

1956

The January Blah tells us that Mickey Vickers and Brian Newcombe rode the Ealing Manor Christmas '25'. They recorded 1.4.21 and 1.7.30 respectively and sooner than us!

The first man in action in 1956 was Chris Gray who went round the Balham Rough riders '25' in 2.14.39 for 16th place. The following week Pete Wall endeavoured to finish the Castlenau Medium gear '25' in 1.37 something and to collect the Hat-trick of bad Sundays on the 4th March the Club '25' was cancelled! This was the third year in succession that the Medium Gear had suffered at Mother Nature's hands. In 1954 it snowed, in 1955 there was torrential rain and this year we had rain, sleet and wind together making the roads more puddles than tarmac. In fairness it should be added that 2 riders did in fact turn up to race. Their names are not recorded probably to shield them from accusations of insanity rather than to spare their blushes!

However this could not last and it is pleasing to report that Robin Buchan started as he meant to go with 2nd place in the SCCU '25' in 1.2.31. Les Ingman was 5th in 1.4.37 and with John Gallo finishing in 1.6.31 the Paragon won the Team race. Wally Happy had a bad day losing time at the Start to finish in 1.27.59. We don't think he will want us to remind him of this ride! John Llewellyn also started his campaign with a 1.5.38 ride in the Dartford Medium Gear '25'. Ron Stempfer, Gerry Pearl and Jim Peacock rode the first Archer Grand Prix that was not a promotional success (but the organisers did learn) and all three were placed equal eight in the main bunch,



*Brian Stocking nearest, and Les Ingman furthest from camera.
Les was later in the year to become the National Hill Climb Champion.*

March 18th was the Kentish Wheelers Novices '25' – always a happy hunting ground for the Paragon. But this year the number of spectators was far greater than usual. For once the ability of the main protagonists were known in advance and they were Robin Gambrell, brother to Mike Gambrell (Clarence Whs, Norman Hill brother to Dave Hill (Kentish Whs) and Keith Butler (Norwood Paragon) son of Stan. Clubmates of the three of them had suffered during the winter training runs and were intrigued to know the just how fast these three lads could go as well as the result of the race. This was going to be a Novices 25' with a vengeance! It was a calm but

cool morning with the sun doing its best to shine through the clouds. All three turned at the Cherry Tree Pub around 31.30 but on the way back Norman Hill pulled out those extra seconds to pass the Timekeeper in 1.3.41 to win the race. Seventeen seconds slower and in 2nd place was 1.3.58 was Keith Butler and 3rd with just over 1.4 was Robin Gambrill. Excellent rides by all three youngsters and the times recorded took Hill and Butler into top class competition after their first race as they were now too fast for the usual Middlemarker's events. The result of the 'Novices' was the first indication of the talents that were to earn both of them International Honours plus amateur and professional National Championships in the future. Keith was backed up by Bob Chittenden, 1.7.11, and Chris Paxton, 1.8.15, to take the Team Race. Other Paragon rides were by Len Saunders, 1.8.18, Brian Amsdell, 1.9.31, and a 1.20.58 from Alan Bristow, (son of Arthur). Alan is still dining out on that ride in 2004. He was amongst the leaders at the Cherry Tree but paid dearly on the return. The long ride out from Hither Green to Earlswood Common to arrive far too early for his start meant that his breakfast calories ran out on the Crawley by-pass! He was, thankfully, to make amends for that ride in the future.

The fourth Brighton road race was held the same day but it clashed with the Veterans Motor Cycle run from Tattenham Corner to Brighton so the Madeira Drive Finish was denied us. This year partly because of the Motorcycles and to make the race longer and perhaps more difficult the course was changed. From Purley the course went down the A22 over the Caterham bypass then through Godstone and East Grinstead. It then went over Wych Cross and through Uckfield (with its level crossing) to Polegate. Here it turned towards the South Downs climbing up through Jevington. At the top of the Down the course descended to Exeat then went up and over to Seaford before following the coast road to Newhaven. Over the level crossing by the harbour and then the hard climb out of the town onto the coast road to Brighton. We have no record of the race except that the winner was Doug Collins (Army CU) from Mike Dowling (VC Aquila), Don Forrester (34th Nomads), Ted Gerrard (Barnet), Owen Blower (Leicester) and Dave Smith (Midland)

Next week was the Jim Fox '25' and a chance for Robin Buchan to show his paces. A convincing 2-minute win in 1.0.08 was an indication of his fitness. Colin Dennis was 2nd in 1.2.18 and Ron Palmer 3rd in 1.3.26. Colin took the Handicap in 56.18 from Len Saunders, 59.12, and Alan Bristow, 59.13. Alan had made amends for his ride in the Kentish Wheelers Novices with a far faster 1.7.13.

Pete Smith and Don Ward won the Madison at the Good Friday Meeting at Portsmouth. At Herne Hill Robin Buchan was 4th in the Curacho Wheel 10 minutes pursuit. On the Isle of Wight Brian Quinton won the 'B' Event and the Paragon were second in the Team competition.

The following week was Easter and Robin was a few seconds slower but won the Fountain '25' in 1.0.13. Backed up by Brian Newcombe, 1.4.30, and Keith Butler 1.5.04, the Paragon won the Team race. Alan Bristow was the only other finisher from the Club with 1.7.19. On the Monday Brian Newcombe rode the Actonia '25' and finished in 1.5.0. Robin Buchan rode the ECCA '25' and recorded 1.1.25. The Polo A Team beat Croydon Aces 8 – 3 and the B Team beat Yiewsley 9 – 0.

On the 8th April we had five riders in the Apollo Middlemarkers '25' and two of them managed to have late starts. Alan Bristow was our fastest rider with a personal best of 1.6.29; Terry Dixon did 1.6.43, Len Saunders 1.7.45 (37" late), Pete Wall 1.10.20 and Paul Jaeger 1.11.52 (2.35 late). Robin Buchan finished the WLCA '25' in 1.0.05 for 3rd place but John Gallo only did 1.5.16 and Wally Happy a 1.15.08 after losing 11.25 at the Start. (That makes it three late starts on one day!)

A Junior '10' was held on the 15th April when Keith Butler won comfortably with a 25.34 ride. In 2nd place was Len Saunders, 27.16, and 3rd was Les Black, 27.55. The 'Big boys' rode the Bec '25' that resulted in another win for Robin Buchan with a 1.0.11. Everyone else in the Club was at least 4 minutes slower! Chris Gray did 1.4.36, Brian Stocking 1.4.57, Brian Newcombe 1.5.21, Mickey Vickers 1.5.40 and John Gallo 1.5.50. Les Ingman rode the Bath Road Hilly '50'. Somehow he managed to lose 6.40 in the first 23 miles of the event going through that point in 16th place. By the 42 miles mark he had moved up to 9th spot 10.01 behind the winner Ron Jowers (Twickenham). He put in a storming finish to gain time on Jowers towards the end closing to 9.32 and climbing another place to 8th. His time was 2.17.13. The winner Ron Jowers took 2.7.41. What did happen to Les in those early miles?

It was another quiet day on the 22nd April. Robin Buchan rode in the Hitchin Nomads '25' finishing with a 59.57 whilst his teammates were much slower. Mickey Vickers did 1.4.45 and Wally Happy was 5 seconds further back. Five riders had been accepted for the Clarence Whs Middlemarkers '25'. Of these Brian Vallack was the fastest with 1.9.03. Len Saunders did 1.9.23, Brian Amsdell 1.9.58, Dave Paxton 1.10.50 and Bob Chittenden 1.11.20. Ron Palmer finished with a 2.12 in the Mercury '50'. Brian Quinton and Ron Stempfner were 5th in the Crest road race Madison at Stapleford Tawney. In the second category event Vic Boreham won 7 primes and then crashed!

On the 29th April the race for the Dave London Trophy was held. Fastest time was by Wally Happy with 1.17.31 with Chris Gray in 2nd place, 1.17.53 and Brian Stocking 3rd in 1.19.32. Brian Vallack took the Trophy with 7 minutes allowance for a nett 1.16.33. 2nd was Malcolm Vallack, 1.16.49 and 3rd Wally Happy, 1.17.01. Those riding Open events did not fair very well. Only Brian Newcombe finished the Oxford City '25' in 1.4.52 and only Mickey Vickers finished the Brentwood '25' with a 1.2 ride.

The Polo A Team won the Croydon Winter League with Bob Reddin, Maurice Taylor, Charlie Watkins, Alec Bird, Len Stanyard and Dave Benjafield.

The Organiser of the Uxbridge Whs Junior '25' must have had a wicked sense of humour as he placed the first two riders in the Kentish Wheelers Novice a minute apart – the winner, Norman Hill, a minute behind Keith Butler! The rivalry produced two personal bests of 1.2.15 (4th) for Norman and 1.2.11 (3rd) for Keith. However Chris Gray put both of them in their place by producing a 1.1.35 only eclipsed by Paul Bennett (Watford) who won in 1.1.03. Len Saunders finished in 1.7.42 and Brian Amsdell 1.7.50. Wally Happy was our only rider in the North Bucks '25' with a 1.1.34 whilst the other fast men went down to the New Forest for the Bournemouth

Arrow '25'. Robin Buchan was our fastest rider with a 59.12 followed by Alan Large 1.0.36, Les Ingman 1.1.30 and Mickey Vickers 1.2.11.

Chris produced more of the medicine in the Junior '15' on the 13th May by winning in 37.35. Keith Butler was 2nd in 37.47 and F Peaking 3rd in 39.47. The older fellas were in the SCCU '25' where Robin Buchan collected 2nd prize with a 59.42. Wally Happy finished in 1.2.7 and Mickey Vickers 1.2.25. Another team went over to the Dover Road to ride the Gravesend '25'. Brian Newcombe was our fastest with 1.5.16, Ron Palmer 1.6.11 and Alan Bristow 1.7.23. No prizes were won. John Pocock, 2.11.21, and Brian Stocking, 2.13.01 both finished the Catford '50' but collected no awards. The Polo Team played their archrivals Solihull, at Solihull, and won 9 – 5. Bob Reddin scored 5 and Charlie Watkins 4 goals.

The Paragon trio of Butler, Bristow and Newcombe took themselves off to Biggleswade for the Beds Road CC '25' on the 20th May. Brian and Keith were feeling a bit sore, as both of them had been involved in an accident at Merstham whilst out training. However they persevered. Keith came home with a 1.2.58 for 19th place; Alan Bristow produced a personal best of 1.5.52 and Brian 1.6.14. No prizes were won. Robin Buchan finished the Bellingham '25' in 2nd place with 58.36 but only had Mickey Vickers in support with a 1.2.30. The next day Mickey came 2nd in the Caterham '50' with a 2.8.35 and although backed by Chris Gray, 2.11.40, and John Pocock, 2.12.45, the Paragon did not win the Team race.

On the 27th May a team rode in the Planet '25' on a miserable day on a fairly bumpy course. Vic Gibbons (Brentwood) won in 59.09 so it could not have been that bad. However Chris Gray produced a 1.2.18 for 12th place, Keith Butler 1.4.21 for 20th and Brian Newcombe 1.4.45 for 32nd. Back on southern roads the Walter Moon '50' was being held. Of our Club riders involved John Gallo and Brian Stocking had a fine ding-dong with John coming out on top with a 2.11.47 to Brian's 2.12.20. John Smart was 3rd fastest with 2.19.30. The Paragon was second team on scratch times. Brian Stocking with a nett 2.6.35 leaving him some 5 minutes clear of John Smart, 2.11.45 and John Gallo 2.11.47. Another Team race came our way in the Middlesex Clarion '25. Robin Buchan was fastest in 58.17 with Alan Large doing a 1.1 and Mickey Vickers a 1.2 the prize was ours.

Messrs Buchan, Large and Llewellyn went off to the National Championship '25' hoping to do a repeat of 1955 but had to swallow their disappointment. Robin finished in 58.21, Alan Large 1.0.16 and John Llewellyn 1.2.23. Mickey Vickers brought some cheer to the Paragon by winning the Brighton Mitre '50' in 2.7.18. The team that rode the ECCA '50' were not so fortunate. John Gallo finished in 2.10.23, Brian Newcombe 2.11.29 and Harry Corby 2.30.23. In the 100kms race at Lee-on-Solent Gerry Pearl came 3rd and John Gallo 6th.

Six Paragon riders entered the Prestonville Nomads'25' at Shoreham on the 10th June. Chris Gray was our fastest coming 2nd with a 1.1.42. Keith Butler was 18th in 1.3.43 and Brian Newcombe finished in 1.4.23 for the Club to take 2nd Team. Alan Bristow finished in 1.5.44. John Pocock recorded 1.10.10 after breaking a rear spindle with his first push and he then lost 5 minutes changing a wheel with Alan. Star of the show was Bob Shepperd who managed to forget his shoes. Nowhere could he find a pair of size 15 cycling shoes at 6am on a Sunday! Strange that! Robin Buchan and

Mickey Vickers rode the De Laune '25' with Robin finishing with 59.57 for 2nd place and Mickey 1.3 something. The Club riders were more successful in the Surrey Road Middlemarkers when Gerry Pearl came 2nd only 30 seconds down on the winner with a 1.4.40. Ron Stempfer was 3rd with a 1.4.55. Unfortunately the 3rd man did not start so no Team race win was possible.

On the 12th June the Track Secretary reported that Paragon riders had won 14 races this year so far. Colin Dennis won the Dunlop Novices Cup but then had to retire from racing through ill health. Robin Buchan won the Roadman's '25' from Mick Gambrell (Clarence) with Don Ward in 3rd place after the three of them had lapped the field. Wally Happy won two races behind the Vespa motors at the Televised Meeting (that he wasn't supposed to!) and another behind tandems at Portsmouth that he deserved. John Barclay came 3rd in the 880 yards and Joe Merry 3rd in the 5 miles event at the North Midds & Herts Meeting. Brian Stocking won the Charlotteville '5' miles. He also reported that Ron Stretton won a 100 miles Madison in Delhi on a 10 laps to the mile track with 55 degree bankings! At the SCCU road race Championships at Brands Hatch Gerry Pearl came 6th in the Senior race with the Paragon winning the Team race whilst Brian Quinton won the Junior Championship.

The Purley to Brighton was not a good day. It rained continuously all of Saturday and into the early hours of Sunday morning and there was to be a headwind all the way. Twenty-six names were on the start list but only 11 souls turned up outside the Waterworks at Purley (Now Tesco's). Don Ward showed his class by winning in 1.36.32 from Chris Gray, 1.39.01, and Keith Butler, 1.41.23. Len Saunders took the Handicap in 1.35.28 from Paul Jaegar, 1.36.30, and Chris Gray, 1.36.31. Brian Quinton and Ron Stempfer rode the Sorian '30' and finished with times of 1.17.40 and 1.18.35 respectively. Gerry Pearl went a little better with a 1.17.24 that collected 2nd on handicap. Down on the south coast Robin Buchan claimed half of 3rd place prize in the Chichester '50' when he tied on 2.5.25 with an unknown rider. Brian Newcombe finished in 2.14.16 and Mickey Vickers in 2.10 but there is a note against his name that he was disqualified although no reason is given.

Robin Buchan continued his fine form by producing a 1.59.57 for 5th place in the National Championship '50' to set a new Club Record. Chris Gray was our only other finisher with a 2.4.21 ride. Five Paragon riders entered for the Cambrian Whs '25' to be held on the A2 – a course that included the mile long climb of Swanscombe Cutting after 23 miles. It is an indication of the change in traffic and road surfaces that in 1956 this course was considered one of the slowest in the area. With improved road surface, road widening and a huge increase in traffic flow this course became one of the fastest in the country. It was finally banned. You cannot race fairly on what had become, in all bar name, a motorway. However four of the hard men of 1956 finished the course. Keith Butler was 9th in 1.3.47, Brian Stocking finished in 1.4.48, Ron Palmer, 1.6.07, and Brian Newcombe, 1.6.33.

The Polo Team came 2nd in the Summer League and lost to the Clarencourt in the Finals of the Surrey Cup. In the new George Brake Memorial Tournament our A Team of Bob Rediin, Len Stanyard, Alec Bird and Charlie Watkins took the Trophy

On the 1st July Robin continued his winning ways by taking the Kingston '25' in 58.30. Chris Gray finished in 1.2.14 and Brian Newcombe 1.4.01. A Junior handicap '10' was held and this resulted in a win for Keith Butler in 24.06. Len Saunders was 2nd in 25.19 and Les Black 3rd in 26.06. The Handicap went to Len in 23.19 from Les, 23.36, and Keith 24.06. The Club had another team in the Lancing '25' but other than that Bruce Smith did a 1.7 and both Pete Wall and Geoff Osborne did 1.10s no further details are available.

The Polo team beat Crystal Palace in the semi-finals of the Surrey Cup 7 –5.

The following weekend saw Robin Buchan again in Record Breaking form. This time it was the Rosebank '30'. A superb time of 1.9.15 that both won the race and set a new Club Record. Keith Butler and John Pocock were driven down by Stan Butler to ride the Southampton Whs '25' restricted to riders that had not previously beaten 1.2.00. Keith produced the goods but with a stroke of good fortune only equalled his father's best time of 1.2.04 to win the race. After all it is quite a long ride back from the New Forest on your own. John Pocock was 19th in 1.4.55. Chris Gray came 3rd in the Welbeck '25' with a 1.2.36 ride and we also had a team in the Kent RC (1.4.00 limit) '25'. Terry Dixon was our fastest rider with a 1.4.55; Len Saunders produced a 1.5.23 and Brian Amsdell 1.6.50.

Our Evening Track Meeting at Herne Hill on the 4th July did not get a warm and sunny afternoon. It was grey and overcast with prospects for rain that, fortunately, did not materialise. It did mean though that the crowd was small and a profit would not be made on the 'Gate'. The Meeting opened with the Heats for the Club 550 yards handicap. In Heat 1 the qualifiers were Doug Godfrey, Keith Butler and Don Ward whilst from Heat 2 came Pete Smith, Robin Buchan and John Barclay. The Final went to Pete Smith from Don Ward and 3rd was Robin Buchan. Of the Scratch Sprint for the AEU Cup we cannot find a full result other than it was won by Gerry Edmunds. Gerry also won the 5 miles Scratch from Pete Smith with Joe Merry in 3rd place. The George Colget Cup for the Points Prize was taken by Don Ward. In the Open Meeting Pete Brotherton (Poly) won the 800 yards handicap from Mick Armstrong (Catford) with J Darroch (De Laune) in 3rd place. The final race, the 10 miles Point to Point was taken by Brotherton with 55 points from John Winter (Poly) 41 points and R Smith (Willesden) 33 points.

The Goss Green '100' had only two finishers with John Gallo just getting the verdict from John Pocock 4.40.25 to 4.40.50. Chris Gray and Brian Newcombe rode the Sydenham Whs '25'. Chris finished with a 1.0.50 and Brian 1.4.10.

The Club had a team of Juniors in the National Junior Road Race Championship held at Goodwood Motor Racing circuit. Les Black, Alan Crawley, John Mesurier and Keith Butler lined up for the title. Keith Butler punctured on the 3rd lap, John waited for him after a bike change but could not hold Keith's wheel. Keith gave up the chase after 31 miles but the other two finished. The records do not give their positions.

There was a tremendous storm on the morning of the 29th July that probably has something to do with the fact that only four riders met the Timekeeper for the Portsmouth Road '25' from 14 entries. Chris Gray once again beat Keith Butler. Chris finished in 1.2.06, Keith in 1.2.59. John Pocock crossed the line in 1.5.48

whilst Alan Baxendine managed 1.6.23 after sliding off at one of the Guildford roundabouts. Keith did, however, take the Handicap from Chris 1.1.59 to 1.2.06. In his diary Keith noted that he rode without shoe plates. You can do this with toe clips and straps but it is impossible with today's fashion of having shoes attached to the pedals. The Polo Team entertained the Solihull in a return match on Purley Way and thrashed them 10 – 0.

The 5th August was the day of the Club Open '50'. With Robin Buchan unable to start the race (He had been asked to present himself at the Trials for the Olympic Games Team) it was wide open. However we did get a nice surprise as Chris Gray rose to the occasion and tied for 1st place with Marsh (Shaftesbury) with a 2.4.05 ride. A personal best as well! The rest of the team were not so fortunate. Wally Happy finished in 2.9.47, John Pocock took 2.16.35 with a puncture and John Gallo lost 5.25 at the Start but finished in 2.17.07. The Eastbourne Rovers took the Team Award. Messrs Butler, Newcombe and Bristow took a long weekend to Essex for the Herts and Essex Whs '25'. Whilst finishing way behind the winner, Eric Beauchamp (Crescent) 57.52, both Keith and Alan produced personal best rides. Keith reduced his figures to 1.1.48 and Alan to 1.4.58. Brian punctured both tubs and his spare. He failed to record a time and we shall gloss over his comments. Nearer home the team in the Camberley Whs finished with these times – Brian Amsdell 1.6.33, Geoff Osborne 1.10.40 and Pete Wall 1.12.08. Ken Knapman was 4th in the 100kms event at Stapleford Tawney. Ron Stempfer came 4th in a 100kms race at Lee-on-Solent.

On the 12th August along the Cherry Tree Course was the Redmon '30'. Chris Gray collected a 3rd place with 1.14.13 just beating Alan Large, 1.14.14. Keith Butler was in 12th place with a 1.15.55 and the Paragon collected the Team race. Five others rode the Eltham Paragon '25'. The times recorded are Brian Newcombe 1.5.5, John Pocock 1.6.59, Alan Bristow 1.7.11, Alan Baxendine 1.8.36 and Len Saunders 1.8.38. Gerry Pearl came 16th in the International Folkestone to London road race.

In truly awful weather the Paragon nevertheless put together a successful promotion of road racing on the Ashdown Forest circuit. It was made all worthwhile when Alan Large crossed the line in 1st place beating his breakaway companion Ron Jones (Dulwich Paragon) by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length. In 3rd place 2'32" behind came D Simms (Kingston RC), Jim Hinds (Southern Roads) and L Halsay (Archer). Time for the race was 3.25.02.

The Track Secretary reported in the September Blah the following result – 1st National Team Pursuit Championship (A Large, R Buchan, D Ward and W Happy). No banner headlines not even Christian names, no details, just the bald statement as if it were a foregone conclusion. What did he not bother to report? This was the fifth time the Norwood Paragon had won this title and no other club has won it so often. They produced a 4 minutes 52.4 second ride in the Final that was the fastest ever done by a club team and may we emphasize the word TEAM. They beat their archrivals the Polytechnic by 0.1 of a second (about 3 yards in layman's terms). It was a tremendous ride.

He then goes on to list other successes. 1st London Centre Team pursuit Championship (no names given), 1st London Centre Individual Pursuit – Robin

Buchan for the 3rd year. 1st London Centre 10 miles Championship – Don Ward. 2nd London Centre Sprint Championship – Gerry Edmunds but all without details.

The London Centre Champions were the same lads who won the National Title. Don Ward was off to New Zealand shortly after the end of the season so his 10 miles Championship was his swan song but fits very nicely with his National Championship jersey and medal. Robin Buchan won the London Centre Pursuit Title but also won the 25 miles Roadman's Scratch race with Don Ward in 3rd place.

The club fast men went down to the Farnham-Alton road for the Farnborough '25' on the 19th August. At that time this was Competition Record course. While it had little traffic and was far from straight it was extremely well sheltered with high hedges. The course rose gently all the way from just outside Farnham and through Alton to the turn near East Tisted. Its strength was that you very often had a rising southwesterly wind that funnelled itself down the valley for an extremely fast return. 1956 was no exception with Ron Jowers (Twickenham) winning in 57.30. Robin Buchan finished in 58.33, Don Ward 59.51 and Chris Gray 1.1.34 to collect 2nd Team. Keith Butler, who started 3 minutes in front of Don Ward, had the misfortune to collect a slow puncture and spent the last 5 miles trying to keep in front of Don and at the same time stay upright around the many bends. He finished in 1.2.38, 13 seconds before Don and still upright. Brian Newcombe was our other finisher in 1.5.13. Another Team race was won in the Kingston Phoenix '25'. Alan Bristow finished in 2nd place with 1.4.22 and Ron Stempfer in 1.4.56. They collected both 1st and 2nd on handicap. Making up the Team was Len Saunders with a 1.6 ride.

August 26th saw four riders from the Paragon riding the Upper Holloway '30' on the North Road at Biggleswade. Keith Butler managed 4th place and 1st handicap with a 1.14.40 at last beating Chris Gray over a shorter distance event. Chris recorded 1.16.46, Alan Bristow 1.21.25 and Len Saunders 1.22.38. (Although it was Keith's first season of racing this time was to prove his best ever at 30 miles so little did this distance figure in his racing calendar). Alan Baxendine went down to the New Forest for the Southampton '50' and came in with a 2.18.28. Len Saunders did a 1.3.57 in the ECCA '25' than won him a 4th on handicap medal.

September 2nd was the Fryco Cup '50'; another wet morning and Keith Butler's 18th birthday. His mother, Ann, wrote on his birthday card "Here's to a 2.8.59" knowing Keith wanted to beat his old schoolmate John Fisher who had done a 2.9 for his first '50'. Always a dutiful son (?) Keith did just that - a 2.8.59 to win both the Cup and the Handicap. (Stan is on record as saying that his wife would have been burnt at the stake in earlier days!) John Pocock was 2nd in 2.12.16 and Alan Baxendine was 3rd in 2.14.30. 2nd on Handicap was Len Saunders, 2.9.57, and John Pocock, 2.12.16, was 3rd. Robin Buchan was 3rd in the Becontree Whs '25' with a 59.20. John Gallo finished the Watford RC '100' in 4.41.34.

The bad weather persisted on the 9th September and left John Gallo the only finisher in the Rotherham Cup 12 hour with 230.67 miles but it was enough to ensure he took the Club Championships. John Pocock was forced to retire after 150 miles when he punctured and was too cold to change his tyre. Robin Buchan collected another 3rd place in the 29th Whs '25' with a 58.45. Alan Large came home in 1.2.26 including a stop with a puncture and Les Ingman completed the course in 1.3.12. We also had

three riders in the ECCA '25'. Len Saunders was fastest of these and his 1.3.57 was good enough for him to collect 4th place medal. Alan Baxendine finished with a 1.5 and Brian Newcombe a 1.6.

The Old Portlians Tandem '30' came around again on the 16th September. This year Robin Buchan teamed up with Les Ingman and they went round the course in 1.3.44 for 3rd place. Gerry Edmunds partnered by Armstrong (Catford) was timed in at 1.6.52 whilst John Pocock paired up with Tony Kerss (Clarencourt) to record 1.9.19 with a puncture. Len Saunders did 1.6.0 in the Anerley (1.4.0 limit) '25'.

As a pleasant change to round up the season an Inter-Club '25' was held against the Kentish Wheelers. The fastest 6 men from each Club were to count. The best Paragon riders were Robin Buchan with a new course record of 59.43, Chris Gray, 1.1.53, Keith Butler, 1.2.16, Les Ingman, 1.2.53, Alan Baxendine, 1.5.05, and Len Saunders 1.5.52. These times were sufficient to beat the KWs by 11 minutes – 6.18.37 to 6.29.21. Ted Clarke won the Paragon side of the Handicap in 59.04 with Alan Baxendine 2nd in 59.05 and Keith Butler 3rd in 59.31. John Gallo went off by himself to ride the Hounslow '25' that he completed in 1.2.37.

The last Junior event of the season was held on the 30th September but had only two starters. Brian Vallack, 41.13, beat his brother Malcolm, 41.33. The bigger boys were riding the Redhill '50'. Tony Kerss (Clarencourt) won the race in 2.5.04. He had won this race on a number of occasions both before and after he realised the error of his ways and joined the Paragon. On this day Robin Buchan was reduced to 2nd place with 2.5.21, Chris Gray was 4th in 2.5.53, Les Ingman 5th in 2.6.14 and Keith Butler 7th in 2.7.27. John Gallo also finished in 2.10.07. Keith's ride was a personal best which also netted him the 2nd Handicap prize. Messrs Buchan, Gray and Ingman collected the Team race. Another three lads were riding the SCCU '25' and they were Alan Baxendine 1.3.31, Alan Bristow 1.4.53 and Brian Newcombe a 1.7.

On the 6th October 15 riders faced the Timekeeper for the Mayne Cup '25' and on a freezing cold morning Robin Buchan again showed his superiority winning in 1.1.56. In 2nd place was Keith Butler, 1.3.36, and 3rd was Chris Gray 1.4.13. Man of the Day was Brian Vallack whose 8 minutes allowance had given him a nett 59.50 to beat his father John by 28 seconds. Brian Amsdell was 3rd in 1.0.41.

Ranmore Common was the venue for the Hillclimb and a work-out for Les Ingman who climbed, seemingly without effort, to win in 3.50. Robin Buchan came 2nd 25 seconds adrift with Brian Amsdell 3rd in 4.25. That this ride was a warm-up for the Catford Hill Climb showed result the following week. In this race Les gave an indication of his true class by climbing Yorks Hill in 2.2.0 for 3rd place. Other Paragon times were – Robin Buchan 2.21.3, Chris Gray 2.29.4, Alan Large 2.36.3, Brian Quinton 2.47.1 and Jim Peacock 2.53.1.

Going one step higher Les Ingman then rode the National Hill Climb Championship on Saintbury Hill, Gloucestershire, – and WON IT with a time of 6.13.8. Robin Buchan finished in 7.16 and Alan Large in 7.16.

Although Robin was ask to attend the Olympic trials and the Pursuit Squad won the National Championship none of them were asked to attend even though they

consistently produced fast times. It left a bad taste in the mouth. One should always invite the Champions to a selection process to measure them against your other possible contenders. There can then be no backbiting if the individuals concerned do not measure up to the standards required. Other successes during the year for which we have no dates include 2nd in the Brighton Sash by Gerry Edmunds, 1st in the Monday Competition Pursuit Final – Don Ward. 34 1st places and 40 2nd and 3rd places during the season. Also mentioned in bold type – Gerry Edmunds did not fall off this year!

John Gallo won both the Open Events Championship and the Club Events Championship for 1956. Keith Butler took the Junior Championship with the fastest speed ever recorded. Len Saunders took 2nd place. Ron Stempfer took the Massed Start Championship from Gerry Pearl and Ken Knapman.

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Jim Fox Cup				
11	Entries	25.3.56				
11	Starters					
10	Finishers					
1	Buchan R	1.00.08	1	Dennis C	6.00	0.56.18
2	Dennis C	1.02.18	2	Saunders L	8.30	0.59.12
3	Palmer R	1.03.26	3	Bristow AA	8.00	0.59.13
4	Newcombe B	1.03.52	4	Newcombe B	4.30	0.59.22
5	Butler KS	1.04.21	5	Butler KS	4.45	0.59.36
6	Smith P	1.04.41	6	Smith P	5.00	0.59.41
7	Dixon T	1.05.47	7	Dixon T	6.00	0.59.47
8	Bristow AA	1.07.13	8	Buchan R	Scratch	1.00.08
9	Saunders L	1.07.42	9	Wall P	8.00	1.01.07
10	Wall P	1.09.07	10	Palmer R	2.00	1.01.26
	Scratch Result	30 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Dave London Trophy				
18	Entries					
18	Starters					
18	Finishers					
1	Happy W	1.17.31	1	Vallack B	7.00	1.16.33
2	Gray C	1.17.53	2	Vallack M	10.00	1.16.49
3	Stocking B	1.19.32	3	Happy W	0.30	1.17.01
4	Pocock JP	1.21.27	4	Paxton C	6.30	1.17.04
5	Vallack J	1.21.48	5	Gray C	0.30	1.17.23
6	Saunders L	1.22.46	6	Saunders L	5.15	1.17.31
7	Bristow AA	1.23.16	7	Tutton R	8.00	1.17.32
8	Boreham V	1.23.28	8	Vallack J	4.00	1.17.48
9	Vallack B	1.23.33	9	Amsdell B	7.00	1.17.50
10	Paxton C	1.23.34	10	Jaegar P	7.00	1.18.20

11	Amsdell B	1.24.50	11	Boreham V	5.00	1.18.28
12	Jaegar P	1.25.20	12	Bristow AA	4.30	1.18.46
13	Tutton R	1.25.32	13	Stocking B	Scratch	1.19.32
14	Chittenden R	1.25.47	14	Pocock JP	1.00	1.20.27
15	Tilley P	1.25.50	15	Tilley P	5.00	1.20.47
16	Vallack M	1.26.49	16	Stovell C	10.00	1.21.47
17	Stovell C	1.31.47	17	Chittenden R	2.30	1.23.20
18	Osborn G	1.31.53	18	Osborn G	8.00	1.23.53
	Scratch Result	50 h/c				
		29.5.56				
10	Entries			Walter Moon Trophy		
9	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Gallow J	2.11.47	1	Stocking B	5.45	2.06.35
2	Stocking B	2.12.20	2	Smart J	7.45	2.11.45
3	Smart J	2.19.30	3	Gallow J	Scratch	2.11.47
4	Vallack J	2.23.08	4	Chittenden R	12.15	2.12.34
5	Chittenden R	2.24.49	5	Vallack B	12.45	2.14.57
6	Shepperd WR	2.26.34	6	Vallack J	7.45	2.15.23
7	Morrith J	2.27.35	7	Shepperd WR	7.45	2.18.49
8	Vallack B	2.27.42	8	Morrith J	6.45	2.20.50
9	Wall P	2.36.49	9	Wall P	14.45	2.22.04
	Scratch Result	17.6.56		Handicap Result		
		Purley to Brighton				
26	Entries					
11	Starters					
11	Finishers					
1	Ward D	1.36.32	1	Saunders L	9.30	1.35.28
2	Gray C	1.39.01	2	Jaegar P	14.30	1.36.30
3	Butler KS	1.41.23	3	Gray C	2.30	1.36.31
4	Pocock JP	1.42.08	4	Ward D	Scratch	1.36.32
5	Saunders L	1.44.58	5	Bristow AA	8.00	1.37.08
6	Bristow AA	1.45.08	6	Butler KS	3.30	1.37.53
7	Baxendine A	1.45.51	7	Pocock JP	4.00	1.38.08
8	Jaegar P	1.48.00	8	Baxendine A	6.30	1.39.21
9	Chittenden R	1.50.53	9	Dyer J	10.00	1.41.11
10	Dyer J	1.51.11	10	Chittenden R	7.00	1.43.53
11	Gallow J	1.59.41		Gallow J		
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		29.7.56				
14	Entries					
4	Starters					
4	Finishers					
1	Gray C	1.02.06	1	Butler KS	1.00	1.01.59
2	Butler KS	1.02.59	2	Gray C	Scratch	1.02.06
3	Pocock JP	1.05.48	3	Pocock JP	3.00	1.02.48
4	Baxendine A	1.06.23	4	Baxendine A	3.30	1.02.53
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Fryco Cup				
15	Entries	2.9.56				

9	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Butler KS	2.08.59	1	Butler KS	Scratch	2.08.59
2	Pocock JP	2.12.16	2	Saunders L	6.00	2.09.57
3	Baxendine A	2.14.30	3	Pocock JP	Scratch	2.12.16
4	Saunders L	2.15.57	4	Baxendine A	2.00	2.12.30
5	Dixon T	2.18.27	5	Dixon T	3.00	2.15.27
6	Newcombe B	2.23.20	6	Clarke E	7.30	2.16.30
7	Clarke E	2.24.00	7	Dyer J	10.00	2.19.43
8	Dyer J	2.29.43	8	Wall P	12.00	2.21.02
9	Wall P	2.33.02	9	Newcombe B	1.00	2.22.20
	Scratch Result	100 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Goss Green Cup				
4	Entries					
4	Starters					
2	Finishers					
1	Gallow J	4.40.25	1	Pocock JD		
2	Pocock JD	4.40.50				
	Scratch Result	12 hrs				
		Rotherham Cup				
2	Entries					
2	Starters					
1	Finishers					
1	Gallow J		230.67			
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		23.9.56				
20	Entries			Inter-Club		
14	Starters			with Kentish		
				Wheelers		
14	Finishers					
1	Buchan R	0.59.43	1	Clarke E	9.00	0.59.04
2	Gray C	1.01.53	2	Baxendine A	6.00	0.59.05
3	Butler KS	1.02.16	3	Butler KS	2.45	0.59.31
4	Ingman L	1.02.53	4	Gray C	2.15	0.59.38
5	Baxendine A	1.05.05	5	Buchan R	Scratch	0.59.43
6	Saunders L	1.05.52	6	Vallack B	8.00	0.59.53
7	Newcombe B	1.07.30	7	Saunders L	5.00	1.00.52
8	Vallack B	1.07.53	8	Amsdell B	7.00	1.01.05
9	Clarke E	1.08.04	9	Ingman L	1.00	1.01.53
10	Amsdell B	1.08.05	10	Newcombe B	5.00	1.02.30
11	Paxton C	1.09.40	11	Paxton C	7.00	1.02.40
12	Black L	1.12.47	12	Black L	8.30	1.04.17
13	Edmunds G	1.13.25	13	Jaegar P	9.00	1.04.50
14	Jaegar P	1.13.50	14	Edmunds G	4.30	1.08.55
	Inter Club			Norwood Paragon		6.18.37
	Result			Kentish Wheelers		6.29.21
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		7.10.56		Mayne Cup		

19	Entries					
15	Starters					
15	Finishers					
1	Buchan R	1.01.56	1	Vallack B	8.00	0.59.50
2	Butler KS	1.03.36	2	Vallack J	7.00	1.00.18
3	Gray C	1.04.13	3	Amsdell B	7.00	1.00.41
4	Gallow J	1.05.37	4	Butler KS	2.30	1.01.06
5	Baxendine A	1.05.52	5	Clarke E	8.00	1.01.16
6	Newcombe B	1.06.32	6	Newcombe B	5.00	1.01.32
7	Pocock JP	1.06.50	7	Baxendine A	4.00	1.01.52
8	Vallack J	1.07.18	8	Buchan R	Scratch	1.01.56
9	Saunders L	1.07.32	9	Gallow J	3.30	1.02.07
10	Amsdell B	1.07.41	10	Gray C	2.00	1.02.13
11	Vallack B	1.07.50	11	Pocock JP	4.30	1.02.20
12	Clarke E	1.09.16	12	Cleeve J	10.00	1.02.28
13	Quinton B	1.10.01	13	Saunders L	4.30	1.03.02
14	Cleeve J	1.12.28	14	Osborn G	10.00	1.03.53
15	Osborn G	1.13.53	15	Quinton B	4.00	1.06.01
	Scratch Result	Hill Climb				
		13 10.56				
11	Entries					
11	Starters					
11	Finishers					
1	Ingman L		3.50			
2	Buchan R		4.15			
3	Amsdell B		4.25			
4	Butler KS		4.33			
5	Newcombe B		4.33			
6	Pocock JD		4.36			
7	Baxendine A		4.38			
8	Quinton B		4.39			
9	Large A		4.40			
10	Gray C		4.51			
11	Bristow AA		4.59			
	Scratch Result	10 Scr				
		Junior				
4	Entries					
4	Starters					
4	Finishers					
1	Butler KS		25.34			
2	Saunders L		27.16			
3	Black L		27.55			
4	Stovell C		29.56			
5	Jaegar P		43.54			
	Scratch Result	15 Scr				
		Junior				
7	Entries		13.5.56			
7	Starters					
7	Finishers					

1	Gray C	37.35				
2	Butler KS	37.41				
3	Peakin F	39.47				
4	Saunders L	40.34				
5	Vallack B	40.48				
6	Black L	41.37				
7	Vallack M	41.38				
	Scratch Result	10 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Junior				
6	Entries	1.7.56				
6	Starters					
6	Finishers					
1	Butler KS	24.06	1	Saunders L	2.00	23.19
2	Saunders L	25.19	2	Black L	2.30	23.36
3	Black L	26.06	3	Butler KS	Scratch	24.06
4	Vallack B	26.20	4	Vallack B	2.00	24.20
5	Peakin F	26.51	5	Vallack M	2.30	24.27
6	Vallack M	26.57	6	Peakin F	1.00	25.51
	Scratch Result	15 Scr				
		Junior				
2	Entries	30.9.56				
2	Starters					
2	Finishers					
1	Vallack B	41.13				
2	Vallack M	41.33				