

1942

The AGM was held on the 8th February and one of the reports mentions that 65 members were now in the Forces leaving 44 full members and 10 Juniors. The first item on the Agenda that is of interest was that it was proposed that the President be elected for a term of 3 years (rather than a single year as at present). This was agreed and it remains so to the present day. A year was far too short a time for honoured members to 'enjoy' their Presidency. All the Vice-presidents were re-elected with the exception of A Hickford who had died during 1941.

Also on the Agenda was the motion that a Junior member should serve on the Committee elected from and by the Junior Members. This too was passed. Ken Lee being the first Junior elected. Arthur Bristow had taken over from Ivor Cox as Track secretary and Ron Tugwell took over the reins of Social Secretary from his father Ernie. The Committee was Stan Butler, Ernie Tugwell, Vic Ware, Jack Pearce, John Diplo, Stan Harison and Ivor Cox.

It was also agreed that members of other clubs serving in the Forces, who were stationed or posted into our area could become 'Guest' members of the Club for 2/= per annum.

Two of our members were reported missing. Emlyn James and Stan Kent. Later we had confirmation that Stan had been killed in action and was buried on the Island of Sylt. Emlyn's ship had been torpedoed in the Atlantic back in July and no further news was had of him.

Sid Amey became a member of the Club in unusual circumstances. He had volunteered to become General Secretary of the SCCU but his own club, Dale Park, had folded due to the War effort taking all its members and was no longer a constituent Club of the SCCU. If he joined the Paragon he could go to the SCCU AGM as one of our Delegates and therefore be elected. In due course this is what happened. Not only was Sid the mainstay of the SCCU he also had a smallholding, Sunny Acres, on the A217 at Hookwood. One of the small barns was turned into a dormitory and this was where many, many riders stayed on Saturday night before their races on Sunday morning. The road outside was also ideal for a feeding station too. We had it all ways!

By the end of February the number in the Forces had reached 71.

Early in the year a number of Roller Competitions were held at various theatres. In the last of these Arthur Bristow was the Winner. This was the first Paragon success of the year.

Nine riders fought out the Medium Gear event on the 22nd March and the 'old fox' Arthur Bristow just got it by a whisker from youngster Ron Tugwell by 3" 1.11.16 to 1.11.19. They were head and shoulders above any one else as John Diplo and Jack Pearce were over 4' slower in 1.15.37 and 1.15.47 respectively. Arthur also collected the Handicap as he had 30" more than Ron Tugwell who was on Scratch. Fred Barnes was 3rd just 9" slower than Ron.

RJ Harris was 2nd in the Kentish Wheelers Novices '25' completing the distance in 1.10.01.

The Good News was that Herne Hill Track has been leased to the NCU for 21 years so, perhaps, there will be more racing there shortly. This year, of course, celebrations for the opening of the Track season had to be postponed until the Easter Monday Meeting at Paddington. Stan Harrison was our only rider and try as he may his only claim to fame on the Monday was that in the 5 miles 'devil' Stan punctured, changed bikes and tried to catch the field before the next sprint. It made for good entertainment even if it did Stan no good at all!

The SCCU '25' on 12th April saw four Paragons in action. Ron Tugwell 1.6.45, John Diplo 1.8.30, J Riddle 1.9.03 and Fred Sams 1.9.44 were the Team. J Riddle was the most successful as he came away with 2nd on Handicap.

At the Committee Meeting on 8th April Pete Kitchiner was again elected to the Club. (He had rescinded his earlier application). He showed some form before he was 'called-up' but his true worth to the Club would have to wait until he returned to Civvy Street.

The unrestricted '25' was held on the 19th April and resulted in a deserved win for Ron Tugwell in 1.5.28. John Diplo was 2nd in 1.6.03 and Arthur Bristow 3rd in 1.7.28. John Diplo also collected the Handicap prize with a nett time of 1.4.33. Ron Harris was 2nd in 1.5.17 and scratchman Ron Tugwell 3rd in 1.5.28.

We had a team in the Catford '25' on the 26th April. John Diplo 1.7.39, Ron Tugwell 1.8.07 and Arthur Bristow 1.9.16 represented the Club but failed to win any prizes.

The SCCU '25' on the 10th May had a number of Paragon members awheel and racing. Ron Tugwell 1.5.58, Pete Kitchiner 1.6.15, John Diplo 1.7.09, Bernard Brown 1.9.17, Fred Sams 1.9.51, Geoff Dorman 1.16.51 and Ted Batt 1.29.30

On May 16th at Paddington Arthur Bristow, Stan Harrison and Fred Barnes were riding and winning the lesser prizes.

The following day Pete Kitchiner won the Catford '50' in 2.12.03. Ron Tugwell's 2.18.34 also won him 1st handicap prize.

On the same day at the Committee Meeting under 'Other Business' a question was raised over the matter that nearly spilt the sport of Cycling and the Club. Percy Stallard had promoted a massed-start race on Public Roads. (This was the Llangollen to Wolverhampton road race). He had been suspended for life by the NCU. The General Secretary was instructed to write to the NCU in the name of the Norwood Paragon protesting against this suspension as being unnecessarily harsh. So began the Saga of 'The League versus The Establishment'. The British League of Racing Cyclist wanted to promote massed-start races on the public highway as they had been doing on the Continent for 50 years. The NCU clubs had been promoting massed-start races but on 'closed' circuit (Brooklands, Donnington etc.). The RTTC clubs promoted their time trials and had been doing so for about 50 years. It had been all

nice and cosy. This was about to change and the effect it had on the Paragon will be examined in a different chapter.

Bill Hall was reported missing in the Far East. Also Bill Coales had been killed in an air crash on the Isle of Man.

Pete Kitchener makes his first appearance in the Club's Record books with a win in the 30 miles event on the 24th May. He came back with a time of 1.19.04 to beat John Diplo by 40". Ron Tugwell was well back in the 3rd place in 1.23.03. D Ramsey took the handicap thanks to a 7' allowance that gave him a nett time of 1.17.08. John Diplo was 2nd in 1.18.14, Fred Sams 3rd in 1.18.33 and E Bain 4th with 1.18.42.

About this time the Track Secretary reported that the Pursuit Team had beaten the Fountain (3.45) and Marlboro (3.47). Stan Harrison had won an Open Sprint and Handicap. Arthur Bristow had ridden a Tandem paced 10 miles in 19.45 at Paddington. The Secretary also reported that there would be a grass track meeting at Caterham on August Bank Holiday.

Ron Tugwell continued his winning ways in the Club '50' on 28th June. He completed the course in 2.16.20 to beat Pete Kitchener by 47". In 3rd place was D Ramsey with 2.21.11. The Handicap was extremely close with J Pearce just getting the verdict over D Ramsey by 10" 2.11.01 to 2.11.10. Ron Tugwell was 3rd with 2.13.50.

On the same day the Club held a Junior 10 miles event with 8 riders. Winner was Ron's young brother Maurice Tugwell in 27.01. Two wins for the Tugwell family in one day! Alan Moss was 2nd in 27.20 and J Nicholls 3rd in 27.54. The gears for these lads were limited to 72" and they had to ride normal 'steel' wheels.

The SCCU put on another '50' on 12th July. Pete Kitchener 2.20.03, John Diplo 2.20.31, Ron Tugwell 2.24.28, J Harris 2.25.14 and Jim Ramsey 2.26.45 finished but only managed 2nd in the Team race some 26' behind the Addiscombe.

At the Committee Meeting on 15th July it was reported that the Acc & Tab Sports would open itself up to a 'League' promotion with a competition for the four Croydon Clubs. The Paragon team actually collected 2nd place in this event. The Acc & Tab Sports Ground was on the side of a small rise. There was no problem at all when running around the grass circuit but the drop down the back straight was just enough to make the bottom, and final, bend absolutely lethal in any damp conditions. Even in the dry one had to be careful with the inside pedal. The St John Ambulance Tent did a 'roaring' trade especially when their lads or lassies poured iodine onto the grass burns!

We have a cutting from 'Cycling' that we believe to be in July 1942 describing the Marlboro '10' at Paddington. Forty-three riders were on the Start line and most of them were still in contention when the bell rang with a lap to go. Showing a superb sense of timing Stan Harrison came off the last bend to beat FG Murray and CSI Scott by inches to win. He also won the 880 yards handicap so he really was on song that day.

Stan Harrison was again in action on the 25th July at Paddington this time tying with Jones (Poly) for 1st place in a three event Omnium.

The Club Open '50' was a whitewash by the Addiscombe. Charlie Roberts won in 2.7.02, Ernie Mills 2nd in 2.7.48 and Bill Paul 3rd in 2.9.09! They won the Team race. D Ramsey had the honour to be first man off and he stayed there to be first man back to the finish line in 2.18.14. Pete Kitchener returned a 2.12.09, Ron Tugwell 2.16.16, John Clay 2.16.21 and John Diplo 2.20.09 were our finishers.

Another '25' was held on the 9th August and enabled Ron Tugwell to continue his winning ways. This time he came in with a 1.6.18, John Diplo was 2nd in 1.7.03 and D Ramsey was 3rd in 1.7.54. Bill Diplo took the Handicap whose 8' deduction had left him with a 1.5.01. Ron Tugwell was 2nd with 1.5.48 and Edward Batt 3rd with 1.5.55.

In the SCCU '30' on the 16th August John Diplo 1.19.28, Charlie Sapsford 1.25.56 and Bill Diplo 1.28.36 were the only Paragon finishers.

The Juniors had another race on the 30th August and it resulted in a completely different list of winners. 1st place was Den Bradfield in 26.31, 2nd was Eric Bonner in 27.18 and 3rd was Colin Brown in 28.25.

A SCCU '25' was held on the Portsmouth Road on the 6th September with 119 on the Start Sheet. John Diplo 1.7.20, Charlie Sapsford 1.9.26 and Jim Ramsey 1.9.43 were our only finishers and were also out of the awards.

On the 13th September the Club had both a 25 miles Time Trial and a 10 miles event for the Juniors. John Diplo won the 'big boys' race in 1.4.25 over 2' quicker than Charlie Sapsford and 3' faster than D Ramsey in 3rd place. Sapsford collected the Handicap award with a nett time of 1.4.01 from Bill Diplo, 1.4.2, and John Diplo, 1.4.25. In the Junior tear-up Den Bradfield won again in 26.02, Eric Bonner was again 2nd in 27.03 and Maurice Tugwell was 3rd in 27.10.

On the 27th September in the Southern Paragon '25' a young rider from the Swindon Whs finished way down the list in 1.13.47. His name was Vincent Callanan and he was about to move to London where he joined the Norwood Paragon. Watch this space!!

The September Bulletin recorded the death of Tom Hale after a year in hospital. Tom Stanley has won the DFC for devotion to duty and gallantry

Yet another SCCU '25' was held on 4th October John Diplo 1.6.03, Charlie Sapsford 1.7.00, Jim Ramsey 1.9.03 and Bill Diplo 1.10.42 were our riders but gained no awards.

The last event on the Club Calendar was the Hill Climb and the older legs of Ron Tugwell were too good for those of young Maurice. Ron's time was 1.47 with Maurice 2nd in 2.05. Eric Bonner came 3rd in 2.11.

The Track secretary reported that Stan Harrison had been keeping the Paragon's colours to the fore with 6 1sts, 7 2nd places and 2 3rd places. Particularly he won the WLCA 550 Scratch Championship, the University 440 yards Scratch Sprint and the North Middlesex & Herts 5 miles Championship. In addition Stan and Arthur Bristow both collected Silver Standard medals for 10 miles Tandem paced times.

A 'Closer' run was held with the Addiscombe on November 8th. The destination was 'Pauls' at County Oak – Bring your own food! Drinks would be provided and possibly a pianist or accordion player for the entertainment of the motley crew.

News was also heard of Ernie Horne, one of the Polo players who had been wounded in Greece and was now a prisoner of war.

The first Dance of the Winter Season was held at the Grandison Ballroom with Alan Gordon disguised in evening dress acting as M.C. It made £5 5s 6d for the Club Funds. Another Dance was booked for the 13th January and this too was successful raising another £6 for the Club.

It was not until the 2nd October that the Club Dinner was fixed for the Café Royal, North End, Croydon on 18th December. To give some idea of the catering restrictions in place the menu had to be left to the Café Royal management to see what they could do! At the Dinner prizes awarded were to Pete Kitchener for the fastest time by a Club Member in the Open '50' with his 2.12.09 ride. Ken Lee won the Runs Attendance Prize and Jack Brash the Free-wheel Contest.

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Med Gear				
9	Entries	22.3.42				
9	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Bristow ACG	1.11.16	1	Bristow ACG	0.30	1.10.46
2	Tugwell R	1.11.19	2	Tugwell R	Scratch	1.11.18
3	Diplo J	1.15.37	3	Barnes F	6.00	1.11.27
4	Pearce J	1.15.47	4	Pearce J	3.30	1.12.17
5	Ramsey D	1.16.26	5	Ramsey D	3.00	1.13.26
6	Barnes F	1.17.27	6	Diplo J	1.30	1.14.07
7	Sams F	1.19.39	7	Sams F	5.30	1.14.09
8	Dorman G	1.20.06	8	Dorman G	5.30	1.14.36
9	Batt F	1.23.07	9	Batt F	3.00	1.20.07
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		19.4.42				
12	Entries					
8	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Tugwell R	1.05.28	1	Diplo J	1.30	1.04.33
2	Diplo J	1.06.03	2	Harris KR	2.30	1.05.17
3	Bristow ACG	1.07.28	3	Tugwell R	Scratch	1.05.28
4	Harris KR	1.07.47	4	Ramsey D	4.30	1.05.33
5	Sams F	1.09.26	5	Sams F	2.30	1.06.56

6	Ramsey D	1.10.03	6	Bristow ACG	Scratch	1.07.28
7	Brown B	1.10.52		Brown B	T.T	
	Scratch Result	30 h/c		Handicap Result		
		24.5.42				
12	Entries					
9	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Kitchiner P	1.19.04	1	Ramsey D	7.00	1.17.08
2	Diplo J	1.19.44	2	Diplo J	1.30	1.18.14
3	Tugwell R	1.23.03	3	Sams F	5.30	1.18.33
4	Sams F	1.24.03	4	Bain E	8.00	1.18.42
5	Ramsey D	1.24.08	5	Kitchiner P	Scratch	1.19.04
6	Brown B	1.25.36	6	Brown B	6.00	1.19.36
7	Harris JR	1.26.03	7	Tugwell R	1.00	1.20.03
8	Bain E	1.26.42	8	Pearce J	6.30	1.21.30
9	Pearce J	1.28.00	9	Harris JR	4.30	1.21.33
	Scratch Result	50m h/c		Handicap Result		
		28.6.42				
8	Entries					
8	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Tugwell R	2.16.20	1	Pearce J	13.00	2.11.01
2	Kitchiner P	2.17.07	2	Ramsey D	10.00	2.11.11
3	Ramsey D	2.21.11	3	Tugwell R	3.30	2.13.50
4	Diplo J	2.23.24	4	Kitchiner P	Scratch	2.17.07
5	Pearce J	2.24.01	5	Diplo J	3.30	2.19.54
6	Bristow ACG	2.39.12	6	Barnes F	17.00	2.30.28
7	Barnes F	2.47.28	7	Bristow ACG	9.00	2.30.52
	Scratch Result	10m M/G				
		Junior				
8	Entries	28.6.42				
8	Starters					
8	Finishers					
1	Tugwell M	27.01				
2	Moss AS	27.20				
3	Nichols J	27.54				
4	Williams A	28.17				
5	Bush K	28.36				
6	Brown CA	28.42				
7	Batt E	28.50				
8	Lee K	29.28				
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		9.8.42				
9	Entries					
8	Starters					
8	Finishers					
1	Tugwell R	1.06.18	1	Diplo W	8.00	1.05.01
2	Diplo J	1.07.03	2	Tugwell R	0.30	1.05.48
3	Ramsey D	1.07.54	3	Batt E	10.00	1.05.55
4	Sapsford C	1.09.03	4	Dorman G	7.30	1.06.32

5	Diplo W	1.13.01	5	Ramsey D	1.00	1.06.54
6	Dorman G	1.14.02	6	Diplo J	Scratch	1.07.03
7	Batt E	1.15.55	7	Sapsford C	2.00	1.07.03
8	Hayward WK	1.24.05	8	Hayward WK	9.00	1.15.05
	Scratch Result	10m				
		Junior				
7	Entries	30.8.42				
7	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Bradfield D	26.31				
2	Bonner E	27.18				
3	Brown CA	28.25				
4	Marks J	28.39				
5	Nichols J	29.17				
6	Batt E	29.31				
7	Bush K	30.18				
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		13.9.42				
7	Entries					
7	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Diplo J	1.04.25	1	Sapsford C	2.30	1.04.01
2	Sapsford C	1.06.31	2	Diplo W	5.30	1.04.22
3	Ramsey D	1.07.35	3	Diplo J	Scratch	1.04.25
4	Tugwell R	1.09.04	4	Dorman G	7.30	1.05.49
5	Diplo W	1.09.52	5	Ramsey D	1.00	1.06.35
6	Dorman G	1.13.19	6	Batt E	10.00	1.06.45
7	Batt E	1.16.45	7	Tugwell R	Scratch	1.09.04
	Scratch Result	10m				
		Junior				
7	Entries	13.9.42				
7	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Bradfield D	26.02				
2	Bonner E	27.03				
3	Tugwell M	27.10				
4	Williams A	27.33				
5	Brown CA	27.44				
6	Lee K	28.03				
7	Bush K	28.04				
	Scratch Result	Hill Climb				
		11.10.42				
6	Entries					
6	Starters					
6	Finishers					
1	Tugwell R	1.47				
2	Tugwell M	2.05				
3	Bonner E	2.11				
4	Bradfield D	2.12				
5	Marks J	2.12				
6	Batt E	2.44				

