

1964

At the AGM Frank Cleeve was re-elected as President and so were all the Vice Presidents. John Pocock resigned as General Secretary due to work commitments but a replacement was found in Terry O'Loughlin

The January Blah reports that Bruce Smith has already made his mark in the New World winning a rather bulky marble and gold trophy in the States!"

Six men braved the weather in March to ride the first Club'10' Pete Ansell won with 27.14 just holding off Dan Hadfield's 27.17. This was Dan's first race since 1954. Chris Swain was 3rd in 29.17, which gives you some idea of the pleasantness of the morning. Dan Hadfield rode the Castlenau '25' in 1.9.42 for a hoped for first full season for 10 years. Down on the South Coast Les Black, Alan Sturgess and Tom Tolley rode and won the Portsmouth RN Command Team Time Trial in 1.26.06 for 32 miles getting home by just 5 seconds from the Portsmouth CC.

In the Rochester Olympic Road 3rd category road race Bob Chambers and Terry Slattery broke away from the rest of the field. Bob dropped Terry but later a small chasing group caught both of them. In the final sprint Terry was 4th and Bob took 6th place.

On what can only be described as 'a stinking' day, Bob Chambers finished 2nd in the White Hart 3rd category event at Puckeridge. The other members of the team gave the conditions best and retired cold and wet.

Four men rode the Kentish Whs Novices '25' and the fastest of them was Chris Swain with a 1.9.54, then came Ian Murray (son of George) with a 1.11.11, John Smith 1.13.11 and Dave Bashford 1.19.31. In the East Surrey Hardriders Dan Hadfield finished in 1.27.27 and in the Army CU '10' Wally Happy made fastest time of 27.06. Tony Alford was 4th in the Old Portlians road race for 2nd and 3rd category riders on the Lingfield circuit and Bob Chambers was 4th in the event for 3rd category riders. Tom Tolley and Alan Sturgess rode the Leyton Camp Whs 66 miles road race on the 29th March. After a tough ride in cold and windy conditions Tom finished 3rd and Alan 6th.

Keith Butler rode the Kuurne Brussels Kuurne event and finished 10th in a 12 man sprint after 208 kms.

On the 5th April the Club was shocked to hear of the death at his Hayling Island home of the man who put the Norwood Paragon on the map. Frank Southall had died. This paragraph is not sufficient to remind readers of the debt we owe this man and the inspiration he was to the Club so we have printed the obituary penned by Frank Cleeve. In short for all his fame and success Frank remained a Paragon man, a Club Man. He could ride the Track, he could time trail, he took part in World Championship Road Races and Olympic Games. He held World and National Records some of which remained on the books until metrication of distances overtook the Cycling World. He was a 'Giant' in British Cycling and he set the standard for others

to follow. Look back into this History and compare his rides with those that we are chronicling in 1964. There are many who could not reach his standard with all the modern equipment available today. With his reputation as a bike rider many treated Frank with reverence. We in the Paragon knew him well and treated him with less deference but still with a keen knowledge of what this man was. Frank was a pretty straightforward man and called a spade a spade. When he was sure that he was right he made sure everyone knew it. He had a wicked sense of humour and heaven help those who upset him and were on the receiving end of his wit. He was the man that put the Norwood Paragon onto the Cycle World Map and inspired the rest of us to keep it there.

The Jim Fox '25' on the 6th April was far better attended with 22 entries, 20 starters and 17 finishers although it also was a poor morning. Alan Sturgess won with a 1.5.34 from Australian Tom Tolley, 1.6.05, and John Sargeant was 3rd in 1.7.14. Again it was not a good day for fast racing. Chris Matthews took the Handicap with a nett 1.1.25 from Ian Murray 1.2.20 and Pete Ansell 1.2.43. Bob Chambers and Terry Slattery tried some tactical riding in the Dragon Road race at Ivinghoe. It worked again with Bob finishing 3rd and Terry 6th. As an added bonus Alain Eve was in the chasing group eventually finishing 8th and the Paragon won the Team Prize.

News from Belgium was that Keith Butler had been placed 9th in the Gentse Velo Sport Championship. The next weekend he rode the Leuven to Ghent race and although getting away in a break and collecting many primes he was caught just before the finish and was unplaced. The next day in a 110 miles event race based on Kurne Keith was content to stay with the bunch until the breaks started to go near the end. Three men got clear, followed by Keith and two others. At the Finish he had to be content with 3rd place in a very close sprint.

On April 12th we had a team in the WLCA '25'. Dan Hadfield 1.4.48, Vin Callanan 1.5.58 (on high pressure tyres and touring gears!) and Wally Happy 1.10.26 but they won no prizes. Then on the 19th April Vin Callanan won 1st Handicap in the VTTA '25'. On the 26th April we had another team in the 34th Nomads '25'. Their times were Vin Callanan 1.4.07, Wally Happy 1.7.02 and S McDermott 1.25.07. Alain Eve made 2nd fastest time in the Apollo Middlemarkers '25' with a 1.7. Dan Hadfield rode the Charlotteville '50' on a hard morning and was very pleased with his 2.16.58. In the Fountain road race Terry Slattery was 8th and Tony Alford 10th. John Sargeant was 9th in the Dulwich Paragon road race. Keith Butler rode the Tour of Flanders and finished 13th some 35" down on the leader but collected some primes on the way.

The Brighton Trophy Grand Prix was blessed with some decent weather for a change. The race was enlivened by a two-man break of Eric Moody and Geof Cross (Camberley). They went ahead just after East Grinstead and held their lead until the climb of High and Over near Alfriston. Moody dropped back here leaving Cross on his own with a 2.30 lead over the chasers. He powered on and although the chasers could see him along the Coast Road into Brighton they could quite get to him. Cross reached the Finish with just 8

seconds of his lead remaining. Bill Salter (Enfield) won the sprint for 2nd place from Dave Nie (Dragon), Sid Lovatt (Century), our man Alan Sturgess was placed 5th, John Froud (Festival) 6th and Ian Jewell (Old Portlians) 7th.

Vin Callanan rode the VTTA London '25' and collected 3rd place and 1st on handicap for his 1.6.08. Dan Hadfield, not being so ancient, rode the Harlequins '25' and did his best time of the year with a 1.4.23. Bob Chambers came 4th in the Polhill 3rd category event. Terry Slattery came 9th in the Apollo 2nd/3rd category event. News from Belgium was that Keith Butler had finished 12th in a 17 man break after hitting the kerb at over 30 mph and staying sort of upright in the middle of the finishing sprint. That sort of thing does concentrate the mind! The following weekend he rode the famous Kortrijk to Galmarden event. He took off with a small group and was first over most of the climbs to take the King of the Mountains prize. Regrettably his group broke up towards the end and were reeled in by the remains of a fast moving bunch.

Dan Hadfield rode the Bath Road Hilly '50' on the 27th April and managed to lose his way to the Start and began racing with a 90 second handicap. He finished the course in 2.22.07. Vin Callanan and Wally Happy rode the 34th Nomads '25' with Vin finishing in 1.4.07 and Wally doing his fastest this year with a 1.7.00.

Alan Sturgess set the fastest time of the day in the London Region Individual 4000m Pursuit Championships. Pete Patterson was won 2 heats of the handicap at the Monday Competition but has yet to crack the Final.

The Dave London Trophy was run off on the 3rd May with yet another nasty morning. (Rain, wind, rain and more rain said The Blah). Only three of the ten entrants had the courage to greet the Start Timekeeper. The race did have a surprise winner in Vin Callanan who took both fastest time and fastest on handicap. In second spot was Robin Buchan (what a scalp for Vin!) in 1.23.38 with Ian Murray 3rd in 1.27.48. John Sargeant finished 2nd in the East Grinstead road race on his favourite Lingfield circuit. Alan Sturgess was 3rd in the Festival promotion and Bob Chambers was 3rd Ravensbury junior race at Pirbright. Tony Alford was 8th and Keith Lomath 12th in the Senior race.

On the 11th May Ian Murray surprised himself and the Handicapper by improving over 4 minutes in the St Christophers 1.2.0 limit '25'. He finished with a 1.6.43 to take the 1st on handicap prize. Chris Swain also improved 2 minutes and with Terry Slattery they won the Handicap Team Award. Robin Buchan rode a '50' for the first time for two years and finished in a slow time for him of 2.14.03. Dan Hadfield, training for the Catford '24', rode the Kingston Hilly '73' and clocked 3.17.48. The Canterbury '25' had a visit from Vin Callanan on the 10th May and he finished in 17th place with a 1.4.27. In an Army CU '10' Wally Happy did 25.40 and Tony Melrose 28.48. John Sargeant, Tony Alford and Keith Lomath rode the Classic Tour of Hertford and did well to finish with the front group. Tony Alford came 2nd in the King of the Mountains competition. Alan Sturgess rode for the International Team at Southampton and in the 4000m Team Pursuit they recorded a 4.52 that is the

best time done in England this year. Wally Happy won an Army CU '10' in 26.40.

Dan Hadfield confounded the Handicapper in the Hounslow '100' by reaching the Finish in 4.26.53 that is a 5 minutes improvement on his 1954 time! It was also good enough for 5th place in a very good class field. Vin Callanan rode the Wessex '50' and got round in 2.10.42. We had five riders in the De Laune '25' and fastest of these was John Sargeant with a 1.4.40. Then came Terry Slattery 1.5.34, Tony Alford 1.6.34, Terry O'Loughlin 1.13.31 and Dave Bashford 1.17.53.

A Polo report appears in the Blah this month giving the results. The Paragon 'A' team had beaten Rangers 9 – 5, the 62nd Endeavour 12 – 7 but had lost to Aces by 13 – 8. The 'B' team had lost to Palace 14 – 2. No indication of their League position was given.

Alan Sturgess put up the fastest time in the First Round of the London Region 4000m Individual Pursuit. Then he went down to Southampton riding as part of an International Team. He rode the 4000m Team Pursuit for them and they won in the fastest time done this year of 4.52. More success for the roadmen was achieved in the Dartford Whs event at Higham. John Sargeant was 4th, Tony Alford 7th and Keith Lomath 10th. This ensured the Paragon won the Team race. On the same day in the San Fairy Ann event for 3rds and juniors Peter Patterson was 5th and Derek Hull 10th.

The Polo News from the Summer League tells of a draw with Selhurst 10 – 10 and a win for the 'A' Team over the 'B' team by 16 – 6. Not so good news from the English Cup where the Club met their old rivals Solihull. It was 4 - 4 at full time but in extra time the Solihull squeezed in that necessary extra goal to go through to the next round.

Bob Chambers rode the Grass Track Meeting at the Croydon Festival of Sport on Duppas Hill. He came away as the BCF SW London and Surrey 1 mile Champion. Alan Sturgess has been short listed for the Olympic games. He has won a 10 miles Point to Point and another over 5 miles at the SCCU Meeting. At the Monday Competition he won the 5 miles Scratch and on another occasion the 'Devil' and an unknown distance race. Pete Patterson is continuing to improve and came 2nd in the junior sprint and 10 lap scratch events. He also came 2nd in the BCF SE Division Junior Sprint Championship.

In the Road race connected with the Festival of Sport that used a circuit climbing Sandrock Hill by Shirley Hills and Spout Hill every lap. Unfortunately there was no Team prize as the Paragon had 4 riders in the top 12. Alan Sturgess was 5th, John Sargeant 8th, Tony Alford 10th and Keith Lomath 12th.

Les Black made it two in a row when he won the Purley to Brighton on the 24th May. His time of 1.34.49 was some 3 minutes slower than 1963. Dan Hadfield was 2nd in 1.36.14 and Robin Buchan 3rd in 1.36.59. Terry Slattery took the handicap with a 1.32.38 nett time in front of Dan Hadfield 1.33.14 and

Robin Buchan 1.36.59. Chris Matthews, 1.40.20 was fastest Junior. In the Addiscombe road races on the Lingfield circuit Alain Eve was 10th in the 3rd category event. John Sargeant was 3rd, Tony Alford 5th and Keith Lomath 8th in the senior race.

Robin Buchan was getting back into the swing of racing when he won the Club '50' on the 31st May and took the Handicap award. He had his revenge on Vin Callanan as Robin did 2.6.01 and Vin could 'only' produce a 2.8.40. Dan Hadfield was 3rd in 2.9.15. Again this must have been a nasty morning as only five of the ten entrants graced the Start line although 'Blah' does not mention anything untoward. John Sargeant got the win he richly deserved in the Charlotteville event on the Chobham circuit. Not only that he led the Paragon to a Team victory. Tony Alford was 3rd and Keith Lomath 5th. Also with this ride both John and Tony were upgraded to 1st Category status.

The Addiscombe held their Open '50' on the 7th June that was a day of very strong winds. Robin Buchan continued his comeback with a 2.8.24 for 3rd place. Dan Hadfield 2.10.08, Vin Callanan 2.12.25, Terry Slattery 2.13.27 (for 3rd handicap award) and the first three took the Team Award. It is always pleasant winning prizes in the Addiscombe events. Tony Alford was the Clubs only finisher in the East Surrey '25' with a 1.5.20. In the Surrey Road CC Middlemarkers Dave Bashford came in with a 1.13.44 and a considerable improvement,

On the 14th June the De Laune held their 75th Anniversary 100 miles time trial and got an extremely poor response for an excellent prize list. We did enter a team but Robin Buchan was unable to start. Scratch man was the famous Ken Craven and he justified his mark by leading from Start to Finish. At 48.74 miles he had gone through in 2.2.23. Dan Hadfield was 2nd at this point at 2.17 whilst Vin Callanan was 6th at 5.54. Ken slowed a bit on the second half of the race to finish in an excellent time for the course of 4.18.56. Dan had dropped a place and crossed the line in 3rd place with 4.23.28 and Vin came in 8th with a 4.32.24 ride. Dan's ride was exceptional considering it was a 3.30 improvement on his Bath Road time. The Bath Road was considered many minutes faster than our Southern Road course. Bill Franks came out of 'retirement' and rode the BCF SW London and Surrey '25. He did a 1.4.45 and Terry Slattery produced a personal best of 1.3.28. In the Champagne and Flowers Road race on the Ashdown Forest circuit John Sargeant came 4th in the senior event over 75 miles with Tony Alford 11th. In the Junior event over 50 miles the Paragon lads packed well. Bob Chambers was 4th; Derek Hull 7th and Alain Eve 11th and they won the Team Prize. Keith Butler finished 6th in a Kermesse race of 103 miles run off in 3 hours and 40 minutes (approx 28 mph!). Then at Markegem in a similar race he finished 10th and then had to spend some time clearing grass from his chain wheels and gears! It was rather a dodgy sprint!

In the Festival '25' Vin Callanan started early and complained of the cold but got round in 1.3.53 to keep himself warm. Robin Buchan, starting somewhat later finished in 59.53. The 'Blah' mentions a Club '10' in conjunction with the CDCA but it does not appear in the Record Book. However, fastest time was

by Alain Eve with a 25.35. Derek Hull was 2nd in 26.29, Tony Keress came in with a 27.01 and Pete Ansell finished in 27.02 including time off to change a tyre. Dan Hadfield's latest instalment in his come back was in the WLCA '50' when he again recorded a personal best of 2.5.13 to take 3rd place. This takes over 4 minutes off his previous best. John Sargeant, now a 1st category rider won the Rapier road race collecting three primes on the way. Chris Swain finished 7th in the Schoolboy Championships in Crawley. On the Wednesday Bob Chambers came 2nd in the Kensington Criterium and on the Sunday he and Terry Slattery finished equal 7th in the Long Valley road race.

Robin Buchan appeared on the front cover of another Result Card when he came 2nd in the Festival '25' with a 59.53 on not a good morning. Twenty-three riders failed to start. Unfortunately the Club had only one other rider. Vin came 36th with a 1.3.36. The Corby Cousins Harry and Bob rejoined the Club after a few years in the wilderness joined up with Brian Vallack, who has not raced for some seasons, to ride the Upton Manor '50'. Even so their rides were not that bad. Bob did 2.21.00, Harry 2.24.06 and Brian 2.31.31. John Sargeant finished 2nd in the Surrey St Christopher's road race at Chobham. Out in Belgium Keith Butler was riding the 4 days of Coudekerke (a suburb of Dunkirk). At the Start of the 6th and last stage Keith was lying in 8th place a few seconds down on the leader. About two thirds the way through the 130kms an attack went and Keith took off after it. (It proved to be the winning break). As he jumped out of a corner he sheered the 13-tooth sprocket straight off the block! He went straight over the handlebars. The expander bolt on the handlebar extension gouged a hole in his shorts and nearly marked him for life but his most painful injuries were from the skin that he had removed from his arms, thighs and calves as he slid down the road. It is all well and good the first aid people telling you that salt in the wounds cleans them and enables them to heal quicker but it is a rather painful way of doing it. To add insult to injury his teammate, Bill Perkins from Liverpool, rode over him. At the Finish Bill said to Keith "I didn't wait as I didn't think you would get up from that one!" The bit that narks is that he was quite right!

Vin Callanan took his annual trip to the Cheltenham & County '50' on the 28th June and either had a very bad morning or an excellent evening before as he came 95th in 2.21.30. We cannot recall Vin recording such a slow time even early in his career. Bob Chambers came 7th in the Eltham Paragon race at Crystal Palace whilst Alain Eve and Chris Matthews were equal 10th in the 3rd category and junior race.

Dan Hadfield's sights had been set on the Catford '24' and after all the great rides he had been doing Vin Callanan's record of 459 miles looked to be in danger. Unfortunately Dan had a bad time on the Saturday evening suffering from backache that slowed him considerably but he stuck to his guns and rode out time with 437.75 miles for 5th place.

Alan Sturgess rode in the National Individual Pursuit Championship but while doing a good 5.24 ride he failed to make the best four to go into the Semi-Finals. On Wednesday 1st July at Herne Hill he was 3rd in the 'Devil-take-the-hindmost' whilst Pete Patterson was 2nd in the Dunlop Novice Sprint. That

night the Paragon met the East Surrey in the Semi-finals of the West London Team Pursuit Championships. It was a close, well-matched race with one unfortunate aspect. The East Surrey won by 1.2 seconds in 5.5.4. Our riders were Alan Sturgess, Robin Buchan, Les Black and Keith Mitchell.

On the 5th July Vin Callanan rode the South Ruislip '100'. He went through the 50 miles mark in 2.11.59 and continued at this pace to the Finish. He crossed the line with 4.27.06 that gave him 18th place. Dan Hadfield's problems in the 24 hour event did not seem to affect his speed as in the Bon Amis '25' he recorded a personal best of 1.2.58. The Corby Cousins were also riding 100 miles. They elected to go for the Kentish Whs event down the Brighton Road. Bob finished in 4.49.08 and Harry 4.50.59. Robin Buchan was reducing his 25-mile figures in the Southend event with a 59.28. John Sargeant finished 6th in the Bill Stocker Memorial road race on the Ashdown Forest circuit.

At Crystal Palace on the Tuesday Alan Sturgess was 2nd in the 30 miles handicap race. The next day at the Catford Evening Meeting he won the 'Devil'. Then on the Saturday he won both the Sprint and the 10 miles Championship of the BCF SW London and Surrey. To round off the week he went to Welwyn where he won the 4000m Pursuit in 4.20.1, was 3rd in the Handicap Sprint and 2nd in the 5 miles.

The Maidenhead '50' had attracted a class field and Robin was up there with the best of them. However he did show he was not yet 100% fit as again he dropped places in the second half of the race. It was a bit of a push out to the turn into the wind. Robin turned at 25 miles in 6th place with 1.5.38 just 50" behind the leader John Baylis (Southampton). On the return Robin dropped to 8th place with a 2.2.54 that was 2.14 slower than the winner Fry (Bristol South). It was, however, 3 minutes faster than his previous best this year. Vin Callanan was again in attendance turning in 1.9.25 and finishing with a 2.8.41. John Sargeant came 4th in the Sorian road race over 66 miles at Tonbridge

Following his good form on the Track Alan arranged to attack Club 4000m Record held by Robin Buchan in 5.19.7. He smashed that Record by 5 seconds to record 5.14.0. As we write in 2004 this Record is still on the Club Books forty years on! Robin Buchan and Eddie Mitchell rode the Old Portlians Tandem '30' and clocked a 1.7.14.

At the Opening of the Crystal Palace Sports Centre a special 21 miles Cycle race was held. In this event Alan Sturgess took 3rd place.

Robin Buchan had got back into his winning ways with the fastest time by a Paragon rider (but 2nd in the event overall) of 59.38 in the Moon Trophy '25' but Dan Hadfield was not far back on 1.0.58 and Bill Franks came 3rd with 1.2.20. John Smith won the handicap after being given 11.20 by the Handicapper but he did improve by over 6 minutes. His nett time of 55.28 put him 2 minutes clear of Harry Corby, 57.44, Dan Hadfield 57.48 and Bob Corby 57.54. These four times were sufficient to enable the Paragon to take the

Team race by 1.44 from the West Croydon Whs. We also took the Tankard for the best Over 30s Team.

Peter Patterson continued his track performances at Welwyn where he was 2nd in the Junior Omnium and continued his work at Herne Hill on the Monday where he came 3rd in the Handicap. Bob Chambers was showing steady improvement on the Track and he won the Point to Point at the Monday Competition on 13th July.

On the Wednesday 15th July Alan Sturgess won the 5 miles Point to Point at Herne Hill. He then went to Southampton where he won the 440 Handicap. In a combined team with Harry Jackson and Brian Sandy they beat the Track Record for the Italian Pursuit by 4 seconds!

The next Wednesday Alan met Brian Dacey in the Final of the London Region Individual Pursuit. These were the hard men from 150 entries! Alan took off like a rocket gaining yards on Dacey. Although Dacey fought well he could not pull back that initial advantage of Alan's eventually conceding defeat. Alan's time was 5.22.2. Later in the Meeting he was 3rd in the 3 miles Scratch. Continuing the saga he was 4th in the Evening handicap at Crystal Palace,

The 26th July saw four intrepid souls start in the SCCU '100' for the Goss Green Cup. Doug Sheehy (Addiscombe) led at 49.25 miles with 2.5.03. Dan Hadfield was just 12 seconds in arrears; Morris (Tooting) was at 1.52 and Vin Callanan 5th at 3.45. Bob Corby took 2.11.53 and Harry Corby 2.19.20. In the second 50 both Sheehy and Hadfield 'died' a bit enabling Morris to come through and take 1st prize with 4.23.33. Dan hung on to 2nd place but showed his clubmates a clean pair of heels as he sped round the course to finish with an excellent 4.24.58 to win the Cup and the Club Handicap. Vin Callanan came 4th in 4.32.12 and the two Corby cousins also finished. Bob took 4.43.52 (his best ever) and Harry 4.55.03 that includes some time away from the official course. The Paragon won the Team race. In the Kent RC '25' Terry Slattery improved to a 1.2.20 and Ian Murray tyo a 1.6.18. Terry's time also gave him 3rd fastest time on the day.

At the De Laune Meeting Robin was partnered by John Clarey (Cambrian) in the 60 laps Madison that they proceeded to dominate and to win very easily.

Peter Patterson won his first Track race at Brighton when he crossed the line in front of a Junior Point to Point. Chris Swain has been riding regularly the Schoolboy events at Brands Hatch and achieved his best placing with a 2nd.

Over the Bank Holiday Alan Sturgess rode at Portsmouth in the Kingsbury Cup 5 miles. He took the lap prize and was 3rd at the Finish in a Track Record time of 10.38. John Sargeant finished 3rd in the Kingston Phoenix Road race on the Ashdown Circuit. He also finished 8th in the Kentish Grand Prix at Crystal palace.

Keith Butler came back to England for three weeks. On this weekend he rode in the Colchester Town Carnival Kermesse and finished 5th in a tight bunch sprint. Then on the Sunday he rode the Corona Grand Prix at Crystal Palace. His Team leader (Shay Elliot) broke away with Tom Simpson and Alan Ramsbottom so he had to play a more passive role but came 8th in the final sprint.

Our Open '50' was held on the 2nd August and the front page makes excellent reading. In First place was Robin Buchan with a 2.4.48 then John Sargeant won the Handicap by 30 seconds from Terry Slattery. Just to round things off the Paragon won the Team Race by 18 minutes. In the event itself Robin was only 3rd at 25 miles. R Stemp (Bromley) 1.2.19 and Bill Lindsay (Old Ports) 1.2.27 were faster than Robin's 1.2.39. Dan Hadfield was 4th with 1.2.48, John Sargeant 5th in 1.2.27, Terry Slattery 1.3.23, Jack Platts 1.6.06, Vin Callanan 1.6.16, Bob Corby 1.6.35, Harry Corby 1.6.55, Alain Eve 1.7.21, Ian Murray 1.7.51 and J Smith 1.9.54 with 33 seconds late start. By the end Robin had pulled out a 25" lead over Lindsay with Stemp at 1.35. Other Paragon finishing times were Dan Hadfield 2.7.25 (5th), John Sargeant 2.8.28 (6th and personal best), Terry Slattery 2.8.55 (7th and personal best), Vin Callanan 2.13.47, Bob Corby 2.14.07, Jack Platts 2.15.42, Harry Corby 2.16.25, Alain Eve 2.17.50 (personal best), Ian Murray 2.17.51 (personal best) and John Smith 2.22.47.

The Professional/Independent Road Race Championship was held at Harlow over 108 miles around the town's extensive and wide road system. The pace was rather brisk as they averaged 27 mph for the distance! Early on the field split into two groups and the race erupted as the second group tried to pull back the break. At no time was there enough space to bring in a neutral service car. (That needs 30 second at least). Eventually the two groups merged at about half distance and immediately split again with all serious contenders for the title in the leading group. Keith Butler had moved from the second group to the first in a matter of yards. This group steadily pulled away from the bunch until with 2 laps to go Hitchens (Falcon) attacked and Keith Butler went with him. This put Hitchen's team in a bit of a quandary. Do they chase the pair and bring everything together again or do they leave it to Hitchen to deal with Butler? Fortunately, for Keith, they chose the easy option and left it to Hitchen. Not having raced in much in England the speed of Keith's sprint was unknown to Hitchen. It is one thing sprinting in a big bunch but 'match' sprinting against one opponent is far more prone to error.

Came the final sprint and Keith did to Hitchen what no one else had done for years. He led out the sprint for the last half-mile. Then as Hitchen got out of his saddle with about 200 yards to go for his final effort Keith went again. The pictures of the finish show the disbelief and disappointment on Hitchen's face. Mind you it did mean that Keith would never win another race where the Falcon team were in action! Keith, therefore, became the first rider to have won both the Amateur and Professional Road Race Titles.

Robin Buchan, Dan Hadfield and Vin Callanan took one of their periodic trips to the New Forest this time for the Bournemouth Arrow '50'. Robin led at 25

miles in 59.18 but on the return leg Morris (Plymouth CC) pulled back his 21" deficit and put another 12" into Robin. Robin took 2nd place with his 2.0.31. Dan recorded 2.5.21 and Vin finished with a 2.8.37 for 25th place. Ian Murray showed even further improvement, by 3 minutes, in the Oval '25' when he came in with a 1.3.18. Bob Corby was our next with 1.4.48, Harry Corby 1.5.11, Jack Platts 1.5.37 and Terry Slattery 1.6.18.

102 riders entered for the SCCU '50' on the 16th August. Our riders and times were Vin Callanan 8th in 2.8.40, Dan Hadfield 9th in 2.8.47, Bob Corby 2.11.21, Ian Murray 2.13.03 (a 4 minute improvement) and Harry Corby 2.14.32. No prizes were taken. Robin Buchan tried the longer distances in the Westerley '100'. He took a bit of hiding near the end but finished in exactly 4.30.00. Six Paragon riders rode the Club's Ashdown Forest road race for 3rd categories and Juniors. Bob Chambers and Terry Slattery managed to get into the deciding break of 11 riders. Bob broke a spoke on the second climb of Camp Hill but stayed with the group to finish 4th. Terry dropped off on the climb to the Finish and was placed 11th.

Following his win in the Nationals Keith did find himself very much the marked man so much so that he only managed an 8th place at Crystal Palace and another 8th in the Solihull over 112 miles. John Sargeant finished 4th in the Redmon Trophy race over the Ashdown Forest.

To say Alan Sturgess was in fine form is an understatement. With a Paragon First he won ALL the Club Track Championships and other events without exception. That is the 550 yards Sprint, the 550 yards Handicap, the Pursuit, the 5 miles Scratch and the Points Race. What a performance! Mark Fisher came 2nd in the 550 yards sprint with Pete Patterson 3rd. Pete also collected a 2nd in the 550 yards handicap with Les Black in 3rd place. Les managed a 2nd place in the pursuit with Bob Chambers in 3rd place and another in the 5 miles with Robin Buchan in 3rd place. Robin Buchan 2nd and Keith Lomath 3rd were allowed to win points for the George Colget Cup. While Alan Sturgess was dominant one should not lose sight of the fact that six other riders were amongst the prizes.

Robin Buchan's hard time in the Westerley '100' paid off when he went to Essex for the Southend '50'. He was 3rd in the race and won first handicap prize BUT he had ridden the distance in 1.56.09 thus taking 36 seconds off Keith Butler's Record that had stood for 5 years. John Smith also improved by 7 minutes finishing in 2.15.35. Dan Hadfield rode the Fulham Whs '50' on the Bath Road and clocked 2.8.09. In the Haslemere road race over 58 miles Alan Sturgess was in fighting form and tore the field to shreds to win comfortably.

The SCCU 12 hours was held on the 30th August and there were 5 Paragon riders on the Start sheet all of whom trundled off for a half day awheel in Surrey and Sussex. Dan Hadfield started extremely well passing the Timekeeper at 100 miles in 4.36.06 to lead the field. Doug Sheehy (Addiscombe) was in 2nd place 5.09 down Robin Buchan was 3rd at 5.57 but riding within himself, Bob Corby 5th at 7.16, Vin Callanan 7th at 7.43 whilst

Harry Corby was having an off-day taking 5.01.42 to ride the first 100 miles. By 200 miles Robin had exerted his command on the field by being the only rider to cover the second 100 miles in less than 5 hours. Robin led the field in 9.35.16 with Dan Hadfield 2nd at 7.43, Vin Callanan 3rd at 12.56. Bob Corby had not ridden a good second 100 and there is an apology on behalf of the Old Portlians for 'allowing' Bob to go off course. We believe he lost over 30 minutes and by the 200 mark he was an hour down on Robin. Harry Corby had, by this time, given the day best and retired.

Onto the Finishing Circuit and Robin continue to increase his lead eventually running out of time with 248.860 miles covered. Vin moved up to 2nd place with 244.166 miles. (This also earned him the Club Handicap prize). Dan dropped back to 4th place with 242.501 miles but this was still his personal best at this distance. Bob Corby finished 22nd with 225.770 miles. The Paragon won the Team Race comfortably by some 24 miles from the Bec CC. Robin Buchan also won the Novice Award for those riding their first 12 hours event. It is always a joy to watch a class rider, like Robin, cruising effortlessly at 21 mph ignoring the frantic efforts lesser mortals are making to hold on to him.

Apart from the prize offered to the winner by the SCCU Robin also collected with this ride a number of other awards. He took our Rotherham Cup, a 1st prize for the Club 12 hours event, the Club Road Championship Cup, the Special Award by Bill Saggors to the best Novice ride in the 12, the Dunlop Team Cup and a medal to go with it. Not a bad effort for a short distance road and trackman!

With the Result of the 12 hours event the SCCU BAR had Doug Sheehy (Addiscombe) in 1st place with Dan Hadfield 2nd and Vin Callanan 3rd. Bob Corby was placed 11th and the Paragon won the Team Competition.

On the same day Les Black was 4th in the 29th Whs '25' in 1.22.18 from Jack Platts 1.5.44 and Ian Murray 1.6.40. John Sargeant finished 2nd in the Leyton Camp 66 miles road race with Keith Lomath 7th. Alan Sturgess had the misfortune to puncture.

The Fryco Cup had warm weather and a gentle breeze. It also meant a close result with Terry Slattery just getting the better of Les Black. Terry finished in 2.5.50 and Les took 2.5.55. Vin Callanan came 3rd with 2.8.55 just 1 second better than Bob Corby. Terry took the Handicap by 6 seconds from Bob Corby, 2.3.20 to 2.3.26, with Harry Corby on 2.5.05. In the North Midds and Herts Road Race Championship John Sargeant rode a strong race and was just pipped in a close sprint to be placed 3rd. Keith Lomath was 5th and Terry Slattery 11th.

Polo. The results of the Croydon Summer League were published in the September Blah. The 'A' Team beat Thornton Heath 15 – 3 and 14 – 1 and The Aces 12 – 3. They lost to Palace 5 – 6 and 3 – 12 and Selhurst 3 – 6. The 'B' Team Beat 62nd Endeavour 5 – 2 and Thornton Heath 11 – 2. They lost to The 'A' Team 2 – 12, Selhurst 1 – 11 and Palace 3 – 12.

Keith Ongley was picked to play for London and Alec Bird and Alan Roberts were picked for Surrey. They played against each other in the Apex Trophy Final where Surrey won 9 – 5.

The Paragon won the Hurlingham Cup for the 3rd time. The last occasions were in 1938 and 1939! . They beat Solihull in the Semi-finals 4 – 1 and then faced Palace in the Final. After being beaten by them twice in the Croydon League the lads knew they were in for a hard match. They were not disappointed. It was touch and go for at half time the score was 2 – 2 with everything to play for. However with the sun and wind behind them and a visibly tiring Palace Team the lads picked up their game. Three goals went in during the last chukkas and the Cup was back in safe hands again. The Team were Alan Roberts (goal) Tony Knight, Reg Marsh, Keith Ongley, Mick Nash, and Alec Bird. Mick Nash and Chuck Bettle were picked for the England Youth team to play Ireland and won 7 – 5.

The juniors had their events next with a 15 miles event on the 6th September. Chris Matthews won this with a 37.58. Very close up were Alain Eve 38.16, Pete Patterson 38.35 and Pete Ansell 38.49. Six riders from the Club rode the SCCU '25'. Robin was the quickest, even though he appeared sluggish after his 12-hour efforts, in 1.1.03 and it did earn him the prize for 3rd place. The others Club riders were Bill Franks 1.4.13, Bob Corby 1.5.01, Harry Corby 1.5.37, Ian Murray 1,5,44 and John Smith 1.8.53.

Chris also won the 10 miles event on the 20th September with a 25.44 ride. Barry Sturgess was 2nd in 27.52 and Dave Bashford 3rd in 29.27. He collected his hat trick on the 27th September when he won the final 10 miles event. This time he improved to 24.48 that put him in front of Pete Ansell, 25.40, and Derek Hull 27.09. On that day Robin Buchan rode the Reading '50' and won it comfortably by over 2 minutes in 2.6.12. Harry Corby was 7th in 2.12.55, Bob Corby 9th in 2.13.12 and Terry Slattery 12th in 2.14.13. Robin and the Corby cousins won the Team race for the Club. On Purley Way Playing Fields the Paragon Teams were locked in Polo battle for the George Brake Memorial Trophy. Eventually the Paragon 'A' Team worked its way to the Final where they met Selhurst. Then with 3 goals without reply the Trophy was ours. The Team was Alec Bird, Tony Knight, Keith Ongley and Mick Nash.

Alan Sturgess just missed winning the Polhill Road Race by inches but collected another 5 points towards the Club Massed Start Championship

Robin Buchan finished his season in great style by winning the Redhill '50' with a 2.6.12 ride and leading the Paragon to another Team win. Making up the winning team were Harry Corby who managed to beat cousin Bob with a 2.12.55 to 2.13.12. Other Paragon times were Terry Slattery 2.14.13 and Ian Murray 2.15.40. Les Black came back from holiday in fine form and won the London St Christophers '25' on the Portsmouth Road. His time was 1.1.07. Bill Franks produced a 1.5 and Pete Patterson a 1.10.

The Mayne Cup had 20 riders on the Card including Keith Butler back from racing in Belgium. On a calm, misty morning with about 50 yards of visibility, Keith won comfortably in 1.0.20 from Les Black 1.2.15 and Vin Callanan 3rd in 1.5.23. Man of the Day was Pete Ansell with a handicap time of 59.47. Twenty seconds back was Harry Corby on 1.0.07 whilst Keith Butler had to be content with 3rd place. Chris Matthews was hoping for a good '25' as he had won the two junior races and he needed a 25 miles time to clinch the Championship. Unfortunately a puncture in last few miles put pay to that ambition.

Keith Lomath won the Orpington 2nd and 3rd category event over 44 miles on the 4th October. The Points gained enabled him to be upgraded to 1st category and join John Sargeant in the big races next year.

Les Black had his customary win in the Hill Climb winning very comfortably in 4.11.6 from Terry Slattery, 4.25.1 and Keith Butler 4.31.6

The November Blah confirmed the destination of both the Club Events Championship and the Junior Championship. Dan Hadfield won the Senior competition with 23.492 mph from Vin Callanan, 23.113 mph, Bob Corby 22.427 and Harry Corby 21.918. Pete Ansell won the Junior Championship with an average speed of 23.008 mph, from Chris Matthews 22.933 and Barry Sturgess 20.820.

The Massed Start Championship went to Alan Sturgess with 32 points with John Sargeant in 2nd place with 27 points.