

1939

After the Constitutional changes of 1938 a new President has been elected. Ernie Tugwell is the new man.

The Club has a new Headquarters at The Waldrons Hall, Duppas Hill Lane, Croydon. T Wardley had resigned as Vice-president and, therefore, is omitted from the list. Frank Burton takes over as General Secretary. A new official and a sign of the times – the Massed Start Secretary is Frank Patterson. The Committee were Bill Saggars, Fred Willett, Stan Butler, Doug Perry, George Saggars, Frank Cleeve and Sid Butcher.

Other business that came from the AGM held on 22nd January was that Junior members, who were those under 21, were to become Active members at 21. The 1000m Time Trial was to be dropped from the Club Track Championship.

The first Committee Meeting of the year on 2nd February included an item that Ernie Tugwell had been in contact with others concerning the possibility of a cycle track in the Croydon area and a Sub-Committee of Messrs Tugwell, Saggars, Parkes and Burton were elected to look into the matter further. Also concern had been expressed over the behaviour of certain members that would bring discredit upon the Club. A warning would be published in the monthly circular and that the Committee would not hesitate to expel anyone guilty of such conduct. We wonder who these people were and what did they do?

After the successes of 1938 what was to be the story in 1939?

For once the racing season did not start with the Balham Roughstuff as the Kingsdale put on their own Hardriders event a week earlier around the Enfield Chase area. (A fore-runner to the North Road Hardriders event still popular in 2004). The Paragon did not win; that honour went to Dickhofer (Kingsbury Wh) in 1.16.04 but Bert Hockham of the Paragon was 2nd just 19” behind. Fred Willett was 3rd, 1.16.58 and Stan Butler 6th in 1.19.02 Sid Butcher finished in 1.21.07 and Doug Perry 1.25.51. Just to continue the 1938 story the Paragon won the Team Race.

The 26th February saw the ‘normal’ start to the year with the Balham Rough Riders ‘25’ and with ‘Home’ advantage the tables were truly turned. Helping matters were overnight rain leaving the narrow lanes awash with mud and grit. Notwithstanding all that Stan Butler won for the 6th time in 1.43.23 beating the Kingsdale winner Dickhofer by 43”. George Ely was 3rd in 1.47.17 and Fred Willett 4th in 1.48.44. Dickhofer was 1’ up on Stan at 20 miles but course knowledge enabled Stan to put in his usual fast finish. Fred did not have a good day seemingly incapable of staying upright on the treacherous road he crashed three or four times and then had the final indignity of being held up by a flock of sheep. However the season was only two weeks old and the Paragon had won their 2nd Team race by 24’ from the Addiscombe.

At the Committee Meeting on 2nd March it was decided that the massed-start jerseys should be yellow (gold) with a black and green band. The Polo Secretary also mentioned that certain of the Club Polo Team would be playing in Paris against the Champions of France on the 25th June. It was also reported that a Public Meeting had

been held on the 17th March regarding a cycle track. A resolution was passed asking for a deputation to be heard by the Council and the Council had agreed to a meeting on the 24th April.

March 12th was a 'Red Letter' day in the Club's History for it demonstrated to all the depth of talent that was in the Club. At home the Club Racing Season opened with a Medium Gear '25' on what appeared to be a rather nasty weekend. Twenty-two riders entered but only 17 of them braved the Start and only 13 managed to record a time. Alec Smith came back with a comparatively slow 1.12.35 to win, Tommy Hale was 2nd in 1.14.30 and these two were the only riders to beat 'evens'! In 3rd place was Jim Hayes with 1.15.07. Hale took the Handicap with a nett time of 1.8.45 some 2 minutes clear of Charlie Armstrong (1.10.50) and nearly 4 minutes better than Jim Hayes (1.12.37).

North of London the short distance men were riding the Willesden Open '25' and, again, having some success. Cyril Melhuish won in 1.7.07 by 50" from Howe (Queens Park) with Bert Chapman 3rd in 1.8.40, Dickhofer was now back to 4th in 1.9.16 and Stan Butler 5th 1.9.24. Sid Butcher also finished in 1.10.59. The Paragon won the Team Race.

In the Castlenau Medium Gear '25' George Fleming (Belle Vue) won by nearly two minutes in 1.4.22 but Messrs Willett, Sharpe and Perry won the Team Race.

Then in the Kentish Wheelers Novices '25' our young riders, Ken Dudley, Stan Kent and John Schulttheiss won the Team race for the Paragon. THREE Team races in one day AND another 17 riders competing in a Club event!

The 19th March saw a Team in the Sandon CC '25'. Bert Chapman was the winner in 1.7.04 from Potter (Marlboro) 1.7.20 and Cyril Melhuish 3rd in 1.7.33. Stan Butler was 12th in 1.9.00 and Sid Butcher finished with 1.13.03. The Paragon won the Team race.

In the Calleva '25' Fred Willett was 3rd in 1.6.48 only 22" behind the winner Bill Paul (Addiscombe).

The superb start to the season had to end and on the 26th March it did pause. The Paragon had a team in the North Cotswold '25' but Cyril Melhuish 'only' came 2nd in 1.8.31 losing by 29". Sid Butcher finished in 1.13.13 and Bert Chapman 1.16.08 after a puncture. On the south coast in the Portsmouth North End CC '25' Bert Hockham finished with 1.11.32, Doug Perry 1.11.48 and Ivor Cox 1.14.25. Neither Stan Butler nor Fred Willett rode that weekend due to them suffering with colds.

Back to another early season Classic on the 2nd April was the Forest '25' and a miserable day; cold with intermittent showers. A very close-run thing it was indeed. Sibun (Kent Road) won with 1.3.16, Mills (Addiscombe) was only 8" behind and Fred Willett a further 5" back. Times for our riders were – Fred Willett 1.3.31, Cyril Melhuish 1.3.56 and Bert Chapman 1.5.54 and that was sufficient for the Paragon to win the Team race. Bert actually had a 1.05 late start so it was thought he would be out of contention. Then Stan Butler rolled in having had a puncture near the turn and losing far too much time trying to change in the cold conditions. The question was

would Bert still be fast enough for the Paragon to win the Team race – fortunately he was by a minute so everyone could breathe again and celebrate.

On southern roads it was the day of the SCCU '25' for Clubs I-O. Sid Butcher improved on his 4th man act of early season to win with 1.9.06 with Alec Smith 3rd in 1.9.13. These two and Ken Dudley, (1.10.15), won the Team race and Dudley also claimed 1st on Handicap. There were some other Paragon riders in this event – Doug Perry 1.10.09, Albert Webb 1.10.19, Emlyn James 1.10.59, Bernard Tyrer 1.11.13, Frank Patterson 1.12.00, Stan Kent 1.12.42, F Thompson 1.13.19, Tom Hale 1.13.25, Charlie Armstrong 1.14.30, John Goring 1.15.25, F Greenland 1.15.51, Norman Drage 1.16.57, and Fred Barnes 1.21.12. That's 16 riders plus 3 non-starters and another 3 non-finishers. 22 riders in a field of 73 – not a bad effort!

The Committee Meeting on 4th May was informed that the Polo team would be competing against Derby in for the National Championship. It was also reported that Croydon Council had met with the deputation regarding the possibility of a Croydon track and the requirements had been laid out. The delegation would be meeting the local surveyor with exact details of the requirements for a Track and that the Parks Committee would be giving their report on 22nd May.

The first Club Unrestricted '25' was on 16th April and Stan Harrison came out on top. His 1.10.38 was too good for Fred Koepl by 13" but Tommy Hale (1.11.10) and Emlyn James (1.11.25) were not far back. A newcomer, John Schultheiss took the Handicap by 1" from Tommy Hale (1.6.39 to 1.6.40) with Bob Chard back in 3rd place (1.7.19).

AT the Good Friday Meeting Jim Parkes collected a 2nd place in the 5 miles. Fred Willett was 2nd in the Triumph motors paced event. Stan Harrison, Ivor Cox and Jim Hampshire collected sundry 2/6s in the Courses des Primes. Val Lewis won the Handicap event.

Later in the year Jim Parkes rode against George Fleming in the Tandem paced 25 miles event and in a thrilling race against one of the fastest time triallists in the country just had to give best in the last stages to finish 2nd. Fleming also beat Willett in a paced event just to heap on the coals.

As usual the Charlotteville '50' was held on Easter Monday and Cyril Melhuish established himself amongst the country's top riders by coming 4th in 2.12.14. Fred Willett was 6th, 2.12.58 and Stan Butler 13th in 2.16.31. For once this 'packing' was not good enough and the Paragon had to give best to the Addiscombe – these things do happen!

It happened again, but not with the Addiscombe, the following week in the Dragon RC '25'. Bert Chapman was 4th in 1.6.29, Stan Butler finished in 1.7.25 and Sid Butcher 1.9.31. Unfortunately Cyril Melhuish punctured at the turn and passed the Timekeeper in 1.10.52. Thus the Vegetarian C & AC beat the Paragon by 2.34.

In the WLCA '25' (Clubs K-M) Fred Willett pulverised the field with a ride of 1.5.32 to win by 3.03 from our own Alec Smith. These two and Bert Hockham won the Team race and Fred also collected 3rd Handicap for his efforts.

April 23rd and a visit to the Banbury Star '25' and reasonable 'country' start times. Cyril Melhuish was the first Paragon to start at 7.40. Bert Chapman made 2nd fastest with 1.5.07. Melhuish was 3rd, 1.3.53 and Stan Butler 5th in 1.6.17. The Paragon won the Team race.

The Club also had riders in the Old Portlians Tandem '50' Doug Perry and Albert Webb finished in 1.57.33. This was the fastest time done by a Club pair but the Rules, in 1939, still stated that Club records must be done in Club Events so the 12 years old Southall/Cleeve Record remains on the books.

The Tandem 'Kings' Mills and Paul (Addiscombe) had a bit of a scare in the University Tandem '30'. On a day of driving rain and a cold north-easterly wind the Addiscombe pair won in 1.7.25. The Paragon pairing of Cyril Melhuish and Bert Chapman knicked well together to get within 9" of the Addiscombe duo; the closest anyone had got to them for years. The Paragon also had Albert Webb and Doug Perry home in 1.9.37 and a 'blast from the past' as Stan Butler and Alan Gordon teamed up again after a break of some years to record 1.11.57. (When did Alan Gordon last take part in real competition?) Whenever it was that effort enabled the Paragon to win yet another Team race by just 17" from the Leyton Camp Whs.

Bill Paul next won the Childerly Whs '50' in 2.10.46 but Cyril Melhuish was close in 3rd place with 2.11.38. Backing 'Mel' were Stan Butler, 5th in 2.13.14 and Bert Chapman 11th in 2.15.42. This was enough for the Paragon to take the Team race.

On May 14th the Paragon won the Team race in the North London '50'. Bert Chapman was 2nd in 2.8.58, 27" slower than Beaumont (Leyton Camp) but a personal best as compensation. Cyril Melhuish was 4th with 2.10.37 and Alec Smith completed the winning Team with his personal best of 2.13.02. On the same day Stan Butler rode a Time Trial on the new South London RTTC Course and was timed in at 4.45.12.

The Bath Road Jubilee '50' was held on the 21st May but it turned out to be not a Paragon day. Fred Willett was unable to start and Cyril Melhuish had to stop. That left our best finisher as Bert Hockham in 13th place with 2.11.04, Bert Chapman 17th in 2.11.34 and Stan Butler 21st in 2.12.35. The Paragon were only 3rd in the Team race.

Frank Patterson was 4th in the Civil Service '25' Championship with 1.7.49, Ken Dudley tied 5th place in 1.8.27 with Bernard Tyrer. Tommy Hale also rode to finish 11th in 1.9.10.

On the Whit-Sunday Stan Kent (1.10.01), Bob Chard (1.10.16) and John Schultheiss (1.10.20) won the Team race in the 34th Nomads '25'

At Whitsun we had 3 pairs in the Gainsford Tandem 30 but no Result has come down to us. It was a different story on the Monday for the University '100'. There was a reversal of the 1938 result as Harold Fenn (Who said he wasn't fit this year?) took 1st place in 4.34.36 and Stan Butler was runner-up in 4.36.34. Albert Webb excelled in

his best 100 with 4.44.29 and Doug Perry also finished in 4.49.47. Fenn, Butler and Webb won the Team race by nearly 22’.

South of London Fred Koepl was collecting 2nd place and 1st handicap with a first ‘100’ in 4.56.56 in the Balham 2nd Class event.

The Polo Team won the Championship of Great Britain for the 7th time when they beat Derby RCC at the Tooting & Mitcham Stadium by 14 – 4. Dick Ongley scored 6 times, Bert Carleton 4, Ron Mitchell twice and E Horne twice.

Down to the south coast on June 4th for the Gosport ‘50’ and another win for Cyril Melhuish. Mel passed the Timekeeper in 2.13.06 with Stan Butler not much slower in 2.13.23 for 2nd place. Bert Hockham was 6th in 2.15.50 and Bert Chapman had an off day with 2.16.50. However the Paragon took the Team race.

Nearer home in the SCCU (Clubs F-Q) ‘50’ Arthur Sharp was in fine fettle as he won in 2.14.50. He also collected 2nd in the Handicap Awards with Fred Keoppl in 3rd place. These two plus Frank Sisley won the Team race.

Stan Butler took to the track on 10th June for the 50 miles Tandem paced Championship. Unfortunately he met a George Fleming on the top of his form and had to give best by 4 minutes to take 2nd place.

Also on June 10th a Magazine called ‘The Leader’ published a page of photographs depicting the ‘Diary of a Cycling Speedster’. It showed Cliff Dore giving Stan Harrison a back massage, Stan checking the weather and pumping up his tyres, Fred Lee with his watches, Albert Webb at speed, George Saggars handing up a bottle, Harry Wotton checking his time with Fred and Edna Gordon polishing the Bath Road Team Shield. On the reverse is a classy picture of Fay Wray. She was the lady who was taken to the top of the Empire State Building by ‘King Kong’. Which would you prefer to look at?

On the 16th June there was a Committee Meeting and one item goes a long way to explain why the Paragon held onto its members for it was recorded, (and this was three months before war was declared), that “a member called upon to serve in the Militia would, provided his subscription for the current year was paid, retain his membership of the Club until the end of the year of his return to civil life”.

There was some disappointment regarding the Croydon Track as it was reported that the Council could not precede any further owing to the demands made by the A.R.P. (Air Raid Precautions). This was understandable considering the space that might be needed for placements for Barrage Balloons, Observation Posts, Anti-Aircraft batteries etc. not to mention air-raid shelters. This was not the time for sports facility development.

Two 50 miles races were down for the 18th June; the Kingsdale 50 on the North Road at Biggleswade and the WLCA event out on the Bath Road. Arthur Sharp duly obliged in the WLCA event winning by 1.24 in 2.13.25. Doug Perry 2.18.33, John Goring 2.22.35, Alec Smith 2.23.01 (including a 5’ late start), Tommy Hale 2.23.34, Fred Koepl 2.23.35, Frank Patterson 2.23.46, Steve Beeden 2.25.12, Frank Sisley

2.29.27, Sid Mitchell 2.29.53 and Norman Drage 2.33.29 were our other riders. If Smith had not had that 5' late start the Paragon would have won another Team race. Up north the Paragon failed to win the race but with Bert Hockham 4th in 2.14.13, Stan Butler 2.15.54, Bert Chapman 2.16.37 and Harold Fenn 2.18.01 the Club collected another Team race.

Nearer to home some nineteen riders were out for the Club '30' and it resulted in another win for Arthur Sharp. His 1.18.20 was over 4' too good for Emlyn James (1.22.23) and Stan Kent (1.23.02). Kent had the satisfaction of taking the Handicap – just! Only 13" separated the first 3 riders. Kent's handicap time was 1.14.02, Norman Drage had 1.14.05 and Steve Beeden 1.14.15!

Frank Patterson won the Civil Service '50' on the Effingham course in 2.26.35 and must have been grateful that a certain Fred Willett punctured and packed.

No less than seven Paragon riders entered the Highgate '100' on June 25th. It does not look to have been a great day for racing as 12 riders did not start and another 27 failed to finish. However Stan Butler duly obliged with a 4.34.27 to win by 1.37 from Cheason (Barnet). Our other riders were Harold Fenn 4.41.09, Bert Hockham 4.42.18, Albert Webb 4.44.30, Doug Perry 4.48.47 and Bert Chapman 4.52.24 with Cyril Melhuish not reaching the Finish. Butler, Fenn and Hockham duly collected the Team prize.

Arthur Sharp also took the Fryco Cup with another convincing win. This time he extended his winning margin to 6.15! Sharp recorded a 2.15.34 with Stan Kent in 2nd place on 2.21.49 and Sid Butcher in 3rd place with 2.22.33. The Handicap was a Longmarkers Benefit. Harry Robson with 12' winning with a nett time of 2.12.03, just ahead of Fred Greenland (2.12.20) and Steve Beeden (2.13.52). This event was combined with the Walter Moon '50' for Croydon Clubs and this, again, resulted in a win for the Paragon. The Handicap times counting for the Paragon were Harry Robson 2.11.03, Arthur Sharp 2.15.34, Bernard Tyrer 2.17.27 and Tom Hale 2.17.44.

After the success of 1938 the lads went out West to the Cheltenham '50' but it did not go to plan as the word 'Paragon' is strangely absent from the Result Sheets. Stan Butler 2.14.06, Cyril Melhuish 2.15.34, Bert Chapman 2.18.14 and Harold Fenn 2.18.33 were the Paragon men. Stan was 8th fastest and the Club was some 7' too slow for the Team race. Not a good day!

On the roads around Theale the WLCA '100' was run but Frank Sisley 5.6.38 and Frank Patterson 5.7.25 were our only finishers

The Velma '50' on 9th July was run on an excellent day with 8 men inside 2.10. Stan Butler was 6th in 2.9.36 his season's best and Bert Hockham recorded 2.13.19. Unfortunately Messrs Chapman and Melhuish failed to start so all thoughts of a Team race were abandoned.

At Bexley Heath P.J Dyble retained his London Centre Grass 5 miles Championship.

It was the De Laune's 50th Anniversary in 1939 and they promoted a 100 miles Time Trial. They were not rewarded with a good day as while there were only 3 non-

starters 25 riders failed to finish including Stan Butler (punctured) and Bert Hockham. Harold Fenn was our only finisher in 12 place with 4.43.06 nearly 9' slower than his last 100 miles effort.

The Paragon had three riders in the Ealing '50' but only Stan Butler managed to get to the Finish in 2.10.53. In the SCCU '100' Sid Butcher was 3rd in 4.51.56.

A very unusual entry in the Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 27th July for the membership of two individuals, messrs Lucas and Tanner, was rescinded due to their connection with the theft of a bike from the Club room. Later in the Meeting the Massed-start Secretary was instructed to contact the NCU in regard to the Club promoting one of these events.

All the fast men were playing elsewhere on the 30th July for the Goss Green 100 miles Cup. This gave F Thompson his chance for glory and he took it in a close run event. Thompson recorded 5.4.53, Alec Smith 5.5.18 and Fred Koepl 5.6.21. Thompson was also best on Handicap but could not take the award so it passed to Bernard Tyrer with a handicap time of 4.54.44; Fred Koepl was 2nd with 5.1.21 and Jack Gunning 3rd with 5.2.59.

Out on the Bath Road there must have been a dreadful day for the Belle Vue '50' The Club had 6 entrants, 2 did not start and 3 did not finish leaving Doug Perry on his own with a 2.16.45. In all 16 riders failed to start and 32 failed to finish. The Highways Authorities had resurfaced the road the previous week with copious amounts of gravel and then it rained over night. Result – Chaos!

After last years' fantastic Bath Road '100' with a Competition record and a near miss for the win by 3" 1939 was a bit of an anticlimax for the Paragon. Bert Hockham did start extremely fast and was in the lead at the 23 mile first turn, Stan Butler was his usual 1.30 adrift and Doug Perry some 4' slower. Hockham was still with the leaders passing the 50 miles check point in 2.12.31 just one second behind Logan (Vegetarian). Stan Butler was 2.32 in arrear and Doug Perry 9.41 behind.

By the Savernake turn Holkham was paying for his early speed turning in 3.24.15 some 7.45 behind the new leader Rangeley (Bronte Whs). Stan Butler was 5' adrift and Doug Perry 14.40 back. For once there was no storming finish from Butler. He crossed the line in 4.38.50 for 12th place behind Reuben Firth (Bronte Whs) who won in 4.26.15. Holkham finished in 4.43.49 for 26th place and Doug Perry 4.46.28 for 33rd place. Only 3 of the 65 finishers failed to be 'evens' and the Paragon had to be satisfied with 2nd Team nearly 45' slower than the Bronte Wheelers who were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd and, just to rub it in, they beat the Paragon's Competition Record.

Only 6 riders essayed the Club 12 hours event for the Rotherham Cup and all 6 ran out time. Bernard Tyrer made greatest mileage with 213.75 some 3 ½ miles better than Bob Hoy and nearly 21 miles better than Harry Wooton. However Hoy won the Handicap with 225.25 miles from Wooton (221.88) and Gunning (219.75).

On the same day a foursome went up north for the Barnsley '50' with nothing much to show for the journey. Stan Butler was our best placed man in 23rd spot with 2.12.32. Bert Hockham was just 17" slower in 2.12.49, Cyril Melhuish 33rd in

2.13.27 and Bert Chapman 58th in 2.17.02. Just in front of Stan was one Ron Kitching later of cycle trader fame.

Arthur Sharp was 4th in the Vegetarian '50' with 2.10.54 on the Bath Road course.

The Westerly '100' attracted its usual class field. Ernie Mills (Addiscombe) was fastest at halfway in 2.10.17, Stan Butler passed that Timekeeper in 2.13.36 and Doug Perry surprised everyone, and probably himself, only taking 2.14.42 to this point. He was then 9th fastest and the time is faster than his personal best at 50 miles! Bert Holkham started a little steadier than the Bath Road '100' with 2.15.01 but later punctured and retired. Mills won in 4.28.24 with Stan in 4th place in 4.35.24 including time by the side of the road with a puncture in the later stages. Doug finished in 4.40.08 for a personal best and 2nd on Handicap.

In the Wings 'Junior' '25' Alec Smith came home with a 1.7 ride including a 2' late start; Fred Keoppl also did a 1.7 and the 1939 Novice Steve Beeden 1.9.16.

In Surrey our other racers were taking part in the Bellingham '25' on the Pound Hill course that wound around the lanes of Horley, Smallfields, Felbridge and Copthorne. Their times were Tommy Hale 1.9.43, Charlie Armstrong 1.11.15, Frank Patterson 1.12.22 and Bob Chart 1.12.41.

Meanwhile in the Farnborough '25' Arthur Sharp took 3rd place in 1.2.21 a personal best and the fastest any Paragon rider has been since Frank Southall turned Professional.

Only Stan Butler rode the WLCA 12 hours coming 2nd with 238.375 miles. There was a query against the winner as at 219 miles he was only in 4th place. This meant he picked up 2.375 miles in the last hour against the one rider who was noted for his strong finish. It was thought that Biggs (Westerley), rode over time. In 1939 each rider was allocated 'rider out' who was armed with watch, paper and pencil. This man followed his racer and called out when he had run out of time. The 'rider out' would then make a note of where the racer had finished (so many yards passed telegraph pole number... etc), get the finished rider to sign the paper and then the 'rider out' would go off to report to the nearest Official timekeeper with the information. The Timekeepers would then do the calculations based on the information received. It was a system fraught with problems especially the accuracy of the watch belonging to the 'rider out'. Today Timekeepers are placed every mile or 1½ miles around a finish circuit and your distance is calculated on the time under and over between the last two Timekeepers. This is a far more accurate method.

The next week Stan Butler was due to go north again for the Yorkshire Vegetarians 12 hours on the 3rd September but that was the day World War II started and he did not travel.

It has been difficult to find result of those in the Club who rode in the massed start races at Brooklands, Donnington Park etc. but a few have come down to us. Fred Willett came 3rd in the Cavendish 100 km race; Alec Smith has been placed 8th and had two 10th places. Bernard Tyrer has had a 10th and 19th, Tom Hale a 15th and Frank

Patterson a 12th place. Stan Harrison managed a 10th place finishing on a flat tyre that must have made sprinting somewhat interesting.

It was the comparative youth of many of our riders and the certainty of them being called up for Military Service that ensured a dropping of performance and ability to get to various venues. Some had already volunteered or were in the Territorial Army. Fortunately in this War we had a band of older men who would not let the Club die away as it did in the First World War. Added to this were some who had reserved occupations, especially those at the 'Acc & Tab'. (Later named Powers Sammas then ICT). These were developing computers, radar and bomb aimers for the Forces. All experimental and secret work but you would not have thought so when seeing them out on their bikes.

The Committee Meeting held on the 27th September was really to sort out what the Club's action should be. All Open events were cancelled, as were the Inter-Club events but not Club events. In fact the decision to run the Mayne Cup was only taken at that Meeting. It was also decided that as many members were likely to be called up 'vouchers' would be issued rather than prizes. Medals would be bought and presented at the Club Dinner or other suitable function. Trophy winners should return their cups to a Committee Member should they be 'called-up'. The Club magazine would be discontinued but a monthly circular be printed with club news. The Bulletin would cost members 2/- but be free for those in the Forces.

The first 'casualty' of the War as far as the Paragon was concerned was Fred Lee's Department being moved to Holmes Chapel. Having ones Treasurer some 200 miles away may make it easier to avoid him but doesn't help the Club's Finances. The solution was to get Frank Cleeve to act as local Treasurer to collect all moneys due to the Club and to liase with Fred on 'the Books'.

The entry of twenty-five was excellent considering the short notice for the Mayne Cup. It was not an easy day with heavy rain falling. Fred Willett was fastest on the day with 1.7.28 beating Stan Butler into 2nd place (1.8.03) and Bert Chapman into 3rd place (1.8.06). Cyril Melhuish was another 9" back in 1.8.15. The Handicap and man of the Day was a youth called Ron Tugwell, son of Ernie Tugwell. His 1.4.34 gave him a clear lead over D Greest (1.5.51) and Fred Koeppl (1.6.16). Koeppl was the first of 7 riders with Handicap times in the 1.6.00 bracket! The new President, Ernie Tugwell, had won the Mayne Cup in 1913 and 1931 so he was a very happy man that morning to see his eldest son put his name on the Cup

Stan Butler won the end of season Hill Climb in 2.03 with Bert Hockham 2nd (2.08) and Frank Patterson 3rd (2.10). The event was held in pouring rain.

The Catford Hill Climb (45th Annual Hill Climb Championship of England) was by now on Yorks Hill where it is still contested. The weather was rotten. Rain fell all the time and Yorks Hill in October is covered with dead leaves. If you cannot stay on the central ridge of the lane you come to a grinding halt with your back wheel skidding around and all forward movement gone. In 1939 R Gunn (Barnet) climbed the hill in 2.32.8 beating our own Fred Willett by just 1.8". Frank Patterson managed 2.53.0 and Stan Butler 3.4.0 for us to get 2nd Team. It must not have been a nice day as 20 riders failed to start and another 24 failed to finish! Stan wisely kept his

mudguards on and only started, with a streaming cold, because most of the Club riders had fallen over and failed to finish! Frank also had his photograph taken whilst climbing Yorks Hill and it appeared in 'The Bicycle' on November 25th.

On the Track the Results of the Club Championships were:- 550 yards Handicap 1st Val Lewis, 2nd Jim Parkes and 3rd Stan Harrison. The 550 yards Scratch 1st Jim Parkes, 2nd Stan Harrison and 3rd Val Lewis. A Motor-paced Championship was held and Stan Harrison won it from T Morgan and Albert Webb. The Bloodbath 5 miles Championship was a win for Ivor Cox, 2nd Jim Parkes and 3rd Stan Harrison.

Road Champion was Stan Butler with Alec Smith as Runner-up. The Track Champion was Jim Parkes with Ivor Cox as Runner-up. The Club Events Champion was Alec Smith and Bernard Tyrer was Runner-up.

The Frank Patterson Prize for the best Novice over 25 and 50 miles went to Stan Kent and the Bill Kite Prize for the fastest Novice at 100 miles went to Tommy Hale. The most improved rider on the Road was collected by Doug Perry. And the Club Runs Attendance Prize by J Shepherd. The Champion of Champions Trophy for the Freewheel Competition was won by Alan Gordon.

Standard Medals were not won in shoals as per usual. Jim Parkes collected the only Gold centres for his Tandem-paced 10 and 25 miles times. There were 10 Silver and 10 Bronze Medals awarded for other events.

19 Team races had been won in this curtailed season and 10 Open wins.

War had been declared on the 3rd September and for many men this was the last season they would have with the Club for over 6 years.

By the end of 1939 many members had been 'called up'. Those we are aware of are:- Frank Sisley, Royal Engineers at Lymnpe, Kent, Dennis Phillips and Fred Koeppel, Royal Artillery in Devizes, Bill Coales was learning wireless in the RAF. George Murray married Vera and then as he was a skilled printer was posted to the Royal Army Dental Corps at Aldershot (the connection is obvious isn't it?), Steve Beeden was in Exeter and Harry Robson in the Tank Corps, somewhere in England!

Monty Southall Royal Signals somewhere in France, Clive Singer, newly married and in the Artillery, Jack Mathner, Royal Fusiliers, Hounslow, Jim Hayes, Fleet Air Arm, Dick Kleckham, RN on HMS Rodney, Cliff Dore, RE (first Club member wounded – got knocked down in the blackout!), Doug Perry was in the Fire Service.

Tom Hale, RA, at Eastbourne, Charlie Armstrong, East Surrey Regt at Kingston, Ernie Cleeve, RAF, somewhere in England, Pete Allan with the RASC in France and Bill Hall, RA, also somewhere in England. Nineteen young men that we know about already in the services after just two months From this time Frank Patterson began his 'job' of keeping in touch with all those called to the Services. For six years he regularly corresponded and distributed the Club news. These letters are in the Club's Archives and a source of information to the writers of this History.

Although he was no longer a member the December Bulletin reported the death at Scapa Flow of Len Bydawell. Len sported a very short length of hair, a crewcut we would call it, and had therefore been christened 'Bowser' by Arthur Bristow. Len left the Club in 1937 to join the Navy.

The Club Dinner had been booked at Bush House in Central London but because of the Blackout and transport difficulties late at night it was decided to cancel the function rather than make a substantial loss.

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		12.3.39				
22	Entries	Medium Gear				
17	Starters					
13	Finishers					
1	Smith A	1.12.35	1	Hale T	5.45	1.08.45
2	Hale T	1.14.30	2	Armstrong C	5.00	1.10.50
3	Hayes J	1.15.07	3	Smith A	Scratch	1.12.35
4	Dore G	1.15.30	4	Hayes J	2.30	1.12.37
5	Armstrong C	1.15.50	5	Dore G	2.45	1.12.45
6	Cox I	1.15.57	6	Greenland F	8.00	1.12.49
7	Patterson FH	1.16.00	7	Patterson FH	2.45	1.13.15
8	Harrison S	1.17.22	8	Murray G	3.45	1.13.37
9	Murray G	1.17.22	9	Cox I	2.15	1.13.42
10	Cleeve FL	1.17.25	10	Cleeve FL	2.30	1.14.55
11	Mitchall SA	1.18.34	11	Mitchall SA	2.45	1.15.49
12	Greenland F	1.20.49	12	Harrison S	1.00	1.16.22
13	Wooton H	1.29.27	13	Wooton H	8.00	1.21.27
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		16.4.39				
21	Entries					
21	Starters					
18	Finishers					
1	Harrison S	1.10.38	1	Schultheiss J	6.00	1.06.39
2	Koepl F	1.10.51	2	Hale T	4.30	1.06.40
3	Hale T	1.11.10	3	Chard R	6.00	1.07.19
4	James E	1.11.25	4	Koepl F	2.15	1.08.36
5	Dudley K	1.12.06	5	Beeden S	7.00	1.08.44
6	Dore C	1.12.10	6	Greenland F	6.00	1.09.19
7	Schultheiss J	1.12.39	7	Wooton H	10.00	1.09.27
8	Chard R	1.13.19	8	Kent S	4.00	1.09.32
9	Kent S	1.13.22	9	James E	1.00	1.10.25
10	Thompson F	1.13.38	10	Harrison S	Scratch	1.10.38
11	Mitchall SA	1.14.40	11	Dore C	1.30	1.10.40
12	Hayes J	1.14.57	12	Dudley K	1.00	1.11.06
13	Greenland F	1.15.19	13	Thompson F	1.00	1.12.38
14	Robson H	1.15.31	14	Mitchall SA	1.30	1.13.10
15	Beeden S	1.15.44	15	Robson H	2.00	1.13.31
16	Dore G	1.16.10	16	Hayes J	0.30	1.14.27
17	Wooton H	1.19.27	17	Dore G	1.30	1.14.40
18	Goring J	1.26.21	18	Goring J	3.30	1.22.51

	Scratch Result	30 h/c		Handicap Result		
		21.6.39				
19	Entries	Medium Gear				
19	Starters					
18	Finishers					
1	Sharp A	1.18.20	1	Kent S	9.00	1.14.02
2	James E	1.22.23	2	Drage N	12.00	1.14.05
3	Kent S	1.23.02	3	Beeden S	11.00	1.14.15
4	Sisley F	1.23.47	4	Armstrong C	8.00	1.16.26
5	Thompson F	1.23.59	5	Chard R	9.00	1.16.41
6	Goring J	1.24.03	6	Sisley F	7.00	1.16.47
7	Armstrong C	1.24.26	7	Goring J	7.00	1.17.03
8	Beeden S	1.25.15	8	Tugwell R	10.00	1.17.13
9	Gates L	1.25.16	9	James E	4.45	1.17.38
10	Chard R	1.25.41	10	Sharp A	Scratch	1.18.20
11	Schultheiss J	1.25.46	11	Thompson F	5.30	1.18.29
12	Drage N	1.26.05	12	Schultheiss J	7.00	1.18.46
13	Mitchall SA	1.26.43	13	Greenland F	10.00	1.18.58
14	Tugwell R	1.27.13	14	Mitchall SA	5.30	1.21.13
15	Koepl F	1.27.51	15	Gates L	3.00	1.22.16
16	Greenland F	1.28.58	16	Wooton H	12.00	1.23.04
17	Wooton H	1.35.04	17	Koepl F	4.00	1.23.58
18	Gunning J	1.43.03	18	Gunning J	11.00	1.32.03
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		25.6.39		Fryco Cup		
24	Entries					
24	Starters					
18	Finishers					
1	Sharp A	2.15.34	1	Robson H	12.00	2.12.03
2	Kent S	2.21.49	2	Greenland F	19.00	2.12.20
3	Butcher S	2.22.33	3	Beeden S	12.00	2.13.52
4	Robson H	2.24.03	4	Kent S	7.00	2.14.49
5	Smith A	2.24.31	5	Sharp A	Scratch	2.15.34
6	Patterson FH	2.25.44	6	Patterson FH	9.00	2.16.44
7	Beeden S	2.25.52	7	James E	8.30	2.18.08
8	James E	2.26.38	8	Sisley F	8.30	2.18.08
9	Sisley F	2.26.38	9	Hale T	9.00	2.18.44
10	Hale T	2.27.44	10	Pearce J	10.00	2.18.46
11	Pearce J	2.28.46	11	Butcher S	2.00	2.20.33
12	Tyrer B	2.29.27	12	Tyrer B	7.30	2.21.57
13	Greenland F	2.31.20	13	Smith A	2.00	2.22.31
14	Goring J	2.32.35	14	Goring J	8.30	2.24.05
15	Morgan T	2.33.49	15	Hoy RJ	11.00	2.24.27
16	Hoy RJ	2.35.27	16	Morgan T	5.00	2.28.49
17	Dore G	2.44.11	17	Gunning J	20.00	2.29.14
18	Gunning J	2.49.14	18	Dore G	10.00	2.34.11
	Scratch Result	100 h/c		Handicap Result		
		30.7.39		Goss Green Cup		
14	Entries					
14	Starters					
10	Finishers					
1	Thompson F	5.04.53		Thompson F	14.00	4.50.53
2	Smith A	5.05.18	1	Tyrer B	18.00	4.54.44

3	Koepl F	5.06.21	2	Koepl F	5.00	5.01.21
4	Morgan T	5.08.42	3	Goring J	15.00	5.02.59
5	Tyrer B	5.12.44	4	Morgan T	5.00	5.03.42
6	Hoy RJ	5.16.11	5	Smith A	Scratch	5.05.18
7	Goring J	5.17.59	6	Wooton H	30.00	5.05.55
8	Hale T	5.20.56	7	Hale T	15.00	5.05.56
9	Hayes J	5.23.31	8	Hoy RJ	9.00	5.07.11
10	Wooton H	5.35.55	9	Hayes J	16.00	5.07.31
	Scratch Result	12 hours		Handicap Result		
		h/c		Rotherham Cup		
6	Entries	13.8.39				
6	Starters					
6	Finishers					
1	Tyrer B	213.75	1	Hoy RJ	15.00	225.25
2	Hoy RJ	210.25	2	Wooton H	25.00	221.88
3	Wooton H	196.88	3	Gunning J	28.00	219.75
4	Smith A	196.25	4	Tyrer B	5.00	218.75
5	Gunning J	191.75	5	Hayes J	17.00	207.13
6	Hayes J	190.13	6	Smith A	Scratch	196.25
	Scratch Result	Hill Climb				
		15.10.39				
7	Entries					
7	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Butler SM	2.03				
2	Hockham AE	2.08				
3	Patterson FH	2.10				
4	Armstrong C	2.19				
5	Tugwell R	2.28				
6	Hayes J	2.33				
7	Hale T	2.35				
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		1.10.39				
25	Entries			Mayne Cup		
22	Starters					
22	Finishers					
1	Willett F	1.07.28	1	Tugwell R	8.00	1.04.34
2	Butler SM	1.08.03	2	Greest D	7.00	1.05.51
3	Chapman H	1.08.06	3	Koepl F	4.30	1.06.16
4	Melhuish C	1.08.15	4	Butler SM	1.45	1.06.18
5	Hockham AE	1.09.09	5	Dudley K	5.15	1.06.36
6	Smith A	1.09.29	6	Beeden S	5.00	1.06.45
7	Koepl F	1.10.46	7	Chard R	6.00	1.06.46
8	Beeden S	1.11.45	8	Willett F	0.30	1.06.58
9	Dudley K	1.11.51	9	Smith A	2.30	1.06.59
10	Hayes J	1.12.05	10	Chapman H	1.00	1.07.06
11	Armstrong C	1.12.16	11	Armstrong C	5.00	1.07.16
12	Tugwell R	1.12.34	12	Hockham AE	1.45	1.07.24
13	Chard R	1.12.46	13	Hayes J	4.30	1.07.35
14	Greest D	1.12.51	14	Goring J	6.00	1.07.45
15	Goring J	1.13.45	15	Melhuish C	Scratch	1.08.15

16	Kent S	1.13.48	16	Kent S	4.30	1.09.18
17	Tyrer B	1.13.55	17	Tyrer B	4.00	1.09.55
18	Patterson FH	1.15.37	18	Patterson FH	4.30	1.10.07
19	Sams F	1.16.51	19	Sams F	4.00	1.12.51
20	Hale T	1.18.41	20	Hale T	5.00	1.13.41
21	Robson H	1.21.13	21	Drage N	7.30	1.15.42
22	Drage N	1.23.12	22	Robson H	4.45	1.16.28