

1958

During the 'Social Season' Phil Griffin took to the hills for some Cyclo-cross events. In the East Surrey event on Worms Heath he finished in 11th place. Following up this ride he then rode the De Laune event at Biggin Hill and came 6th. Continuing his improvement in this style of racing he moved on to the South of England Championships where he collected a 6th place. Not content with this he then entered the National Championship that in 1958 was held on the Bagshot Scramble course. In this event he was placed 17th out of 115 entries, 8.35 behind the winner Don Stone (34th Nomads)

The customary start to the road-racing season was the Balham Rough-stuff. Those expecting to see another win by Keith Butler were rather disappointed. As well as being not fully fit or fined down after a winter of Army food he managed to puncture whilst going through the ford in Titsey Park and later crashed on the bridle way descent from Tatsfield. Therefore John Smith (Addiscombe) got his revenge for 1957. Chris Gray was our best finisher in 6th place albeit 9.51 down on Smith with Keith Butler 11th at 13.58. The Paragon did get 2nd in the Team event.

In January at unspecified dates and undisclosed scores the Polo team beat both Croydon Aces and Bendfield. This was on the way to win the Croydon Winter League. The team responsible were Alec Bird, Alan Roberts, Bob Reddin, Mick Payne, Keith Ongley and Charlie Watkins.

At the Addiscombe's Sportsmans Evening Keith Butler, partnered by Ken Ruffell (Addiscombe), won the 880 yards team race and Robin Buchan won the 1-mile Pursuit on the rollers. In the Croydon RC road race on the Hosey Hill circuit was held on an icy day with snow melting on the verges and leaving freezing cold puddles and wet roads. Ken Knapman was up with the action but was caught on the descent from Ide Hill with 5 miles to go.

The Club Medium Gear scheduled for the 9th March was abandoned through an overnight dose of snow and ice.

The Brighton Trophy Road race was held on the 21st March and produced a very fast exciting race. Sixty riders were selected including the Welsh Possibles Empire Games Team. After the very fast climb of the Caterham by-pass the bunch stayed together until the climb to Wych Cross where Mike Gambrill attacked to win the prime. After an initial regrouping, Eley, (Southern Olympic), Ferdinand (Welwyn) took off followed by Roach (Byways), Godwin (Mercury) and Barry Willoughby (Croydon RC). these two groups merged after 36 miles and then six others joined them. They were Welshmen Don Skene, Bob Chapman and Geof Cronk followed by Dennis Tarr (De Laune), Steed (Barnet) and Mike Gambrill. By 42 miles at Lower Dicker the groups joined and that was the last that the bunch saw of most of them. Coming onto the South Downs climb Cronk and then Steed were dropped and Mike Gambrill took off from the front. Tarr did his best to hold Gambrill but to no avail. Through Seaford and along to Newhaven the chase continued with Gambrill and the chasers just getting through the level crossing before it closed. The bunch was not so lucky and had about a minute's enforced wait. There was a south-easterly wind blowing that morning and once on the cliff-top coast road Gambrill really used his

100” top gear (52 x 14) to good effect increasing his lead to over 2½ minutes by the Finish on Madeira Drive, Brighton. He was a clear and comfortable winner in the record time of 2.50.12 for the 70 miles. The only other man to impress was Robin Buchan who came from the main bunch to catch the chasers just before Newhaven. At the Finish Robin Buchan came 4th at 2.11. Keith Butler was 11th at 3.47, Alan Sturgess 39th and Les Black 47th.

Fourteen riders faced the Timekeeper on the 30th March for the Jim Fox ‘25’. Thirteen of them need not have bothered. Robin Buchan slaughtered the rest by finishing in 59.59. Len Saunders was in 2nd place over 4 minutes slower in 1.4.03. Norman Burnard was another 2 minutes back on 1.6.41 and Wally Happy on 1.6.46. Such was Robin’s superiority that only two riders beat his time on handicap. Len Saunders was, justifiably, the winner with a nett 59.33 and John Cleeve was 2nd with 59.37.

Pete Smith was our only prizewinner on the Track at Easter with 3rd place in the 5 miles at Portsmouth. Robin Buchan did win the Fountain ‘25’ in 1.0.13 on the Sunday. Forty-eight riders decided not to start this event including 5 of our 6 entries. From the result card it must have been extremely hard on the way back. For example Robin took 29.05 to get to the 12.45 miles turn and 31.08 to get back. On the Monday he only came 2nd in the Actonia ‘25’. His time then was 1.0.32 whilst Len Saunders finished in 1.6.08 and Alan Baxendine 1.8.00.

Alan Baxendine and Keith Butler took a long train journey up to Mallory Park near Leicester on Saturday the 12th April to ride the new Closed Circuit. Alan produced an excellent sprint to collect 6th prize but Keith was unplaced. The following day it blew a gale and times and efforts were severely affected. In the Apollo ‘25’ fastest Paragon rider was Ron Stempfer with 1.8.23 followed by John Cleeve, 1.9.18, Pete Hodder, 1.11.14, Mick Burn 1.11.36 and Pete Wall 1.16.50. Robin Buchan finished 5th in the Clarence Whs ‘25’ with a 1.1.59 whilst John Gallo and Alan Baxendine travelled all the way to Salisbury for two disappointing rides of 1.7.10 and 1.9.20 respectively. Closer to home the Club had riders in the Apollo road race held at Green Street Green near Orpington on the 13th April. Keith Butler broke away with Norman Hill (Kentish Whs) and two others but failed to hold one of Hill’s attacks to finally finish in 3rd place. Following Keith were Alan Sturgess in 8th place, Wally Happy 9th and Les Black 20th.

On the 20th April Robin returned a 58.40 in the Bec ‘25’ while Chris Gray punctured and finished with a 1.7. The team in the Delta Longmarkers was John Cleeve 1.7.26, Mick Burn 1.10.20 and Geoff Osborne 1.14.56. Dave Morley came 5th in the 34th Nomads Junior road race. Alan Baxendine collected 5th prize in the Hounslow 70 miles road race and Ron Stempfer came 6th at Lee-on-Solent.

At the NCU Spring Meeting Robin Buchan came 2nd in the Invitation 10 miles and Dave Wood collected 3 of the 10 prizes in the Course des primes.

Keith Butler was still trying to beat his best ‘50’ time set at the end of his first season of racing in 1956. His next chance came in the SCCU ‘50’ on the 27th April but once again he was out of luck. It was a spiteful day – sunny but with a gale force wind that littered the ground with broken branches and leaves. Although he caught 13 riders

and produced a 2.8.27 it was only good enough for 3rd place. John Smith (Addiscombe) won with a superb, for the morning, 2.4.34. Keith had some consolation in that he was 1st on Handicap. This was from the King of the Handicappers – Alan Gordon! Those who rode in the that era knew that without supreme improvement or act of God one Handicap win was about as much as one could expect from Alan. And in Keith's case so it proved! Those who won two handicaps from Alan were considered heroes. The man who collected three in a season was looked upon with awe by we mere mortals and with complete distrust by Alan. Other times were by Chris Gray, 2.14.27, John Gallo 2.15.04, Len Saunders 2.16.34, John Cleeve 2.20.00, Brian Amsdell 2.28.59, Mick Burn 2.31.00 and Harry Patmore 2.37.14. The Paragon was 2nd Team.

Len Saunders got his just deserts with a fine win in the Dave London '30' on the 4th May. His 1.15.20 beat the other 17 quite comfortably and he took the Handicap Trophy as well. Tony Kerss was 2nd in 1.16.17 and surprise entry Les Ingman 3rd in 1.17.21. Tony also collected a 2nd place in the handicap section, 1.14.47, with S Hamblen just 4 seconds slower. Robin Buchan produced a 58.25 in the High Wycombe '25' with Alan Norris coming in with a 1.7.38. Bruce Smith won the Eclipse '25' with a 1.3.41 In the Addiscombe '50' John Cleeve finished in 2.18.13 and John Gallo a 2.23 after losing some 3 minutes at the Start. On the Polo Field the A Team lost to Solihull 6 –7 in the first match of the National League but later beat their B Team 10 – 6.

News from the Services on the 7th May when Keith Butler came 7th in the Army '25' Championship held at Ollerton with a 1.0.01. At the Dulwich Paragon Meeting Robin Buchan won the 9 laps Invitation Pursuit and then won the 10 miles scratch with Wally Happy in 3rd place.

On the 18th May Robin Buchan won the Nonsuch '25' with a 1.0.10. Keith Butler had entered the Yiewsley '50' on the Bath Road looking for that elusive fast time and once again collected a very windy morning. However Keith was riding his road-racing machine and made good use of the gears to finally improve his time for the distance to 2.6.35. This was for 5th place. Tony Kerss tried the Catford '50' and got round in 2.12.07. Pete Hodder completed the NCU Surrey Section '25' in 1.10.03.

Robin Buchan was 5th in the Farnham '25' on the 25th May with a 58.13. Chris Gray and Tony Kerss rode the Bellingham '25' and finished with a 1.1.53 and 1.4.35 respectively. John Cleeve went round the Caterham '50' in 2.23.07. In the London Centre Team Pursuit the B Team of Bruce Smith, Alan Sturgess, Dave Wood and Chris Gray beat the Archer RC. At the Kentish Whs Meeting Gerry Edmunds and Keith Butler were 2nd in the 1000m Tandem Sprint after breaking the drive chain coming down the home straight. In the 25 miles London Centre Tandem paced event Robin Buchan came 2nd.

The National 25 mile Championships were held on the 1st June Robin Buchan finished 4th with a 58.14. Keith Butler also went back to Ollerton for it. Unfortunately he had picked up a heavy cold during the week had to endure its effect. His 1.2.08 enabled him to claim 75th place whilst Chris Gray finished in 1.2.27. On the same day Alan Bristow finished 5th in the Elsynge '25' with a 1.5.05.

On the 4th June Robin Buchan initially partnered by Keith Butler and then by Mike Gambrill won the Fountain 100 lap Madison. Keith had a 'reviving' swing of hot tea whilst hanging onto the fence waiting his time to 'come in'. This managed to turn his stomach over and he promptly left everything on the grass in the back straight. Robin was then paired with Mike whose partner had crashed. They made an excellent pair and subsequently won a number of Madisons. On the same evening the Paragon won the League Match.

On the 7th June Robin Buchan produced a double win at Herne Hill winning both the 9 laps Pursuit match and the 10-mile Scratch race. Wally Happy was 3rd in the same race. The following day Keith Butler came 2nd in the Addiscombe road race on the Ide Hill Circuit and Robin Buchan came 3rd. Chris Gray did a 1.5.07 in the Romford '25' and one would assume he had some trouble. Harry Patmore took part in the local VTTA '25' and clocked a 1.8.47.

On the 14th June Robin Buchan won the Norwich ABC '25' with a 1.0.10 ride. The next day Alan Sturgess took 2nd handicap in the Dulwich Paragon '25' with a 1.2.55 whilst Les Black finished in 1.5.48 and Brian Amsdell did a 1.6.18. Len Saunders did a 1.3.00 in the Prestonville Nomads '25 and Alan Bristow clocked a 1.4.41. Robin then came 4th in the Shirley '50' in 2.6.41. On Tuesday at Crystal Palace Keith Butler won the Evening 30 miles massed start event. Bruce Smith won the 880 yards handicap at the Sussex Police Sports. On the Saturday Robin won the 9 laps double harness pursuit at the Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton. Then on the Wednesday Robin was 4th in the Invitation 10 miles and Dave Wood came 2nd in the 550 yards handicap. On that evening the Paragon won the London Region League Match.

Robin Buchan rode the National Championship '50' on the 22nd June and produced a 1.59.45 just 19 seconds outside the Club Record but it only placed him 12th on the day. He had an early start and the worst of the cold morning. Back on home territory twenty-two riders set out for Brighton. It does seem incredible but this year some riders went off course! Mind you they could not be blamed for trying to duck out because it was a pig of a day. The riders had a dry start but from Handcross onwards the rain came down in stair-rods. Bill Diplo wrote in 'Blah'. 'Everyone who started completed the course. They had to as their kit was already in Brighton!' The man on form, Len Saunders, struggled to get to the coast in 1.47.16 that is a good 14 minutes slower than Keith Butler's winning ride in 1957. Les Ingman came 2nd in 1.48.20 and Alan Bristow 3rd in 1.49.27. The handicap was also deservedly taken by Len but only by 12 seconds from Alan Bristow. Ray Johnson was another 32 seconds behind in 3rd place. On the 26th June Keith Butler produced a personal best '50' of 2.3.27 in the Inter-Services Championship whilst riding for the Army.

Keith Butler rode his first 100 miles event when he completed the midweek Army Championship on the Bath Road Course. He finished 14th in 4.29.40 in spite of heavy rain falling during the last part of the race. Eight days later Keith Butler won the North Middlesex and Herts 10 miles Championship at Paddington Track. Pete Smith came 4th.

Three riders took part in the WLCA '50 with the fastest of them being Chris Gray with a 2.6.05. Len Saunders completed the course in spite of a stomach upset in 2.12.37 and Brian Amsdell 2.14.59. Alan Bristow rode the Cambrian '25' in 1.7.01.

At the Evening Track Meeting at Herne Hill Alan Baxendine was in fine form he took the AEU Cup for the 550 yards sprint from Dave Wood and Pete Smith and then the Frank Burton Cup for the 550 yards handicap from Dave Wood and Gerry Edmunds. He missed the 5 miles scratch as Pete Smith got by him with Norman Burnard in 3rd place. Alan Sturgess won the Point to Point. In the Open Meeting Robin Buchan won the London Centre 10 miles championship.

On the Saturday Gerry Edmunds won the 1 lap Sprint at Herne Hill beating Dave Handley and Pete Carter in the Final. Robin Buchan was beaten in the quarter-finals of the National 4000m Pursuit Championship. He did, at least, go out to the former World Champion, Norman Shiel! The following day the Kingston '25' event saw Robin finish in 2nd place with a 58.11 ride. Backed up by Len Saunders, 1.3.25, a personal best of 1.3.32 by Alan Bristow and a 1.5.9 from Tony Kerss the Paragon won the Team race. Harry Patmore elected to ride the Kentish Whs '100' and collected 3rd handicap with his 4.57.32.

At the Poly Meeting on the 9th July Alan Sturgess won the 550 yards handicap and in the League Match the Paragon tied for 1st place with Clarence Whs. In the 2nd round of the London Centre Team Pursuit the A Team beat the Addiscombe and the B Team the Eltham Paragon.

The 13th July was a 'shocker' with gale force winds and driving rain especially for the late starters in the De Laune '25' – and all our riders were in the back half of the field! Robin Buchan crashed on one of the roundabouts on the Crawley bypass but remounted to finish in 1.1.38. Keith Butler remained upright but was still 6 seconds slower than Robin. Chris Gray returned a 1.4.01 so that the Paragon won the Team race. Alan Bristow beat Les Black in the Grove Manor '25' with a 1.3.53 to Les' 1.4.50.

The Goss Green Cup held in conjunction with the SCCU '100' had seven entries of whom only four started probably due to the thunderstorm and heavy rain that fell early in the morning. Fastest Paragon on the day was Keith Butler with a 4.31.03 that ought to have been a couple of minutes better but for a puncture at about 70 miles. He finished 8th in the SCCU event. Also competing in his first '100' was Chris Gray who finished 2nd Paragon with 4.32.38. Other Paragon performances were by Harry Patmore, 5.9.42, 3rd and Aubrey Hill, 5.15.42. 4th. Chris Gray won the Handicap by 1.25 from Keith Butler, 4.19.38 to 4.21.03. Robin Buchan stuck to the shorter events and although also having to contend with the wet conditions won the Sydenham '25' in 58.43. Dave Morley travelled to Lancing for their '25' and surprised himself by finishing 3rd and collecting 2nd on handicap with a 1.5.09 ride. Tony Kerss recorded a 1.4.40 in the Kent RC event with Harry Patmore a little slower on 1.9.25 and Pete Wall finishing in 1.16. Alan Bristow got within 21" of his best in the Grove Manor '25' and Les Black finished in 1.4.40.

During the week Keith Butler rode an Army '25' on the Southend Road finishing in 57.11 for a personal best and a new Army Record. The evening before this event Keith was deciding what gear to ride. His track bike was fitted with 46 x 14 (88.2) and he was dithering between 50 x 16 (84.4) or 48 x 15 (86.4). Eventually he took off the 46-tooth chain ring and fitted the 50-tooth ring having decided on the 84.4.

Mother then called for Dinner. Over Dinner he mulled over the problem, decided to ride the 86.4 and on his return to the garage changed the cog to a 15. All to the good! The next morning he tore out to the turn with a tail wind, legs spinning as only they can on a light bike, Dunlop No.1 tubulars and a fixed wheel. Then he turned to come back. It was only as he hit the wind and the 'Revs' did not come as easily as they should did it come to him that he had not taken off the 50 chain ring. He was on 50 x 15 and it was 12¼ miles back to the timekeeper. He had to get back into the wind on this 90-inch gear. It was hard but you can't say it didn't work. That evening at Herne Hill Alan Baxendine came 2nd in the Surrey Centre 5 miles Championship and Alan Sturgess came 3rd in the 880 yards handicap. Chris Gray and Alan then rode the 12 laps Invitation Tandem Pursuit and came 3rd.

The Portsmouth Road '25' had 19 riders and a good morning. To underline the quality of the morning; seven of the nineteen riders recorded personal best times. Les Black was the first just getting the better of Les Ingman by just 1 second to take 1st place. Their 1.1.11 and 1.1.12 were just that it too fast for Tony Kerss, 1.1.50, and Alan Sturgess 1.1.58 (personal best). Brian Greenfield received 10 minutes handicap after his disastrous Purley to Brighton ride but proved he was not as bad as all that with a personal best of 1.5.50. This, of course, gave him a 55.50 on handicap and the best time. Dave Wood was a scant 12 seconds slower with Ray Johnson again getting 3rd place with 58.44. Down on the Bath Road Keith Butler achieved an ambition by beating Robin Buchan. Keith's time in the Belle Vue '50' was a personal best of 2.1.46 (for 9th place) just 4 seconds too fast for Robin. Knowing how Robin lived his racing and how rarely anyone in the Club had beaten him it was about half an hour after they had both finished that Keith approached Robin. He need not have worried. It was the little people who did not work or used him that drew the full fury of the Buchan temper! Robin was always the first to admit when he had been beaten fair and square. But on that morning Keith was not too certain of that fact as he was later. Also on that morning Len Saunders came 4th in the Southampton '25' with a best time of 1.1.02. On the following Monday the Paragon won the North Middlesex and Herts Team Pursuit Championship beating the Polytechnic in the Final. On Wednesday evening in the Redmon event Alan Baxendine came 2nd in the Surrey Centre 5 miles Championship, Alan Sturgess was 3rd in the 880 yards handicap and with Chris Gray came 3rd in a 12 lap tandem pursuit race.

The Paragon beat the Poly in the Final of the North Midds & Herts Team Pursuit Final by just 1.2 of a second. The in the 3rd round of the London Centre Team Pursuit the B Team beat Catford whilst the A team had a ride-over against the Kentish Whs.

For the first time the Open '50' has a Trophy for the winner. Frank Southall offered the Palmer Cup that he won outright in the Tandem Paced 50 miles races at Herne Hill in the 1930s. Robin and Keith clashed again. It was a cold and misty morning and again Keith came out on top recording 2.3.01 (for 3rd place) to Robin's 2.3.06 (for 4th). At 25 miles Keith's lead over Robin was just 11 seconds that shows how close these two were! Len Saunders finished 7th with 2.6.01, Chris Gray 10th in 2.6.23, Tony Kerss 12th in 2.7.18, and Harry Patmore 2.21.30. Messrs Butler, Buchan and Saunders took the team award for the Paragon.

On August Bank Holiday there were a variety of races for our riders to enjoy. Gerry Edmunds, partnered with Brian Dacey (De Laune) (who is still racing and winning in

2004!) took part in the National 1000m Tandem Sprint Championship. They went well together and reached the Final but were beaten by Dave Handley and Pete Carter. Robin Buchan was also in fine form as he won the Ten Minute Pursuit race clearing the track in 9½ minutes and covering 4 miles and 1300 yards in the full time. On the Monday at Portsmouth Gerry Edmunds won the 440 yards Sprint and Pete Smith was 3rd in the 5 miles Scratch. Alan Sturgess and Bruce Smith rode the Crest '25' and both improved their best times; Alan to 1.0.32 and Bruce to 1.3.31. Dave Wood went off to Slough and Windsor Carnival and collected the 550 yards Sprint and the 880 yards Handicap prizes. He was also 4th in the 5 miles Scratch after picking up no less than 8 lap prizes. Not a bad haul for a first attempt at Grass Track racing. However Lady Luck caught up with him on the Monday at Dartford where he crashed out of the Meeting when leading in the 880 yards Handicap Final. Chris Gray came 4th in the 5 miles after leading for six laps.

Gerry Edmunds won the 440 yards handicap at the Poly Meeting and Robin Buchan, paired with Mick Gambrill (Clarence), won the 25 laps Madison. The Paragon also won the League Match that evening. On the Saturday, 9th August a party went to the Wolverton Sports. Here Pete Smith came 2nd in a 3 miles Point-to-Point and Dave Wood came 3rd in another. Pete also collected a 3rd in the 500 yards handicap whilst Gerry Edmunds came 2nd in the 500 yards Open Sprint. At Crystal Palace Gerry Pearl won the Senior Race with Bruce Smith 4th.

Robin Buchan won the Planet '25' on the 10th August with a 56.40 and led the winning team of Alan Sturgess 1.0.23 (personal best) and Chris Gray 1.1.18. Four Paragons rode the Redmon '30' and these were their times. Tony Kerss did 1.13.50, Len Saunders 1.14.30, Ray Johnson 1.15.20 and Alan Bristow 1.17.57. Harry Patmore rode the SERC 12-hour event and ran out time with 218 miles. J Tucker (Ross Whs) won our Ashdown Forest road race. He covered the 75 miles in 3.30. Jones (Castlenau) was 2nd and there was a tie between A Dodd and P Haines of the Zeus for 3rd place.

The Polo Squad reported that they had finished 3rd in the National League having had problems with getting teams together through periods of summer holidays etc. In consolation they came 2nd in the South Western League using quite a number of 'untried' players. They were Brian Greenfield, Alec Robinson, Mervyn Dyer, John Dyer, Reg Wilson, Ted Wilson, Pete Wall and Pete Durbin.

Another team race came our way in the Farnboro '25'. Robin Buchan won in 57.08, Keith Butler was 7th in 59.17 and Alan Sturgess made up the Team with a 59.29 and Len Saunders finished in 1.2.07. In the London Centre Team Pursuit Quarter-finals the A team beat the De Laune with a 5.01.4 ride and the B Team beat the Hounslow after catching them and going on to record a 5.04.0 ride. After this we thought the teams would do well but both lost in the semi-finals. The A Team went down to the Clarence Whs 4.54.6 to 4.56.2 and the B Team to the Woolwich 4.57.2 to 5.00.4. This was excellent Club Pursuing by all 4 teams but with, for the Paragon, the wrong result. In the ride off for 3rd place the A Team beat the B Team 5.07.3 to 5.07.7.

Alan Sturgess came 3rd in the Invitation Point-to-point at the Catford Meeting on the 20th August. The next Sunday he was all set to do a fast '50' but came unstuck on one of the roundabouts on the Southend Road. Robin Buchan came 4th with a 2.0.52;

Len Saunders did 2.5.45, Chris Gray 2.5.49 and Tony Kerss 2.6.09 for 2nd Team award.

On Thursday 27th August at Paddington Track Alan Sturgess, Alan Baxendine, Chris Gray and Pete Smith beat the Polytechnic by 0.6” in the Semi-Finals and the Willesden by 0.2” in the Final to win the West London CA Team Pursuit Championship. The next evening Alan Sturgess beat Ron Stretton’s 1000m Record with a 1.14.6 ride at Herne Hill. John Smart, with his Met Police racing jersey on finished the North Middx & Herts ‘100’ in 4.57.12.

At the De Laune meeting Robin Buchan teamed up with his workmate Mike Gambrill (Clarence Whs) to win the 30 laps Madison. In the shorter events Pete Smith was 2nd and Alan Sturgess 3rd in the 550 yards Handicap. At the WLCA Meeting the Team Pursuit squad of Alan Baxendine, Pete Smith, Alan Sturgess and Chris Gray beat the Poly in the Semi-finals of the WLCA Championship. Later in the Meeting they beat the Willesden to take the Gold Medals. Our team at the National Championship was not so successful going out in the quarter-finals to the Melling Whs. Alan Sturgess won the Pursuit part of the Club Track Championship in 5.17.6 with Robin Buchan in 2nd place, 5.18, and Keith Butler 3rd in 5.27.8. Alan Sturgess rode another 1000m time trail and lowered the Record again this time to 1.14.2.

The Rotherham Cup was held in conjunction with the SCCU 12hours event. Only three men went to the start and it was a win in his first 12hours event for Keith Butler. It turned out to be one of the closely contested 12hour events for some years. At the 100 miles point Brian Wray (Bec) was leading in 4.41.12 and six riders were within 2.30 of him. Keith Butler being one of them at 2.11. After this point the realisation of what he had to do hit Keith. He is reported as saying” “I looked at my watch and thought – that’s 5 hours done – only 7 more to go - and I blew! I caught a man for 30 minutes coming out of Horsham and at Alfold (10 miles later) he was still with me! John Cleeve took 5.0.38 for the 100 miles and Harry Patmore 5.14.00. However Keith pressed on and gradually recovered. Entering the Finishing Circuit at 200 miles Dick Wiseman was leading in 9.46.53 and Keith was 18 minutes slower in 10.4.12. John Cleeve reached this spot in 10.38 whilst Harry was through in 10.22 but had missed a detour. The last two hours were very reminiscent of Stan Butler’s strong finishes as Keith cut back the time on those in front of him. Unfortunately his rivals were between 6 and 17 minutes quicker at the 200 miles point so while he closed remorselessly on them he failed to pick up a single place! Just to rub it in the 4th, 5th and 6th placed riders all finished at the same Timekeeper as Keith! While only 7th in the event proper he covered 239.59 miles for a respectable first effort to win the Cup and the Bill Saggars Novice award. (The Event Handicapper was under no illusions as he gave Keith only 2 miles). John Cleeve ran out time with 228.98 miles finding a 76” fixed wheel too small a gear and Harry Patmore 216.25 miles. In the Becontree Whs ‘25’ Robin Buchan came 2nd to Ken Craven (Crescent) with a 57.47 and Tony Kerss got ‘under’ for the first time for several years with a 59.43. Len Saunders finished in 1.0.31. In the 29th Whs event Chris Gray improved to a 59.27 and Alan Bristow to 1.3.21. Denis Morley and John Dyer rode the Clarence ‘25’ and recorded a 1.4.10 and 1.7.06 respectively.

The following week the Fryco Cup ‘50’ was held in pouring rain and Keith Butler showed that he had no ill effects from the 12 hours jaunt the previous weekend. His

time was 2.7.17. Len Saunders came in with 2.9.11 for 2nd place. Alan Bristow was riding his first '50' almost did a repeat of his first '25'. He started 5 minutes in front of Keith Butler and at the last turn at Horsham he had only lost one of those minutes then, again on the Crawley by-pass, he blew. Keith caught and passed Alan but was so concerned that immediately he crossed the Finish line he turned and went back down the road to check that Alan was still upright. "I've never seen Alan in such a state!" he said. Alan actually finished in 2.18.24, that is not a bad first '50' but is still one of those 'might-have-beens'. Keith also took the handicap but only by some 24 seconds from Len with Alan Bristow 3rd. Robin Buchan went down to Exeter to ride the Efford '25' and produced a 56.58 but that was only good enough for 3rd place. Alan Baxendine went down to Lee-on-Solent and came 3rd in the Royal Navy CA massed start race.

At the Meeting of Champions on the 13th September Dave Wood came 3rd in the 550 yards handicap. Robin Buchan came 1st in the 10 Minute Invitation Pursuit with Alan Sturgess in 3rd place. Wally Happy came out behind the Lambrettas and came 2nd in the 15 miles paced race. On the 14th September Keith Butler rode the Viking '50' but had an 'off' day finishing with 2.2.31 for 15th place. Dave Morley was our best rider in the Anerley Middlemarkers '25' with a 1.5.55. Harry Patmore finished in 1.6.59 his best ever ride at 41 years of age! John Dyer 1.7.16 and Geoff Osbourne 1.13.30 completed the list of Paragon finishers. Tony Kerss did a 1.0.53 in the Colchester '25' and Alan Bristow did a 1.3.

On the 21st September another Team race came our way in the WLCA '25'. Tony Kerss led the team with a 1.0.21; Chris Gray did 1.0.54 and Len Saunders a 1.1.13. Alan Bristow did 1.3.05 for a personal best.

The George Brake Tournament saw 5 Paragon Teams and return appearances from 'Shaggy' Butler, 'Ching' Allin and Bert Charlton. The C Team reached the semi-finals and collected a medal. The Club had representative players in the Birmingham v London games played at Hurlingham. Bob Reddin, Charlie Watkins and Alec Bird being the selected players. Keith Ongley was picked for a Youth International playing for England against Wales. Exhibition matches were played at Bournemouth and the two teams had an excellent week-end as well as promoting Polo to another area. The Paragon will have three teams in the Croydon Winter League.

Keith Butler punctured in the Redhill '50' when leading at the 25 miles checkpoint. Tony Kerss also punctured but continued to finish in 2.13.20. However all was not lost as Alan Sturgess came 4th in 2.7.30, Chris Gray finished in 2.8.51 and Len Saunders 2.11.57 to ensure the Paragon won the Team race.

There were 17 entries for the Mayne Cup event of which 13 started on a warm but wet morning. Alan Sturgess stormed round the Pound Hill course in 1.1.48 to take the fastest time award from Les Black, 1.2.56, and Keith Butler 1.3.00. Man of the Day was Les Black who had, obviously, conned the handicapping committee into giving him 3 minutes. His nett 59.56 was far too good for Alan Sturgess' 1.1.18 and Alan Baxendine's 1.2.15.

There was a very poor entry for the Hill Climb when only 3 riders attempted Ranmore Common. Les Black romped up in 4.03 to win easily from Keith Butler 4.31 and

Dave Morley 4.46. Alan Sturgess rode the Brentwood '25' and did a 59.12 to round off an excellent season. The Club now had 5 riders that could be expected to ride a 25 miles time trial under one hour.

News from the Polo Front is that the A Team has beaten Clarendon 18 –9 and the B Team 19 – 12. The B Team has also lost to Ravens 13 – 19 and Woodberry A 5 –9. The C Team (Juniors) lost to Aces B 4 – 6 but beat Beulah 7 – 6. On the Polo field we had four teams in the George Brake Memorial Tournament but only the C Team reached the semi-finals

In the Versatile CC cyclo-cross event at Biggin Hill Keith Butler came 3rd. No other details available. Phil Griffin came 14th in the De Laune time trial cyclo-cross at Biggin Hill and then was 6th in the Harrow & Rickmansworth event at Herongate. Keith Butler and Dave Wood rode the Roller event at the RTTC Concert at the Albert Hall. Dave reached the Final to finish in 4th place.

Keith Butler came 6th in the Army CU Best All-rounder Competition. His times of 57.11, 2.3.27 and 4.29.40 for the 25,50 and 100 miles gave him an average of 24.260. Ray Booty (Ericson Whs) won with an average speed of 25.453.

Keith won the Club Open Road Championship (23.231 mph) with Harry Patmore in 2nd place (20.498 mph). He also won the Club Events Championship with an average speed of 22.370 mph.

Alan Baxendine won the Massed Start Championship with 13 points. He was 2nd in the Bognor Regis road race, 3rd at Lee-on-Solent, 5th in the Hounslow event and had 6th places at Mallory Park and the SCCU Championship. Keith Butler came 2nd with 12 points with a 6th at Crystal Palace to add to the results mentioned in this account. Gerry Pearl was 3rd with 11 points with a 2nd place in the SCCU Championship to go with his Crystal Palace win.

Alan Sturgess has been awarded the Most Improved Track rider prize. Alan Baxendine won the Club Track Championship with 5 pts from Pete Smith (4 pts) and Alan Sturgess (3 pts).

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
21	Entries	Jim Fox Cup				
14	Starters	30.3.58				
13	Finishers					
1	Buchan R	0.59.59	1	Saunders L	4.30	0.59.33
2	Saunders L	1.04.03	2	Cleeve J	8.00	0.59.37
3	Burnard N	1.06.41	3	Buchan R	Scratch	0.59.59
4	Happy W	1.06.46	4	Burnard N	6.00	1.00.41
5	Amsdell B	1.07.19	5	Hamblen S	8.30	1.00.41
6	Cleeve J	1.07.37	6	Hodder P	7.45	1.00.54
7	Morley D	1.08.24	7	Amsdell B	5.00	1.01.49
8	Kerss AD	1.08.34	8	Morley D	6.00	1.02.24
9	Hodder P	1.08.39	9	Burn M	8.30	1.02.42
10	Hamblen S	1.09.11	10	Happy W	4.00	1.02.46

11	Baxendine A	1.09.31	11	Kerss AD	3.30	1.05.04
12	Burn M	1.11.12	12	Baxendine A	4.00	1.05.31
13	Thompson F	1.16.01	13	Thompson F	8.00	1.08.01
	Scratch Result	30 h/c		Handicap Result		
22	Entries	Dave London Trophy				
19	Starters	4.5.58				
18	Finishers					
1	Saunders L	1.15.20	1	Saunders L	1.45	1.13.25
2	Kerss AD	1.16.17	2	Kerss AD	1.30	1.14.47
3	Ingman L	1.17.21	3	Hamblen S	7.00	1.14.51
4	Happy W	1.17.49	4	Smith P	3.30	1.15.28
5	Amsdell B	1.18.52	5	Cleeve J	5.00	1.15.36
6	Smith P	1.18.58	6	Amsdell B	3.15	1.15.37
7	Burnard N	1.19.16	7	Burnard N	3.30	1.15.46
8	Cleeve J	1.20.36	8	Happy W	2.00	1.15.49
9	Hamblen S	1.21.51	9	Dyer J	7.30	1.15.50
10	Vallack J	1.22.08	10	Vallack M	7.30	1.16.02
11	Patmore H	1.22.25	11	Vallack J	6.00	1.16.08
12	Thompson F	1.23.10	12	Patmore H	7.00	1.16.25
13	Dyer J	1.23.20	13	Burn M	7.00	1.16.34
14	Vallack M	1.23.32	14	Thompson F	6.00	1.17.10
15	Burn M	1.23.34	15	Ingman L	Scratch	1.17.21
16	Vallack B	1.23.50	16	Vallack B	6.15	1.17.35
17	Norris A	1.26.33	17	Osborn G	8.00	1.19.29
18	Osborn G	1.27.39	18	Norris A	4.00	1.22.33
	Scratch Result	100 h/c		Handicap Result		
7	Entries	Goss Green Cup				
4	Starters	20.7.58				
4	Finishers					
1	Butler KS	4.31.03	1	Gray C	13.00	4.19.38
2	Gray C	4.32.38	2	Butler KS	10.00	4.21.03
3	Patmore H	5.09.42	3	Hill A	50.00	4.25.42
4	Hill A	5.15.42	4	Patmore H	39.00	4.30.42
	Scratch Result	Purley -Brighton		Handicap Result		
		22.6.58				
26	Entries					
22	Starters					
22	Finishers					
1	Saunders L	1.47.15	1	Saunders L	2.30	1.44.45
2	Ingman L	1.48.20	2	Bristow AA	4.30	1.44.57
3	Bristow AA	1.49.27	3	Johnson R	5.00	1.45.29
4	Gray C	1.49.47	4	Morley D	8.00	1.47.32
5	Johnson R	1.50.29	5	Black L	5.30	1.47.57
6	Black L	1.51.27	6	Smith B	3.30	1.48.14
7	Sturgess A	1.51.37	7	Smart J	7.00	1.48.17
8	Smith B	1.51.44	8	Ingman L	Scratch	1.48.20
9	Smith P	1.54.31	9	Gray C	1.00	1.48.47
10	Smart J	1.55.17	10	Sturgess A	2.45	1.48.52
11	Morley D	1.55.32	11	Cleeve J	7.00	1.49.07
12	Amsdell B	1.55.36	12	Patmore H	9.00	1.49.56
13	Burnard N	1.55.46	13	Smith P	4.00	1.50.31
14	Cleeve J	1.56.07	14	Burnard N	5.00	1.50.46

15	Patmore H	1.58.56	15	Amsdell B	4.15	1.51.21
16	Happy W	2.03.56	16	Sams F	10.00	1.57.58
17	Sams F	2.07.58	17	Wall P	10.00	1.58.22
18	Wall P	2.08.22	18	Osborn G	11.00	2.00.35
19	Osborn G	2.11.35	19	Happy W	2.00	2.01.56
20	Greenfield P	2.11.56	20	Greenfield P	6.00	2.05.56
21	Thompson F	2.17.07	21	Thompson F	8.00	2.09.07
22	Greenfield B	2.29.56	22	Greenfield B	10.00	2.19.56
	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
19	Entries	27.7.58				
19	Starters					
19	Finishers					
1	Gray C	1.01.11	1	Greenfield B	10.00	0.55.50
2	Ingman L	1.01.12	2	Wood D	7.00	0.56.02
3	Kerss AD	1.01.50	3	Johnson R	4.30	0.58.44
4	Sturgess A	1.01.58	4	Smith P	3.45	0.59.19
5	Black L	1.02.11	5	Black L	2.45	0.59.26
6	Happy W	1.02.46	6	Patmore H	7.00	0.59.45
7	Wood D	1.03.02	7	Dyer J	7.30	0.59.51
8	Smith P	1.03.04	8	Sturgess A	1.45	1.00.13
9	Johnson R	1.03.14	9	Kerss AD	1.00	1.00.50
10	Bristow AA	1.03.31	10	Bristow AA	2.30	1.01.01
11	Edmunds G	1.04.24	11	Gray C	Scratch	1.01.11
12	Greenfield B	1.05.50	12	Ingman L	Scratch	1.01.12
13	Patmore H	1.06.45	13	Hodder P	7.15	1.01.26
14	Dyer J	1.07.21	14	Happy W	1.15	1.01.31
15	Langenbruch R	1.08.40	15	Hill A	9.00	1.02.05
16	Hodder P	1.08.41	16	Edmunds G	2.15	1.02.09
17	Burn M	1.10.36	17	Osborn G	10.00	1.02.22
18	Hill A	1.11.05		Langenbruch R		T.T
19	Osborn G	1.12.22		Burn M		T.T
	Scratch Result	12 hrs				
		Rotherham Cup				
3	Entries	30.8.58				
3	Starters					
3	Finishers					
1	Butler KS	239.59				
2	Cleeve J	226.98				
3	Patmore H	216.25				
	Scratch Result	50 h/c		Handicap Result		
		Fryco Cup				
6	Entries	7.9.58				
6	Starters					
4	Finishers					
1	Butler KS	2.07.17	1	Butler KS	Scratch	2.07.17
2	Saunders L	2.09.11	1	Saunders L	1.30	2.07.41
3	Bristow AA	2.16.24	10	Bristow AA	8.00	2.08.24
4	Morley D	2.23.58	11	Morley D	10.00	2.13.58

	Scratch Result	25 h/c		Handicap Result		
		6.10.58		Mayne Cup		
17	Entries					
13	Starters					
11	Finishers					
1	Sturgess A	1.01.48	1	Black L	3.00	0.59.56
2	Black L	1.02.56	2	Sturgess A	0.30	1.01.18
3	Butler KS	1.03.00	3	Baxendine A	2.00	1.02.15
4	Gray C	1.03.31	4	Gray C	0.45	1.02.46
5	Baxendine A	1.04.15	5	Butler KS	Scratch	1.03.00
6	Saunders L	1.05.11	6	Morley D	4.30	1.03.07
7	Kerss AD	1.05.21	7	Saunders L	1.30	1.03.41
8	Morley D	1.07.37	8	Cleeve J	6.30	1.04.07
9	Smart J	1.10.20	9	Kerss AD	1.00	1.04.21
10	Cleeve J	1.10.37	10	Smart J	3.45	1.06.15
11	Patmore H	1.13.19	11	Patmore H	6.30	1.06.49
	Scratch Result	Hill Climb				
		13.10.58				
3	Entries					
3	Starters					
3	Finishers					
1	Black L		4.03			
2	Butler KS		4.31			
3	Morley D		4.46			