

1946

While this year was to be the first full year of peacetime there was not to be an immediate uplift in the Club's affairs. The cessation of hostilities found Paragon members spread all over the world and it took time for all the local problems to be sorted out and the troops sent on their way back to 'Blighty'. Of course once arriving back in England there was the simple matter of finding a job, maybe finding a new house and catching up with family life after up to six years away. Cycling had to take a back seat for a while. Not only that National Service was to continue for another 15 years and so all our young juniors had two years away from home once they reached 18. To some it was to be a stepping-stone to greatness to most it meant a break from their cycling career.

The Handbook was not in its 'normal' printed booklet form but as a duplicated 'magazine' but it was laid out in the usual manner. To give details. The President was John Carter, with Vice Presidents AH Allin, Jim Fox, Bill Kite, WA Smith, Harry Ryan, George Colget, Freddie Gardiner, Fred Lee, Norman Upton, Ben Davis, Bill Hitchmough, Bill Pett and Bill Sagers.

The Club was run by the General Secretary Frank Patterson, Treasurer 'Mick' Brown, Road Secretary Jim Pearce, Path (Track) Secretary Arthur Bristow, Social Secretary Don Allan, Massed-Start Secretary Jim Ramsey, Polo Secretary George Ongley, Magazine Editor John Dennis, Press Secretary John Gunning, Summer Runs Secretary Bill Diplo and Winter Runs Secretary Vin Callanan.

The Committee Members were Frank Burton, Stan Harrison, Albert Webb, Stan Butler, Alan Gordon, Frank Cleeve, George Sagers and Junior Representative BJ Stevens.

Club Subs had risen to 15/= for a full member with Juniors (Under 18) paying 5/= and Honorary (non-racing) members over 21 7/6. Those in the Forces or on National Service had their subscriptions waived.

In 1945 Albert Webb started a Fund to get the Club back on a reasonable financial footing after 6 years of scraping for funds trying to keep the Club together. The news bulletins were supplied free of charge of our Forces members but with 90 members not paying it was quite a burden on the rest. This Fund reached £15 10s all from service members.

However at the end of the year John Carter proposed a Thanksgiving Fund to set the Club back on its feet. By January 5th he reported that he had received just under £100. These were tremendous efforts if one remembers that £2 a week was a good wage at that time.

Fifty-two riders were on the Card for the traditional start of the racing season – the Balham Roughriders '25'. The Paragon were represented on the 10th February by Alan Moss, Don Chamberlain and John Diplo and had to contend with treacherous conditions as it had rained heavily for the previous week. Don Chamberlain finished in 4th place in 1.59.00 including a puncture on Saltbox Hill. Alan Moss lost 3½ minutes at the start and then hit a large patch of mud on the course finishing 'expertly

camouflaged' in 2.16.34. John Diplo finished in an uncomfortable 2.29.44 and this enabled the Paragon to claim 2nd Team.

The SCCU Medium gear was held on the 17th March. Vin Callanan 1.10.14, Bert Chapman 1.11.50, Harry Patmore 1.19.33 and Les Rodbourne 1.22.32 represented the Paragon but won no awards.

The Medium Gear started the Club season in the first full peaceful year. Back from the Forces came Bert Chapman to his eminence as a fast '25' rider. Bert was fastest in 1.7.55 from Vin Callanan, 1.8.28, and Dave London 1.9.28. Bert was quickest on handicap but owing to the Rules could not take the prize. Vin Callanan, (1.8.28) was therefore the winner of the Handicap by 9" from Norman Bonner, (Eric's younger brother) with Les Rodbourne third at 45".

Vin Callanan was on Scratch for the Hayes Swifts '25' but had not reached any real fitness so had to content himself with a 1.6.11 ride for 14th place. Bert Chapman also rode and was 17th in 1.6.20. Don Chamberlain was unable to start so there was no chance of a Team award.

On the 14th April the SCCU held their next '25' on the Povey Cross course. The Paragon riders were Bert Chapman and Norman Bonner both finished in 1.7.30, Dave London 1.7.37, Vin Callanan 1.7.51, Jim Ramsey 1.9.11, Len Hart 1.9.16, John Diplo 1.10.37, Maurice Jeffries 1.13.06, Albert Webb 1.16.29 and B Stephens 1.17.47. Bert started 30" late. However this would not have helped to win the Team race as the Paragon were some 6' slower than the Addiscombe! It was good to see that the SCCU had received over 150 entries for this event. Racing was getting back to 'normal'.

Our first Team race of the year was collected in the Kentish Wheelers Novices '25'. The Club had nine riders entered of whom the best was D Cutler in 1.10.41 for 3rd place. Dan Hadfield finished in 1.12.37 and Ron Stretton 1.12.50.

John Dennis, Len Hart, Albert Blackshaw, Jim Ramsey and Norman Bonner rode the SCCU Good Friday meeting at Herne Hill with John Dennis keeping the Club's name alive with a win the 550 yards handicap.

A very nasty day welcomed riders for the first unrestricted '25' of the year. Nineteen riders had entered but only five bothered to go to the Start and one of these failed to finish. Dennis Cutler was fastest in 1.7.40 beating Dave London by 5". Norman Bonner was well back in 3rd place with 1.12.47. The only other finisher was D Chaston in 1.14.01. Chaston did have 9.30 handicap that was enough to give him fastest in that department with a nett time of 1.4.31. Dave London claimed 2nd on handicap and Norman Bonner 3rd. Mr Cutler was actually the fastest on handicap but the usual rules applied.

On April 30th the juniors took part in the Croydon Youth 'do' at the Civic Hall on the Rollers. Len Hart and Arthur Bristow won the Team Roller event beating the Addiscombe in the Final. The next day Len Hart won the 550 yards Handicap at Herne Hill from John Dennis .

May 5th was Bath Road Jubilee '50' day on the Bath Road and Vin Callanan was back on his favourite course. This time he finished 2nd to Albert Derbyshire (Calleva). Derbyshire won in 2.10.26 and Vin 's time was 2.13.10. No other Paragon riders entered.

The Yiewsley RC ran their '50' on the 19th May. One can only surmise the sort of day it was but it certainly was not pleasant. Of the 100 entrants 52 failed to start and another 10 failed to complete the course. Vin Callanan was 3rd in 2.12.59 some 4' behind Derbyshire (Calleva). Jim Ramsey went out and back in 2.23.34 but Bert Chapman failed to finish. A pity as a 2.18 ride would have given the Paragon the Team race.

The Paragon had a Team in the 29th Wheelers event on the 26th May. Vin Callanan started to show some speed returning to the Timekeeper in 1.4.12. Norman Bonner finished in 1.7.32 and D Cutler in 1.7.44 but no prizes were collected.

Another bout of inclement weather arrived for the Catford '50' on the 2nd June. Of the 79 riders nineteen failed to start and another twenty did not reach the Finish. Apart from this the Paragon did rather well. Vin Callanan came home with the fastest time of 2.13.52. He was backed up by Don Chamberlain 2.20.58, Dave London 2.21.53 and Norman Bonner 2.25.02 and with London and Chamberlain the Paragon won the Team race.

On the 9th June a Junior 10 miles time trial was held and the name Ron Stretton appears for the first time, naturally, as a winner taking 25.40 to cover the distance. Ernie Doe was 2nd in 26.58 and D Dawson 3rd in 27.30. On the same day John Diplo was the Paragon's only finisher in the SCCU '50' with a 2.21.17.

Jim Hampshire and Stan Harrison won the National 1 mile Tandem Sprint Championship at Herne Hill on June 15th.

June 1946 was also a great time for the RAG as for the first time it was actually printed, not duplicated. Thanks to our man of letters and Editor John Dennis

Whit Monday was yet another bad day. Thirty riders in the University '100' out of 68 entries either did not start or failed to finish including Vin Callanan. Our only finisher was Jim Ramsey in 5.21.11.

Dave London rode his fastest '100' ever in the De Laune event on the 23rd June. His 4.42.16 was good enough for 5th place and 2nd in the handicap. Henry Greatwood was our only other finisher in 5.3.08.

Don Chamberlain rode in the Oxford City '50' and finished 18th with 2.26.40 on another day when a third of the field did not finish.

Two paragon riders finished the South Western 12 hours on the 7th July. Vin Callanan finished in 2nd place with 235 miles 137 yards and Henry Greatwood was 11th with 226 miles 290 yards.

In the SCCU '50' on the 14th July Dave London finished in 8th place with 2.18.27, Vin Callanan 2.22.52, and Don Chamberlain 2.25.02 but no prizes were won.

About this time Henry Greatwood rode the Catford 24 hours event and broke Club Record with 388 miles.

The Club '100' for the Goss Green Cup was run on 21st July in conjunction with the Kentish Wheelers Open Event. Vin Callanan showing everyone a clean pair of heels. He won the actual event by 2.25 from McClarty (Fountain) and his 4.39.39 was far too good for Dave London's 4.52.07 and Jim Ramsey's 5.00.36. The only other finisher was Don Chamberlain in 5.4.03. Jim Ramsey took the handicap with a nett time of 4.37.36 from Vin, 4.39.39, and Dave London 4.46.07. However, looking on the bright side, Messrs Callanan, London and Ramsey won the Team race.

Another Junior event was held on the 21st July this time a 15 miles time trial. Ernie Doe was the winner in 39.50, B Whybrow 2nd in 40.00 and, another name to remember, Maurice Jeffries 3rd in 40.18 just beating Ron Stretton by 25".

Our own Open '50' was held on the 28th July on a sunny morning with a rising south-westerly wind. These are ideal conditions for the Bath road course. Arch Harding (Middlesex RC) won in 2.4.43 in event record time from Arthur Boutell of the same club, 2.5.42 and E Upton (Derby Mercury) 3rd in 2.6.59. Our own riders did not do too well. Dave London finished in 2.13.52, Arthur Sharp 2.20.32, Jim Ramsey 2.21.34 (from No.1 on the start list) and Vin Callanan 2.30.52. Vin did not get any breakfast at his digs, and he did like his food. Although he reached the turn in 1.9.38 he got the dreaded 'knock' on the way back and toured in. Bert Chapman had the misfortune to puncture twice.

August Bank Holiday Monday, 5th August was Bath Road '100' day and the Paragon had a Team competing. It was a fast morning as the first Turn times indicated. Albert Derbyshire turned at 23 miles in 56.46. Vin was back in 16th place with 1.1.50. Dave London was 30" slower and Henry Greatwood way off the pace with 1.5.35. At 50 miles Derbyshire was leading by nearly 4' passing the Timekeeper in 2.4.46. Dave London had moved up to 14th in 2.14.36, Vin was now 15th in 2.15.13 and Henry was back in contention with 2.16.09.

At the far turn with 27 miles to go Derbyshire still led in 3.6.12. Vin was back to 10th place in 3.18.48, Dave had slowed a bit to 3.23.27 but Henry had had real problems and turned in 3.37.39 having lost 17' on Vin in that 23 miles. At the Finish 'everyone' thought that Derbyshire had the race at his mercy but Arch Harding (Middlesex RC) put in one of his storming finishes to turn a deficit of 2.38 at the last turn to a victory by 2 clear minutes with a race Record of 4.17.46. Vin came home in 10th place with 4.35.15, Dave London was 26th in 4.44.30 and Henry Greatwood finished in 5.3.58.

The following week Vin rode the Dragon RC '50' and recorded 2.10.29 for 10th place in a race won by Derbyshire in 2.2.32.

Six riders were entered for the Rotherham Cup held in conjunction with the South Eastern RC event but only two managed to run out time. Dave London covered 228.88 miles for 4th place in the Open event and Bill Diplo 202.82 miles.

The same day the SCCU held another '25' with a special section for Novice riders. In the main event Arthur Sharp recorded 1.4.03, Don Chamberlain 1.4.42, Bert Chapman 1.6.02, Dennis Cutler 1.6.07, John Vallack 1.10.14, Ernie Doe 1.14.10, Bernard Tyrer 1.14.20 and J Hayward 1.20.40. The first 3 riders enabled the Paragon to claim 2nd in the Team race – behind the Addiscombe! The Club had but one rider in the Novices event. J Rogers finished in 1.20.53.

The second Junior '10' had a new name in the winners place and another name to remember for the future. Dan Hadfield was fastest in 25.29, Maurice Jeffries was 2nd in 25.56 and L Rodbourne 3rd in 26.29.

The Club '30' on the 1st September was another step towards the Paragon's recovery from the War. Back from the services came Arthur Sharp and in his first Club Event he announced his arrival not just by winning but setting the Club 30 miles record at 1.16.29. Don Chamberlain was close behind in 1.16.35 leaving Dave London languishing in 3rd place with 1.19.17. The handicappers of the Paragon are not normally asleep so it was surprising that Arthur was on scratch so did not take the handicap prize. This went to Don Chamberlain with 1.15.35 by 12" from John Diplo, 1.15.47. Arthur was only 3rd in 1.16.29. On the same day J Rogers was the lone Paragon rider in the Brixton CC '25' and he finished with a time of 1.22.39.

September 8th was the day of the SCCU Syd Gray '100' and it turned out to be a very nasty day. In fact the Result Sheet has a note from the Road Manager of the SCCU thanking all officials and helpers who turned out on a most unpleasant morning. Sufficient to add that of the 97 entries 15 did not start and another 41 failed to finish. The Paragon had only 2 of those finishers in Dave London, 4.53.49 and John Diplo 5.34.35. Dave had a very lonely ride as he was No.9 on the Start Sheet. He had all the slowest men in front of him and caught them very quickly.

Two Club events were held on the 15th September notably a '50' for the grown-ups and a '15' for the juniors. Arthur Sharpe was way ahead of the field with a 2.17.56 ride. John Diplo came 2nd with 2.24.48 and Bert Chapman 3rd in 2.25.57. Arthur's time was also good enough to be fastest on handicap but rules is rules so this went to John Diplo. Bert Chapman was 2nd (2.21.48 to 2.21.57) and Dave London collected 3rd handicap with 2.30.04. The junior event was won by Ron Stretton in 39.51 from Dan Hadfield, 39.58 and Ernie Doe 3rd in 40.51.. The handicap went to D Dawson, 38,24, from R Tomkins, 38.40, and Dan Hadfield 39.28.

Next week-end was the Comet '25' with Bert Chapman 1.7.19, Don Chamberlain 1.7.23, Arthur Sharp 1.7.57, Vin Callanan 1.9.54 representing the Paragon. While the lads were well down on the winners in time they had packed very nicely and so collected the Team race.

Saturday 28th September was the date for the NCU Massed-start Championship in Finsbury Park, North London. The Paragon had six riders accepted for this event, John Gunning, Henry Greatwood, Vin Callanan, Albert Webb, Ivor Cox and Jim

Ramsey. Unfortunately only two managed to start. Jim Ramsey as called-up for National Service the week before, Vin 's bike would not pass the Machine check and Messrs Cox and Gunning ducked it! The other two did not last too long in the race either so a very disgruntled M/s Secretary gave vent to his feelings in the 'Rag'.

The return to pre-war enthusiasm is best illustrated by the Mayne Cup '25' of 1946 when 28 entries were received. Twenty-three riders actually started and all bar one finished. Bert Chapman was the fastest finisher in 1.4.13 beating Arthur Sharp by 17" with Dennis Cutler 3rd in 1.5.25. Man of the Day was the race winner. Even though he only had 1' allowance this was enough to give Bert Chapman the Mayne Cup. His Handicap time was 1.3.13, 2nd was D Cutler with 1.3.25 with Arthur Sharp 3rd with 1.4.20. Another 9 riders were within the next minute to Sharp. Stretton. 1.4.31, Callanan 1.4.34, Doe 1.4.35, John Diplo 1.4.55, John Vallack 1.4.56, Bill Diplo 1.5.06, Chamberlain 1.5.19 and Jeffries 1.5.20. Again this is superb handicapping.

The last SCCU '25' of the year was held on the 13th October and amongst the 96 riders were Dan Hadfield 1.8.38, D Dawson 1.8.39, B Stephens 1.41.00 (!). Dave London came 5th in the SCCU BAR Championship with an average speed of 21.424 mph.

The season finished with the Hill Climb and trackman Ivor Cox took this with a 1.50.4 ride well clear of Norman Bonner, 2.4.4 and Alan Moss 2.13.6.

In the Archives is a Result of an Addiscombe '50' won by B Reeves (Clyde CC) but the card is undated! The Paragon riders were Vin Callanan 2.13.45, Don Chamberlain 2.15.18, Dave London 2.19.14, Norman Bonner 2.26.03 and Bill Diplo 2.38.08. The first three mentioned were 2nd in the Team race to the Addiscombe.

Other successes during the year not mentioned before were:- Stan Harrison Middlesex & Herts 5 miles Championship, 1st Watford 5 miles Grass Open, and 1 mile NCU Open Tandem Sprint Champion with Ivor Cox. Ivor Cox also won the 5 miles Raleigh International Trophy and the Bath CC 50km Massed-start race. Len Hart 1st LCRC Combine 2 laps Tandem Scratch with John Dennis and 1st in the Medal Competition at Paddington.

The Paragon also won the London Cycle Racing League Championship at Herne Hill. John Dennis rode for Great Britain against France in London and Paris and Ivor Cox against Denmark.

In the Club Championships the Results were as follows:- 550 yards Handicap Cup 1st Jim Hampshire, 2nd Len Hart and 3rd John Dennis. The AEU 550 yards Scratch Cup 1st John Dennis, 2nd Stan Harrison and 3rd Len Hart. The 'Curry' Cup for the 5 miles Scratch 1st Stan Harrison, 2nd Ivor Cox and 3rd John Dennis with Don Chamberlain taking the lap prize.

The Bicycle Polo Team won the National Championship for the 9th time. The Team was Bert Carleton, Bob Reddin, Dick Ongley, 'Shaggy' Butler, Maurice Taylor and George Ongley.

Ivor Cox also won the Bath CC 50 kms Massed Start Road Race.

	Scratch Result	100 h/c		Handicap Result		
		21.7.46		Goss Green Cup		
6	Entries					
6	Starters					
4	Finishers					
1	Callanan V	4.39.39	1	Ramsey J	23.00	4.37.36
2	London D	4.52.07	2	Callanan V	Scratch	4.39.39
3	Ramsey J	5.00.36	3	London D	7.00	4.46.07
4	Chamberlain D	5.04.03	4	Chamberlain D	8.00	4.56.03
	Scratch Result	15 Scr				
		Junior				
7	Entries	21.7.46				
7	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Doe E	39.50				
2	Whybrow B	40.00				
3	Jeffries M	40.18				
4	Stretton R	40.47				
5	Holsman K	42.02				
6	MacDonald I	43.18				
7	Magee L	44.12				
	Scratch Result	12 hours		Handicap Result		
		18.8.46				
6	Entries			Rotherham Cup		
6	Starters					
2	Finishers					
1	London D	228.88		London D	6.00	234.88
2	Diplo W	202.82	1	Diplo W	24.00	226.82
	Scratch Result	10 Scr				
		Junior				
12	Entries	25.8.46				
12	Starters					
11	Finishers					
1	Hadfield D	25.29				
2	Jeffries M	25.56				
3	Rodbourne L	26.29				
4	Whybrow B	26.33				
5	Doe E	26.48				
6	Holsman K	27.48				
7	Tomkins R	29.13				
8	Magee L	29.25				
9	Oliver L	30.10				
10	Poupard A	30.45				

	Scratch Result	30 h/c		Handicap Result		
		1.9.46				
13	Entries					
13	Starters					
12	Finishers					
	Bonner N/Cutler	1.11.25		Tandem T.T.		
1	Sharp A ###	1.16.29	1	Chamberlain D	1.00	1.15.35
2	Chamberlain D	1.16.35	2	Diplo J	4.00	1.15.47
3	London D	1.19.17	3	Sharp A	Scratch	1.16.29
4	Diplo J	1.19.47	4	London D	1.30	1.17.47
5	Ramsey J	1.23.46	5	Hayward J	11.00	1.17.58
6	Chapman H	1.23.58	6	Tyrer B	8.00	1.18.49
7	Greatwood H	1.24.48	7	Whybrow B	8.00	1.19.12
8	Tyrer B	1.26.49	8	Ramsey J	4.00	1.19.46
9	Whybrow B	1.27.12	9	Diplo W	11.00	1.20.42
10	Hayward J	1.28.58	10	Chapman H	2.00	1.21.58
11	Diplo W	1.31.42				
###	Club Record					
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		15.9.46				
8	Entries					
7	Starters			Fryco Cup		
5	Finishers					
1	Sharp A	2.17.56		Sharp A	Scratch	2.17.56
2	Diplo J	2.24.48	1	Diplo J	3.00	2.21.48
3	Chapman H	2.25.57	2	Chapman H	4.00	2.21.57
4	London D	2.31.04	3	London D	1.00	2.30.04
5	Greatwood H	2.32.35	4	Greatwood H	2.00	2.30.35
	Scratch Result	15 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Junior				
11	Entries	15.9.46				
9	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Stretton R	39.51	1	Dawson D	2.30	38.34
2	Hadfield D	39.58	2	Tomkins R	4.00	38.40
3	Doe E	40.51	3	Hadfield D	0.30	39.28
4	Dawson D	41.04	4	Stretton R	0.15	39.36
5	Jeffries M	41.24	5	Doe E	0.30	40.21
6	Tomkins R	42.40	6	Magee L	4.00	40.54
7	Mercer P	44.04	7	Jeffries M	Scratch	41.24
8	Magee L	44.54	8	Mercer P	2.30	41.34
9	Poupard A	47.25	9	Poupard A	5.00	42.25
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		29.9.46		Mayne Cup		
28	Entries					
23	Starters					
22	Finishers					
1	Chapman H	1.04.13	1	Chapman H	1.00	1.03.13
2	Sharp A	1.04.30	2	Cutler D	2.00	1.03.25
3	Cutler D	1.05.25	3	Sharp A	Scratch	1.04.20

4	Chamberlain D	1.05.34	4	Stretton R	3.00	1.04.31
5	Callanan V	1.05.34	5	Callanan V	1.00	1.04.34
6	Butler SM	1.06.01	6	Doe E	4.00	1.04.35
7	Diplo J	1.06.10	7	Diplo J	1.15	1.04.55
8	Stretton R	1.07.31	8	Vallack J	5.30	1.04.56
9	Jeffries M	1.08.20	9	Diplo W	7.30	1.05.06
10	Doe E	1.08.35	10	Chamberlain D	0.15	1.05.19
11	Tugwell R	1.08.40	11	Jeffries M	3.00	1.05.20
12	Hadfield D	1.09.01	12	Thompson F	5.30	1.05.38
13	Vallack J	1.10.26	13	Tugwell R	3.00	1.05.40
14	Bonner N	1.10.35	14	Hadfield D	3.00	1.06.01
15	Thompson F	1.11.08	15	Stephens B	9.00	1.07.00
16	Greatwood H	1.11.53	16	Bonner N	3.00	1.07.35
17	Tyrer B	1.12.11	17	Lathwell E	7.30	1.07.58
18	Diplo W	1.12.56	18	Hayward J	8.30	1.08.43
19	Lathwell E	1.15.28	19	Osborn T	4.30	1.17.15
20	Stephens B	1.16.00		Butler SM		T.T.
21	Hayward J	1.17.13		Greatwood H		T.T.
22	Osborn T	1.21.45		Tyrer B		T.T.
	Scratch Result	Hill Climb				
		13.10.46				
9	Entries					
9	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Cox I	1.50.4				
2	Bonner N	2.04.4				
3	Moss AS	2.13.6				
4	Doe E	2.17.0				
5	Bonner E	2.18.2				
6	Hyatt	2.33.6				
7	Roberts J	3.04.2				