

1938

With the increasing age and ill health of Harry 'Goss' Green the Club had to change the way it selected its President. While it was understood that no one wanted to take the Presidency away from Harry Green he had been prevented from attending many Club Functions and he had become a distance figurehead rather than a Leader of the Club. Therefore on the Order Paper for the AGM held on the 30th January, 1939 was a motion 'The President shall be elected each year from Vice-Presidents or from members of at least 10 years standing, but may not hold such office for two consecutive years.' It was then proposed that Harry Green be re-elected President.

The new Handbook listed no Headquarters in Croydon or in the Country but judging by the results listed below the Country HQ was probably not required.

Bill Sagers has taken over as General Secretary from Les Woolley. (Les was now Landlord of the Brickmakers Arms in Crowhurst). Jim Parkes took over the Magazine editorship and Don Allan and Bert Chapman were added to the Auditors. Nothing else changed.

Club Track Records were officials recognised for rewarding with Gold Centre Medals. On bone of contention was covered by a motion that 'The cost of feeding arranged by the Club in the 100 mile and 12 hours Handicaps shall be borne equally by all entrants therein.' A further loosening of the restrictions on prizes was that the member may add to the total value of his prizes up to an additional 25% thus enabling him to buy what he needed rather than what his prize forced him to accept.

One motion of special significance was that there was to be a Club Road Championship (for Open events) and a Club Road Events Championship. Frank Southall kindly donated a Trophy for this new Championship. Whilst studying the Minutes of past AGMs and Committee Meetings it was obvious that this split had been acknowledged a number of times in the past with some trophies being utilised. However this is the occasion when the system actually reached the Rule Books.

It was also decided not to run a Saturday Track Meeting in 1938! This follows the Financial 'disaster' of 1937 and was proposed by the Treasurer!

The club was now affiliated to the RTTC the body that took over from the Road racing Council. Two extra awards are included. Four Gold medals are to be awarded to the four members registering the best performances in Open at 50 miles, 100 miles and 12 hours based on the BBAR competition. (Messrs Carter, Gordon, Hitchmough and Southall donated these medals). A further prize will be awarded to the fastest Veteran (over 40) in the Mayne Cup '25'.

This was to be the most successful season the Club had ever had and no small thanks are due to Alan Gordon as Road Secretary. He organised the Teams and, especially in the longer distances, groups of helpers to ensure our riders had food and drink when they needed it. The 'care' system still holds good in 2004 and is a Testament to Alan's methodical approach to all things. The organisation behind the Club Team's win in the National 24 hour Championship in 1997 worked on the same principles.

During the winter the SCCU had organised a Cyclo-Cross event but with a difference. The race was for teams of 6 riders with the time of the 4th rider to count but all 6 riders had to finish. The team started together and, theoretically kept together over the 10-mile course. The Paragon had two teams. Team 'A' was Sid Butcher, J Hughes, Cyril Kent-Smith, Doug Perry and Fred Willett and they came 2nd to the South Western RC (1.2.52 to 1.5.53). The 'B' Team were some 4' slower in 1.9.59 but they in turn were 10½ minutes quicker than the 4th Team. The 'B' Team were Frank Cleeve, Bill Hall, Frank Patterson, Frank Sisley and Alan Gordon.

For the fifth time Stan Butler won the Balham 'Rough-stuff' 25 and at the same time turned the table on Fred Willett. On a new course on a perfect spring day he finished in 1.43.55 against Fred's 1.46.43. The Bicycle noted that Stan was the only rider not to ride through the Titsey watersplash – he rode over the footbridge! (The writer punctured at this spot when riding through the ford. On that occasion the footbridge was impassable as it was full of spectators/ghouls waiting for riders to crash). With 200 entries for the event the organisers restricted the field to 100 so clubs were only allowed three men in the race and, as luck would have it, Val Lewis punctured twice and packed. We needed a 2.7.00 ride for the Team race – c'est la vie!

At the Committee Meeting on the 25th February the Treasurer Reported that a donation of 10 guineas had been received from Harry Green. It was agreed to buy a Trophy, to be known as the 'Goss Green Trophy' for fastest time In the Club '100'. The Track riders were having trouble selecting teams for Team Pursuit matches. As the riders were also Committee members one can appreciate the difficulty for fair and unbiased choices!

The Club's racing Season got aweigh with a Medium Gear event instead of a Low Gear race. This meant that the largest gear permissible was 72" rather than the 63" of the previous year. It was also easier to put on with standard equipment rather than buying a different chainring than normal. The Result was very close Val Lewis just beating Doug Perry and Arthur Sharp. Lewis's 1.5.53 was 5" too good for Doug and 12" faster than Arthur. With 2' Handicap Lewis was also fastest on Handicap but as he had already won the Scratch event he was not able to get both prizes. Instead the winner was Geoff Dore with a nett time of 1.4.11 with George Murray 2nd in 1.4.26 and Frank Patterson in 3rd place in 1.4.58. If these times seem a little on the fast side it may be due to the fact that the course was about a mile short!

The Catford Low Gear '25' was run off without incident with Fred Willett coming home with a 1.6.27 that earned him 2nd place behind George Fleming (Belle Vue). Backed by Bert Chapman, 5th in 1.9.01 and Cyril Melhuish, 12th in 1.10.14 these three times were sufficient to win the Team race. Fred had a close call that morning. Having elected to ride out to the Start he left home too late and was some miles from the Start with time running out. A motoring member of the Kentish Wheelers fortunately passed Fred and offered a lift. This lift was accepted with a clarity so he reached the Start in time. Worth a pint or two afterwards don't you think? Stan Butler did not start due to the effects of a crash the day before. As this was the 5th March and his birthday one must wonder if the two events are connected!

Next week-end Fred went one better by winning the Castlenau '25' in 1.8.11 and again the Paragon won the Team race with Bert Chapman recording 1.10.59 for 12th place and Stan Butler 1.11.20 for 16th. The race was held in a cold thick mist!

The SCCU '25' for Clubs K to R was the best example of a 'benefit race' we have seen. Fred Willett was 1st with 1.6.12 and missed the Handicap prize by just 2". 2nd was Cyril Melhuish in 1.7.32 and 3rd Stan Butler in 1.7.46. That clinched the Team race. But then we had Bert Chapman 4th in 1.8.20 and Arthur Sharp 5th in 1.8.56. Not getting a look-in were 9th Doug Perry 1.9.13, 11th Arthur Bristow 1.10.05, Val Lewis 1.10.10, Albert Webb, 1.10.37, Cliff Dore 1.11.25, Sid Horton 1.11.51, Bernard Tyrer 1.12.32, W Hall 1.12.38, Geoff Dore 1.12.51, Sid Butcher 1.13.40 and Frank Patterson 1.14.03. Not a bad mornings work.

Out West in the Ealing Manor '25' for riders that had not previously beaten 1.7.00 for the distance it was Jim Hampshire's chance to shine. He finished with 1.7.19 to win by just 5" from Cocking (Childerly). Cliff Dore was in 6th place with 1.9.25 and Val Lewis made up the winning Team with 1.10.39. Just to add a little gilt to the gingerbread Jim also collected 1st prize in the handicap section.

George Fleming was in front of Fred Willett again in the Willesden '25' and extending his winning margin to 1.23. His 1.4.46 was too good for Fred's 1.6.09. However some consolation was another Team race win as Cyril Melhuish was just a minute slower than Fred in 1.7.08 for 6th place and Stan Butler 7th with 1.7.18. Bert Chapman was 'in reserve' with a 1.8.21 for 10th place. These were excellent ties on the day as a Northwesterly gale swept over the exposed stretches of the North Road with riders grovelling along at 10 mph at times in the heavier gusts.

The Club '25' was also on the 3rd April. Technically the times should be much faster as one is allowed a gearing of ones choice. However Mother Nature takes a hand occasionally and south of the river conditions were just as bad as on the North Road. This year the '25' was won by Arthur Sharp in 1.8.55 in a time 2.50 slower than his Medium Gear effort! Doug Perry was 2nd in 1.9.01 (3.03 slower but he did have to stop to play knitting needles with broken spokes)) with Albert Webb 3rd in 1.10.22 (2.59 slower). Vic Lewis who won the medium Gear only managed 1.15.43 but one would assume (or hope) he punctured. Young George Murray took the Handicap but it was a close run thing with 6 riders within a minute. George had a net time of 1.8.15, Doug Perry 1.8.31, Albert Webb 1.8.52, Arthur Sharp 1.8.55, Cliff Dore 1.9.12 and Sid Butcher 1.9.13.

Eleven people were put up for election to the Club at the Committee Meeting on 4th April. Amongst them were Harry Dunlop, George Ely, John Goring, Charlie Armstrong, Ivor Cox and Fred Sams. The Trackmen were still arguing so Stan Butler and Alan Gordon proposed that Messrs Parkes, Harrison, Willett plus A.N. Other should make up the Team for the Challenge Match against the Catford on Good Friday.

In 'The Bicycle' of 12th April there is a large spread on the racing at Brooklands. Mentioned in the 50km Novice race is Arthur Sharp and Doug Perry placed equal 5th with a group of 14 riders. Val Lewis and Frank Patterson also get a mention as being in the action but are not placed. John Vallack and Don Corry appear in the second race report but not in the results,

Fast times were the order of the day in the Forest '25' on 10th April but one name was missing from the top names. Fred Willett and Stan Butler had gone the wrong way to the start. Fred, being the earlier starter, lost 3.45. His official time was 1.6.42 that with the deduction of those 3 ³/₄ minutes would have given him a nett time of 1.2.57. George Fleming (Belle Vue) won in 1.2.02. Fred should have been 2nd with that 1.2.57! Unfortunately without Fred's real time the other were not quick enough to take the Team race Cyril Melhuish recorded 1.4.00 for 5th place, Bert Chapman 1.4.29 for 8th and Stan Butler 1.4.39 for 10th. The Team race went to the Belle Vue by 13"!

Jim Parkes was in excellent form at the Good Friday Meeting at Herne Hill reaching the Final of the Open Handicap. Stan Harrison was knocked out in the 1st round of the Invitation Sprint. Fred Willett came 3rd in the 10 minutes Australian Pursuit. Pride of place must go to the Pursuit Team. They had a Revenge match against the Catford who beat them in the National Finals in 1937. This time the 'right' Team won handsomely by 4" (about 40 yards). Sometime during the Meeting Fred Willett crashed sufficiently to affect his form for a while.

Easter Monday was Charlotteville '50' day but only one Paragon rider. Fred Willett, after his crash, did not start leaving Stan Butler to carry the Paragon's colours. He came 9th with a 2.14.51 ride but well down on George Fleming (2.9.59).

Down at Westerham the Polo lads were entertaining Solihull and won 15-8

The Paragon had 6 pairs entered for the Old Portlians Tandem '50' on southern roads. A quick glance at the Start Sheet and Course gave pause for thought as the race was going down Crabtree Hill to Cowfold. This is not a nice hill to race as anyone who has ridden the old SCCU '100' knows as one had to climb this hill at about 75 miles. However the Old Ports very cleverly got around the problem going west from Cowfold (A272) to Buck Barn then turning north on the A24 and bearing right through Copsale and Maplehurst to come out onto the A281 west of Lower Beeding. One still has to climb but it is much gentler but it is through some quite narrow lanes. Like most of the 1930's courses they are impossible today. Gatwick Airport slices across the original Brighton Road. The A24 by Copsale is dual carriageway with any thoughts of a right turn being somewhat suicidal. The right turn at the junction with the A281 is not to be recommended either. But then motor traffic was extremely light before 9am on a Sunday morning.

Mills and Paul (Addiscombe) were in a class of their own winning in 1.53.32. Fred Willett and Stan Butler were 2nd in 1.55.58 and with Bert Chapman and Cyril Melhuish (1.59.05) the Paragon won the Team race. Val Lewis and Frank Patterson 2.1.58 (that included running through the tunnel at Crawley level crossing), Cliff and Geof Dore 2.2.39, Sid Butcher and W Hall 2.5.45 were our other riders. F Thompson and J Goring also rode and finished in 2.11.14 but a note by their names on the Result Sheet says that they were disqualified but no reason is given.

On the same day George Ely, now in Paragon colours, won the WLCA '25' in 1.4.41 with Arthur Sharp 6th in 1.5.55, Doug Perry 10th in 1.6.36 and Arthur Bristow 11th in 1.6.40. George and Arthur Sharp were also fast enough to collect 1st and 3rd in the

Handicap section and the Paragon comfortably won the Team race. (TWO in one day – good but not our best!)

A newcomer to the Club, but not to top level racing, was Harold Fenn from Port Talbot. He had moved to the London area with his job but promptly had his leg broken and other nasty cuts and bruises in a collision with a motorcar. His come back to racing was with a 1.9 in the Acme '25' and 4th place in the Cwmcarn Paragon '50' in 2.19. His first race with the Paragon was to be North London '50'

On the 1st May the University Tandem '30' was held. The Paragon had four pairs accepted. Once again Mills and Paul (Addiscombe) were triumphant winning by 1.09 in 1.6.58. Our best pair was Stan Butler and Fred Willett who came 7th in 1.9.04. Bert Chapman and Cyril Melhuish 1.10.51, Vic Lewis and Frank Patterson 1.13.13 and Albert Webb and Doug Perry 1.14.11 were our other riders but they were only good enough for 2nd Team.

We had a Team in the Slough 2nd Class '50' but it was not a good day. Bernard Tyrer was our best finisher with a 2.26 ride. Frank Patterson won the Civil Service '50' in 2.26.35 on a course that is still (2004) mainly lanes.

The following week-end was the WLCA '50' with 154 names on the Card. Stan Butler was beaten into 3rd place by Hill (Vegetarian) and Clark (Unity) with a ride of 2.15.21. He did have the satisfaction of leading the Paragon to yet another Team race win as Cyril Melhuish recorded 2.17.32 for 5th place and Bert Chapman 2.20.23. This gave them a lead of over 7 minutes from the Unity. W Hall, 2.24.34, also finished.

Elsewhere Fred Willett was 2nd in the Luton '25' with 1.3.40. George Ely was in 3rd place with 1.3.43. We were 2nd Team but we do not know the name of the 3rd man or times. Doug Perry, 1.4.11 and Arthur Sharp, 1.4.31, were well placed in the Farnborough '25'.

Another bad day was arranged(!) for the Club '30'. Fifteen riders had entered of whom fourteen started but only 10 reached the Finish. Here E James won with 1.23.46 a minute faster than D Kleckham (1.24.47) and in 3rd place was George Murray (1.25.33). Kelckham won the Handicap with eight minutes deduction (1.16.47) with James 2nd (1.17.46) and R Hoy 3rd 1.18.50.

Similar conditions were endured in the North London '50' where some extremely fast times were recorded at the turn but it took the top riders all they could do to maintain 'evens' or 20 mph on the return. George Ely was fastest to the turn in 58.08. Stan Butler was 5th in 59.02, Cyril Melhuish 6th in 59.15 and Harold Fenn 1.0.15. Brabbins (Wellingborough) and Saunders (Viking) held their ground on the way back but Stan Butler moved up to 3^d place to finish in 2.16.44 with Cyril Melhuish 4th in 2.18.04 and Harold Fenn 5th in 2.18.23. This collected the Team race by some 6 minutes. George Ely died deaths on the return eventually crossing the line in 2.24.45.

George Fleming handed out another beating to all and sundry in the Luton '25' winning by 2.24 in a time of 1.1.16. Fred Willett was 2nd in 1.3.40 with George Ely just 3rd slower in 3rd place. Arthur Sharp was close up in 11th place with 1.6.09 but the Belle Vue beat us for the Team race.

At the Committee Meeting on the 20th May Len Bydowell's resignation was accepted as he was off to join the Navy. The Team Pursuit squad had beaten the Old Portlians in the 1st Round of the WLCA Championship.

Stan Butler's diary entry says that he rode a 100 miles Time Trial on May 22nd but this does not appear in the Club books. However he mentions a 4.50.19 ride with some 5½ minutes lost through a puncture.

Around this time Fred Willett rode the Yorkshire RC Road Race at Donnington. This was the first massed start Road Race Championship of England. Fred made the mistake of riding a 10 miles Track event at Fallowfield the day before. Normally this is not a bad idea as the Track racing gets ones muscles working very smoothly and quickly. Unfortunately Manchester and Fallowfield were in their worst mood and it rained. This has the most adverse effect on ones muscles. The cold water stiffens the muscles and makes recovery much more difficult. Thus Fred found himself suffering in the pack rather than taking charge of affairs as was expected. He struggled on eventually finishing in 8th place some 5.43 behind the winner.

After the successes of the earlier season the Paragon riders came down to earth in the Catford '50'. Stan Butler had a puncture during his 2.19.27 ride, so did Harold Fenn with a 2.19.23. Arthur Sharp beat both of these times with 2.19.21 but had gone off course and also lost time. Best draw a veil over this race!

A new course was on offer for the University '100' on Whit-Monday 6th June. This one started at Ugley on the Cambridge Road but then went out through Dunmow to Chelmsford before returning. It then went along the customary '50' course via Stumps Cross and Six Mile Bottom before returning to Ugley. By the time the riders returned from the Chelmsford leg Stan Butler was in the lead with 2.11.12, Harold Fenn was just behind in 2.12.18 but Doug Perry was a way back in 2.22.55. Out to the next turns Stan increased his lead over Fenn to 3' at 79 miles. The remaining 20.5 miles were into a rising south-westerly wind and stamina and knowledge of long-distance time trialling was needed. Those that had the strength remaining moved through the field. Twenty-one riders packed on this leg; others returned times well below the best. Stan Butler romped home in 4.36.12 to win by 5.03 from Harold Fenn, (4.41.15) and with Doug Perry coming in with 5.0.35 the Paragon also won the Team race by 28'. Stan also collected 2nd Handicap prize from Scratch underlining his dominance that day.

Our short distance men were also having a successful day as Cyril Melhuish won the Honor Oak '25' in 1.5.27 and set a course Record. Around that date Bert Chapman won the West Suffolk Whs '50' in 2.14.51.

Saturday 11th June was Grand Prix of London day at Herne Hill and we have a note that Stan Harrison came 2nd in the 'Devil-take-the Hindmost'. (Last man across the Finish line each lap is eliminated).

The next day we had a Team in the Shaftesbury '50' and while everyone was put in their place by Rueben Firth (Bronte Whs) with his 2.6.13 ride Stan Butler salvaged 2nd place in 2.10.37, a season's best. Harold Fenn was close behind in

3rd place with 2.11.48 and with George Ely completing the course in 2.12.01 the Team race was ours.

On June 15th Jim Parkes won the 5 miles event at the Manchester City Sports at Fallowfield.

Stan Butler was on Scratch for the Addiscombe '100' on the 19th June and once again he failed to oblige the Handicapper. He came 3rd in 4.52.20 3.38 behind the winner, W Hobbs (Addiscombe). Not only that the Paragon failed to win the Team race having to give it best to the Bath Road Club. George Ely was 8th in 4.59.55 and Doug Perry 12th in 5.6.53.

In North London Cyril Melhuish came 2nd in the Kingsdale '50' in 2.14.21 on a very hard day.

On the Isle of Man the Manx International Road race was held on the 23rd June over two laps of the famed T.T. Mountain Course. Ninety two riders started of whom three were from the Paragon. Harold Fenn and Arthur Sharp were on the Start Sheet but it was Fred Willett who impressed. He stormed up the mountain on the first lap to break away with 5 others gaining over a minute on the climb. Fred still led passing the Grandstands with two others but was caught at Union Mills by the remains of the bunch. Second time up the Mountain the weather had worsened (typical Manx conditions!) but Fred was in the front group looking very confident and it seemed as if he could win. Unfortunately there was a crash near the top sending 3 riders to the ground including Fred. He injured his arms quite severely and it was some time before he could continue. We do not know his actual finish position

Albert Webb had been accepted for the National Road Race Championship at Donnington Park and was awarded some expense money by the Committee. Jim Parkes was appointed Team Captain for the Pursuit squads. A notice had to be written for display at the Track Cabin following an outbreak of 'borrowing' threatening disciplinary action against anyone found guilty.

Nineteen rides competed for the Fryco Cup '50' on the 26th June. Fastest of these, by over 4', was Sid Butcher. His 2.16.33 was much too good for W Hall (2.20.52) and Sid Horton (2.21.25). Ignoring Sid Butcher's time meant that the Handicap was won by an improving Sid Mitchell (2.9.45) from Horton (2.13.25) and Hall (2.14.52).

North of the River the Highgate '100' proved to be another hard day with 38 of the entrants failing to reach the Finish. The race itself was a close run thing with Dale (Leamington) leading up to 94 miles but then being overtaken by Stan Butler with his normal strong finish. Stan crossed the line in 4.35.17 just 9" faster than Dale. Harold Fenn finished in 4.46.2 and with Doug Perry recoding a personal best of 4.47.59 the Paragon won the Team race

P. Dyble rode the National 25 miles Championship at The Butts, Coventry. He finished in 3rd place but no other details are known. He also won the London Centre 5 miles Grass Championship.

Jim Parkes teamed with H Dodds (Imperials Whs) came 2nd in the 1 mile Tandem sprint at Herne Hill. They also won the London Centre Tandem Sprint Championship.

Ivor Cox was 3rd in the National 5 miles Grass Championship held in Gloucester.

Another Tandem event was run on the 3rd July. Five pairs took part with Albert Webb and R Ash beating the Dore brothers by 28", 2.0.20 to 2.0.48. Someway back were Sid Butcher and W Hall in 3rd place with 2.4.20 (with a puncture). The Dore brothers took the Handicap. Frank Patterson and Val Lewis managed to break their fixed cog – if nothing else it shows they were trying rather hard!

Our longer distance men went out west for the Cheltenham & County '50'. George Ely was reported to have ridden down to the event, one presumes on the Saturday, but it did him little good, as he was the slowest of the Paragonians with 2.22.30. Stan Butler was 2nd in the event beaten by 17" by West (Cwmcarn Paragon) but all was not lost as backing Stan were Bert Chapman, 2.14.19, and Harold Fenn, 2.14.55 that was enough to take the Team race in 6.41.33.

Yet another hard day met those riding for the new Goss Green Cup for the Club '100' Championship. Fourteen entered, twelve started but only 7 finished. Sid Butcher came home with the fastest time. His 4.51.15 was course record and beat Albert Webb's 4.53.10 (with a puncture) and W Hall's 4.58.46. Bill Diplo won the Handicap prize with 36' deduction that gave him a nett of 4.46.27. Harry Wooton was 2nd (4.50.38) and Albert Webb, the Scratchman, 3rd (4.53.10).

It was also a hard day out in Essex for the Comet '100'. Of the 95 riders on the Card only 8 failed to start but another 37 failed to finish! This was good news for the Paragon hard men as they proceeded to 'clean-up'. Stan Butler was 1st in 4.33.25; Harold Fenn was 2nd in 4.36.42 and George Ely 3rd in 4.49.12. The Paragon won the Team race by over 1 hour – from the Addiscombe!

A team went down to the Bath Road for the Ealing '50' but while they did well it was not good enough to win anything. Stan Butler produced a personal best '50' of 2.9.37 for 5th place with Fred Willett 6th in 2.10.30. Harold Fenn recorded 2.12.33 and Arthur Sharp 2.13.04 but they were beaten by the Vegetarian C & AC by 3' for the Team prize.

The next week-end saw Stan Butler improving his '50' time again with 2.9.24 in the Belle Vue '50' but this was only good enough for 7th place. Harold Fenn did 2.10.47 and George Ely 2.14.55. The Addiscombe won the Team race!

The same day 170 had entered for the SCCU 'Sid Gray' 100 miles event. Paragon interest was evident and the times recorded were Geoff Dore 4.51.09 (a personal best), W Hall 4.57.00 (after going off-course), George Murray 5.0.48 and Frank Sisley 5.16.10. Geof's allowance of 23 minutes enabled him to take 2nd prize in the Handicap competition. They missed the Team prize by just 1.28.

August Bank Holiday Monday was Bath Road '100' day and what a 'humdinger' it proved to be justifying its title as the 'Blue Riband' of 100 miles competition. At the first turn (23 miles) Logan (Vegetarian) was leading Fred Willett by 15" with Stan

Butler and George Ely equal 4th just 1' down and Harold Fenn 9th a further 45" behind. Back through the Finish and out onto the Bath Road at 50 miles and Fred Willett had taken the lead in 2.9.56. 'Shake' Earnshaw (Monkton) was 22" behind and Stan Butler at 1.30. Harold Fenn had moved up a place to 8th in 2.12.16 and George Ely had dropped back a bit with 2.14.36. There were 12 men in less than 3' at the front of the race.

At the Savernake turn (73 miles) Earnshaw had moved into the lead in 3.10.40. He had put 2.12 into Fred Willett in 23 miles. Behind these two Mills (Addiscombe) had moved up into 3rd place at 2.20, Hey (Bronte) 4th at 2.35 and Stan Butler 5th at 3.05. Harold Fenn turned in 3.16.40 for 10th place and George Ely in 3.19.00.

On the way back to Pangbourne Lane it was Earnshaw who weakened (or did the others find more speed?) Earnshaw finished in 4.29.01. Fred Willett regained nearly all his lost time coming home in 4.29.04 that meant he picked up 1.46 over the last 27 miles. Hey was also closing fast – his 2.35 deficit at Savernake was cut to 39" at the line (4.29.40) and Stan Butler, coming in fastest of all, closed to within 58" with 4.29.59. Four riders within a minute!

Harold Fenn held onto 10th place with 4.35.48 but George Ely 'came back from the dead' to claim 11th place with 4.35.58. This gave the Paragon four places in the top twelve, the Team race and Competition Record in 13.34.51.

Quite a day!

On 7th August the Club had six riders out for the Vegetarian '50' and although it was not a full Paragon benefit the 'boys done good'. Tommy Godwin (Rickmansworth) led at half distance in 1.5.35 with Stan Butler in 3rd place in 1.6.20, Harold Fenn 3rd in 1.6.40 and Fred Willett 4th in 1.7.00. Arthur Sharp turned in 1.7.30, Sid Butcher in 1.8.15 and Bert Chapman in 1.9.15. Godwin just held onto his advantage on the return crossing the line in 2.8.35 to win by just 11" from Stan Butler. Stan recorded 2.8.36 that was to be his best ever. Fred Willett made 3rd place in 2.8.39. The other times were Harold Fenn 2.11.23, Arthur Sharp 2.12.12, Sid Butcher 2.12.28 and Bert Chapman 2.12.50. Some quite close packing there! Needless to say the Paragon won the Team race and Sid Butcher collected 2nd Handicap as well.

On southern roads Frank Patterson was 4th in the Civil Service '50' with a 2.22.16 ride and Ron Mitchell (Inland Revenue!!) 6th in 2.24.34.

Bert Chapman achieved a personal best of 2.11.31 in the Velma '50'.

Pete Kitchiner was elected to the Club on 12th August. We shall read more about this gentleman later. A Donation of Ten Shillings and Six pence was sent to the International Racing Fund. The Balham CC had invited the Paragon to an Inter-club '25' on the 25th September. The Track Secretary reported that the Club was still in the National, London Centre and WLCA Team Pursuit Championships..

The Rotherham 12 hours event was graced by Paragon Team but George Ely was our only finisher and he produced an excellent ride of 239.5 miles for 3rd place behind Earnshaw (Monkton). He missed 2nd spot by 200 yards! The Press comments that

George was 'the only Londoner to finish' but we have no further information. He went on to win the Poly 'Gayler Memorial' 12 hours on the 20th August with 238 miles.

The Westerly '100' was run on the 21st August. We know that Earnshaw won in 4.20.48, Stan Butler recorded a 4.28.15 and that the Paragon (Butler, Fenn and Willett) won the Team race in a new Competition Record of 13.29.43 but that, tantalisingly, is all!

The 'A' Team of Willett, Fenn and Butler went 'up North' for the Yorkshire Vegetarian 12 hours event. 261 miles listed on the Course details and no sit down feed – a proper race! Our lads took things a bit steady at the start and by 50 miles were in front of affairs but not dominating. Harold passed by in 5th fastest time of 2.17.05 Stan was 8th in 2.18.15 and Fred back in 15th place in 2.21.05. By the time the riders had reached 100 miles Stan had moved up into 2nd place, 4.44.05, Harold was 4th in 4.46.50 and Fred still cruising in 12 place in 4.53.21. In the next 50 miles Stan moved into the lead, Harold had gone through a bad patch and had dropped to 5th but Fred continued his improvement coming through in 9th place.

By the time the riders had covered 204 miles and reached the finish area Stan was 8.30 clear of his nearest rival and had 1 hour and 55 minutes still to ride. Harold had moved back up to 4th again some 20' down on Stan and Fred, some 38' down, was in 8th place. While Stan maintained his lead to run out of time with 242 miles and 36 yards Harold dropped a place to finish 5th with 233 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The ride was done by Fred Willett who stormed over the last miles to rise to 6th place with 232 miles and 28 yards. The Paragon won the Team race by 43 miles with 707 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles!

If mileages seem a little on the low side it was later reported that it rained all day and our riders had their share of punctures but without any details. It explains too why only 27 riders finished the event. We can guess that the same weather affected the SCCU 12 hours as riders 39 failed to finish including the entire four man Paragon team.

On September 1st Stan Butler was present at the Committee Meeting in the evening and the next day, on September 2nd, Stan Butler became a father. Wife Ann giving birth to son Keith. We may hear more of this lad at a later date!

The Committee confirmed that the next Clubroom would be at Waldrons Hall, Croydon. Dances had been arranged for November 12th and February 4th. The Track Secretary reported that the Club had been knocked out of the WLCA Team Pursuit but was still in the other two competitions. Val Lewis was in the Finals of the Star and Medal Competitions at Herne Hill and Stan Harrison just the Star.

NOTE: That night Fred Lee raised the question of the writing of the Club History. This was received very favourably. He offered to take on the job with the hoped for assistance of the older members. This agreement was, we remind you, on 1st September 1938. This page of the History manuscript is being typed in November 2004. Fred never finished his self imposed task but the present authors are eternally grateful for the information he gathered on the early days.

The Club 12 hours race for the Rotherham Cup must have been on a stinker of a day. (Frank Patterson's diary says "Wet Mist"). 21 entered and started but only 8 finished!

Doug Perry ran out the winner with 228.25 miles, Albert Webb was in 2nd place with 227.88 miles and Sid Butcher in 3rd place with 221 miles. Albert Webb took the Handicap from F Thompson and Frank Sisley.

Frank was a frame builder with Claud Butler and Holdsworth for many years so if you have one of their lightweight frames it could well be that Frank Sisley built it!

George Ely went out on the 11th September to ride an event by his favourite promoting Club and duly obliged by winning his fourth Forest CC event. Twice he has won their '25' and on this day he collected his 2nd win in 50 miles race. George and Bert Chapman were leading at 25 miles in 1.4.00 with Stan Butler back in 10th place in 1.5.40. By 38 miles George was still in the lead but Stan had closed to be 3rd just 1.20 behind. Bert Chapman had had stomach problems and desisted on the way back. George hung on to cross the finishing line in 2.12.39 and had just 18" to spare over Stan. With Arthur Sharp returning 2.18.33 this was enough to ensure the Team race for the Paragon.

The Essex Roads 12 hours event was next on the Calendar and four riders took part. Stan Butler led at 100 miles with 4.35.00 some 8.30 faster than the eventual 2nd place man, Dale (Leamington). Fred Willett was riding with far more confidence so was 6' faster to this point than in the Yorkshire '12'. Harold Fenn was another 5' slower in 4.52.00 with George Ely covering the distance in 5.3.00. Stan won with 245½ miles, Fred Willett was 2nd with 238½ miles, Harold Fenn 4th with 237 7/8 miles and George Ely covered 225 7/8 miles. The Paragon won the Team race with 721 7/8 miles.

In the Poole Wheelers '12' the Paragon won their 21st Team race of the season but all we know is that George Ely won with 238.625 miles and those completing the winning Team were Harold Fenn and Doug Perry.

We have in the archives a note regarding the Club Time Trial day on the 24th September. It says "First man off 8.10. Entry unlimited". We had always been told that these time trials took place at cock-crow! But we did like the Entry unlimited bit!

On the 1st October Val Lewis won the Medal Sprint Competition at the Meeting of Champions at Herne Hill.

The Committee Meeting on October 6th had agreed to purchase from the NCU Silver Medals for Val Lewis and Stan Harrison as they had ridden several rounds of the Team Pursuit but not the Final. Also the Committee agreed to purchase International Badges for the non-travelling members of the Polo Team.

The Mayne Cup had its usual large field with thirty-four names on the Starters List. Three of these opted not to take the Start and another six fell by the wayside to leave 25 counting for the Cup. Fastest time was by Arthur Sharp with 1.4.13 with Doug Perry in 2nd place (1.4.41) and Fred Willett 3rd (1.5.12 but with a puncture). The Man of the Day with either luck or a vastly improved performance was Tommy Hale. On Scratch he was 18th but he had been given 12' handicap so reducing his time to 59.56. The other top places were also taken by those with long handicaps. C Armstrong was 2nd (1.1.49) and R Chard 3rd (1.2.07).

'Real' racing ended with the Comet '25' on Essex roads on the 9th October. George Fleming was in fine form still winning easily in 1.2.47 with Bill Paul (Addiscombe) 2nd in 1.4.23. Fleming's ride was so good that although this was Open Competition he won the handicap from the Scratch mark. Our rider's times were Fred Willett 1.5.19, Bert Chapman 1.7.24, Arthur Sharp 1.7.33 and Stan Butler 1.8.14 including a 30" Late Start.

Rounding off the Club Racing Season was the Hill climb. This year the speed men were in full flight. Fred Willett made it look flat with a 1.39 ride, Ivor Cox was in 2nd place with 1.48 and W Coales 3rd in 1.49. As far as we can ascertain Fred Willett's ride was the Hill Record.

On the Track the Club Championship were awarded as follows:- 550 yards Handicap 1st. Clive Singer, 2nd Albert Webb and 3rd V Lewis. The 550 yards Scratch 1st Jim Parkes, 2nd Ivor Cox and 3rd Clive Singer. The 5 miles Scratch 1st Ivor Cox, 2nd Val Lewis and 3rd Albert Webb who also took the Lap prize.

On the 16th October George Ely and Stan Butler attacked the SRRRA Hastings and back record on Tandem and Fred Willett did the same on solo. It was not a pleasant day with heavy rain at time. George and Stan punctured at 18, 60, 80 and 94 miles (111 full distance), went off course in Hastings and missed the Record by 5". Fred beat the Solo record by 12.05 in 5.44.17 also having a great deal of trouble.

Next weekend the Tandem pair tried again. This time everything went off smoothly they had no punctures and the sun shone brightly. Their time was 4.56.54 and a reduction of the Record by 10.35. Job well done!

In the season long British best All-Rounder Competition Stan Butler was fourth with an average speed of 22.051 mph compared with 'Shake' Earnshaw's 22.627mph. Fred Willett was 8th with 21.831 mph and Harold Fenn made up our 3rd placed team. But as George Ely's report said "every time we met the Bronte Whs (who won the Team Competition) we beat them!"

The Road Champion for 1938 was Stan Butler with Fred Willett as Runner-up. The Track Champion was Ivor Cox with Val Lewis as Runner-up.

Albert Webb also took the Club Events Prize with Doug Perry as Runner-up. Frank Patterson's Prize for the best Novice in 25 and 50 mile Club events went to F Koepl and the Bill Kite Prize for the fastest Novice in the Club '100' was taken by Sid Butcher.

Bill Diplo and S Kent took the two Attendance Prizes for Club Runs.

Ching Allin, George Ongley and Dick Ongley collected their International Polo Badge for England whilst Taffy Carleton collected one for Wales. These gentlemen plus E Horne and R Mitchell also won the National Championship for 1938.

Open wins on the Track included Fred Willett with the Dunlop Jubilee 5 miles, Ivor Cox won the 5 miles event at Sutton-in-Ashfield and Jim Parkes the Maxwell trophy over 5 miles.

The Paragon were also 2nd in both the National Team Pursuit Championship and the London Centre Championship. The Teams included Ivor Cox, Jim Hampshire, Jim Parkes, Fred Willett, Stan Harrison, Val Lewis and Clive Singer

Fred Willett broke the SRRA Hastings and back Single Record with 5.44.17 whilst Stan Butler and George Ely collected the Tandem Record with 4.56.54.

Polo -1st in Kent League and 1st in Mitcham League were the 'A' Team (Ching Allin, Bill Henn, Ron Mitchell, George Ongley and Dick Ongley). 2nd in the Kent League were the 'B' Team (Taffy Carleton, Sid Hardy, E Horne and Bob Reddin). 2nd in the Mitcham League were also the 'B' Team (Taffy Carleton, Harry Dunlop, Sid Hardy, E Horne and Bob Reddin). The Beckenham Tournament was won by the Paragon Team of Ching Allin, Bill Henn, Dick Ongley and Bob Reddin.

In the National Championship and Hurlingham Cup the Paragon Team was Ching Allin, Taffy Carleton, E Horne, Ron Mitchell, George Ongley and Dick Ongley.

It was reported at the Committee Meeting on 22nd November that Fred Willett had received an Invitation to race in Paris in December. The Secretary was also instructed to write to the NCU recommending Val Lewis as a claimant for the Best Novice Award.

At the SCCU Dance and Prize Presentation on 24th November no less than 15 Club members received medals for various Counties events during the season.

In the December "Rag" there is a desperate plea from the Treasurer, Fred Lee. "£30 in the bank - £60 to pay out for Medals and Prizes – now can you see why I want YOU to pay up as well as all the other blighters!!!" The usual story – the better the club performs the nearer bankruptcy it gets. When is it known that 54 Standard medals had been won - 11 Gold Centre, 33 Silver and 10 Bronze one can understand the desperate plea!

At the end of the year the General Secretary Reported that the Club had 115 full members, 11 Honorary and 19 Juniors a total that did not include The President and Vice Presidents.

The Road Secretaries Report listed 15 Open Event wins, 22 Team races, 2 Competition Records and 2 SRRA Records. The Report goes on to say, "A further aid to success has been the wonderful help by the older members of the Club (names listed) who loaned their cars and failed to render the petrol bills". What was true in 1938 remains true in 2004 and goes some way to explain the continued success of this Club.

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Medium Gear				
21	Entries					
18	Starters					
17	Finishers					
1	Lewis V	1.05.53		Lewis V	2.00	1.03.33
2	Perry DG	1.05.58	1	Dore G	4.30	1.04.11
3	Sharp A	1.06.05	2	Murray G	4.00	1.04.26
4	Webb A	1.07.23	3	Patterson FH	3.00	1.04.58
5	Patterson FH	1.07.58	4	Hall W	4.20	1.05.21
6	Murray G	1.08.26	5	Perry DG	0.30	1.05.28
7	Dore G	1.08.41	6	Sharp A	Scratch	1.06.05
8	Dore C	1.08.49	7	Dore C	2.30	1.06.19
9	Butcher S	1.08.58	8	Mitchall SA	4.45	1.06.22
10	Tyrer B	1.09.40	9	Sisley F	4.30	1.06.33
11	Hall W	1.09.41	10	Butcher S	2.15	1.06.43
12	Singer C	1.11.01	11	Webb A	0.20	1.07.03
13	Sisley F	1.11.03	12	Fryer A	6.30	1.07.16
14	Mitchall SA	1.11.07	13	Tyrer B	1.45	1.07.55
15	Goring A	1.12.37	14	Goring A	4.00	1.08.37
16	Fryer A	1.13.46	15	Singer C	2.00	1.09.01
17	James E	1.13.49	16	James E	2.15	1.11.34
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		3.4.38				
33	Entries					
31	Starters					
28	Finishers					
1	Sharp A	1.08.55	1	Murray G	4.15	1.08.15
2	Perry DG	1.09.01	2	Perry DG	0.30	1.08.31
3	Webb A	1.10.22	3	Webb A	1.30	1.08.52
4	Bristow ACG	1.11.15	4	Sharp A	Scratch	1.08.55
5	Dore C	1.11.42	5	Dore C	2.30	1.09.12
6	Horton S	1.11.49	6	Butcher S	3.30	1.09.13
7	Murray G	1.12.30	7	Bristow ACG	1.30	1.09.45
8	Butcher S	1.12.43	8	Horton S	2.00	1.09.49
9	Tyrer B	1.13.28	9	Koepl F	4.30	1.10.18
10	James E	1.13.46	10	Hall W	3.30	1.10.27
11	Hall W	1.13.57	11	Mitchall SA	2.15	1.10.27
12	Koepl F	1.14.48	12	Tyrer B	3.00	1.10.28
13	Patterson FH	1.14.57	13	Sisley F	5.00	1.10.57
14	Mitchall SA	1.14.57	14	James E	2.30	1.11.16
15	Lewis V	1.15.43	15	Hoy RJ	4.15	1.11.44
16	Sisley F	1.15.57	16	Kleckman D	4.30	1.11.46
17	Hoy RJ	1.15.59	17	Kent-Smith	7.00	1.11.58
18	Kleckman D	1.16.16	18	Drage N	6.00	1.12.35
19	Goring A	1.16.57	19	Patterson FH	4.30	1.12.42
20	Drage N	1.18.35	20	Wooton H	6.30	1.13.05
21	Robson H	1.18.42	21	Fryer A	7.00	1.13.13
22	Kent-Smith	1.18.58	22	Goring A	3.15	1.13.42
23	Wooton H	1.19.35	23	Robson H	4.30	1.14.12
24	Dore G	1.19.38	24	Lewis V	0.30	1.15.13
25	Fryer A	1.20.13	25	Dore G	3.30	1.16.08
26	Chard R	1.21.00	26	Chard R	4.00	1.17.00

27	Ash RJ	1.21.47	27	Ash RJ	3.00	1.18.47
28	Hale T	1.26.30	28	Hale T	4.00	1.22.30
	Scratch Result	30 h/c		Handicap Result		
		15.5.38				
15	Entries					
14	Starters					
10	Finishers					
1	James E	1.23.46	1	Kleckham D	8.00	1.16.47
2	Kleckham D	1.24.47	2	James E	6.00	1.17.46
3	Murray G	1.25.33	3	Hoy RJ	8.00	1.18.50
4	Hoy RJ	1.26.50	4	Murray G	6.00	1.19.33
5	Mitchall SA	1.26.55	5	Mitchall SA	7.00	1.19.55
6	Robson H	1.30.56	6	Wooton H	11.00	1.21.59
7	Wooton H	1.32.59	7	Robson H	8.00	1.22.56
8	Horne E	1.34.02	8	Drage N	10.00	1.26.53
9	Drage N	1.36.53	9	Horne E	5.00	1.29.02
10	Greenland F	1.47.08	10	Greenland F	6.00	1.41.08
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		26.6.38		Fryco Cup		
23	Entries					
22	Starters					
19	Finishers					
1	Butcher S	2.16.33		Butcher S	7.00	2.09.33
2	Hall W	2.20.52	1	Mitchall SA	13.00	2.09.45
3	Horton S	2.21.25	2	Horton S	8.00	2.13.25
4	Mitchall SA	2.22.45	3	Hall W	6.00	2.14.52
5	James E	2.24.25	4	Goring A	11.00	2.14.58
6	Dore C	2.24.36	5	Thompson F	9.30	2.16.02
7	Dore G	2.24.36	6	James E	7.00	2.16.33
8	Thompson F	2.25.32	7	Dore C	7.00	2.17.25
9	Goring A	2.25.58	8	Dore G	6.00	2.18.36
10	Bristow ACG	2.26.41	9	Kleckham D	9.00	2.18.38
11	Kleckham D	2.27.38	10	Ash RJ	10.30	2.19.01
12	Ash RJ	2.29.31	11	Drage N	15.00	2.20.51
13	Lewis V	2.31.33	12	Hale T	17.00	2.21.47
14	Phillips D	2.35.07	13	Phillips D	13.00	2.22.07
15	Drage N	2.35.57	14	Bristow ACG	3.00	2.23.41
16	Wooton H	2.38.37	15	Wooton H	14.00	2.24.37
17	Hale T	2.38.47	16	Koepl F	13.00	2.27.04
18	Koepl F	2.40.04	17	Lewis V	3.00	2.28.33
19	Gunning J	2.45.28	18	Gunning J	15.00	2.30.28
	Scratch Result	Tandem		Handicap Result		
		50 h/c				
6	Entries	3.7.38				
5	Starters					
5	Finishers					
1	Webb/Ash	2.00.20		Webb/Ash	2.30	1.57.50
2	Dore C & G	2.00.48	1	Dore C & G	1.00	1.59.48
3	Butcher/Hall	2.04.20	2	Tyrer/Coales	4.00	2.01.38
4	Tyrer/Coales	2.05.38	3	Butcher/Hall	Scratch	2.04.20
5	Thompson/Goring	2.13.03	4	Thompson/Goring	6.00	2.07.03

	Scratch Result	100 h/c		Handicap Result		
				Goss Green Cup		
14	Entries					
12	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Butcher S	4.51.15	1	Diplo W	36.00	4.46.27
2	Webb A	4.53.10		Butcher S	3.00	4.48.15
3	Hall W	4.58.46	2	Wooton H	30.00	4.50.38
4	Thompson F	5.08.55	3	Webb A	Scratch	4.53.10
5	Mitchall SA	5.10.48	4	Hall W	5.00	4.53.46
6	Wooton H	5.20.38	5	Thompson F	13.00	4.55.55
7	Diplo W	5.22.27	6	Mitchall SA	5.00	5.05.48
	Scratch Result	12 hours h/c		Handicap Result		
				Rotherham Cup		
21	Entries	11.9.38				
21	Starters					
8	Finishers					
1	Perry DG	228.25		Perry DG	Scratch	228.25
2	Webb A	227.88	1	Webb A	Scratch	227.88
3	Butcher S	221.00	2	Thompson F	15.00	227.00
4	Hall W	213.12	3	Sisley F	20.00	226.75
5	Thompson F	212.00	4	Butcher S	Scratch	221.00
6	Bristow ACG	209.38	5	Bristow ACG	10.00	219.38
7	Sisley F	206.75	6	Hall W	6.00	219.12
8	Gunning J	187.50	7	Gunning J	30.00	217.50
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
				Mayne Cup		
34	Entries					
31	Starters					
25	Finishers					
1	Sharp A	1.04.13	1	Hale T	12.00	0.59.56
2	Perry DG	1.04.41	2	Armstrong C	9.00	1.01.49
3	Willett F	1.05.12	3	Greenland F	12.00	1.02.07
4	Webb A	1.06.03	4	Tyrer B	5.00	1.02.46
5	Butcher S	1.06.32	5	Goring A	7.00	1.02.49
6	James E	1.07.32	6	James E	4.30	1.02.52
7	Tyrer B	1.07.46	7	Sharp A	1.15	1.02.58
8	Patterson FH	1.08.01	8	Patterson FH	5.00	1.03.01
9	Cleeve FL	1.08.16	9	Cleeve FL	5.00	1.03.16
10	Robson H	1.08.53	10	Robson H	5.30	1.03.23
11	Dore C	1.09.26	11	Perry DG	1.15	1.03.26
12	Mitchall SA	1.09.38	12	Chard R	10.30	1.03.37
13	Goring A	1.09.49	13	Butcher S	2.30	1.04.02
14	Dore G	1.09.52	14	Webb A	2.00	1.04.03
15	Koepl F	1.10.23	15	Willshire J	8.00	1.04.35
16	Armstrong C	1.10.49	16	Mitchall SA	5.00	1.04.38
17	Sisley F	1.11.45	17	Koepl F	5.30	1.04.53
18	Hale T	1.11.56	18	Dore C	4.30	1.04.56
19	Willshire J	1.12.35	19	Drage N	11.00	1.04.57
20	Greenland F	1.14.07	20	Willett F	Scratch	1.05.12
21	Chard R	1.14.07	21	Dore G	4.30	1.05.22
22	Kleckham D	1.15.35	22	Sisley F	6.00	1.05.45
23	Drage N	1.15.57	23	Kleckham D	7.00	1.08.35

24	Barnes F	1.17.27	24	Woolley LC	10.00	1.08.42
25	Woolley LC	1.18.42	25	Barnes F	8.00	1.09.27
	Scratch Result	Hill Climb				
		23.10.38				
12	Entries					
12	Starters					
10	Finishers					
1	Willett F	1.39				
2	Cox I	1.48				
3	Coales WJ	1.49				
4	Patterson FH	1.55				
5	Mitchall SA	2.01				
6	Chard R	2.02				
7	Goring A	2.12				
8	Hale T	2.13				
9	Thompson F	2.18				
10	Cleeve FL	2.23				