' in 14.15.57.

Herne Hill was the usual venue for the NCU London Centre Championships. Charlie Bowtle was in fine form and took the 10 miles Motor Paced Championship winning by 1½ laps. A 'touch of his inconsistent brilliancy' (Cycling). The 1-mile Tandem Championship saw D Mitchell and J Garside take on some big guns when they came upon Chambers (Poly) and Harbour (Bath Road) as well as Stone and Andrews (Poly) in the Final. They had to be satisfied with 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The Committee Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May was rather concerned at the short notice given for Rounds of both the London Centre and National Team Pursuit. It was a feature of the competition that you could not advise teams of a ride until the previous ties had been completed and, with the weather in England being a little wet at times, delays were inevitable and notice would have to be short even if not desirable. It was also decided to run a stopwatch competition in aid of Frank Southall's expenses for the Olympics

The 22<sup>nd</sup> May dawned extremely wet after a night of downpours. In fact 16 of the 70 pairs entered for the Marlboro '50' opted for a lay-in and failed to greet the

Timekeeper. In fact another 13 teams failed to finish a feature of the roads in the 30s being that heavy rains washed away the sandy binding surface exposing the grit below. Consequently, in this weather, punctures were many. Frank Southall and Stan Butler had no problems and romped round the course in 1.53.07. Barnes and Freakes (Poole Whs) were 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1.57.22 and Percy Huggett and Bill Paul (Addiscombe) 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1.58.32. The Team race was won by the Paragon. Frank Cleeve and Alan Gordon finished on a flat (2.13.05) having punctured with two miles to go and deciding they would lose too much time if they changed the tub. Jimmy Dicks (recovering from tonsillitis) and E Staplehurst had to ride steel rims and they too collected a puncture but finished in 2.13.45 to enable us to take the Team race by 20'.

Nearer home 121 entries had been received for the Beulah '25'. The individual race was won by R Bevan (Highgate) but the Team race was won by the Paragon with Charlie Hallerback, E Staplehurst and S Orrell. A little intriguing this as the Beulah '25' does not appear on the Road Racing Council Handbook, the result appears in the same issue of Cycling as the Marlboro '50' and yet E Staplehurst finished both events?

The London Centre 25 miles Tandem paced event was held at Herne Hill on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. After a spirited start with the first 5 miles covered in 9'53.8" Frank Southall's power and consistently good tandem changes ensured his victory in 49'58". He eventually won by 1¼ laps but Freddie Frost and E Johnson (Belle Vue) had a ding-dong struggle over the last 6 miles. After repeatedly swapping positions Frost just got his wheel ahead in the final sprint to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place by a foot.

During the Belle Vue Evening Meeting Frank Southall and Stan Butler finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1 mile tandem handicap.

On Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> the SCCU held their Midsummer Meet. In the programme was the Motor Paced Grand Prix of London over 15 miles and we had Charlie Bowtle to represent the Paragon. However, F Wyld (Derby) was being paced by Tommy Hall (one of our Vice Presidents!). It was Hall that took Wyld into the lead right from the start and while Charlie held on as long as possible he was lapped after 10 miles. Wyld won in 22'4.2" but with a lap to go Bowtle punctured, grabbed Wyld's machine and rode on to finish in 23'51.4". In the SCCU Sprint Championship Arthur Bristow came 2<sup>nd</sup> to R Mellor (Imperial Whs) losing by inches in the Final. In the 5 miles Course des Primes he was 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the Paragon travelled to Yorkshire for the Rotherham '50'. This was a challenge. The Yorks –Lincs – Notts men thought that their local flyer H Pickersgill would show the Best All-rounder how things were done in the North. Although Frank was approaching his fittest he had a boil (in a place no self respecting cyclist ever wants one) lanced the night before. He was not a comfortable lad. The course was flat and, according to Legend, the road was lined for the last 2 – 3 miles with spectators. From the start though there was no doubt as to the eventual result. At 12½ miles Frank was in the lead clocking 33'25" to H Winstanley (Doncaster) 33'27". Pickersgill (Brightside) was at 51". The 25 miles mark Frank had passed in 1.6.19 with Winstanley at 1'08" and Pickersgill at 1'16". Stan Butler was 9<sup>th</sup> fastest in 1.9.53. At 37½ miles Frank recorded 1.37.25 1'47" up on Pickersgill and 2'41" on a rapidly tiring Winstanley. At the line Frank crossed it in 2.7.07 to beat the northern

hope Pickersgill by 2' 43" (2.9.50). Brown (Potteries) was 3<sup>rd</sup> (2.11.28) and Stan Butler came through for 4<sup>th</sup> place in a personal best of 2.12.39. Alan Gordon finished in 2.21.16 and the Paragon won the Team race.

Back home the Club '50' Handicap was George Woolmer with Jack Brash 2<sup>nd</sup> and Stan Orrell 3<sup>rd</sup>. Frank Cleeve did fastest time with a 2.20.49 to win the Special Medal donated by A.H. Allin.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June the Kentish Wheelers held their Saturday Meeting that included two National Title events. The first was the 1-mile Tandem Sprint. We had J Garside and D Mitchell in this but they were outmanoeuvred on the last bend and went out in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round repechage. The story of the 50 miles tandem paced event was slightly different in that Frank Southall got to the front after 4 laps and stayed there the remaining 171. Charlie Bowtle was also riding but he was very quickly the last of the seven riders. In fact by the 10 miles mark Frank had lapped him twice in 19'04". 15 miles were covered in 28'47" and the 20 miles in 38'39". Half distance was covered in 48'43, 30 miles in 58'41 and 35 miles in 1.8.39. By this time Freddie Frost (Allondon) was fed up with his pacers who could not go fast enough for him so when he was lapped for the second time that he left them and sat behind Frank Southall. (Perfectly legitimate tactics).

The 40 miles point was reached in 1.18.54 and 45 miles in 1.28.51 and Frost was still just 2 laps in arrears but Charlie Bowtle, although a long way behind, had moved up into 5<sup>th</sup> place. Frank Southall crossed the Finish line in 1.39.02 with Frost 2<sup>nd</sup> still just over 2 laps in arrears. Charlie Bowtle pulled up another place to finish 11 laps behind but in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The Paragon Evening Meeting took some stick in Cycling due to some long gaps between events mainly due to C. Wyatt (Belle Vue) who had a number of Open events to ride but had to keep adjusting his machine. The wind was also rather cold that did not help the paying spectators enjoy their evening's entertainment. Frank Southall attacked the World  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile unpaced standing start Record but the wind was of no help to him either and he was 4" outside the Record.

The Club 550 yards Handicap was won by W Whitcher from W Smith with Arthur Bristow 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 5 miles Scratch was a welcome return to form of Charlie Hallerback who won by  $\frac{3}{4}$  length for Arthur Bristow with Peter Dyble just a half-wheel further back. Charlie Bowtle was in fine form winning the 5 miles Motor paced race beating C Wyatt by some 17" (about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a lap). The main race of the evening was a 10 miles Tandem paced event. The winner was E. Johnson (Belle Vue) who was to be a member of the Olympic Team going to Los Angeles. Our Jimmy Dicks was third about 120 yards in arrears.

June 17<sup>th</sup> was a Red Letter day for the Paragon. The NCU had picked the Team for the Los Angeles Olympics and we had TWO riders. Frank Southall was a 'cert' as he would ride both the Team Pursuit and Road Race but they also chose Stan Butler for the Road Race as the most promising rider of the year. Quite a day for celebration!

131 riders were down for the WLCA '100' and of these 5 were Paragon men. Frank Southall was on Scratch but he had an off day. At the 50 miles point where it would

be customary to see him leading by some minutes he was 9<sup>th</sup> in 2.19.30. A Brumell (Vegetarian) was leading in 2.16.55 with Stan Butler 2<sup>nd</sup> at 41". Frank retired at about 60 miles. Brumell crossed the line in 4.37.58 having drawn away from Stan to win by 3'14. Stan recorded 4.41.12 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and with both these riders having 8' Handicap they also claimed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places in that part of the race. Alan Gordon came 6<sup>th</sup> in 4.50.49, Frank Cleeve 4.54.53 and Stan Orrell 5.21.17. Unfortunately the Vegetarian won the Team race beating us by 4'50".

Nearer home the Club Tandem '50' was run. Bill Henn and W Heasman won the Handicap and Jimmy Dicks and E Staplehurst recorded fastest time with 2.1.48.

At the Polytechnic Meeting, that contained the 100 yards Sprint Title Races our only achievement of note was that J Garside won the 880 yards Handicap.

The following Wednesday the Addiscombe cc and the Paragon Combined to promote the Croydon Borough Sports in Wandle Park in aid of the Croydon General Hospital at 2.30 in the afternoon. (Programme 3d). The afternoon started off with the Trademen's Carrier bike race 3 heats of 1 mile plus Final. 1 mile Handicap for Residents of Croydon (3 heats plus Final). Open Tug of war between the Metropolitan Police 'Z' Division (The local lads) and The East Surrey Water Company. The Norwood Paragon Club 880 yard Handicap, (2 heats plus Final). The Addiscombe Club 1 mile Scratch race, (2 heats plus Final). An attack on the ¼ mile Grass Track Record by Frank Southall. An 880 yards Open handicap, (6 heats plus Final). Schools Relay races 4 x 110 yards for Girls over 11 and under 11 plus Boys over 11 and under 11. A 1-mile Invitation Scratch race (2 heats plus Final). A 3 miles Motor paced match between Charlie Bowtle and Len Cave (Vegetarian C & AC). Croydon Rover Scouts Tug of War. A 1 mile Open Handicap (6 heats plus Final) and to round of the sports a Bicycle Polo Match was held between Tooting BC and the Norwood Paragon. If that were not enough there was Dancing on the Hard Tennis Courts in the Evening and you had an Invitation to attend the Model Airplane Competition on Duppas Hill the following Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. We do not have any results to add to this list but we do know that over £30 was donated to the Croydon General Hospital.

It would be doubtful whether one could get away with motor paced events in Wandle Park in 2004 but what great publicity to both promoting Clubs. They were certainly the Borough(Cycling) Sports.

The Highgate '100' the next day (26<sup>th</sup> June) saw a real race. Freddie Frost got his revenge and beat Frank Southall for the first time in the fastest time ever recorded on a North London course. It was noted that Frank was not on his best form having packed in the WLCA '100' the previous week. However spectators were also aware that Frost had not ridden the distance at all this year. At 38 miles Frost and Southall were level in 1.40.00 with Stan Butler back in 9<sup>th</sup> spot in 1.45.00. Twelve miles later Frost had extended his lead to 3' passing the halfway mark in 2.11.30. (In those days that was a pretty good time for any 50 miles let alone the first half of a '100'). Holland (Midlands) was only a further 1'30" back on exactly 2.16.00 whilst Stan Butler came by in 2.18.45. Holland actually caught Stan by about 65 miles for 5 minutes but this inspired our man. He recorded the fastest time of all for the last 35 miles being 4' faster than Frost and 3' faster than Southall and regaining 2 of the

minutes he had lost to Holland. In the meantime Southall had closed on Frost reducing his lead but eventually running out of miles leaving 1'18" untouched. Frost's time was 4.36.10, Southall 4.38.28; Stan Butler recorded 4.41.51 for 6<sup>th</sup> place, Frank Cleeve 4.59.23 and Alan Gordon 5.4.23. The Paragon men were 3<sup>rd</sup> Team.

On Southern Roads the SCCU '50' was being run on the same day. 155 on the card of whom 144 started and 116 finished. Of our 7 riders George Woolmer recorded 2.26.54, E Harland 2.29.27, T Black 2.30.00, F Sore 2.32.25, Jack Brash 2.35.42 and Frank Paterson 2.37.32. All our riders finished which considering that 20% of the field failed to finish Lady Fortune was smiling on the Paragon that morning.

At Poole an estimated 9000 people turned up at the Track to watch Frank Southall and Bill Harvell (also going to Los Angeles) ride a 10 minutes Pursuit Match. Harvell won by several lengths covering 4 miles 793 yards.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> and another win for Stan Butler in the Brighton Mitre '50'. With Frank Southall a non-starter Stan took up the reins. At the first turn at 9 miles it was Alan Gordon in the lead with Stan Butler about 1' back and Frank Cleeve a further minute back. By 24 miles though Butler had recovered that minute and came through level with Gordon. However Frank Cleeve was not far back at by 31 miles he was only 30" behind Butler who had now taken the lead. Gordon had dropped back a minute. Over the last half it was Butler and Evan (Kentish Whs) who maintained their pace the best. Stan Butler winning in 2.14.30, Evans was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2.16.51 with Frank Cleeve 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2.17.17. Alan Gordon dropped back to 6<sup>th</sup> place with a 2.18.40. Stan Orrell finished with 2.22.51 and J Shaw 2.26.22. The Paragon won the Team race by 12' from the Southern Wheelers.

At Manchester, Fallowfield Frank Southall was riding the Muratti Cup, a 10 miles Scratch race. It was a race marred by punctures and with 6 miles covered there were only 10 riders left on the Track. Frank came through hard with 3 laps to go but was held and had another go at the bell but his lack of a true sprint kept him out of the prizes. He was also beaten in a 2 miles Pursuit Match by Bill Harvell (again!)

The next morning Frank Southall was riding the North Road Invitation '50' and he was definitely not on song. The racing at Manchester, the long cross-country drive, the late night and the 'dead' muggy weather combined to wear Frank out. His 2.12.04 was only good enough for 4<sup>th</sup> place behind F Lipscombe (Ingleside) 2.10.36. While Frank was fastest up to 37½ miles, covered in 1.36.59, his week-end exploits caught up with him and he 'blew' on the way back. His last 12 ½ miles time was 35.05 some 2½ minutes slower than Lipscombe's 32.54. As it was 1.37" covered the first 5 riders.

In his last race before leaving for the Olympics Stan Butler rode the Club '100' and won the Dunlop Cup for the third time and 'for keeps'. He recorded 4.47.00 with Alan Gordon doing a 4.53 ride and Frank Cleeve 4.57. J Shaw won the Handicap with Alan Gordon 2<sup>nd</sup> and Frank Cleeve 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The programme for our riders in the Olympics was, by today's standards, very leisurely. They sailed for New York on the SS 'Empress of Britain' on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Took a train from there to Toronto. They had a short break in Toronto before another



3-day train across the Prairies and Rockies to Los Angeles. The Games started on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The round trip would take about 8 weeks!

The man who really suffered was Stan Butler. Out for a training ride through the streets of Toronto he slid on some tramlines and ended up under a car. The result was two broken ribs, some stitches in his head and a large bruised area and number of abrasions. At the time it was thought he would not be able to compete in the road race.

It was standard practice in 1932 to treat broken ribs by wrapping your ribcage in a plaster cast. Yes, it does protect you from knocks and bumps but eventually you have to take it off. When the time came the Doctor asked Stan if he wanted it off slowly or quickly. Stan opted for the quick method. Now it should be understood that Stan had rather a hairy chest and back. Even so he allowed the Doctor to cut the cast and get his fingers under it. 'This may hurt' said the Doctor and tore of the cast! A translation of Stan's words on that occasion has not come down to us but we do understand that the Doctor was, indeed, correct in his warning!

At the Olympics Frank Southall was riding the Team Pursuit and in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round they caught the USA and completed the distance, for a qualifying time, of 4'57.9". In the Semi-Finals France beat the GB team with a 4'53.9" to our 4'57.4" but later the Team collected a Bronze Medal by defeating the Canadian team in 4'56.0".

The 100km Time Trial (The Road Race) was a benefit for the Italian Team with 3 riders in the first four. At 13 ½ miles Fournier (France) was leading in 33.00. Frank Southall and Olmo (Italy) were tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> place at 1', Harvell was at 2', Holland at 3' and Butler at 4'. By 20 miles Nilsson (Sweden) was leading in 49.10 from Connell (USA) 50.05, Sinibaldi (USA) in 50.30, Fournier 50.40, Olmo 50.45 and Southall at 50.55. Harvell recorded 53.45, Holland 54.15 and Butler 54.50 (These times should be taken with a pinch of salt to quote Stan Butler). Frank Southall finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place with 2.30.16 which, to put it in context, meant a speed of 25 mph. Our other three riders were well packed. Charlie Holland was 15<sup>th</sup> in 2.37.16, Stan Butler 16<sup>th</sup> in 2.37.19 and Bill Harvell 19<sup>th</sup> in 2.37.46 and the GB team just missed a medal being 4<sup>th</sup>.

While the Olympians were away the Club held its Veterans '25'. Fastest time was V.J. Viel (Unity) with 1.11.32. The Handicap was taken by A. Jones (Catford) with F. Humphreys (St Martins) in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and E. Strevens (Upper Holloway) in 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Paragon won the Team race with George Colget, George Butler and Ernie Tugwell.

With our two best riders out of the country for eight weeks things looked like being a bit lean for a few weeks. The Paragon had a team in the Ealing '50' Frank Cleeve recorded 2.17.25, Alan Gordon 2.21.50 and George Woolmer 2.26.18 but no prizes were won.

We had only two riders in the Belle Vue '50' where Frank Cleeve came home with 2.15.33 and Alan Gordon 2.17.30 and on August 1<sup>st</sup> again we only had the same two riders in the Bath Road '100'. Frank Cleeve was 34<sup>th</sup> in 4.53.34 and Alan Gordon 54<sup>th</sup> in 5.1.14.

During the Kentish Wheelers Evening Meeting Monty Southall's name was back in the Results when he won the Civil Service 1 mile Championship. Bill Burl also returned to the fray by winning the Course des Primes with Arthur Bristow 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Anerley 12 hours was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August and in the field of 80 were 24 who had beaten 220 miles and 8 who had beaten 230 miles. On the cards it was going to be quite a scrap. However, as these things often turn out, the 'Aces' knocked themselves out of the event. In the Cycling reports Frank Cleeve does not get a mention until 185 miles when his steady riding got him up to 6<sup>th</sup> place. Over the remaining 45 miles of his ride he close on those in front of him but failed to gain a place eventually running out of time with 230.875 miles. Alan Gordon also kept his head and ended the day with 227.625 miles to his credit in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

Tucked away in a corner of the Cycling dated 26th August is the result of the 'Theatrical Sports' in which Charlie Hallerback riding for H. & M. Rayne won the 5 miles Championship and Charlie Bowtle (Gaumont) came second.

The Westerley '100' on the 28<sup>th</sup> August was eagerly awaited by the fans as three of the Olympic Team were down to ride. Unfortunately this turned out to be a bit of a damp squib as the riders had only got back to England two days previously. Charlie Holland elected not to start, Frank Southall packed at about 30 miles and Stan Butler at about 45 both feeling decidedly jaded. However all was not lost to the Paragon as in the Southend and County Whs Tandem 30 Jimmy Dicks and E Staplehurst were 4<sup>th</sup> in 1.9.22 to the winners (Huggett and Paul of the Addiscombe) 1.7.19. Bill Henn and W Heasman also collected 1<sup>st</sup> Handicap prize and the two pairs added the Team race as well to their haul. J. Hamilton was 13<sup>th</sup> on the WLCA 12 hour with 215.25 miles, the race being won by Bramell (Vegetarian) in 236.75.

If you have read the accounts of the Polytechnic 'Gayler Memorial' 12 hours Race for 1930 and 1931 you will have noted that these two races were notorious for their bad weather. Regretably it has to be reported that the Poly collected a 'Hat-trick' in 1932. A wet and windy night was followed by reasonable dawn but the wind was extremely strong. It was dry until the last two riders of the 62 entrants were about to start – then the heavens opened. It should also be pointed out that one of these two was Frank Southall and he had performed superbly under foul conditions on the two previous runnings of this event. He could not believe his luck!

The first 31 miles were wind assisted – but then the riders had to come back. As Cycling says – 'the majority of times at 54 miles were not fast'. A typically British understatement if ever there was one. Southall led at this point in 2.33. Saunders (Marlboro) was 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1', Brumell (Vegetarian) at 1'45" and Marsh (University) at 2'. The others were more 'leisurely'. By 96 miles in unrelenting rain Saunders was leading in 4.32.30 with Marsh at 4.39 and Brumell in 4.40. Frank had punctured between the two checks and was now 9' down. Stan Butler was just inside 5 hours whilst Frank Cleeve was just outside.

Around 112 miles Southall punctured again and with his last spare collecting a 'slow' puncture he gave the weather best and retired. Saunders reached the 133 miles point in 6.26. Marsh was at 6'30", Harrison (North Road) was at 11', Brumell at 8'30,

Frost (Allondon) at 22'30", Stan Butler was at 23'30" and Frank Cleeve another minute slower. By 160 miles the rain had ceased but the wind had not!

There was some confusion over the checking times after this as a number of riders missed a small detour. Frank Cleeve also disappears from the report and the result around this juncture. Top riders were reported riding at 14 mph into the wind!

Only 25 riders ran out time with, for this class of rider, some very short distances. Marsh covered the greatest distance with 228.25 miles beating Harrison by 2.25 miles. Stan Butler completed 223.375 miles for 6<sup>th</sup> place.

South of the river on the same day was the SCCU and Club 12 hours. The Paragon had 11 riders on the start sheet out of 137! They got the same conditions as the Poly '12' but fortunately the roads of Surrey and Sussex are far more sheltered. Our best finisher was J Shaw who covered 220.25 miles for 5<sup>th</sup> place. Other distances were J. Hamilton 218.75, W. Heasman 214.00, Frank Patterson 203.25, T Black 203.00, F. Sore and Stan Orrell both on 201.125, and Bill Diplo and Jack Brash both on 191.125. W Martin and George Woolmer failed to finish. However the lads put in some good rides and were rewarded with the Team race. The Club Handicap was won by Frank Paterson with J Hamilton 2<sup>nd</sup> and F Sore 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We have in the archives the course sheet for this race and it differs quite considerably from a 'modern' course. The first difference is that there is no mention of slower riders missing detours to prevent the field spreading out over too much road. We believe this was practised but no mention is made of it on the start sheet.

The second difference is only apparent if you read the course details and know the roads. After 173 miles the course reached 'The Chequers' at Horley. Riders forked left down the Old Brighton Road to Pound Hill. They then turned left to 'The Dukes Head' left again to Newchapel Green and then left again to South Godstone Bridge where they turned and retraced to Burstow Corner (so far so good). The next detour took them east to 'The Star' at Felbridge and back. This detour cuts across the previous detour at Judges Corner so at this point one could see riders going in four directions! Not content with that on their return to Burstow Corner the riders turned right to 'The Kings Head', Horley and then right again to Smallfields. At Smallfields they turned right yet again to Copthorne Bank. This meant that at Keepers Corner riders could be observed going in four directions cutting across each other.

Thirdly there was no finishing circuit with Timekeepers every mile or so. The Timekeepers had 'followers' or 'runners-out'. These were clubmen who possessed watches, pencils and paper! As a rider passed the official Timekeeper he called out his race number. (No numbers pinned to clothing!) If this rider was getting close to his 12 hours a 'runner-out' was dispatched to follow him. At 'Time' the follower would stop the rider and note his actual finishing spot, note it down and get the racer to sign it as correct. It was very labour intensive and final mileages took quite a time to work out and were only given to 'furlongs' generally. The downfall of this practice could be laid at the Paragon's door – who times out Frank Southall? Other riders who were noted for 'fast' finishes, Jack Lauterwasser, Freddie Frost, Marsh, Sid Ferris and Stan Butler would cause havoc when their followers could not keep up!

At Herne Hill on the 11<sup>th</sup> September was the Meeting of Champions. Our main interest was the National Team Pursuit Semi-Finals and Finals. In the Semi-Final our team of Bill Burl, Charlie Hallerback, Arthur Bristow and Monty Southall disposed of the Plymouth Corinthians quite easily but then came up against the Belle Vue in the Final. This time there was no sporting replay. The Belle Vue gained 20 yards and stayed there. In the effort to close this gap the Paragon started to spilt up but could not do it. The Belle Vue won in 4'14.8", our lads did 4'17".

Bill Burl collected 3 laps in the Course des Primes and W. Ongley won the 1 mile Scratch on the Old Ordinary Race. Then in the Madison things were a little tight. While R Meller and Tony Merkens won there was a triple dead heat for third place between the pairings of J Knight/J Terry, B Donnelly/Bill Burl and C King/Arthur Bristow. The last event could not have been pleasant as it was run off in pouring rain.

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September Stan Butler rode the Kent CA 12 hours. It was yet another horrible day with rain and gales. A waterspout swept in from the Channel whilst the riders were crossing Romney marshes! (The latter part of 1932 does seem to have been a joy to be riding in!) Punctures were many as the heavy rain washed the flints out of the road surface.

Only 15 riders finished and they had 24 punctures between them. Stan broke course record with 217.25 miles and was the only rider to beat 200 miles.

Our main riders went north of London to the Vegetarian '50' but got more of the same. Frank Southall punctured and did not finish, Alan Gordon did not start and Frank Cleeve held the flag with a 2.16.53 for 8<sup>th</sup> place. Of the 100 entrants 12 failed to start and 34(!) failed to finish.

The next week was the North Road '100' and a last chance to improve Best All-rounder times. Once again the Club were in second place to the Vegetarian C & AC and needed to improve by .066 mph. Once again the fates were unkind to us. Stan Butler had two punctures and packed at 46 miles. Frank Southall, who was hoping for a fast day, was on his Track bike. An admirable idea but not on a puncture ridden day. Wing nuts come undone far quick than the spanner needed for track nuts and you have to get the chain off to get the rear wheel out on a Track bike. While Frank was leading at 50 miles the problems he had when he punctured 'persuaded' him to retire. This left Frank Cleeve out on his own needing an eight minutes improvement for us to improve our Best All-rounder position. It was just not that sort of day and so Frank came in with a disappointing time of 5.0.50 but for an excellent 8<sup>th</sup> place.

Nearer London Monty Southall was in action in the Comet '25' coming in with a 1.6.57 for 5<sup>th</sup> place and second team but the others are not mentioned.

It was also Mayne Cup day and while Jimmy Dicks once again proved the fastest on the Day the Man of the Moment Was Bill Ongley who beat Frank Paterson into 2<sup>nd</sup> place with E Harland 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On both the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October Frank Southall and Stan Butler attacked the National Tandem '50' Record. On both occasions they were held by be level crossing

gates and, on the first attempt, by the front chain coming off. They had to beat 1.46.22. On the first ride they did 1.53.32 and in the second 1.47.59.

In the Best All-rounder tables Frank Southall was first as was expected (21.597). Stan Butler was 18<sup>th</sup> (20.836), Frank Cleeve was 27<sup>th</sup> (20.603) and Alan Gordon 46<sup>th</sup> (20.235). The Paragon was second team.

The end of the season is marked as usual with the Catford Hill-climb. The photograph in Cycling is extremely interesting in that it shows the winner, E. Hussey (Finsbury Park), sprinting for the line in 1'55.0". He has almost flat handlebars and is wearing Plus twos held up by braces, an ordinary shirt and long socks. Not your Lycra clad lad of the twenty-first century! Frank Southall climbed the hill in 2'1.8" a time that had already been beaten by Hammond (Reading) in 1'57.4" but was good enough for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Stan Butler had backed Frank with 6<sup>th</sup> place in 2'8.8", Alan Gordon was 20<sup>th</sup> in 2'17.6" just keeping D Mitchell (21<sup>st</sup>) from a Team medal by 0.6". Frank Cleeve also finished with 47<sup>th</sup> place in 2'39.8". The Paragon won the Team race.

Other, undated, Team successes were in the 'Moon' Trophy '50' by George Woolmer, Jack Brash, E. Staplehurst and J Shaw and the Brentwood Whs '25' when D Mitchell, E Staplehurst and J Shaw took the Honours.

Club Records had also been broken. Eric Godman broke the 50 miles Tricycle record with a 2.39.40 and the 100 miles record with 5.40.59. D Mitchell and J Shaw beat the Tandem 100 miles Record with a 4.24.35.

Over the season other awards had been made. The Most Improved rider on the Track who won the Silk Jersey presented by George Colget was Arthur Bristow. The Free-wheel Competition was won by A.E. Davis and the Runs Attendance Prize was a tie between Bill Saggars and George Millard.

The Club Road Champion was Frank Cleeve.

Special Gold Medals were presented to Frank Southall for his win in the University '100' in 4.36.20 and to Stan Butler for his win in the Brighton Mitre '50' in 2.14.30.

The Standard Medals were won in profusion. 30 Gold, 32 Gold Centre, 25 Silver and 11 Bronze were collected at the Club Dinner on the 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The Dinner and Prize presentation was held at 'The Quadrant' Restaurant in Regents Street. A six Course Meal with six speeches and 3 'Artistes' to entertain the Diners. One of the Entertainers was George Yellowlees (Belle Vue) whose hilarious recitations were renowned throughout the cycling world. Although he only stood about 5 feet tall he was also an excellent Dart player and the writer witnessed this esteemed gentleman scoring 180s whilst past his (George's) 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Club Time Trial Results

No detailed list of Club Events has been found for this year. Below is a list of standard medals gain by Club members.

Road					12 Hours		
	<b>25 miles</b>						<b>Club Record</b>
				Gold	Cleeve F	230.875	
Gold	Southall M	1.4.19			Gordon A	227.625	
	Mitchell D	1.5.19			Shaw J	220.250	
	Staplehurst E	1.5.36			Hamilton J	218.750	
	Cleeve F	1.6.00			Heasman W	214.000	
	Heasman W	1.6.21		Gold	Orrell S	201.125	
	Shaw J	1.6.52		Centre	Sore F	201.125	
Gold	Orrell S	1.7.50			Black T	203.000	
Centre	Martin W	1.8.43			Patterson F	203.250	
	Woolmer G	1.8.48		Silver	Brash J	191.125	
	Harland E	1.9.20			Diplo W	191.125	
	Ongley W	1.10.05					
	Henn W	1.10.47			<b>Track</b>		
Silver	Hamilton J	1.11.30					
	Edwards G	1.12.10			<b>1/4 mile F.S.</b>		
							<b>Club Record</b>
	Patterson F	1.12.54		Gold	Walker F	31.0T	
	Godman E	1.17.11T			Godman E	33.4T	
Bronze	Black T	1.14.55		Gold	Dicks J	28.0	
				Centre	Garside J	28.1	
	<b>50 miles</b>			Silver	Willshire F	29.6	
Gold	Staplehurst E	2.18.58			Heasman W	30.0	
	Dicks/Staplehurst	2.1.48		Bronze	Black T	30.2	
			<b>Club Record</b>		Woolmer G	30.4	
Gold	Godman E	2.39.40T					
	Heasman W	2.24.05					
Centre	Shaw J	2.25.52			<b>1 mile S.S.</b>		
	Martin W	2.26.08		Gold	Southall M	2.6.2	
	Orrell S	2.27.25			Dicks J	2.8.4	
	Woolmer G	2.27.58		Gold	Garside J	2.11.8	
	Lee/Willshire	2.5.56		Centre			
	Walker/Woolmer	2.6.51		Silver	Harland E	2.14.2	
	Heasman/Henn	2.7.07		Bronze	Willshire F	2.16.8	
Silver	Willshire F	2.28.10			Heasman W	2.19.8	
	Henn W	2.31.10					
	Bristow/Hamilton	2.9.03			<b>1 hour unpaced</b>	(metricated)	
Bronze	Brash J	2.22.35		Gold	Southall M	25.538	
	Black T	2.37.14			Dicks J	24.315	
	Harland/Patterson	2.12.34		Gold	Shaw J	23.496	
				Centre	Heasman W	23.073	
	<b>100 miles</b>			Silver	Brash J	22.315	
Gold	Butler SM	4.47.00			Harland E	22.807	
	Gordon A	4.53.12			Woolmer G	22.285	
	Cleeve F	4.57.30			Heasman/Henn	26.756	
			<b>Club Record</b>				
	Mitchell/Shaw	4.24.35			Dicks/Staplehurst	26.528	
	Walker/Woolmer	4.36.50		Bronze	Henn W	21.477	
			<b>Club Record</b>				
	Godman E	5.40.59T			Martin/Shaw	25.449	
Gold	Orrell S	5.12.05					

Centre	Shaw J	5.12.17			<b>10 miles Paced</b>		
	Martin W	5.15.40		Silver	Dicks J	20.10.6	
	Hamilton J	5.16.12			Garside J	20.34.0	
	Woolmer G	5.17.53			Mitchell D	20.26.0	
	Henn W	5.27.30					
	Saggers G	5.29.22			<b>50 miles Paced</b>		
	Black T	5.29.28		Gold	Southall F	1.39. 2.6	<b>Club Record</b>
Silver	Heasman W	5.30.46					
	Sore F	5.33.25					
	Harland E	5.33.28					
	Patterson F	5.43.30					
	Brash J	5.43.30					