

1941

The handbook Supplement mentions that the Paragon, once again, had both a Summer Headquarters 'Pauls' at County Oak (Run by Bill Paul's (Addiscombe) family) and a Winter Headquarters at the 'Joliffe Arms' Merstham (now the Exchange House at the bottom of Shepherds Hill).

AE 'Ben' Davis had been elected President for the year. Bill Diplo had become Fred Lee's 'alter ego' in the London area. The Committee was Stan Butler, Arthur Bristow, Bert Hockham, J Pearce, Bill Sagggers, Ron Tugwell and Fred Willett.

The Medals for Messrs Harrison and Hampshire had arrived at the General Secretary's home but had not been engraved! It was also agreed at an early Committee Meeting to run our Club Events in conjunction with the Kentish Wheelers to ease marshalling problems. Later this was extended to include the Addiscombe, De Laune and South Eastern RC clubs.

In the first Club Event, the Medium Gear '25' Bert Hockham came in with the fastest time of 1.12.08, 49" too fast for Ron Tugwell. Jack Pearce was 3rd in 1.13.40 with Vic Foreman, 1.13.56, and Fred Sams, 1.13.59, close behind. Vic took the Handicap with a nett time of 1.7.56, from Pearce, 1.8.40, and Tugwell 1.8.57.

Our Novice riders did themselves proud in the Kentish wheelers event. Reg Ash, younger brother to Ron was our fastest rider and 5th in 1.13.29, John Clay, 7th, did 1.14.34 and Ken Gerrish 1.14.55 for 10th place and between them they collected the Team race.

The first Club unrestricted '25' was held on 27th April and it attracted 13 riders. Once again Bert Hockham obliged with a 1.7.43 and had the satisfaction of taking a great 'scalp' as he beat Fred Willett by just 7". It should be noted that Fred was riding his steel HP wheels and had managed to stop a lump of concrete with his shin in a recent air-raid. Ron Tugwell was 3rd in 1.9.59. John Clay took the Handicap his 1.10.36 had a deduction of 6.30' that put him nearly a minute ahead of J Pearce (1.6.00) and Bert Hockham (1.6.13).

Stan Kent was reported flying two engine aircraft. A comment was made that we hope he is more success with the plane than his bike considering the number of times he crashed that! The June Bulletin records that he had collected his 'wings' so it would appear that our fears were groundless.

At Easter the SCCU promoted a '25' John Diplo did 1.8.05, Ron Tugwell 1.8.40 and collected 3rd handicap. The Team came 2nd in that department but we are uncertain as to who was the third man.

Good News and Bad News from the Forces in the march Bulletin. Monty Southall had been awarded the OBE for what ever he did on active service. Steve Beeden had been killed in a training accident after surviving the Dunkirk evacuation.

An Open '25' was promoted on the 5th May by the Apollo CC. Bert Holkham came 4th with a 1.5.53 ride. Other Paragon times were Bert Chapman 1.6.32, John Diplo,

1.6.43, Ron Tugwell 1.7.59, Stan Butler 1.8.06, Cyril Melhuish 1.8.21 and Ron Ash 1.11.08. The times of Holkham, Chapman and Diplo were quick enough to win the Team race.

A sign of the times in the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 11th May was a list of the Club Trophies and where they were being held for 'safe keeping'. Later many of them were taken to Fred Lee's 'digs' in Holmes Chapel.

The following week the SCCU put on another '25'. Ron Tugwell 1.7.37, Alan Gordon 1.7.59, Ron Ash 1.9.50, D Fowler 1.11.11, Ken Gerrish 1.11.41, Les Penny 1.11.42 and John Diplo 1.12.43 (puncture) were our riders but they were some 5' too slow for the Team race.

The 30 miles event had 12 entries but only 8 started and 7 finished. Of these seven the fastest time was by Stan Butler with a 1.21.14 ride including a spot of grass track riding on the Crawley by-pass when he misjudged a roundabout and his own speed. Alan Gordon finished 2nd in 1.21.55 with Ron Tugwell close behind in 1.22.04. Young Reg Ash collected the Handicap with a nett time of 1.17.38 from Ron Tugwell, 1.18.34, and Stan Butler 1.18.44.

Yet another SCCU '25' was held on the 8th June but this time on the Portsmouth Road near Esher rather than the Brighton Road. The Paragon had nine finishers Stan Butler 1.7.06, John Clay 1.7.34, Bert Holkham 1.9.24, Charlie Sapsford 1.9.49, Ron Ash 1.10.51, Les Penny 1.12.19, John Diplo 1.14.03, Alan Gordon 1.14.15 and Fred Hayward 1.15.15. No prizes were won and the Team was some 7' too slow for the Team race.

In the Twickenham Novice '25' D Fowler did a 1.11 and Les Penny 1.12. Charlie Sapsford had a puncture and other problems without which the Paragon ought to have won the Team race.

The WLCA held a '50 on the Bath Road. It was won by D Gawman (13th Whs) in 2.10.26 with Stan Butler in 6th place with a 2.16.33 ride. Ron Ash 2.24.26, Alan Gordon 2.24.27 and John Diplo 2.29.41 were our other finishers. The times of messrs Butler Gordon and Ash were also quick enough for the Paragon to win the Team race.

The Velma held their '50' on the 6th July and attracted a full field of 100 riders. The Paragon Team recorded these times:- Bert Holkham 2.11.16, Stan Butler 2.12.05, Cyril Melhuish 2.15.06, Alan Gordon 2.15.30, Les Penny 2.23.10 and Bill Diplo 2.29.42. Unfortunately the Addiscombe won the Team race with the Paragon some 3' back.

On the 20th July the '50' miles Club Event was held but only 3 riders made it back to the Timekeeper. Les Penney finished in 2.22.48 comfortably ahead of Ron Tugwell, 2.28.32. Ron just held off John Diplo by 2" for that 2nd place. Ron took the Handicap very easily with his 10' allowance.

On the same day Stan Butler and Alan Gordon both rode 100 miles Time Trial presumably to remember how much it hurt. Stan finished in 4.58.52 and Alan 5.7.48. Both somewhat slower than the times they used to record!

The Following weekend was the Paragon Open '50' and the reason for Alan Gordon riding a 100 miles Time Trial became apparent. He was No.1 on the Start Sheet and he rode the whole distance on his own at the front of the field to record 2.17.52. Not a bad effort! John Clay 2.15.48, Les Penny 2.20.04, Ron Ash 2.25.06 were our other finishers. John Clay's effort enabled him to take the handicap prize and the Paragon was 3rd Team. There is a story here as the Club had 5 non-starters and two non-finishers. Later we found out that there was torrential rain the night before that deterred many from coming down in the morning. Also rain always led to the roads being covered with granite chips/flints that have a natural attraction to light racing tyres and tubulars. The Coach bringing out the old, infirm and unfit was a great social success even if it cost the club £1 for the balance of the hire charge.

The SCCU held a '50' on the 17th August. Bert Chapman 2.14.55, Stan Butler 2.16.30, Alan Gordon 2.18.37, John Diplo 2.29.01 and Cyril Melhuish 2.29.20 were our finishers although 3 other failed to reach the final Timekeeper. Unfortunately the Addiscombe won the 1st Prize with Bill Paul's 2.10.08 and they collected the Team race. The Paragon had to be content with 2nd Team.

One of the few long distance events was held on the 24th August when the Westerly promoted their 100 miles event. Stan Butler was the fastest Paragon rider in 4.44.09 for 9th place and Alan Gordon came in with 4.56.56 for 24th place. What happened to Bert Holkham we will have to find out. He went through 50 miles in 2.18.46 but finished with a time of 5.32.45!

Fred Willett had a touch of luck. He had a bike stolen and a few weeks later found a small youth riding the machine. It turns out that the youth's father was the local Bobby! It would appear a can of local worms had been overturned!

Bill Pett, one of the Club Vice-Presidents, Timekeeper and Handicapper had an article to himself in the 'Cycling' to celebrate his 68th birthday and the fact that he had just ridden a private time trial 'somewhere south of London' in 1.14.41.

The Apollo put on another '25' on the 31st August on the Brighton Road. No prizes came the Paragon's way as we only had two finishers - Ron Tugwell 1.5.04 and John Diplo 1.7.01. Interestingly there were 15 Time Trials recorded in addition to the Full field of 100 riders. Amazing what one can do in war-time that is 'impossible' in times of Peace.

Fred Willett appears for the SCCU '25' on 7th September and collects 2nd place in 1.4.36 behind Perrin (Clarence) 1.4.13. Stan Butler 1.6.13, Bert Chapman 1.7.02, John Diplo 1.7.47, Charlie Sapsford 1.9.05 and Les Penny 1.12.18 were our other riders. This gave us a Team time of 3.18.27 that missed the Team race by just 23"

Bert Chapman recorded a 1.4.16 in a Herts & Essex '25'. Les Penny won 1st handicap in the Bath Road '25' with a 1.6.50 ride just before being called up. In a WLCA '25' John Diplo led the Paragon to a Team victory and collected 1st handicap for himself but we have no other details.

At the end of the season was another '25' on the 14th September and Fred Willett came out to show everyone how it should be done. His 1.3.23 was too good for John Clay, 1.5.18, and Stan Butler in 3d place with 1.5.50. Two longmarkers took the Handicap award. Geof Dorman with 12' allowance had a nett time of 1.1.16 and Bill Diplo 10' to finish with 1.1.41. Charlie Sapsford was 3rd in 1.2.04. This was Geof Dorman's first race at the age of 47!

A Committee Meeting at Chatsworth Hall decided to run a series of Winter Dances in conjunction with the Apollo. Over the ensuing years the Paragon did many things with the Apollo. Most of the Apollo ladies married Paragon men – and what more could one ask for!

On the 28th September the Comet held their annual, end of season, '25'. The Paragon had four riders Bert Chapman 1.3.39, Stan Butler 1.5.39, Cyril Melhuish 1.6.30 and Alan Gordon 1.12.28 with a puncture. No individual or Team prizes were forthcoming.

The SCCU held another '25' on the 5th October and again Fred Willett had to be content with 2nd place this time behind Bill Paul (Addiscombe) 1.2.58 to 1.3.17. However to back Fred were Bert Chapman, 1.4.53, and Stan Butler 1.5.56, and these gentlemen collected the Team prize. Other times were Alan Gordon 1.7.50, John Diplo 1.8.51, Bill Diplo 1.12.40, G Dorman 1.12.52 and Ron Tugwell 1.13.04.

Six riders attempted White Hill, Caterham with Ron Tugwell getting to the top in the quickest time of 1.49. The evergreen Alan Gordon came 2nd in 1.52 with Fred Barnes 3rd in 2.08.

A note made on October 21st Minutes was that Fred Lee could not keep all the trophies at Holmes Chapel so other must go to Uffington, Berks for the Duration. Unfortunately we can find no reference as to who or what was there to keep safe our cups apart from the fact that it did not affect the insurance cover.

More Standard Medals were won in 1941 with 2 Silvers and 7 Bronzes awarded.

The first of a series of Winter Dances run by the Paragon and the Apollo was held on 8th October at Chatsworth Club Hall with Ron Tugwell as M.C. Entry 1/6 (7½ p). Other dates are 15th November, 13th December, 10th January, 14th February and 14th March all at the Chatsworth Club Hall. It was, and still is, the Clubhouse and Bar for Council workers.

The Inter-Club 'Closer' run with the Addiscombe down to County Oak was a huge success with some 59 sitting down in Paul's. Twenty-five of these were Paragon members.

In the Inter-Club Map reading held in the Crawley area on the 9th November the Paragon won the Team prize.

It was agreed at the Committee Meeting on the 16th November that members could buy Tools with their prize money but not cycle accessories. Slowly the restrictions are being eased! It is difficult to imagine from a distance of sixty years what this

small step implied. It was customary for prize money to be spent on something of value or some form of memorabilia to comply with the strict rules dividing amateurs from professionals. These items were not to be had in War-time and even mundane tools were like gold dust hence the change in the Club Rules.

A comment in the 'Cycling' on December 1st reports that Bert Chapman and Cyril Melhuish our crack Tandem pair have been sent to the same Army Unit. How did they manage that!

A Club Dinner was arranged for the 17th January 1942 at the Manor Arms Streatham and very successful it turned out to be with a 'full house' of 100 people.

All things considered it was not a bad year for the Paragon with 6 team wins. It is very frustrating for a club to attract young riders to its ranks in 1941. Just as they are finding their feet and producing some promising rides they are whisked off to serve King and Country. The continuation of the Paragon was down to those who were too old to serve, were unfit or the very few who had reserved occupations. The Paragon was extremely fortunate that those who were left were dedicated to the welfare of the Club.

Club Time Trial Results

Club Events 1941						
Scratch Result		25 h/c	Handicap Result			
		Med Gear				
8	Entries					
8	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Hockham A	1.12.08	1	Foreman V	6.00	1.07.56
2	Tugwell R	1.12.57	2	Pearce J	5.00	1.08.40
3	Pearce J	1.13.40	3	Tugwell R	4.00	1.08.57
4	Foreman V	1.13.56	4	Sams F	4.00	1.09.59
5	Sams F	1.13.59	5	Hockham A	Scratch	1.12.08
6	Patterson FH	1.15.56	6	Patterson FH	3.00	1.12.56
7	Diplo J	1.22.56	7	Diplo J	1.00	1.21.56
Scratch Result		25 h/c	Handicap Result			
		27.4.41				
13	Entries					
13	Starters					
13	Finishers					
1	Hockham A	1.07.43	1	Clay J	6.30	1.04.06
2	Willett F	1.07.50	2	Pearce J	5.30	1.05.00
3	Tugwell R	1.09.59	3	Hockham A	1.30	1.06.13
4	Pearce J	1.10.30	4	Penny L	6.30	1.06.24
5	Clay J	1.10.36	5	Ash R	5.00	1.06.37
6	Diplo J	1.11.33	6	Gerrish K	4.30	1.07.15
7	Ash R	1.11.37	7	Tugwell R	2.30	1.07.29
8	Gerrish K	1.11.45	8	Willett F	Scratch	1.07.50
9	Bristow ACG	1.12.26	9	Foreman V	6.00	1.08.00
10	Penny L	1.12.54	10	Fowler D	5.00	1.08.21

11	Fowler D	1.13.21	11	Diplo J	2.00	1.09.33
12	Foreman V	1.14.00	12	Bristow ACG	2.30	1.09.46
13	Sams F	1.14.41	13	Sams F	4.15	1.10.26
	Scratch Result	30 h/c		Handicap Result		
		1.6.41				
12	Entries					
8	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Butler SM	1.21.14	1	Ash R	6.00	1.17.38
2	Gordon A	1.21.55	2	Tugwell R	3.30	1.18.34
3	Tugwell R	1.22.04	3	Butler SM	2.30	1.18.44
4	Ash R	1.23.38	4	Gordon A	3.00	1.18.55
5	Diplo J	1.25.10	5	Penny L	8.30	1.21.47
6	Penny L	1.30.17	6	Diplo J	2.30	1.22.40
7	Hayward WK	1.39.57	7	Hayward WK	4.30	1.35.27
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		20.7.41				
7	Entries					
4	Starters					
3	Finishers					
1	Penny L	2.22.48	1	Penny L	3.30	2.15.04
2	Tugwell R	2.28.32	2	Tugwell R	10.00	2.12.48
3	Diplo J	2.28.34	3	Diplo J	5.00	2.23.32
	Scratch Result	100 tt				
		20.7.41				
	Butler SM	4.58.52				
	Gordon A	5.07.48				
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		14.9.41				
11	Entries					
10	Starters					
10	Finishers					
1	Willett F	1.03.23	1	Dorman G	12.00	1.01.16
2	Clay J	1.05.18	2	Diplo W	10.00	1.01.41
3	Butler SM	1.05.50	3	Sapsford C	4.30	1.02.04
4	Tugwell R	1.06.04	4	Clay J	3.00	1.02.18
5	Sapsford C	1.06.34	5	Pearce J	6.00	1.03.20
6	Pearce J	1.09.20	6	Willett F	Scratch	1.03.23
7	Sams F	1.11.28	7	Butler SM	2.00	1.03.50
8	Diplo W	1.11.41	8	Tugwell R	1.30	1.04.34
9	Dorman G	1.13.16	9	Sams F	6.00	1.05.28
10	Dore G	1.18.34	10	Dore G	5.30	1.13.04

	Scratch Result	Hill Climb			
		12.10.41			
7	Entries				
7	Starters				
6	Finishers				
1	Tugwell R	1.49			
2	Gordon A	1.52			
3	Barnes F	2.08			
4	Diplo J	2.14			
5	Foreman V	2.41			
6	Tyrer B	2.46			