

1962

Forty-five members attended the AGM and elected Frank Cleeve as the new President.

The Track Secretary started as he meant to continue when on January 8th Bruce Smith won the London County Council 440 yards Roller Championship and then went on to come 2nd in the 880 yards. Keith Butler also took part but was no match for Bruce.

Keith Butler got the racing season off to a good start by winning the Croydon and District Roughstuff '25ish' in record time, 1.38.21, and for the fourth time. Phil Griffin finished in 1.40.13, John Cleeve 1.48.12 including 5 minutes away from the true course and Mike East 1.53.09. This also includes some stoppage time as he managed to stick a finger into his front wheel. The Polo Team beat Aces on the 11th February and week later they beat St Johns A team.

If times seem rather slower one should appreciate that the weather in the first 4 months of 1962 was, for racing, diabolical. Temperatures were low, rain washed piles of grit into the roads just to puncture as many tubulars as possible and the wind never seemed to be less than gale force unless it was supposed to be behind you when it died to a zephyr.

The Club Event season started with a 10 miles Time Trial with fourteen entries but only eleven facing both start and finish timekeepers. Dick Ongley was the fastest with an 'easy' win by 1.24 in 26.35. Phil Thompsett came 2nd in 27.59 and Ian Essex 3rd with 28.40. A good point was that most of those competing were juniors or only just turned senior.

In the Kentish Whs Novices '25' Keith Lomath led the team with a 1.10.10 for 8th place. Other riders, but their times have not been recorded, were Chris Castle, Colin Matthews and Mick Longley.

Brighton Trophy day was the 11th March and once again a top class field was assembled at Purley Way for this trip to the coast. John Clarey (Cambrian) took the first prime on Caterham By-pass but the bunch remained intact until going through East Grinstead when Mike Barry (Morden CRC) attacked and held his lead over 'The Wall' to take the prime. On the descent the chasers led by Robin Buchan and Keith Butler pulled him back. The field was all together through Polegate and up through Jevington. Here the prime was taken by Mike Smith (Wembley). Then down through Exceat and up and over to Seaford but there were still about 24 riders in contention as the race came into Newhaven. Up the last Prime Hill and a four man break got clear. John Clarey, Mick Ayliffe (Clarencourt), Mike Smith and Keith Butler were the riders with the first two tying for the Prime. This break was not allowed to stay away as fourteen riders chased the four who were in full view on the Coast Road. So into the last mile and eighteen riders were jockeying for position and the (almost) inevitable happened. There was a touch of wheels and five riders were on the deck including Keith Butler. Robin Buchan missed the carnage but could not match the 'Ace' sprinter John Clarey over the final yards. Clarey won, Barry Willoughby (Croydon RC Winner in 1959) came 2nd. Mike Smith was 3rd and Robin 4th. Keith Butler came in 32 seconds down in 14th place. Bruce Smith also finished in 26th place.

On the 18th March Phil Griffin rode the Hants RC Hardriders '25' finishing with a 1.16.10 for 37th place.

The Jim Fox had a nightmare morning. Again, fourteen riders sent in their entry forms, but only eight of them came to the Start Line. Robin obliterated the field with a 1.2.26 that, whilst amongst his slowest of his nine wins, underlined his class as John Cleeve was in 2nd place over 10 minutes slower with a 1.12.31! Keith Lomath came 3rd in 1.13.25. Robin took the handicap from Keith Lomath in 2nd place and John Cleeve 3rd.

The weather made everyone have a terrible start to the season. Cold, wind and rain in abundance. Robin Buchan took 2nd place in the Northern road race over 54 miles after being four minutes up at one point. Keith Butler won the Dover Two Day. Starting at Green St Green the break had gone by the time the race had reached Badgers Mount. There was a howling tailwind and the race was so fast that the Police turned up to marshal the lights in Dover just as the last man was coming in! The 10-man break was gradually whittled down to three and Keith would not let the other two feed or drink. Everytime they reached for a bottle or into their back pocket he attacked. It did not make him popular but he did win the Stage. Bruce Smith and Phil Griffin came in with the main group. The Second Stage was two loops around Dover. The first came back into Dover via Folkestone Hill and the second started by climbing out of Dover by the castle. It was not a flat race. Keith kept with the leaders all day; finishing 3rd on the Stage to hold onto his Leaders Jersey and the Paragon took the Team award.

Phil Griffin could not bring off a double in the Archer Spring Handicap this year only managing 13th equal. George Walmsley was in the same group and Alan Bromley was just behind in 24th place.

In the Apollo '25' Dick Ongley was our fastest rider on a very cold morning. He finished in 1.8.42; John Cleeve did 1.12.36, Mick Longley 1.13.10 and Bernie Slater 1.16.06. Robin Buchan came 4th in the Bec '25' with a 1.3.37 and John Cleeve did 1.17.57 after collecting 7½ minutes worth of late start. Even in bad weather you cannot keep a good man down and Keith Lomath improved 30" in the Delta '25' with his 1.9.48.

Robin Buchan was beaten into 4th place in the Southboro Hilly '42' with a 2.3.31 ride. Although the best (?) ride of the day was done by Keith Lomath who couldn't find the Start after being given a lift down to the race by Robin! Mike East also came to grief sliding into a ditch on one of the many corners. John Cleeve recorded a 2.24.00 including another late start and yet another puncture.

Keith Butler rode the Croydon Advertiser road race and came 2nd. He was actually first past the chequered flag but the flag was not on the Finish line!!

At Easter Keith Butler rode the Bournemouth 4-day event. He won the 95 miles Stage 1 in a sprint from the 24 remnants of the 60 starters in 4.12.43. On the 92 miles Stage 2 he was 5th in the same time as the winner Dennis Tarr (Condor Mackeson) and collected a hill prime on the way. Stage 3 was shorter at 70 miles but Keith was

up with the action to finish in 4th place 12” behind Jim Hinds (Surrey Division). On the 85 Stage 4 he stayed with the leaders all day. Close to home Graham Burkitt (South Midlands) attacked and gained 15” on the field. In the last 2 miles Keith also attacked but he could not quite catch Burkitt by 2 seconds so had to be content with 2nd place on the Stage. He did have another hill prime to collect. Overall he beat John Woodburn (Barnet) by 18” and Burkitt by 30” for a very successful Easter. The main part of his prize was a Campagnolo Record cotterless double chainset – value £15.15s 0d. (Fifteen guineas or £15.75 in today’s currency). To give some idea of changing values and inflation a similar Campagnolo chainset will cost you £235 in 2004.

Robin Buchan and Bruce Smith came 2nd in the Tandem Sprint at Portsmouth on Good Friday being beaten by World Championship riders Dave Handley and Don Skene. The partnered with Harry Jackson they won the Italian Team Pursuit breaking the Track Record with a 1.58.4 ride. Robin also reached the semi-finals of the sprint much to his surprise! Robin Buchan collected a 4th place in the Fountain ‘25’ with a 1.2.12 on Sunday morning then went up to Coventry for the Easter Monday Meeting. He was the ‘hero’ of the 7½ miles scratch race doing all the hard graft, collecting the lap prize and then being unplaced in the final sprint. He did take 3rd place in the Pursuit match as compensation. The next day the action moved to Nottingham. Here Bruce Smith and Robin came 2nd in the Tandem Pursuit. Bruce and Keith Butler qualified for the Sprint but were eliminated by the pure sprinters. Robin came 3rd in the Pursuit. The 10 miles was a true International with Polish, Swiss, Danish, Australians and New Zealand riders competing. Robin Buchan and Keith Butler attacked the field before Keith took off to collect 13 lap prizes before being reeled in with 3 laps to go. Robin and Bruce tried to control the field but in this class of racing they had little chance. Came the sprint and Bruce came through to collect 4th place. Time for the 10 miles was 19.45! The Paragon riders certainly pleased the crowd with their attacking style of racing.

Then the following weekend Dick Ongley tried a ‘50’ down in the New Forest. He finished with an excellent 2.15.24 for a first attempt. John Cleeve managed to collect his 5th puncture of the year in competition when doing 1.12.28 in the Vectis ‘25’.

A junior 10 was held on the 29th April and Ian Essex prevailed. His 25.58 was over half a minute quicker than Tony Alford, 26.31, and over 1.30 better than Bob Biggs, 27.32. There were thirteen entries for this event! The biggest field of juniors the Club had had for years. Also on the 29th April the Polo Team played their first National League game against Crystal palace and won 5 – 3. The Team was Alex Bird, Dave Bengerfield, Pete Wall, Alan Roberts, Keith Ongley and Bob Reddin.

At Herne Hill the Team Pursuit squad qualified for the next round of the London Region Championship with 6th fastest time. The Team was Les Black, Robin Buchan, Mark Fisher and Bruce Smith. In the First Round of the English Championship the Polo Team played Selhurst and won 8 – 3. The team was Dave Bengerfield, Alex Bird, Pete Wall, Alan Roberts, Keith Ongley and George Ongley.

Yet another foul morning was endured for the Dave London Trophy. The ten entries were reduced to two starters and finishers. Brian Newcombe taking first place and first handicap with a 1.22.51 ride. The other rider was Dave Nightingale, son of

George, with 1.32.24. John Cleeve rode the Bon Amis '50' and returned a 2.17.24 with, surprise, surprise, a puncture. Keith Lomath improved to 1.7.00 in the St Christophers '25'.

The Team Pursuit squad of Robin Buchan, Keith Butler, Les Black and Bruce Smith beat the Edgware in the Quarter-finals of the London Region Championship and now face the Old Portlians in the Semis. At Welwyn Bruce Smith came 2nd in the Bantel 9 laps Pursuit on the 13th May. Phil Griffin came 4th in the Brighton Mitre road race at Rushlake Green. He came in just 38 seconds behind Bill Lievesley (Bournemouth Velo).

Keith Butler was selected to ride for Great Britain in the Berlin-Prague-Warsaw Race – usually referred to as 'The Peace Race'. It was acknowledged to be the hardest stage race on the Amateur Calendar. The Team was Bernie Burns, Bob Addy, Hugh MacGuire, Alan Jacobs, Gerry Blake and Keith Butler. The 1st Stage around Berlin was mainly a big bunch effort. Keith collected a puncture at a very fortunate period as just as he was making his way back to the main bunch there was an almighty crash at a level crossing involving half of the 150 strong field. He, therefore, returned to the front quite comfortably and with plenty of company. Lady Luck deserted him on Stage 2 when he punctured 3 times in 2kms. He managed to collect another two punctures before the end of the stage. Later his gears jammed and a period on the spare bike left him with cramp. It was quite a surprise therefore to arrive at the Finish to find he was placed 107th. There were still 40 riders behind him even though he had lost 50 minutes on the leaders in one stage! The next stage to Erfurt saw a complete change in fortunes. The main feature of the day was a tortuous climb through the mountains with innumerable bends. Keith found a great rhythm and moved from near the back of the field at the foot of the climb to find himself with only two riders ahead of him as the came out of the tree line. Both riders were far more engrossed in each other's tactics and were quite unprepared for Keith blasting past them with 200 metres to go. This ride made the local headlines and put down the foundations of a winning ride in the King of the Mountains competition. This Stage Three also showed the high standard of riding as the finishing sprint started 20 kms out and the last 5 kms saw Keith in his 108th gear (52 x 13) the whole way. Stage 4 was a Time Trial and Keith finished in 9th place.

Stage 6 – 28th, Stage 11 - 24th Stage 12 – 26th King of the Mountains.

Eight juniors set out on a 15 miles event on the 20th May and once again Ian Essex was a comfortable winner in 39.33. John Alcock was 2nd in 41.00 and Bob Chambers 3rd in 41.09. Phil Griffin was up with the action in the East Grinstead road race when finishing 5th a few seconds behind the winner Roy Savery (CC Islington)

Robin Buchan, partnered by Ted McDonald (De Laune) won the 50 laps Madison at the De Laune Meeting on the 26th May.

On a particularly foul morning of the 27th May the Glade CC held their Open '50' on the E1 course. Thirty riders failed to start. It was however blessed with a northwesterly wind that meant a fast finish back up through Newport to the Finish at the 32nd milestone. By the far turn Keith Butler led the field in 1.4.32 from Ron Ford (Crawley Whs) 1.6.18 and Dave Hill (Kentish Whs) 1.7.36. However on the return he piled on the pressure to cross the line in 2.1.59 having only taken 57.27 for the last

25miles. Norman Hall (Hull Thursday) who had 1.8.07 at the turn pulled up to a 2.6.38 for 2nd place with Dave Hill finishing in 2.7.30 for 3rd place.

The Walter Moon '50' was a wash out with only Ken Williams and John Cleeve managing to finish the course with a 2.24.45 by Ken and a 2.34.00 from John. John was now up to seven punctures in competition.

On the 6th June Robin Buchan and Keith Butler came 3rd in the Fountain 100 laps Madison and on Saturday 9th Robin Buchan was 2nd in the Ditchman 10 miles at the Poly Meeting.

A star-studded field of 60 riders started the Hemel Hempstead Ovaltine International Road race at Amersham on the 3rd June. The problem was that the field was so evenly matched no one could get clear. While over a third of the starters were dropped and eliminated 38 riders sprinted for the line at the end of 100 miles of fast racing. Then, in 1962 of course, there was no photo-finish and our man, not being large of stature, was placed 17th amongst the also rans. Keith Butler reckons that he was actually 8th or 9th. 100 miles around the Chiltern Hills in 4.1.26! It was a bit quick!

Keith Butler rode the Tour of Britain for the England team but did not have such a successful time as last year. He finished 5th on Stage 1 from Blackpool to Rhyl. There were two riders' some 26" clear and Keith was 3rd in the bunch sprint for 5th place. On the 2nd stage he took off up the Horseshoe Pass with two others but was caught on the descent and finished the day in the bunch. He was 6th in the bunch sprint on Stage 3 from Cheltenham to Weston-super-Mare. On Stage 4 he was first over the dreaded Porlock Climb (1 in 4 for a mile) and 3rd in the climb from Withypool. With the points gained he was then leader in the King of the Mountains competition so wore the Red Jersey. Keith came 4th on Stage 6 from Bournemouth to Hove. Stage 7 went from Hove to Northampton taking in the climbs out of Ewhurst and Newlands Corner. Playing to the local gallery Keith won both these primes but paid for his early efforts by losing contact with the leading group after picking up more points on the Chiltern Hills climbs. However he held on to his Red Jersey. Stage 8 from Northampton to Skegness was meant to be a mobile rest day just rolling along with the bunch. Fortunately or unfortunately Keith found himself at the right place at the right time and was away with a ten-man group. There was a gale behind them and the whole field was moving at a shade under 30 mph for the whole day! Going towards the coast the break went over a railway bridge and Nev Crane (from Boston) shouted 'That's your last hill before Skegness!' There were still 30 miles to cover! Nearing the Finish there was a crash and Roy Hopkins took a flyer and no one was able to catch him so Keith won the chasing group sprint for 2nd place some 50 seconds behind. The 102 miles were covered in 3 30.42 that about 29.2 mph and until the 21st Century the fastest road stage ever in Britain. There were some repercussions. Possibly when taking avoiding action at the crash but anyway somewhere along the line Keith put his left knee out of kilter and had problems climbing. This was liveable on Stages 9 and 10 but Stage 11 was across the Pennines with its attendant steep and long hills. While he managed to keep with the leaders and even get some points towards the King of the Mountains competition he had to drop back on Pawlaw Pike. Eventually Keith lost some 15 minutes on this Stage and this put pay to his hopes of taking the King of the Mountains Title and a high placing on General Classification.. He made up a little for this by winning the bunch sprint along Blackpool Promenade

for 5th place on the last Stage. He finished 32nd overall and was rather disappointed. This injury affected his riding for the next month or so.

George Walmsley took 3rd place in the Addiscombe road race and 4th in the Polhill promotion and has progressed to 2nd category. Bruce Smith came 4th in the SCCU Championship.

Bruce Smith was 3rd in the London Region 880 yards Scratch Sprint Grass Championship on the 16th June. On the 20th June at the Catford Meeting all our hopes of another Team Pursuit Title were dashed when Robin Buchan was brought down in the 3-up Madison and broke his collarbone. Mark Fisher and Bruce Smith soldiered on picking up primes and points but 3rd place just slipped out of their grasp in the last sprint.

In the English League the Paragon beat Morland 19 – 0 and go onto the next round. In the Croydon League things have not been so easy with loses to Selhurst and Palace but a win against Benfield 17 –5. The lads went to Solihull for the Lusty Trophy Tournament. They reached the Final and had to play the Solihull Club. The Paragon led until almost full time when Solihull equalised. This meant extra time had to be played. Once again the Paragon lads scored and held out until nearly full time when Solihull equalised again! They do not do penalty shoot-outs in Polo as they like to keep their goal keepers alive. The Polo lads do the ‘Golden Goal’ finishes. First team to score wins. Unfortunately on this occasion it was Solihull that did the scoring. Our Team was Alan Roberts, Reg Marsh, Keith Ongley, Dave Bengerfield and George Ongley.

Robin Buchan rode the National Championship ‘25’ but he had a very early start in thick mist and only managed 59.09. Even so this was his fastest ride of the year. Then in the Farnham ‘25’ he reduced that to 58.39.

At our Inter-Club Meeting at Herne Hill on the 28th June we included a Schoolboy Challenge match against the Catford in which the Catford just had the edge. Twenty riders went onto the Track for the Club 5 miles but the ‘old school’ prevailed. Bruce Smith winning from Les Black and Mark Fisher. Mike East took the Points Prize. One satisfying part of the evening was the defeat of the Old Portlians in the Semi-finals of the London region Team Pursuit. This puts the Paragon into the Final against the Festival.

The Final was run-off at our Evening Meeting on the 4th July but unfortunately the Festival beat our Team Pursuit squad by some 10 seconds. The Team was Les Black, Keith Butler, Bruce Smith and Mark Fisher. The Finals of our Club Championships were also held. In the 550 yards handicap for the Frank Burton Cup Alan Bromley held off Mark Fisher and Les Black whilst in the 550 yards Scratch for the AEU Cup Mark Fisher beat Bruce Smith and Dick Langenbruch. Bruce Smith took the Ravensbourne Cup for the 5 miles from Les Black and Dick Langenbruch whilst Mike East collected the George Colget Cup for the Points Race. The Open event winners were:- 5 miles Block Handicap 1st Ron Keeble (34th Nomads), 2nd Dave Holder (34th Nomads) and 3rd Ray Plimmer (Orpington). The 880 yards Scratch Sprint went to Brian Dacey (De Laune) from H Hector (Edgware) and P Robinson

(Poly). The Devil-take-the-hindmost was a win for Dave Burwood (Vulcan) from Brian Dacey and J McCrail (Orpington).

The highlight of the evening's entertainment was the London Region 10 miles Championship in which we had Mark Fisher Bruce Smith and Keith Butler riding. In his usual attacking style Keith was out in front pushing the pace and getting clear with various groups. With one lap to go his small group was just holding off the bunch when Dave Bonner (Old Portlians) attacked catching and passing the escapees. Keith left his companions chased and caught Bonner, held him around the final bend and then came by him down the home straight to win. Chris Gray (Festival) led the bunch in for 3rd place. It got the crowd on their feet for a deserved and popular win.

Keith Lomath continued to improve bringing his best '25' down to 1.7.00 in the St Christophers '25' and then to 1.3.35. Phil Griffin rode the Catford CC's Brighton to London and once again finished near the front of affairs in 5th place.

The Purley to Brighton race collected the biggest field of the season with 21 riders including Vice President Len Niel who was indulging in a spot of weight or waist reduction. Fastest down the A23 was Bruce Smith in 1.34.35 just ahead of Phil Griffin, 1.35.04, and Alan Bromley, 1.36.28. 4th was Keith Lomath one second slower than Alan. Keith did not have the best of days as he also lost the Handicap by 1" to Bernie Slater (1.31.28 to 1.31.29) with evergreen Pete Wall in 3rd spot in 1.33.07.

Keith Butler was our only starter in the National Championship '50' held over the Crawley Horsham course on July 1st. The field were completely outclassed by Frank Colden (Camberley) whose 1.53.33 gave him the title by 1.44 from Charlie McCoy. Keith could have kicked himself at the Finish for knowing that he was nowhere near a prize or a personal best he did not sprint out of the last corner and was timed in at 2.0.00 exactly for 7th place.

A junior '10' was held on the 22nd July with six contenders. Fastest was Tony Alford in 26.10, 2nd was Brian Slater in 26.24 and 3rd Bob Bigg, 26.26. Bigg also collected the handicap prize. Keith Butler went down to the New Forest for the Southampton Whs '100' still uncertain as to whether he had cured the knee problems that beset him in the Tour of Britain. His 4.14.24 for 2nd place albeit 8.08 slower than the winner Pete Betteridge (Southampton) suggested that it was on the mend but was not fully cured.

John Cleeve rode the National 24 hours Championship on yet another foul weekend and finished in a bloody mess with 428.75 miles. A violent nosebleed over the final miles was very impressive for the gallery but did not do much for John's racing jersey. It probably cost him about 4 miles to his finishing distance. Alan Bromley and Keith Lomath rode the SCCU, their first '100', and picked a 'stinker' of a day. Alan finished in 4.50.30, after losing 4 minutes at the start, and Keith Lomath 5.5.13.

On the 11th July at the Poly Meeting Mark Fisher got his name onto the Dunlop Novice Sprint Cup winning with ease. Alan Bromley won the 550 yards handicap going from the front.

Keith Butler rode the Belle Vue '50' and finished in 2.1.31 still not going really well after his knee trouble in the Milk Race. The lads went down to the Portsmouth Road for the next '25' and fourteen riders finished from the twenty-one entrants. Les Black produced the ride of the day to finish in 1.0.20 to beat Robin Buchan by 38". These two were 2' clear of Brian Newcombe in 3rd spot with a personal best time of 1.2.57. Keith Lomath collected the handicap as his 4th place ride of 1.3.35 was subject to an eight minutes deduction. His nett 55.35 beat Dave Nightingale, 56.39, and Terry Slattery, 57.07. Phil Griffin rode the Vandervelde road race on the Newick circuit over 102 miles. He was rewarded with 8th place behind Alan Perkins (Leyton CRC)

The Croydon Summer League was going well with the Paragon winning four games on the trot. They beat Aces 17 – 3 and 6 – 2, Benfield 8 – 3 and Palace 2 – 1. This should make them 2nd in the League. Our players were Alan Roberts, Reg Marsh, Alec Bird, Keith Ongley and Dave Bengerfield. They were knocked out of the English Championship going down to Solihull 6 – 1. Keith Ongley was the only scorer. Dave Bengerfield and Keith Ongley travelled to Leeds to take part in Exhibition matches up north.

At the 34th Nomads Meeting Bruce Smith was 3rd in the 3 miles (Bloodbath) Scratch whilst Keith Butler and Robin Buchan took off in the 20 miles Scratch in the last few laps. At the 'bell' with the remnants of the bunch fast bearing down on them Keith led. He went up the banking at the end of his half lap but Robin followed him and would not go through. There was no option for Keith but to go for the whole lap. This he did holding off Robin in the sprint and keeping the pack at bay. It certainly had the crowd on their feet.

Bath Road '100' day and Keith went to the line knowing that his knee problem had corrected itself. During the week whilst at work he walked down some steep stairs. All of a sudden there was a sharp pain that stopped him dead in his tracks but as he gingerly moved down a step it was obvious that whatever was 'out' had now gone 'in'. Consequently it was a relaxed Keith that started the '100'. Starting 'slowly' at the 21.8 miles check he was already 2.33 slower than Frank Colden and was actually caught at 40 miles by Jeff Marshal (Hounslow) for a minute. This stirred our man into action! He went through 50 miles in 2.1.27 just a little faster than he finished the Belle Vue '50' the week earlier but still down in about 16th place. He then had the mortification of being caught five minutes by Frank Colden who was making history and taking Competition Record. Out to the turn and Keith had lost another 1.42 on Colden but nearly everyone else was feeling the pace. Keith put in the Butler fast finish back down the Bath Road through Hungerford, Newbury and Thatcham to cross the line in a new Club Record, by 5 minutes, of 4.6.29 and 4th place in the Championship missing 3rd place by 30 seconds.

The day before it was the Frank Southall Open '50' and a second win for Ron Ford (Crawley Whs). This was a very popular win by a very unassuming, but fast, bike rider. He was even more pleased when he realised that his Club had won the Team race. Robin Buchan was our best man with a 2.6.34 and fairly pleased with this ride, as it was his first race since breaking his collarbone. Keith Lomath was riding his first 50 and came back with a 2.13.21. Alan Bromley clocked 2.15.45, John Cleeve 2.15.55, Bert Chapman 2.19.35 and Pete Wall 2.20.07. Phil Griffin took in the Finsbury Park road race at Thunbridge. He stayed with the leaders as the field was

gradually whittled down to 14 riders over the 75 miles. In the final sprint Phil came 5th just 1 second down on the winner John Branch (Woolwich).

Brian Newcombe was our fastest rider in the Oval '25' with a 1.3.23 followed by Mike East 1.5.35, Alan Bromley 1.5.42 and Pete Wall 1.7.45. Pete Wall then beat his personal best in the Weybridge '25' with a 1.7.03.

We found the following undated track results mentioned in the Dinner Magazine for 1963. Mark Fisher won the Dunlop Novice Sprint at the Poly Meeting. Alan Bromley took 2nd place in the 550 yards handicap at the De Laune Meeting then went to Bletchley where he collected a nice pot for winning Sprint event. Robin Buchan took 2nd place in the 10 laps chase at the De Laune Meeting.

Keith Butler came 2nd to Dave Bedwell in the 76 miles Chequers Grand Prix over the Chiltern Hills. He just mistimed his effort passing Bedwell on the line.

In the three stage London Folkestone and back Keith Butler was 2nd on Stage 1. The race proper started from Addington up to Sanderstead and on that gentle climb the bunch split in two! All the way up to the top of Botley Hill there was only 50 yards between the two groups with riders moving back or coming forward. Then coming down Titsey Hill the front group got their act together and that was the last the rear bunch saw of them. The course went over the Ashdown Forest then eastwards to Buxted and Heathfield. It dropped down to Pevensey and came into Folkestone the back way. Distance and speed took their toll and with 5 miles to go only three riders were left Keith, Ken Nuttall (both England Team) and another. On the last climb Nuttall attacked and Keith kept his fellow escapee under his wing until outsprinting him for 2nd place. The fourth man came in some 7 minutes down. Stage 2 was from Folkestone back to Crystal Palace. It was a lovely day for racing with warm sun and little wind. The racing was fast and the bunch gradually lost men over the hills, as no attacks were able to keep away. Coming into London via West Wickham and Elmers End three riders attacked as they went over the railway bridge. They held this slender lead up to Anerley and began the climb of Anerley Hill before the turn into the Crystal Palace Circuit. As the field hit the false flat by the shops Keith Butler attacked to catch the escapees. He was just 20 yards behind coming up fast when they did the right and left turn onto the motor racing circuit. Unfortunately he was going far too fast and overshot the corner ending up on the wrong side of the barriers. A quick turn was achieved but the chance had gone and he came in with the bunch. Stage 3 was around the Crystal Palace Circuit and resulted in a bunch sprint so Keith held onto his 2nd place. Phil Griffin came 5th in the Finsbury Park road race after a very fast race with 75 miles being covered in less than 3 hours.

After this event Keith Butler was selected to ride the Amateur World Championship Road Race at Salo Italy. Keith was never a hot weather man so this was not a good selection. The Amateur World Championship attracted riders from all over and, at that time, any country that was affiliated to the UCI could send a rider or riders. Consequently there was an extremely wide range of abilities both in speed and bike handling in a bunch of 200 riders. To sort out this problem the race customarily started at breakneck speed to get rid of the also-rans. Salo was no different. Spectators on the many bends could smell the burning rubber from brake blocks and tyres skidding! As mentioned it was extremely hot and by three-quarters distance,

drinks and sponges notwithstanding Keith came to a halt in the pits and flaked out in the shade. He was aroused by having water poured over him by Saduzhin (Russia), who had also succumbed to the heat, and who was one of Keith's main rivals for the King of the Mountains title in the Peace race. They could not speak one word of each other's language but respected each other's prowess and problems.

Somewhere about this time the Club 4000m Pursuit Championship was run resulting in a win for Keith Butler from Alan Bromley, Mark Fisher and Dick Langenbruch. This meant there was now a tie for 1st place in the Club Track Championship between Mark and Bruce Smith so a 1000m time trial ought to be arranged. However it was decided that it was too late in the season to do this so a tie was agreed between the contestants. Phil Griffin rode the Brighton Mitre '25' clocking a 1.4.35.

Seven riders took part in the Fryco Cup '50' of whom four recorded times at the finish. Alan Bromley took the Cup and first handicap with a 2.11.06 from Phil Griffin, 2.12.36, with Pete Wall 3rd in 2.20.43. Pete was 2nd on handicap and Phil 3rd. The fourth rider was none other than Bert Chapman! He went round in 2.21.44 but the handicapper was very wary of Bert so only allowed him nine minutes so he came 3rd in the handicap!

The last junior event of the year was held on the 9th September over 15 miles. Tony Alford got the better of Ian Essex by 21" recording 39.10 to Ian's 39.31. In 3rd place was Bob Bigg with 39.37. Dick Phillips won the handicap.

Keith Butler went up to Macclesfield for the National Road Race Championship on the 19th September. The course was rather lumpy. It started in Macclesfield and went straight up the Cat and Fiddle climb towards Buxton. On the drop to Buxton the race turned right over Axe Edge to Leek. It then went down to Ashburton before turning again toward Buxton. Just before the drop another left turn took the race onto Axe Edge again. Then back to Leek before turning right on the back roads to Finish just short of Macclesfield. Keith took it steady on the Cat and Fiddle but came over the top fairly fresh. It was apparent that a fair sized group was forming up front so Keith put his head down catching and passing riders and eventually regaining the front group on Axe Edge. This group of some 16 riders was 'the race'. Down to Leek and along to Ashburton the pace was high but no real attacks were made. Turning back to Buxton there was a crash that Keith missed. Back over the moors it got colder and the hills got steeper and longer. For some reason Keith thought that he had to go down into Buxton and face the long climb back to the top of Axe Edge. So when the group were turned left, avoiding any major climbing, towards Leek he perked up no end! As by this time it was raining and windy it was quite a bonus. The second climb of the top of Axe Edge produced a split with nine riders, including Keith, going clear. Down to Leek and it started to snow as they approached the town! The last nine miles were on a winding side road that Keith had checked over the day before. So when he saw the 220 yards to go Yellow Flag peeking out of the hedge on the other side of the valley he was ready. He began moving down the outside of the group hitting the front, already in his sprinting gear, as they swung round the last corner. Fortunately everyone else had missed that glimpse of yellow so Keith won by 3 lengths. With this ride Keith was told that he had been selected to ride the Commonwealth Games in Perth, Western Australia.

The Mayne Cup was run off in inclement weather on the 7th October but fastest time was recorded by one of the best roadmen to belong to the Paragon one John Sargeant. He finished in 1.5.56, (that will give some idea of the morning), beating Phil Thompsett, 1.6.29, and Dick Langenbruch, 1.6.40. Man of the Day however was Phil whose time was reduced by six and a half minutes to 59.59. John Sargeant came 2nd with 1.0.56 and Chris Matthews 3rd in 1.1.39.

Nine riders attempted Ranmore Common but the other eight failed to depose the hill-climbing Champion. Les Black came over the top in 3.55.0 to beat Keith Butler into 2nd place, 4.04.6, and Dick Langenbruch 3rd in 4.19.6.

The October Blah records the election to the Club of a new junior called John Sargeant. The November edition records the election of another junior called Peter Ansell. We shall read a lot more of these two gentlemen as the years roll on. Phil Griffin and John Cleeve took part in the 1st East Surrey Cyclists v Harriers event around Banstead Woods. Phil got the better of John coming home in 28th place to John's 65th.

Reading through the 1963 Dinner RAG a number of undated results came to light. Robin Buchan came 2nd in the Ray Henshaw road race, 6th on Stage 1 of the Tour of Essex and 6th overall. Bruce Smith had two 4th places in the SCCU Championships and at Lee on Solent. George Walmsley had a 3rd in the Addiscombe 3/J event, 4th in the Polhill event and another 4th in the Sorian road race. Dick Langenbruch had a 5th in the CC Northants race and a 6th in the RAF Championships. Alan Bromley came 4th in the Old Portlians 3/J race. Keith Lomath came 4th in the Hadrian road race and Les Black 5th in the Inter-Services Championship.

As mentioned Keith Butler was selected to ride the Commonwealth Games in Perth, Western Australia. This was four-week trip, as a considerable amount of training was needed before the 130 miles race. For all those from the Northern Hemisphere the race was way out of season and for those from the Southern Hemisphere it was right at the start of their road season. The saving grace was that the road race was on the morning of the closing ceremony so there was adequate time for the training. Training for the road squad was also exploring as the rides went out from the very pleasant city of Perth. Keith took charge of the long rides into the interior whilst the shorter speed sessions were usually shared with the track team for obvious reasons. Keith had also taken his track bike as he was reserve for those events should any problems arise through crashes or illness.

Meeting all the various athletes from around the world was a great experience and the Commonwealth Games is truly 'The Friendly Games'. However none of them could understand why all the road teams were riding, riding and riding with very little beach time and no parties – until the day of the race! The race was held in Kings Park overlooking Perth and was basically a long drag up and a gentle fast descent on the other side with the Finish just off the circuit. The Start was at 8 am and the race was shown on TV. Five hours later the race was still on and realization dawned on the other athletes that this race was taking TWICE the time of the Marathon and still had not reached its end. It was noticeable at the Closing Ceremony that the road men of what ever nationality were treated with absolute awe by their fellow team members!

The race itself was fairly straightforward. There were 38 starters and in many respects it was a scaled down World Championship with a large number of fairly inexperienced riders mixed with some top class performers. The England team began the attacks immediately each one going after the previous rider was caught. A small break containing Ken Nuttall, an Australian and a New Zealander moved off the front that meant the rest of the England squad could ride and take things easier and watch the action. At one time the lead was 4 minutes but the two others attacked Ken and so doomed the break. As the break came back Keith put in a scorching attack up the long hill that reduced the number in the front group to about 15 riders. Then Bob Addy had an attack of dysentery and had to pull out. Ken Nuttall had gone too hard too early leaving the England team down to two men Keith and Wes Mason but a very confident pair. They decided Keith would have a go with 2 laps to go and play it from there. So it came to pass. Keith made his attack reducing the interested parties to eight but as he came over the top of the hill he turned to see what the damage was and promptly cramped in both thighs! That settled who was to be 8th! The Australian and New Zealand riders were pleased and thought they now had the race in the bag. Unfortunately for them when they thought they were sprinting for the line Wes Mason had not started his move so Wes took the Gold Medal.

The worst part of the trip, according to Keith's article in the 1963 Dinner RAG was leaving a hot and sunny Perth in 106 degrees to arrive at a freezing, dull, damp and foggy Gatwick with temperature at 28 degrees some 15 hours later.

First results of the Croydon Winter League show the A team beating Croydon Aces 10 – 2 and Bendfield 8 – 1 but losing to Crystal Palace 6 – 7. The B Team is struggling losing to Selhurst 2 – 10 and Crystal Palace 3 – 8.

Keith was also awarded the Club and Open Road Championships for 1962 without actually completing a 12 hours ride. Riding the Yorkshire 12 hours event he was knocked off his bike when leading the race after covering some 180 miles and on course for a big mileage. He had been taken to hospital, which meant that he could not continue the race. The Club Committee decided that, subject to confirmation of the distance from the race organisers, they would accept the distance ridden as Keith's 12 hours effort and award the Championship accordingly.

He won the Massed Start Championship rather comfortably without any problems due to crashes with 35 points. In 2nd place was Robin Buchan and Phil Griffin was 3rd. George Walmsley won the medal for the most improved rider.

Before this season started it was to be expected that it would be a bumper year but although it had high spots it was not as successful everyone hoped. Causes were various. Don Ward and Alan Sturgess retired and then Robin Buchan went off to work in Switzerland. The weather put pay to many hopes of fast times and personal best and luck was not our side as can be read in the old Blahs with their League Tables of crashes and broken bones.

Club Time Trial Results

	Scratch Result	10 Scr				
		4.3.62				
14	Entries					
11	Starters					
11	Finishers					
1	Ongley R	26.35				
2	Thompsett P	27.59				
3	Essex I	28.40				
4	Slater B	28.53				
5	Nightingale D	29.24				
6	Alford A	29.36				
7	Matthews C	29.53				
8	Bryant J	30.56				
9	Phillips R	32.13				
10	Boey B	34.02				
11	Rainey C	35.09				
	Scratch Result	25 H/cap				
		Jim Fox Cup				
14	Entries	25.3.62				
8	Starters					
8	Finishers					
1	Buchan R	1.02.26				
2	Cleeve J	1.12.31				
3	Lomath K	1.13.25				
4	Bryant J	1.16.50				
5	Essex I	1.17.18				
6	Nightingale D	1.18.08				
7	Matthews C	1.20.01				
8	Whiteside R	1.21.40				
	Scratch Result	10 Scr				
		29.4.62				
13	Entries					
13	Starters					
13	Finishers					
1	Essex I	25.58				
2	Alford A	26.31				
3	Bigg R	27.32				
4	Alcock J	27.33				
5	Phillips R	28.17				
6	Whiteside R	28.25				
7	Roebuck A	28.31				
8	Nightingale D	28.33				
9	Matthews C	28.44				
10	Clarke D	29.26				
11	Barker J	29.48				
12	Povey D	30.08				
13	Rainey C	31.04				

	Scratch Result	30 h/cap				
		Dave London Trophy				
10	Entries	6.5.62				
2	Starters					
2	Finishers					
1	Newcombe B	1.22.51	1	Newcombe B	1.00	1.21.51
2	Nightingale D	1.32.24	2	Nightingale D	10.00	1.22.24
	Scratch Result	15 Scr				
		Junior				
9	Entries	20.5.62				
9	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Essex I					39.33
2	Alcock J					41.00
3	Chambers R					41.09
4	Bigg R					42.39
5	Nightingale D					43.38
6	Phillips R					44.15
7	Boey B					45.13
8	Clarke D					46.03
9	Povey D					46.07
	Scratch Result	50 h/cap				
6	Entries					
1	Starters					
1	Finishers					
1	Williams K	2.24.45				
	Scratch Result	50 h/cap		Handicap Result		
		Fryco Cup				
7	Entries	26.8.62				
6	Starters					
4	Finishers					
1	Bromley A	2.11.06	1	Bromley A	2.30	2.08.36
2	Griffin P	2.12.36	2	Wall P	9.00	2.11.43
3	Wall P	2.20.43	3	Griffin P	Scratch	2.12.36
4	Chapman H	2.21.44	4	Chapman H	9.00	2.12.44
	Scratch Result	Purley to Brighton		Handicap Result		
		15.7.62				
23	Entries					
21	Starters					
21	Finishers					
1	Smith B	1.34.35	1	Slater B	9.00	1.31.28
2	Griffin P	1.35.04	2	Lomath K	5.00	1.31.29
3	Bromley A	1.36.28	3	Wall P	10.00	1.33.07
4	Lomath K	1.36.29	4	Matthews C	10.00	1.34.26
5	Newcombe B	1.37.52	5	Smith B	Scratch	1.34.35
6	Cleeve J	1.39.14	6	Griffin P	Scratch	1.35.04
7	Slater B	1.40.28	7	Bromley A	1.00	1.35.28
8	East M	1.40.28	8	Alford A	5.00	1.35.31

9	Alford A	1.40.31	9	Newcombe B	2.00	1.35.52
10	Vallack J	1.42.33	10	Slattery T	10.00	1.36.04
11	Chapman H	1.42.57	11	Vallack J	6.00	1.36.33
12	Wall P	1.43.07	12	Lovell J	8.00	1.36.50
13	Matthews C	1.44.26	13	Roebuck A	11.00	1.36.50
14	Lovell J	1.44.50	14	Chapman H	6.00	1.36.57
15	Bigg R	1.45.32	15	Cleeve J	2.00	1.37.14
16	Slattery T	1.46.04	16	Nightingale D	12.00	1.37.18
17	Roebuck A	1.47.50	17	East M	3.00	1.37.28
18	Alcock J	1.48.06	18	Bigg R	7.00	1.38.52
19	Nightingale D	1.49.18	19	Alcock J	8.00	1.40.06
20	Leahy M	1.56.34	20	Neil L	16.00	1.40.43
21	Neil L	1.56.43	21	Leahy M	10.00	1.46.34
	Scratch Result	10 h/cap		Handicap Result		
		Junior				
6	Entries	22.7.62				
6	Starters					
6	Finishers					
				Bigg R		
1	Alford A	26.10		No other handicaps		
2	Slater B	26.24		Results recorded		
3	Bigg R	26.26				
4	Roebuck A	27.03				
5	Nightingale D	27.21				
6	Phillips R	27.26				
	Scratch Result	25 h/cap		Handicap Result		
		Portsmouth Road 25				
21	Entries	29.7.62				
14	Starters					
14	Finishers					
1	Black L	1.00.20	1	Lomath K	8.00	0.55.35
2	Buchan R	1.00.58	2	Nightingale D	12.00	0.56.39
3	Newcombe B	1.02.57	3	Slattery T	12.00	0.57.07
4	Lomath K	1.03.35	4	Newcombe B	5.15	0.57.42
5	Walmsley G	1.03.54	5	Roebuck A	11.00	0.57.52
6	Cleeve J	1.05.39	6	Black L	2.00	0.58.20
7	Williams K	1.07.15	7	Cleeve J	7.00	0.58.39
8	Wall P	1.08.29	8	Wall P	9.00	0.59.29
9	Nightingale D	1.08.39	9	Slater B	10.00	0.59.29
10	Roebuck A	1.08.52	10	Walmsley G	4.15	0.59.39
11	Slattery T	1.09.07	11	Buchan R	Scratch	1.00.58
12	Chapman H	1.09.26	12	Chapman H	8.00	1.01.26
13	Slater B	1.09.29	13	Williams K	4.00	1.03.25
14	Neil L	1.15.56	14	Neil L	12.00	1.03.56
	Scratch Result	15 h/cap		Handicap Result		
		Junior				
8	Entries	9.9.62				
7	Starters					
7	Finishers					
1	Alford A	39.10		Phillips R		
2	Essex I	39.31		No other handicaps		
3	Bigg R	39.37		Results recorded		
4	Alcock J	40.07				

5	Phillips R	40.31				
6	Slattery T	41.08				
7	Roebuck A	41.34				
	Scratch Result	25 h/cap		Handicap Result		
		Mayne Cup				
18	Entries	7.10.62				
16	Starters					
12	Finishers					
1	Sargeant J	1.05.56	1	Thompsett P	6.30	0.59.59
2	Thompsett P	1.06.29	2	Sargeant J	5.00	1.00.56
3	Langenbruch R	1.06.40	3	Matthews C	10.00	1.01.39
4	Newcombe B	1.07.32	4	Langenbruch R	2.00	1.04.40
5	Chambers R	1.07.54	5	Wall P	5.00	1.04.55
6	Cleeve J	1.08.25	6	Alford A	3.30	1.05.12
7	Alford A	1.08.42	7	Cleeve J	2.30	1.05.55
8	Wall P	1.09.55	8	Roebuck A	6.30	1.06.42
9	Matthews C	1.11.39	9	Newcombe B	0.30	1.07.02
10	East M	1.11.40	10	Chambers R	0.45	1.07.09
11	Roebuck A	1.13.12	11	Slattery T	6.30	1.08.33
12	Slattery T	1.15.03	12	East M	3.00	1.08.40
	Scratch Result	Hill Climb				
		14.10.62				
9	Entries					
9	Starters					
9	Finishers					
1	Black L	3.55.0				
2	Butler KS	4.04.6				
3	Langenbruch R	4.19.6				
4	Thompsett P	4.31.6				
5	Essex I	4.34.0				
6	Wall P	4.34.6				
7	Slattery T	4.47.6				
8	Matthews C	5.04.2				
9	Nightingale D	5.08.0				