

1933

The first obvious change is that in 1933 the Club was affiliated to the London Centre Racing League (LCRL) that promoted the Monday Competition (?) and oversaw the Meetings at Herne Hill. There was one addition to the list of Vice Presidents a Mr. A. Hickford. Bill Saggars took over the Secretary's job from E. Woolnough with Frank Burton as his Assistant. George Saggars had taken over the Road Racing Secretary's job from Vic Ware. The Club Captain was now Fred Willshire with Eric Godman and George Woolmer as his Vice-captains. The Committee was Stan Butler, Charlie Hallerback, Reg Heath, Frank Southall, Ernie Tugwell and E Woolnough. T. Spurgin appears on the Timekeepers list but F Rogers, J Stephenson and Vic Ware are omitted.

The Rules had had a complete re-write. Whilst Rule 1 – This Club shall be known as The Norwood Paragon Cycling Club remained unchanged Rule 2 became – ‘The Club Colours shall be Green, Black and Gold.’

The Entry Fee to the Club was 2/6 for Racing members and 1/6 for Touring members. On being elected members are issued with a Badge and Handbook. Badges are the property of the Club and should be returned when membership ceases. Annual Subscriptions are to be 10/6 for Active Membership, 5/- for Honorary Membership and 5/- for Touring Membership. Affiliation to the NCU (which includes Third Party Insurance) was available at 2/-. Touring Membership is for those under 21.

The old rule regarding overtaking the Captain was removed from the list at the AGM. Touring shorts were allowed for Club Events but Open events stipulated ‘tights’. Also the Rule that stated the Competitors must pass each other on the opposite side of the road was removed. This was a sure sign of the increase in motor traffic. The new Rule states – ‘...in overtaking another competitor he must pass him so that no shelter be given or received by either.’

The Club Standards were also revised. Each Standard ride cost the rider 2/6 but the cost of 9crt Gold Medals had risen. The Accounts showed a loss of £33 for medals. This was a feature of a successful club that competition between clubmates makes them go faster and faster. A call for stiffer standards was agreed!

The Polo men reported that they had lost to a BPA team and the Tooting but had won a match at Tunbridge Wells by 32-0!

The racing season got under weigh with the Balham ‘Roughstuff’ 25 (ish) but with absolutely no luck for the Paragon. Frank Cleeve recorded 1.53.30 for 11th place but punctured on the way round. E Staplehurst took 2.1.43 and J Hamilton 2.18.49 but Frank Southall and Alan Gordon failed to start and D Mitchell failed to finish.

On the 12th March the first Club Event was held; this being a Low Gear 10 miles handicap. The usual gear was 42 x 18 (63”) but those without extra chainwheels had to go for 46 x 20 (62.1”). It was, as was intended, a bit of a twiddle designed to get the legs moving rather than leaving one physically exhausted. Alan Gordon was fastest in 27.50 beating Arthur Bristow by 39” but Arthur had the pleasure of taking the Handicap award. 3rd place was Sid Orrell in 28.52.

The season really started for our top riders with a new event. The Calleva 'Medium Gear' 25 and in this riders were restricted to a gear of 72" (48 x 18 in modern parlance). Such was the popularity of this early season event that 270 entries were received for the 100 places. The small gear, that requires nimbleness of pedalling rather than brute strength, certainly reduced the spread of the field. Frank Southall won in 1.4.49 by only 16 seconds from Bevan (Highgate) with 15 riders in the next 3 minutes. Alan Gordon recorded 1.7.20 and Stan Butler 1.7.49 to ensure we took the Team prize.

Another large field of 202 riders entered the SCCU Clubs K-Z 25 on the 2nd April and with unrestricted gears (his normal 83" or 46 x 15) Frank Southall produced his 'normal' winning margin with a ride of 1.3.12. Harris (South Western) was 2nd in 1.5.42 then with Stan Butler 3rd in 1.6.04 and Alan Gordon 5th in 1.6.19 we took the Team Prize again.

A note in the Minutes tells that one Arthur Sharp was admitted to the Club on the 7th April. He became a prominent short distance rider and today we still remember 'Smiler' as each year the Arthur Sharp Plaque is awarded to the rider with the fastest time over 50 miles.

The following Sunday saw two teams in operation Frank Southall was at the Forest '25' that he won in 1.3.07 extending his winning margin over Bevan to 58". Our other riders had not yet found their form as Frank Cleeve came in with 1.8.47 and Alan Gordon did 1.10.11. Good enough for 3rd Team but 2'45 slower than the Catford CC.

Out on the Bath Road in the WCLA '25' 168 entered and on a fine morning Stan Butler lead the Team. Although he was 2nd to Seeley (Calleva) with 1.4.53 we could only get 2nd Team. Sid Orrell recorded 1.6.50, Sid Mitchell 1.7.12, Jimmie Dicks 1.7.50 and J Shaw 1.8.05.

At the good Friday meeting Frank Southall and Alan Stubbs were in the Club Team against the Belle Vue in the first round of the new London Racing League competition. Frank lost to Bill Harvell (Poole) in a 2 mile Pursuit Match by 0.6". Alan came 3rd behind Denis Horn and Toni Merkens in the 550 yards Invitation Scratch. The Paragon team lost to the Belle Vue by 18 pts to 12. J Garside and Arthur Bristow came 3rd in the 1 mile tandem Handicap but Monty Southall gave to Club something to cheer about when he won the 5 miles Tandem Paced match from Johnson (Belle Vue) and P Wyld (Derby)

The first '50' of the year, the Charlotteville event, was also a challenge event with top riders coming from all over the country to the Bath Road west of Reading. It was a virtual National Championship event held over the Easter Weekend. The standard was indeed very high as times for the admittedly wind assisted ride to the turn showed. Frank Southall was fastest in 59.30 with Ross (East Liverpool) 7" slower, Lipscombe (Ingleside) 59.54 and 6th fastest was Stan Butler in 1.0.47. Then came the 25 miles back! This took Frank Southall 1.12.25 and he extended his lead to 1 minute exactly over Ross and 1'49 over Lipscombe to win with a ride of 2.11.55. Stan Butler took 1.14.18 for his return half to finish with 2.15.05 for 4th place. Unfortunately Alan Gordon had a bad day and only managed a 2.22.32 to finish way down the list in 48th place so the Paragon was only 3rd Team albeit only 1'55 adrift of the East Liverpool Wheelers.

Sunday 30th April, 1933 saw the first Competition Record of the year broken when Frank Southall and Stan Butler took 27 seconds off the 3 year old record of Huggett and Paul (Addiscombe CC) (It is always good to take something from the Addiscombe!). The

course, the 32nd Course, known today as the E1 is not, on first inspection, a fast course but on its day with not too much wind it has produced some extremely fast times. Frank and Stan came in with a 1.6.03 beating J & L Wells (Catford) by 1'52" and Huggett and Paul by 2'28". While the club rejoiced in this record that was all we gained from the event for although the club had 7 pairs riding one thing led to another and no one did enough for us to take the Team prize. Our club results were Mitchell & McCarthy 1.14.15, Henn & Heasman 1.14.39 Walker & Woolmer 1.16.24, Frank Cleeve & Sid Orrell 1.26.54, George & Bill Sagers failed to finish and Jimmy Dicks & Heasman failed to start. There were 99 starters from a field of 100 and the Paragon supplied the missing link!

At the other end of the scale our aspiring hopefuls rode the Western Road Longmarkers and J Hamilton, F Sore and T Black collected the Team Prize. Also E Staplehurst, Sid Orrell and Charlie Hallerback won the Team race in the Beulah '25'.

Monty Southall and Alan Stubbs rode at the Cycle Racing Combine Meeting at Herne Hill on the 3rd May. They were up against Ulrich, the French Champion and the Horn brothers. Neither won any part of the match but by piling up the 2nd places Alan Stubbs tied for 2nd place overall. Arthur Bristow won the 550 yards Handicap. In the Invitation Roadmans Omnium Frank Southall was 3rd.

The WLCA on the 7th May saw a Paragon one-two when Frank Southall won in 2.9.29 and Stan Butler recorded a personal best for 2nd place with a ride of 2.11.03. Unfortunately there were only 2 Paragons riding. A third rider would have had to do only a 2.32 ride for us to collect the Team award!!! An interesting point for time trial historians was that while Southall was started at No.60 Butler was off No.69! There appeared to be no clear cut field placing for the 158 entries.

Jack Shaw round the North London '50' but was way off the pace with a 2.30.14 ride.

Also on that Sunday was the Walter Moon Handicap Team '50' for Croydon Clubs. Although the Paragon had 14 entries 6 of them failed to record a time. Sid Orrell was our fastest rider in 2.28.34; Jack Shaw was 2nd with 2.28.49, Frank Cleeve 2.29.06, A Woolmer 2.35.40, J Hamilton 2.38.00, E Harland 2.39.07, T Black 2.42.00 and K Varlow 2.46.17.

The following week-end Frank and Stan had been invited to ride the Notts Castle BC Open '50' as a challenge event against the northern 'flyers'. In contrast to the WLCA event all the top riders were on the 10 minute marks as it was customary until fairly recently. Frank started in his customary fashion – fast and hard. He led by some minutes at 45 miles then 'blew' in a big way. His 2.10.23 won the race but he only had 35 seconds to spare over Harris (Wyndham) and 58" on Stan Butler. He was very lucky that his main northern rival, Pickersgill (Brightside), punctured and came in with 2.13.39 otherwise 'them up north' would still be talking about it.

135 riders had entered for the S CCU '50' with Stan Butler on Scratch. (He started at No.12) but had to be content with 3rd place in 2.14.27 as the Wells brothers (Catford) both beat him with rides of 2.12.30 and 2.12.40. (They started at Nos. 6 and 18). Although Sid Orrell came 6th with a 2.15.57, and took 2nd on Handicap, the others could not overcome the Catford lead and so the Paragon had to be content with 2nd Team place. Other rides were Alan Gordon 2.17.42, Frank Cleeve 2.19.12, J Shaw 2.20.15 and A Woolmer 2.26.17.

Frank Southall also was out of luck. He rode the Marlboro 100 on the North Road and while he led in his customary fashion he 'died' in the last 10 miles. At 90½ miles he still led by 1.10 from Saunders (Marlboro) and 3.20 from Lipscombe (Ingleside) but at the Finish it was rather a different story. Saunders crossed the line in 4.40.43, Frank managed 2nd in 4.41.06 and Lipscombe had closed to 1.19 in 4.42.25.

On 28th May the Paragon First Team went up to Retford for the Rotherham '50'. Once again a North v South Challenge but it turned out to be a Paragon benefit race. The main opposition, Pickersgill, did not start and the other possible challenge J Quigley from Lanark arrived two hours before the start having driven down overnight. Frank Southall won in 2.9.23 by 1'37, Stan Butler was 5th in 2.13.39, Quigley was 6th in 2.13.59 and Frank Cleeve came 12th in 2.15.28. This enabled us to collect the Team award for the 3rd time and to win outright the Rotherham Cup. This remains in the Club's possession as the 12 Hour trophy. To rub it in the Handicapper had given Frank Cleeve 10 minutes and with such a gift he could not refuse the Handicap Prize!

Whit-Monday saw the first of the Classic 100 mile events and problems for the Paragon. Frank Southall had an ulcerated mouth and could not ride leaving Stan Butler to lead the team of Frank Cleeve and R Whitchurch (a new recruit who had moved from the Carlyle). It was not a good day. Most of the riders had to fight a rising head wind to the turn. The wind then turned 180 degrees and enabled everyone to enjoy a headwind back. It was also extremely hot. These small factors accounted for most of the 40 non-finishers! However this did not deter the Paragon riders.

As far as the race goes Lipscombe (Ingleside) led at 28 ½ miles in 1.15.30 from Frost (Allondon) @10", J Wells (Catford) @ 20" and Stan Butler at 1'. At the turn at 50 miles Frost had taken the lead in 2.14.00, Lipscombe 2.15.30, Wells 2.16.30 and Stan 2.16.45. At 71 ½ miles Frost was still leading by 2' in 3.17.20 with Stan now at 2', Lipscombe at 2'50" and Wells at 4.10. By this time Stan had the bit between his teeth and was putting in his customary fast finish so at 88 miles he had closed to within 30" of Frost. In the last 12 miles not only did he wipe out that 30" lead but added another 1'48" to his own advantage to win his first 'Classic' in 4.41.31. Backing him up in 10th place was Frank Cleeve, 4.54.57 and R Whitchurch, 5.6.43 to enable them to take the Team prize in 14.43.11.

On the same day D Mitchell was earning himself a Special Gold Medal by winning the Balham '100' with a 4.50.40 ride. He started at No.11 and by 10 miles was in front of the field. At the Finish it was 10 minutes before another competitor arrived!

Following that superb Monday it was back to the drawing board on the Sunday in the Kingsdale '50'. Although W Ashby did a 2.13.11 ride and R Whitchurch a 2.20.01 Stan Butler punctured twice in his 2.19.58, Frank Cleeve punctured during his 2.18.06 ride and Alan Gordon completed the hat-trick in his 2.18.58. That's bike racing!

Back home was the Club 25 time trial with 20 riders on the card. The fastest of these proved to be Jimmie Dicks in 1.4.54 just beating E Staplehurst by 16" but comfortably in front of J Shaw who was 3rd in 1.6.53. Bill Henn won the Handicap with an allowance of 5' from his 1.7.40 it gave him an easy win by 1.44 from Jimmie Dicks with Eric Harland 3rd only another 3" back.

The Paragon Track Meeting was due to be held on Saturday 17th June but it was 'rained off' but with commendable foresight the Club had also booked Herne Hill for the following Monday 'just in case'. It paid off! Toni Merkens, the German Ace, had been invited over to ride a match against Frank Southall. Round 1 was a 1000m time trial. Merkens was superb driving home in 1.14.00, the fastest time ever recorded in England, to beat Frank easily. Round 2 was a 2 miles pursuit match and was a much closer affair with Frank scraping home by 0.6" after a storming last lap by Merkens. This left the decider – a 10 miles tandem paced pursuit race. It must be said that neither pair had great success with their pacers. Both had to ride without a tandem for a time and both 'lost' tandems as the tandems accelerated too quickly or were not fast enough. By 8 miles Southall had closed on Merkens so much that he left his tandem and sprinted to catch his rival – and missed! The last two miles had the crowd on their toes as Southall did all he could to close and Merkens did all he could to keep away. At the line Southall had still not caught Merkens but won the event by just under half a lap. Time for the 10 miles was 19.28, 30.8 mph.

In the rest of the meeting our own Alan Stubbs won the 550 yards Handicap, Charlie Bowtle won the 5 miles Motor paced event at 42.3 mph, J Hinton (Imperial Whs) won the 5 miles Invitation. The best event was the Paragon 5 miles Club Championship. At the bell 9 riders remained in contention when two of the front-runners touched wheels and fell. The following riders went down like a pack of cards across the track. One rider went over the rails. Jimmie Dicks suffered no hurt at all, Johnny Walker had to have grazes seen to by the St. Johns men but Messrs Southall M, Black, Dyble and Staplehurst went off to Dulwich Hospital. The race was pronounced nul and void to be re-run at a later date. It should be noted that in cycling circles the Paragon Club '5' was, for years, referred to as 'The Blood Bath'. Can't understand why!

In the Cycling of 16th June there is a good but unfortunate photograph of Arthur Bristow taking a tumble in the Caterham C and AC Sports but he made up for this by getting 2nd in the 880 yards handicap. (The crash probably explains his absence from the result of the 1-mile race).

The next Saturday was a very unusual event for that time. It was the Brooklands World Championship Trial. It was a mass-start race. The entire road racing in this history, international events accepted, was of a time trialling nature. The Cycling Authorities banned the practice of racing in groups on the open road early in the century but on the Continent the sport was under the mainly commercial sponsorship of newspaper groups. British Cycling authorities had the opportunity to follow their lead in 1907 but ran away from it. Since that date our massed start road-racing scene has always lagged well behind the continentals. However be that as it may the UCI (the governing body for International Cycling) had decreed that all the World Road Race Championships should be 'en ligne' or massed start. Britain had, therefore, to follow but in order to get around their own rules the races were held on closed circuits also used for motor races.

Brooklands was the first. 110 riders had entered including Frank Southall, Monty Southall, Stan Butler, Frank Cleeve, E Staplehurst and D Mitchell. Frank Southall was to be a non-starter as his ulcerated mouth was still giving him pain and he missed a truly gruelling race. The course was 22 laps of the Brooklands circuit but on every fourth lap the riders had to climb the Test Hill – only 1 in 4! Some riders had variable gears, Stan Butler was one of them, but most rode a single freewheel. The weather was all one could desire. To quote

‘Cycling’ “It rained, it poured, it lightened and thundered and with the arrival of each storm-black cloud the wind freshened to almost gale like proportions.” Quite!

Frank Cleeve crashed on the first lap but continued for another 5 laps before climbing off. Monty crashed and punctured on the second lap but retired immediately. Mitchell was still in the main bunch after 5 laps but disappeared shortly after. Meanwhile Stan Butler and E Staplehurst were still with the remains of the field, 33 of them, at the end of the 9th lap and were still in with a chance by the end of lap 15 when only 16 riders were left in the main bunch. Stan had problems with his gear as it stuck in top (86”) that was perfectly reasonable on the flat but a pig on the Test Hill. Then he punctured and then he crashed! Over the last 3 laps the field broke into small pieces. Salt (Liverpool) beat Burl (Marlboro) and Sutton (Midland) in a sprint finish. Stan Butler was 7’18 down in 10th place and E Staplehurst 14th and last finisher! So ended the first experimental ‘road race’ in Britain since the early 1900s.

The Highgate 100 proved another poor day for the Paragon. Stan Butler punctured and packed, Frank Cleeve had 5 punctures, W Ashby punctured and packed but R Whitchurch came home in 4.46.54 for 7th place only 5’ behind Marsh of the University CC. A great ride on a cold wet day – typical June in fact.

Herne Hill on the 1st July was the venue for the National Tandem paced 50 miles Championship. Only 7 starters and the pattern of 1932 was repeated. Frank Southall went to the front on the 4th lap and there he stayed until the Finish. The only difference was the standard of the opposition. Southall lapped at just over 30 mph and no one else could maintain this pace. Even so he was three minutes slower than on his winning ride of 1932 beating Frost (Allondon) by 3 laps.

Down on the south coast things were much better. Sid Orrell won the Brighton Mitre ‘50’ with a 2.12.44. W Ashby was 2nd in 2.14.58 and Frank Cleeve 3rd in 2.15.34. Also riding were R Whitchurch 2.19.09, J Hamilton 2.25.11 and E Harland 2.26.32. Sid also collected the 1st Handicap prize with his effort. The most lasting result of this race was that a bit of our history was made. Our winning team collected the Fryco Cup. As this was the third time in succession that the Paragon had won the Team race – the Cup was ours. It has been awarded for fastest time in the Club ‘50’ ever since.

Bill Henn and W Heasman rode the Archer RC Tandem ‘50’ and came home in 2.9.00 on not a very nice day.

The Velma ‘50’ on the 9th July saw Frank Southall back on the road after nearly a month off through illness. The ‘rest’ did him a power of good as he won ‘easily’ by 3’34” in his fastest time for 2 years of 2.6.51. At halfway point, reached in 1.8.11, Frank was only 1” up on Holland (Midland) our own D Mitchell was 4th fastest only 1’36” back, Sid Orrell was 6th at 3’18” and Stan Butler was at 4’16” but punctures shortly after. Frank really let rip on the return taking only 58’40” to cover the 25 miles and take First Prize. But it does not end there. D Mitchell came in with 2.11.03 for 3rd place and Sid Orrell 2.12.51 for 5th. The Team race was ours in a new Competition Record time of 6.30.45. So good were the Paragon that morning that our next three riders W Ashby 9th in 2.14.16, Frank Cleeve 11th in 2.15.16 and Stan Butler 13th in 2.16.34 could have taken 2nd Team award. Alan Gordon was right out of it with ‘only’ a 2.22.31 ride. Mitchell, deservedly, took 2nd Handicap prize as well.

Another week-end and another Competition record! Frank Southall and Stan Butler rode the Oak Tandem '100'. The pair led at all the checkpoints and arrived back at the timekeeper in 4.1.03 to win by 7'33" and beat the old record by 2 minutes. With this ride Frank Southall holds all the Single and Tandem Competition Records, (25, 50 and 100 miles Single and 30, 50 and 100 miles Tandem).

South of the river Frank Cleeve won the Club 100 mile time trial by over 7' in a time of 4.50.10 from Alan Gordon, 4.47.20, and Sid Orrell, 4.58.45. He would have won the handicap from scratch but this was awarded to T Black whose 5.17.15 was subject to 25' deduction gave him 4.52.15. You will remember that one cannot win both prizes in Paragon club events.

Cycling is a cruel sport and after 2 Competition records in 2 week-ends everything should now be easy. So what happens? Frank Southall rides the Ealing '50' and gets beaten! Beaten by Lipscombe (Ingleside) by 10"! Right from the start Lipscombe had matched Frank's efforts. At 12 ½ miles they were level in 32', by the 25 miles turn Lipscombe was leading by 5" in 1.6.40. Frost (Allondon) was at 15", Stan Butler 6th at 1'20" and 7th Sid Orrell at 1'25". Coming back Lipscombe held the advantage to cross the line in 2.9.48 just 10" too good for Frank. However not all was lost as Stan Butler came in for 8th place in 2.12.40 and Sid Orrell 10th in 2.13.40 for First Team. Such was the continuing power of the club that we should have collected 2nd Team award as well as our first trio were backed up by W Ashby 2.15.30, R Whitchurch 2.16.32 and Frank Cleeve 2.16.37. Frank Cleeve was 21st - 6 in the top 21 is not bad packing!

The Belle Vue Wednesday meeting was the scene for the NCU London Centre Sprint and 10 miles Championships. Alan Stubbs was in the Sprint and after making his way through the earlier rounds finished things off with a 12.4 last 220 yards to win by half a length and a length from Helps (Poly) and Meller (Imperial Whs). Monty Southall rode the 10 miles and at one time was clear by 1/3 of a lap but was hauled back by the bunch. There was a massive bunch sprint won by E Johnson (Belle Vue) but the rest of the Results are lost.

At the Polytechnic CC Meeting at Herne Hill Alan Stubbs was down for the 1000m Invitation Scratch Sprint.

Frank Southall was having a rather 'in and out' season as he had to pack very early on in the Belle Vue '50' down on the Bath road. While this is his favourite course, (he has done a 2.5.44 on it) he could not get going and retired at 12 miles. This left the race wide open. Eventually the race was won by Dougherty (Rugby RC) in 2.10.02. Our riders were in evidence if not in the hunt for major honours. Stan Butler led the troops. His 2.13.03 for 6th place with D Mitchell 8th in 2.15.20 and R Whitchurch 9th in 2.15.27 gave us the Team Race by 9" from the East Liverpool Wheelers. W Ashby was 10th in 2.15.45 and Frank Cleeve 15th in 2.16.53. Pretty good packing for the Team!

In the Upton Manor '50' F Sore came 8th in 2.24.58 behind Pummell (Glendene) who won in 2.20.30. In a Club Time Trial J Shaw and J Hamilton established a new club Tandem Record in a time of 4.19.45.

The Cycling of 4th August announced that Alan Stubbs had been selected to ride for Great Britain in the Amateur World Championship Sprint to be held at the Parc des Princes, Paris.

The chance to make amends came the following week-end. It was August Bank Holiday Monday, 7th August and the Bath Road 100. 100 of the best riders battling it out over 100 miles on the fastest roads in the country. Frank was still not feeling at his best and early in the race spent time chatting to the riders he had caught about stopping the race! The man starting 1 minute behind him nearly caught him – if this had actually happened Frank might really have stopped! However it was not to be – thankfully! Even so at the Turn after 22.88 miles Frank was ‘only’ 5th 55” slower than James (Glamorgan CC). His own clubmate, D Mitchell was also 15” up on him. Sid Orrell was 21st at 3’25” and Stan Butler 24th at 3’40”. Coming back through Pangbourne Southall caught Tuck (Eagle Roads) and was thinking about stopping when he reached the Start/Finish area in Pangbourne Lane. To his everlasting credit Tuck told Frank to stop beefing and get on with the racing (or words to that effect!). By the time the top riders went through the 50 mile point towards Thatcham Frank was in 4th place in 2.12.03 but 2 minutes slower than Ross (East Liverpool), Mitchell was 5th in 2.12.57, Stan Butler was up to 18th in 2.17.23 and Sid Orrell was 19th in 2.17.31. Frank Cleeve was also moving up through the field in 2.18.27, Alan Gordon 2.20.40 and R Whitchurch 2.24.05.

At the far Savenake Turn (72.88 miles) Frank was still 4th (3.18.15) but now 3 minutes adrift of Ross. Stan Butler had continued his upward movement and turned in 10th place 7’ slower than Ross, Mitchell had ‘blown’ and disappeared, Frank Cleeve was up to 13th place in 3.23.30, Orrell turned at 3.28.00, Whitchurch at 3.33.00 and Alan Gordon at 3.36.15. However the ‘slow’ start of our riders then paid off. Frank came hurtling back from the turn covering the last 27.12 miles in 1.12.05 – 8’35” fast than Ross to win by 1.59 from Salt (Anfield) in a new Competition record time of 4.30.10. Behind him Stan Butler was coming back even faster taking 1.11.38 over the return leg to finish 4th in 4.33.53 and Frank Cleeve held onto his 13th place in 4.40.30. This gave us a new Competition Team Record of 13.44.33 some 16 minutes faster than the previous record. Stan Orrell finished the distance in 33rd place with 4.49.26; R Whitchurch was 42 in 4.53.00 and Alan Gordon 49th in 4.55.51.

On the 13th August the club held a tandem ‘50’ event that proved a close run contest. Ernie Ongley and Bill Henn just held off J Hamilton and J Shaw by 12” to win in 2.00.15.

At the World Championships Frank Southall was up with the leaders when he punctured. He chased (Remember - in those days you had to change your own tyres) but eventually retired. Alan Stubbs went out of the Sprint after the 1st Round repechage but, as he said, ‘I learnt a lot about top class sprinting!’

Following the World Championship it was back to England for the SCCU ‘Revenge’ meeting. Alan Stubbs came through to the Final of the Sprint with Rampelberg (France), Horn (England) and Toni Merkens (Germany). Quite some opposition! Not that Alan was outclassed. (His progress to the Final had included a semi-final win in 12.4 for the last 220 yards). So it was to prove. Alan crossed the line in 3rd place but closing fast behind Rampelberg and Horn. During the other part of the meeting Monty Southall rode the 20 miles Tandem paced event. For three-quarters of the race he battled it out with Johnson (Belle Vue) but dropped back after 16 miles but held his 2nd place. He did not have

sufficient pacers after two of them crashed. Bill Heen having to go to hospital with extensive cuts and grazes

The Anerley 12 hour event was held on the 20th August and we have in the Archives Start Cards, Route Cards and Result Sheet from Stan Butler (No.25) and Frank Cleeve (No.95). Frank Southall, R Whitchurch, Sid Orrell, J Shaw, W Ashby and F Sore were also riding. It was a day of strong winds over lumpy roads. Frank was expected to dominate but failed to produce the power and by the 98 mile mark the race was being led by the eventual winner, Brummell (Vegetarian) some 3' up on Stan Butler with Frank Southall another 30" adrift. In another 20 miles Frank lost some 12 minutes and shortly after he retired. Stan closed up on Brummell but around 190 miles Stan punctured and dropped back to be over 5' down. Brummell also finished just as strongly as Stan so ran out winner with 237.37 miles just ½ mile short of Competition Record. This was a superb ride on a hard day. Stan Butler finished with 235 miles and our other 3 finishers were Frank Cleeve, 222.63, R Whitchurch, 222.50 and F Sore 213.25. Only 42 riders finished so hard were the conditions.

The next week in the Westerley 100 the two protagonists were matched again. Unfortunately the result was unchanged as Brummell made it two wins in a row. Both Butler and Brummell started slowly. At the first Turn Brummell (22 miles) was 13th Stan Butler 20th. At 50 miles Brummell was leading by 49" from Sid Orrell, 51" from D Mitchell and 1'5" from Stan Butler and he continued to pull away as they went westwards along the Bath Road to Savernake. At the far turn Brummell led Stan by 1'55" and a lot more on Orrell and Mitchell. He continued to pull away and crossed the line in 4.41.09 to beat Butler by over 3' (4.44.30) Mitchell came in with 4.50.16 for 7th place and Orrell, after a puncture, 11th in 4.53.27. This was good enough for the Paragon to take the Team Award. As an indication of the severity of the wind and bad roads only 46 riders managed to finish from a start list of 100. Stan Butler was 10' slower than his ride in the Bath Road event on the same course 3 weeks earlier.

On Saturday 26th August the Italian Sporting Club held their Meeting at Herne Hill with an England versus Italy Match. Frank Southall had been picked for England. In the 1000m Time Trial he recorded 1.17.4 for 3rd place behind E Chambers (1.16.00), he was part of the 20 laps Madison Team that drew with the Italian. Overall the Match resulted in a win for England by 37 pts to 32 pts. At the same Meeting Monty Southall won the Civil Service 1 mile Championship in 2.57.4.

The re-run 5 miles Championship at the Kentish Wheelers meeting was a win for Alan Stubbs from Arthur Bristow and Monty Southall. The 550 yards resulted in a win for Ernie Ongley from Eric Harland and T Black. The Paragon also rode against the Marlboro in a League match but lost 25 pts to 5!

During the SCCU Evening Meeting Arthur Bristow came 3rd in the 5 miles Championship, Alan Stubbs came 2nd in the 550 yards Sprint Championship

The SCCU 12 hours event was held on the 3rd September and while we have yet to discover any details the Paragon did win the Team race with J Shaw, J Hamilton and George Woolmer.

If the Westerley 100 was hard the WLCA 100 was even harder. 89 started and only 38 finished. Only two riders beat 5 hours one of whom was Stan Butler. He won in a time of 4.46.42 by 10' and because of the destruction of the field also claimed 2nd handicap from the scratch mark. Frank Cleeve finished in 5.13.31 but the Paragon had no 3rd man. This non-existent man needed to do 5.59.00 for the Paragon to win the Team race.

The other good thing to come out of the morning was that Stan Butler won the WLCA Road Championship with that 100 miles ride.

To the north of London Frank Southall was riding the Forest '50'. His hoped for fast ride did not materialise as the gentle breeze blowing at the start changed to a strong westerly that, on this course, means it is hard both ways. The winner, Wheatley (Kent Road), benefited from his early start and came back with a 2.12.45 ride that was 37" too good for Southall. For both riders the times were too slow to help their BBAR positions.

In order to qualify for the British Best All-rounder Competition Frank Southall had to complete a 12 hours event. He chose the Gayler Memorial event based on the North Road and was backed up by D Mitchall and S Orrell. This day he did not do his normal fast start so as to dominate the opposition but started steadily. By the 96 miles point Saunders (Marlboro) was leading in 4.38.30 whilst Southall was in 5th place some 9.30 back. Then he managed to collect 2 punctures that set him back a few more minutes. However our man continued and by 149 miles had got back to 8.15 down on Saunders but then at 174 miles had to change a wheel! Riding onto the 202 miles point he had again pulled back his deficit to 6 minutes on Saunders. It was also at this point that the Cycling Reporter actually mentions Mitchell who had been riding steadily all day and was now up with the leaders. Saunders also managed to raise his pace so that Frank could not close any further on him. Saunders ran out time with 234.50 miles, Frank covered 232.00, D Mitchell 224.13 for 5th place and Sid Orrell 214.75 for 11th. The Paragon won the Team race comfortably by 21 miles.

The Vegetarian '50' was another example of the Highways Department and Mother Nature combining to wreck a top class event. The previous weeks had seen loads of grit being laid on the Bath Road then on the night before the race it poured with rain, washing the grit all over the roads. Over half the field punctured. Alan Gordon did NOT. His rewarded himself with a personal best time for 50 miles in 2.15.05 for 7th place. The winner was H James (Glamorgan) in 2.9.44.

On the same day the club had two riders in the Manchester Wheelers Invitation 12 hour. We have no details but Frank Southall retired after 130 miles being, at that time some 12' behind the leader, and eventual winner Holland (Midland). Frank Cleeve rode into 4th place with 227.75 miles.

Back nearer London Frank Patterson came 4th in the Civil Service CA 25 with a 1.7.55 ride.

Frank Southall had accepted an Invitation to ride the North Road Memorial '50'. This event is normally earlier in the season and while it proved a good crowd puller the contestants had had enough racing for the season. Only one man improved his best time even though everyone was racing in exulted company. Frank was in 3rd place the whole

way round and finished in 2.9.17 that was 1.57 behind the winner Ross (East Liverpool) and 1.01 behind Pickersgill (Raleigh)

The Mayne Cup had a fairly small field but Arthur Bristow took central stage. Not only did he provide the fastest time of 1.4.37 but this was over 2' clear of Sid Orrell and over 5' clear of 3rd place man Don Allan. This is the one race where you can do fastest time AND collect the Handicap for the Cup is awarded on handicap times. Arthur did the double. His 1.4.37 was subject to a deduction of 2.30 giving him 1.2.07 that was 1.54 too good for Founder member and Vice President George Colget whose 7.30 allowance gave him a nett time of 1.4.01 and 2.56 better than F Sore (1.5.03).

The Open Event season finished with the Comet '25'. Frank Southall had dreamed of riding a 25-mile time trial in under 1 hour. Therefore great things were expected of Frank Southall in this, the last '25' of the season. Club tradition has it that he was catching Alan Gordon, who started 4' in front of him, when he punctured. Trying to dismount before he had stopped Frank fell awkwardly and decided to retire. If he had actually caught Alan and finished this would have given Frank that elusive '59' minute ride as Alan finished with a personal best of 1.3.52 for 2nd place. Harvell (Poole Whs) won in 1.2.07 but as he was only 13" slower than Frank at the Turn would Frank have taken another 1.55 out of him on the way back into the wind? We shall never know but it is nice to dream! Away from the dreams and back to reality Stan Butler finished on a flat tyre to record 1.5.03 for 6th place.

The number of Standard medals dropped a little with 16 Gold Centre Medals, awarded, 27 Silver and 18 Bronze.

At the end of the Season the Paragon were on top of the Cycling Time Trial World. Frank Southall had won the British Best All Rounder Competition for the 4th time; Stan Butler had come 2nd and Frank Cleeve 13th to win the Team Competition. The Paragon also had D Mitchell in 23rd place, R Whitchurch in 31st and Sid Orrell in 40th and these three were placed 5th in the Team Competition!

Frank Southall and Stan Butler held the 30, 50 and 100 mile Competition Records for Tandems, Frank Southall held Competition Records at 25 miles (1.00.59) and 100 miles (4.30.10) and the Norwood Paragon held Competition Team Records at 50 miles (6.30.45) and 100 miles (13.44.33).

To finish the season there were the Hill Climbs. D Mitchell came 6th in the Catford event behind Hussey (Finsbury Park) in 2.06.6 to Hussey's 1.55.6. The Paragon collected 3rd Team award but we do not have the Result and are unaware who the other two riders could be.

This was, however, to be the end of an era. As Stan Butler wrote in his Scrapbook, "Frank Southall decided to turn Professional after 10 years racing as an amateur. Engaged to break records for Hercules Cycle Co. A great loss to the road racing fraternity, the Norwood Paragon and myself personally".

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	10 h/c		Handicap Result		
		12.3.33				
16	Entries					
13	Starters					
13	Finishers					
1	Gordon A	27.50	1	Bristow A	2.10	26.19
2	Bristow A	28.29	2	Black T	2.00	27.07
3	Orrell S	28.52	3	Sore F	2.15	27.17
4	Black T	29.07	4	Hamilton J	1.45	27.42
5	Hamilton J	29.27	5	Gordon A	Scratch	27.50
6	Sore F	29.32	6	Orrell S	0.55	27.57
7	Willshire F	29.40	7	Willshire F	0.55	28.45
8	Harland E	30.20	8	Varlow K	2.30	29.15
9	Henn W	31.06	9	Harland E	0.55	29.27
10	Walker F	31.08	10	Henn W	1.35	29.31
11	Varlow K	31.45	11	Walker F	1.25	29.43
12	Woolley L	32.22	12	Woolley L	2.15	30.07
13	Brash J	32.58	13	Brash J	2.15	30.43
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		7.5.33				
14	Entries					
14	Starters					
8	Finishers					
1	Orrell S	2.28.34	1	Orrell S	5.00	2.23.34
2	J Shaw	2.28.49	2	J Shaw	5.00	2.23.49
3	Cleeve F	2.29.06	3	Woolmer G	10.00	2.25.40
4	Woolmer G	2.35.40	4	Varlow K	18.00	2.28.17
5	Hamilton J	2.38.00	5	Hamilton J	9.00	2.29.00
6	Harland E	2.39.07	6	Cleeve F	Scratch	2.29.06
7	Black T	2.42.00	7	Black T	11.00	2.31.00
8	Varlow K	2.46.17	8	Harland E	8.00	2.31.07
	Scratch Result	25 h/cap		Handicap Result		
		11.6.33				
20	Entries					
17	Starters					
16	Finishers					
1	Dicks J	1.04.54	1	Henn W	5.00	1.02.40
2	Staplehurst E	1.05.10	2	Dicks J	0.30	1.04.24
3	J Shaw	1.06.53	3	Harland E	3.00	1.04.27
4	Harland E	1.07.27	4	Staplehurst E	0.15	1.04.55
5	Henn W	1.07.40	5	McCarthy T	5.00	1.05.01
6	Hamilton J	1.09.01	6	Domoney W	5.15	1.05.03
7	Walker F	1.09.55	7	J Shaw	1.30	1.05.23
8	Saggers W	1.09.58	8	Walker F	4.30	1.05.25
9	McCarthy T	1.10.01	9	Saggers W	4.00	1.05.58
10	Willshire F	1.10.13	10	Brash J	5.45	1.05.59
11	Woolmer G	1.10.15	11	Hamilton J	3.00	1.06.01
12	Domoney W	1.10.18	12	Woolmer G	3.30	1.06.45
13	Brash J	1.11.44	13	Brough W	5.30	1.06.45
14	Brough W	1.12.15	14	Willshire F	3.00	1.07.13

15	Orrell S	1.12.30	15	Varlow K	7.30	1.11.23
16	Varlow K	1.18.53	16	Orrell S	Scratch	1.12.30
	Scratch Result	100m h/c		Handicap Result		
		16.7.33				
12	Entries					
12	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Cleeve F	4.50.10	1	Cleeve F	Scratch	4.50.10
2	Gordon A	4.57.20	2	Black T	25.00	4.52.15
3	Orrell S	4.58.45	3	Gordon A	Scratch	4.57.20
4	Woolmer G	5.13.42	4	Orrell S	Scratch	4.58.45
5	Staplehurst E	5.15.32	5	Varlow K	35.00	4.59.00
6	Hamilton J	5.15.50	6	Woolmer G	12.00	5.01.42
7	Black T	5.17.15	7	Hamilton J	11.00	5.04.50
8	Henn W	5.22.50	8	Henn W	15.00	5.07.50
9	Varlow K	5.34.00	9	Staplehurst E	6.00	5.09.32
	Scratch Result	50m Tand		Handicap Result		
		h/cap				
5	Entries	13.8.33				
5	Starters					
4	Finishers					
1	Ongley E/Henn	2.01.15	1	Ongley E/Henn	1.00	2.00.15
2	Hamilton/Shaw	2.01.27	2	Hamilton/Shaw	Scratch	2.01.27
3	Allan DS & DJ	2.09.00	3	Allan DS & DJ	6.00	2.03.00
4	Diplo/Brash	2.22.40	4	Diplo/Brash	10.00	2.12.40
	Scratch Result	1.10.33		Handicap Result		
		25 h/cap		Mayne Cup		
18	Entries					
18	Starters					
13	Finishers					
1	Bristow A	1.04.37	1	Bristow A	2.30	1.02.07
2	Orrell S	1.06.41	2	Colget G	7.30	1.04.01
3	Allan D.S.	1.09.46	3	Sore F	5.00	1.05.03
4	Sore F	1.10.03	4	Allan D.S.	4.00	1.05.46
5	Colget G	1.11.31	5	Gardiner F	14.00	1.05.54
6	Gilbert H	1.13.11	6	Orrell S	0.15	1.06.26
7	Walker F	1.13.59	7	Godman E	9.00	1.08.26
8	Brash J	1.14.37	8	Brash J	6.00	1.08.37
9	Pike T	1.15.30	9	Gilbert H	4.00	1.09.11
10	Colget E	1.16.31	10	Walker F	4.00	1.09.59
11	Woolmer G	1.17.24T	11	Woolmer G	7.00	1.10.24
12	Godman E	1.17.26T	12	Colget E	4.30	1.12.01
13	Gardiner F	1.19.54	13	Pike T	3.00	1.12.30