

1965

At the AGM on the 10<sup>th</sup> January Monty Southall was elected as President of the Club and all the existing Vice Presidents were re-elected. Those at the AGM added John Parsonson to this meritorious list. Frank Cleeve also gave up his post as Chairman as he may have to leave the district within the next six months. John Parsonson was unanimously elected in Frank's place. Terry O'Loughlin also had to resign as General Secretary owing to a change of employment and his job was taken on by Gordon Bennett in addition to his job as Honorary Treasurer.

Subscriptions were raised to £1.12s 6d for seniors, 12s 6d for juniors and 12s 6d for Honorary members. Also the necessity of riding a 12-hour event for the Club Events Championship was removed. That provision for the Open Road Championship was retained.

The new season started with the Croydon and District Hardriders on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and nearly a win first time out for Bob Chambers. He was beaten by just 3 seconds by E Grummitt (Edgware) 1.15.05 to 1.15.08. Terry Slattery finished in 1.17.31 and Barry Sturgess in 1.25.57.

The first Club Event was a 10 miles time trial. In this Bob Chambers came first with a 25.25 with Chris Matthews 2<sup>nd</sup> in 25.53. Robert Moss was 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 26-minute ride.

The Brighton Trophy Road Race left Purley in pouring rain on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. The Club had two riders Alan Sturgess and John Sargeant. John was in good form taking the first Prime on the Caterham by-pass. He then had the misfortune to puncture at Blindley Heath and it took him 4 miles to regain the bunch. The race went down to Forest Row, took a detour over 'The Wall' otherwise known as the road up to Gills Lap from Colemans Hatch. Back down onto the Eastbourne road to Polegate then along the A27 turning left to Alfriston to take in the climb of 'High and Over'. On the climb the field split but both John and Alan kept with the leading group of riders. In the final sprint they were outpaced by John Clarey (Cambrian Whs) who took the trophy for the second time. Alan finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and John in 8<sup>th</sup>.

The following weekend the two lads rode the first of the season 's classics the Dover – London race. A group of nine riders broke clear and stayed away to the Finish amongst them being Alan Sturgess who was placed 4<sup>th</sup>. John Sargeant finished in the remnants of the main bunch,

On the same day as our road race we had five riders in the East Surrey Hardriders. They too had to endure absolutely foul weather. Terry Slattery was 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1.27.05, Dan Hadfield 1.28.16 and Pete Ansell 1.29.37 made up the winning team. The Corby cousins were also in the race with Harry beating Bob with 1.31.54 to 1.36.14.

Vin Callanan had his first success of the year when he won the Jim Fox '25' with a 1.6.36 on a cold and misty morning. This beat Pete Ansell by 11

seconds and Dan Hadfield by 54 seconds. Derek Hull won the Handicap section with a nett 1.2.44 from Pete Ansell 1.3.02 and Vin Callanan 1.5.06.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> April Robin Buchan came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Clarence Whs '25' to Peter Head (Redhill). Robin's time was 1.1.43. John Sargeant's 1.4.14 was quick enough to earn him 2<sup>nd</sup> place on Handicap. Then came Vin Callanan 1.5.43 and Bob Corby 1.8.22 to make up our Team. In the Apollo Middlemarkers Harry Corby did 1.8.23 and Laurie Watkins 1.8.29. Barry Sturgess had bike problems but got back to the finish in 1.18.26. Alan Sturgess won again in the Chelmer Road Race. He broke clear with two other riders but successful dropped them to cross the line 2.13 before the second placed man. He had to finish alone as he broke a cog leaving him no gear for a sprint finish.

A team had been entered in the WLCA '25' on the 11<sup>th</sup> April but Vin Callanan was unable to start leaving Dan Hadfield, 1.5.10, and Bob Corby 1.5.22 to carry the flag. Unfortunately they failed to win any prizes. In the Croydon Advertiser Road race Alan Sturgess finished ninth. This was his lowest placing so far this year! John Sargeant finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place. Bob Chambers made up for this by winning the 140 miles Dave Cosson 2-day promoted by the Redhill CC. He did not win any part of the race but was well up in the Time Trial and both road race stages to take the win on General Classification. Terry Slattery rode in support and was placed 5<sup>th</sup>. Bob Corby tried out this new fangled racing game in the Catford event and was pleased with his 10<sup>th</sup> position. News came in from Belgium that Keith Butler had finished 29<sup>th</sup> in the Ronde van Mechelen from 220 starters but he was caught in a massive pile-up the next day and could not get a spare wheel quickly enough to regain the bunch. In Holland he finished 21<sup>st</sup> in a 90km Criterium run off in pouring rain. Then the following day near Bruges he collected a number of primes before puncturing just after the Team Car had gone forward for the race feed. He was pleased to be collecting some francs for his pains but wished there were more of them (francs that is).

Robin Buchan won his first race of the year when he did fastest time in the Southboro Hilly '42' with 1.58.10. Alain Eve finished in 2.13.51 in his first attempt at this type of hard riding.

April 18<sup>th</sup> was Good Friday and in the Dartford Whs '25' Dick Wilkins was our best rider in 1.4.43. Terry Slattery finished in 1.5.37 and Laurie Watkins 1.8.50 after crashing on the way round. Dan Hadfield and the two Corby's went to ride the Charlotteville '50'. Dan was our fastest in 2.14.21; Bob did 2.16.24 and Harry 2.18.45. The next morning they all rode the Actonia '25' held over the same roads when they finished in the same order. Dan recorded 1.6.45, Bob 1.7.50 and Harry 1.8.11. Reports say that it was a very cold windy morning. Nearer home we had five riders in the Fountain '25'. Fastest of these was Terry Slattery who finished 4<sup>th</sup> with 1.4.01. John Sargeant c locked 1.4.50, Dick Wilkins 1.5.05, Pete Ansell 1.6.08 and Les Black 1.7.59. The first three named missed the Team Prize by just 6 seconds.

News came through on the 19<sup>th</sup> April of the death of E.W. "Ernie" Tugwell. Originally he was a member of the Streatham Rovers and was instrumental in arranging the amalgamation of the two clubs in 1921. He had twice won the Mayne Cup firstly as a member of the Rovers in 1913 and again as a member of the Paragon in 1931. He thus became one of the Club's 'immortals'. Apart from acting on our Committee he was also very active with the SCCU and SRRA being elected a Vice President of the SCCU. He was one of our most successful Social Secretaries. Paragon Dances were (in?) famous and raised considerable amounts of money for the Club. Ernie attended many Club runs and supported the Club whether by the side of the road, at the Track or by the Polo field. He was a keen supporter of the Old Paragonians Association and was elected President of the Club in 1939. He was an advocate of the 'new' sport of massed start road racing and was very active with the British League of Racing Cyclists. In fact due to the machinations of our sport's governing bodies Ernie had to be 'suspended from membership'. Mind you he still attended all Club functions but he could not appear on the books! All was, eventually, forgiven and he presented one of his cups to be awarded to the Road Race Champion. It is now known as the EW Tugwell Cup. He enjoyed his many years with the Club and it gave him great satisfaction as his two lads, Ron and Maurice, followed him into the Paragon and were so successful both as competitors and as club members.

In the Croydon Winter League the Paragon 'A' Polo team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> position and the 'B' team were 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Dave London '30' was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Fastest time was by Dick Wilkins with a 1.16.56. This was much too fast for Laurie Watkins, 1.19.19, and Bob Corby 1.19.30. Laurie took the Handicap with 1.14.19 from Bob Corby 1.16.00 and Dick Wilkins 1.16.56. Three youngsters went north of the river to ride the Glendene Longmarkers '25' on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Barry Sturgess improved to 1.7.04 whilst Colin Wye had his first ride over the distance and finished in 1.13.3.53 and Rowan Vacher improved to a 1.15.28. Dan Hadfield rode the Bath Road Hilly '50' and improved two minutes on last years ride with a 2.19.55. Alan Sturgess won the Southend Promenade Race over 44 miles beating a good field of Independants and 1<sup>st</sup> Category riders. He got clear with two others and they just held off the bunch. John Sargeant was in that group. The following day the positions were reversed with John taking 5<sup>th</sup> place in the West Croydon Whs event on the Lingfield circuit whilst Alan remained in the bunch. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> category event Derek Hull was placed 6<sup>th</sup>. It was remarkable in so much as he finished with a broken frame!

From April 30<sup>th</sup> the Paragon no longer were to meet at the Gun Tavern in Church Street, Croydon. The new venue was to be the Norwood Sports Club by Norwood Lake.

On the Opening night of this year's Monday Competition Alan Sturgess won the 5 miles and the points competition. Then the following day he came 4<sup>th</sup> in the evening handicap on the Crystal Palace circuit.

Six riders were down for the SCCU '50' on the 2nd May. By the 25 miles check Ray Runham (then in the Fountain) was leading in 1.2.32. Robin Buchan was lying 4<sup>th</sup> in 1.3.26 then came Dick Wilkins 1.5.46, Bob Corby 1.6.40, Vin Callanan 1.7.09, Dan Hadfield 1.7.10 and Harry Corby 1.8.58. At the Finish Robin had pulled himself up into 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Runham. Ray finished with 2.5.05 with Robin on 2.7.06. Our other finishers were Dick Wilkins in 5<sup>th</sup> place with 2.9.18, Bob Corby 2.12.22, Vin Callanan 2.12.50, Dan Hadfield 2.15.09 and Harry Corby 2.16.41. Messrs Buchan, Wilkins and Corby R also collected the Team Prize for the Paragon. Barry Sturgess slowed a little in the Eagle Longmarkers '25' with a 1.8.21 but Laurie Watkins came 5<sup>th</sup> with a 1.2.55. His best and it follows a three-year 'rest'. What could he do after 5 years away? Laurie Watkins had to ride a private time trial in the Harlow Middlemarkers '25' as he had now beaten the 1.4.0 limit. In wet and windy conditions he did a 1.3.40. Chris Swain achieved 1.5.41 but Dave Bashford actually produced a personal best of 1.11.04 to improve by 2½ minutes. In the Eltham Paragon Meeting at Crystal Palace Pete Patterson finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the 3<sup>rd</sup> category event with Chris Swain 9<sup>th</sup>.

The WLCA '50' suffered from a long course. On the back of the Result Card there is an apology from the organiser to the effect that the course was 159 yards long. Judging by the rest of the Result he could have commented upon the weather. Twenty-six of the seventy-four entrants did not greet the Timekeeper and the winning time was 2.11.56! Shades of the 1930s! Our riders also had to contend with early starts being numbers 2, 10 and 15 – not a great help on a bad morning. Dick Wilkins was our best man with a 2.15.49 ride followed by Vin Callanan 2.16.46 and Dan Hadfield 2.23.46. Vin started at number two so had the lonely ride. After he crossed the line it was another 10 minutes before anyone else finished and the third man to finish was Wilkins from start number 15! Others suffering from a hideous morning were those entered for the Kentish Whs Novices '25'. Rowan Vacher had chain trouble on the way down and elected not to start. P Warsop arrived at the Timekeeper some 9 minutes late but went round in 1.27.02. Colin Wye fought the elements and returned in 1.22.52. Lindsay Mercer was doing a fair ride when he hit a hole. The result crash necessitated a visit to the local hospital. No one won anything but the lads deserved praise for turning out on such a foul morning.

The Kingston Hilly '73' was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May and we had a team in contention. Robin Buchan was 5<sup>th</sup> in 3.4.41 and Dan Hadfield 7<sup>th</sup> in 3.7.01 including time lost by a crash. Vin Callanan punctured and had two machine changes in his 3.15.47. After all that the San Souci beat us by just over 3 minutes for that prize. Harry Corby did 2.11.49 in the Addiscombe '50' and collected 3<sup>rd</sup> handicap prize. Cousin Bob had a bad day and could not get going but finished with 2.17.45. Laurie Watkins punctured but finished in 2.22.33 for his first '50'. Dick Wilkins went down to Folkestone for their '25' and produced a season's best of 1.1.56. Alan Sturgess won the Leyton Camp Road race over 60 miles near Chelmsford.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> May Alan Sturgess won his 6<sup>th</sup> race of the season when he took the Central Sussex event at Plumpton. He has been short listed for the World

Championship selection races to be held in June. Robin came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the races held on the Kenley Aerodrome Circuit. John Sargeant won the Addiscombe road race around the Lingfield circuit taking off on the hill through Dormansland and holding his advantage to the line.

The Club '50' on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May had nine entries of whom eight started but only five made it back to the Timekeeper. Best of them was Dick Wilkins with a 2.7.57 from Dan Hadfield, 2.9.59 and Harry Corby was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 2.10.39. Harry's time was good enough for him to take 1<sup>st</sup> on Handicap with 2.6.09 from Wilkins 2.7.57 and Laurie Watkins 2.8.46.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May Alain Eve went off to Essex for the ECCA '25' and ended the day with a 1.5.17. Barry Sturgess had spoke problems and finished in 1.15.55 and John Jennings also found things hard with his 1.15.45. When the Tour of Britain finished at Crystal Palace Pete Patterson came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Category support event.

More bad weather was experienced in the Catford '50' that even solicited a comment from the organiser on the Result Sheet. Nevertheless our three riders started and finished. Dan Hadfield was 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2.10.22; Vin Callanan was 6<sup>th</sup> in 2.12.34 and Harry Corby 8<sup>th</sup> in 2.12.39. While this was excellent grouping it was not quite good enough for them to collect the Team race being beaten by 2 minutes by the Catford 'Home' team. Over the other side of the water Robin Buchan produced the fastest Paragon '50' of the year with 2.2.33 for 4<sup>th</sup> place. Bob Corby finished in 2.9.26 and Dick Wilkins 2.9.42. In the Surrey Road '25' Robert Moss collected 2<sup>nd</sup> handicap with a 1.10.42 ride.

Alan Sturgess won the 770 yards handicap at the combined De Laune/Catford Meeting with Robin Buchan in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Robin won the 3 miles point to point then Alan came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Devil take the Hindmost and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 5 miles block handicap. Pete Patterson won the Junior Sprint and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior 3 miles.

By contrast to the Catford event only seven riders failed to answer the Timekeeper for the Hounslow '100' on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The Paragon had Dan Hadfield, Vin Callanan, Bob and Harry Corby to represent us. By the 50 miles check Jeff Marshall was leading with a time of 2.4.45 for the distance whilst Dan was in 5<sup>th</sup> position on 2.7.54. Bob had taken 2.11.37, Vin 2.13.43 and Harry 2.16.47. Over the stretch out to Hungerford and back Marshall lost his lead to Pepper (Colchester) but these two were way ahead of the rest. Pepper won with 4.11.21 from Marshall's 4.12.33. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Dick Poole (Middlesex RC) in 4.19.06. Although Dan was close behind Poole in this class event they tend to pack in a little tighter than the local races. He actually was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in 4.19.40 but it was a 4-minute improvement. Bob came 10<sup>th</sup> with an excellent 4.23.22 that was 10 minutes faster than he had ever ridden this distance. Vin chipped in with 4.29.18 and Harry recorded 4.39.53. Much to everyone's surprise the Paragon won the Team race as not many Clubs had three good counting times. Robin Buchan kept to the shorter distances and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Farnham '25' with a 57.36 that was his fastest for a number of seasons. In the Comrades Junior '25' both Chris Swain,

1.3.32, and Dave Bashford, 1.10.57, recorded personal best times. Terry Slattery put up his best ride of the year in the Bellingham '25' with a 1.2.24 and Dick Wilkins was 24" slower. They needed a third man with a 1.5.0 but he did not start!

Alan Sturgess won the 'Circuit of the Broyle' an evening event near Lewes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Then over the Bank Holiday Alan and John Sargeant rode the Letchworth 2 day race. Alan finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place and John 10<sup>th</sup>.

On the Bank Holiday Monday the Corby cousins rode the Feltham Middlemarkers '25' and for a change Harry beat Bob. Their times being 1.5.03 and 1.6.00 respectively. Chris Swain finished in 1.6.58 following gear troubles. Dick Wilkins did a 1.3.40 in the Bromley '25' and Robin Buchan a 58.23 in the Basildon event.

The Purley to Brighton was an inter-club against the Addiscombe but it was, this year, a very one-sided competition. The Paragon had six of the seven fastest times! Terry Slattery won with a 1.36.43 from Dan Hadfield 1.38.02 and Les Black 1.39.41. S Toole slipped in here with a 1.39.45 for the Addiscombe before the last three Paragon counters. They were Dick Wilkins 1.40.12, Harry Corby 1.40.45 and Bob Corby 1.41.30. Terry also won the handicap with 1.34.43 from Harry Corby, 1.35.45 and Dan Hadfield 1.36.02. Robin Buchan rode the SW London and Surrey 25 miles Championship and won it with a 58.23. John Sargeant finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Harold Hill 'Spider' Trophy event over 80 miles. Chris Swain rode the De Laune '25' and recorded 1.4.00; Pete Ansell did 1.8.21 and Barry Sturgess 1.9.22.

Keith Butler had a surprise trip to England when he was a last minute replacement to ride the London to Holyhead race. (A mere 275 miles!) He was with the leaders to Capel Curig but on the descent through Bethesda he managed to puncture both tyres at once! Ones powers of recuperation are not at ones best after 240 miles of racing and while Keith had the leaders in sight all across the Isle of Anglesey he could not catch them; eventually finishing 13<sup>th</sup> behind Tom Simpson, Shay Elliot and Albert Hitchin.

The 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> June was the weekend of the Catford 24-hour event and lady luck shone on the competitors this year. They were blessed with 24 hours of warm dry weather that almost made it a pleasure to ride such a long way. Dan Hadfield came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 453.884 miles covered and Harry Corby came 9<sup>th</sup> with 417.299 miles. Unfortunately Bob Corby crashed and had to go off to hospital to have stitches put into a bad cut so thoughts of a Team victory went out of the window,

A double for the Paragon in the WLCA '50' on the 20<sup>th</sup> June! Robin Buchan won the race by 2.42 in a time of 2.1.01 and the Team of Robin, Dick Wilkins and Vin Callanan took the Team Prize. Our lads' times were Robin 2.1.01, Dick 2.7.47, Vin Callanan 2.9.37 and Terry Slattery 2.18.47. The juniors had a race to themselves and Chris Matthews won again taking 38.09 for the 15 miles. Pete Ansell was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 39.11 with Barry Sturgess 3<sup>rd</sup> in 40.02. Another team went down to the West Kent '25' and found out that Kent courses are

generally hard and never flat. Chris Swain finished in 1.7.22, Barry Sturgess 1.11.11, Dave Bashford 1.15.06 and John Jennings 1.20.27 after some time away from the course presumably looking at the views.

At Herne Hill on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June Alan Sturgess and Robin Buchan teamed up to ride and win the 9 laps Double Harness Pursuit and Robin also gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 10-mile event. The day before Peter Patterson was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Junior race at Crystal Palace.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> Vin Callanan took himself off to the Watford Roads '50' where he was placed 8<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> on handicap with a time of .2.9.59. Robin Buchan was also on his own in the National Championship '50' but did at least produce his best ride of the year with a 2.0.03. Dick Wilkins did 1.1.05 in the Elite '25' in spite of suffering from hay fever. Dan Hadfield feeling none the worse for his 24 hours in the saddle did a 1.1.00 in the Border CA '25'.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Robin Buchan was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the WLCA 10 miles Championship at Herne Hill. Then on the Saturday he teamed up with John Clarey (Cambrian) to win the 10 miles Madison

The 4<sup>th</sup> July was South Ruislip '100' day and our team of Dan Hadfield, Harry Corby and Vin Callanan went off to the Bath Road. Dan started quite quickly as his wont and at the 25 miles check was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 1.4.21 just 1 second slower than Bailey (South Bucks). Vin was in 15<sup>th</sup> place with 1.8.15 and Harry went by in 1.9.03. By the 50 miles check Dan was out on his own – just! He passed the Timekeeper with 2.9.22 on the clock and was leading by 7 seconds from Mantle (Farnham). Vin came through in 2.15.10 for 14<sup>th</sup> place whilst Harry was timed at 2.18.05. Out to the far turn Dan kept up the rhythm reaching 75 miles in 3.12.45 and he was now 2 minutes clear of Mantle. Vin had desisted on this leg for unstated reasons whilst Harry kept on steadily passing in 3.27.06. At the Finish Dan crossed the line in 4.18.17 to win with a personal best time for the distance. Harry finished in 19<sup>th</sup> place with a 4.35.34. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time a Paragon rider had won this race. Keith Butler had won it in 1961. Robin Buchan and Terry Slattery decided to ride the Hastings and St Leonards '50' and had a hard day a wheel. Robin came 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 2.5.22 and Terry clocked 2.10.21. Les Black was coming back into form with a 1.2.00 in the Kingston '25' but Chris Swain 1.7.00 and Alain Eve 1.7.22 were not so happy.

More success came out way in the Dulwich Paragon '25' when Terry Slattery produced the fastest time of the day and a personal best of 1.1.07 to win the event. Not content with that he also collected 2<sup>nd</sup> on Handicap being beaten for 1<sup>st</sup> place by Harry Corby. With Harry's 1.3.30 and Vin Callanan's 1.3.09 the Paragon also won the Team race. Harry was also within 9 seconds of his best. Not a bad day out! Dan Hadfield equalled his best ever time with a 1.0.58 in the Farnborough '25' whilst Robin Buchan went down to the New Forest for the Southampton Whs '100'. He managed to pick rather a wet day to ride 100 miles but finished 4<sup>th</sup> and took 1<sup>st</sup> on handicap with a 4.26.27. In the Redmon '30' Alain Eve finished in 1.21.51 and Barry Sturgess 1.25.45. John Sargeant finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the ECCA Road Race Championship then on

the following Tuesday was 3<sup>rd</sup> at Crystal Palace where Alan Sturgess was 2<sup>nd</sup>. Robin Buchan came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Sprint Points Competition.

More successes came on the 18<sup>th</sup> July in the Moon Trophy race as not only did the Club retain the Trophy but seven riders put up personal best times for the distance. Robin Buchan was fastest time with a 59.01, Dan Hadfield came 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1.0.32 (P.B.) and Les Black was 4<sup>th</sup> in 1.2.35. The other personal best rides were done by Harry Corby 1.2.55, Chris Matthews 1.4.29, Derek Hull 1.4.41, Robert Moss 1.10.03, Rowan Vacher 1.10.55 and Lindsay Mercer 1.12.52. This event is, however, decided on handicap times. Our counters were Dan Hadfield 57.12, Harry Corby 57.55, Derek Hull 56.41 and John Jennings 57.50. These times were sufficient for us to win the Moon Trophy. We also collected the Tankard for the fastest team of riders over 30 with Messrs Buchan, Hadfield and Corby H. Another good day out for the Paragon. John Sargeant came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Bromley RC race on the Ide Hill circuit.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> July at Herne Hill Alan Sturgess won the Handicap and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 10 miles Points race.

The Goss Green Cup combined with the SCCU '100' had 7 entries from the Paragon but only four riders completed the course. Dan Hadfield was fastest with a 4.23.51 and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the event proper. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 4<sup>th</sup> in the SCCU event was Dick Wilkins, 4.30.58, then came Bob Corby 4.40.31 and Harry Corby 4.45.07. Wilkins also won the Club handicap. In the Kent RC Middlemarkers '25' Robert Moss was our fastest in 1.8.40 from Alain Eve 1.8.44 and John Jennings 1.9.31. Keith Butler came back from Belgium to ride the Corona Meeting at Crystal Palace. Keith won one of the intermediary primes and was in at the kill with a breakaway group of 14 riders. In the tightly packed finish he was 8<sup>th</sup>. Alan Sturgess collected yet another 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Crystal Palace on the 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The Club Open '50' for the FW Southall Trophy was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. It would appear to have been a bad morning as 21 of the 88 entrants failed to start. Fastest at the 25 miles point was Ray Runham (still Fountain CC) in 1.1.38. Robin Buchan was 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1.3.22; R Wilkins was 6<sup>th</sup> in 1.4.09, Dan Hadfield 8<sup>th</sup> in 1.5.06. Other Paragon times were Terry Slattery 1.5.44, Chris Matthews 1.8.22, Bob Corby 1.9.25, Harry Corby 1.9.53 and Barry Sturgess 1.11.13 (who had the honour to start No.1). By the Finish Runham had extended his lead to cross the line in 2.2.59. Robin had dropped back to 4<sup>th</sup> in 2.5.45 whilst Dick Wilkins had moved up to 5<sup>th</sup> with a 2.7.05. Dan Hadfield finished 8<sup>th</sup> in 2.8.48 and other Paragon times were Chris Matthews 2.14.19, Terry Slattery 2.14.44, Bob Corby 2.14.51, Harry Corby 2.15.16 and Barry Sturgess 2.25.05. Dick Wilkins also collected 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Handicap section but more importantly the Paragon won the Team race by 20 minutes!

Keith Butler went down to Chard to defend his Professional Road Race Title and he found himself riding against the whole field. Tactical forces at work ensured he did not get into any break and any move he made was immediately countered by the Falcon team if not by the whole bunch. With



one lap to go he finally broke clear of the bunch to chase down the break that had a lead of two minutes. He did just that catching the break inside the last 200 yards and going straight by to win the sprint. Unfortunately Albert Hitchen and Mick Coupe had already left this group so a bronze medal was Keith's reward not the gold.

At Crystal Palace on the Tuesday evening the Paragon had three men in a six-man break. It would appear that team tactics left much to be desired, as Alan Sturgess was 3<sup>rd</sup>, John Sargeant 5<sup>th</sup> and Robin Buchan 6<sup>th</sup>.

Alan Sturgess won the 3 miles Point to Point at Herne Hill then partnered by Denis Tarr (De Laune) came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 60 laps Madison. At the Club's Evening Promotion Alan collected his third 2<sup>nd</sup> place in three years in the London Centre 10 miles Championship. Robin Buchan was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Peter Patterson finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the BCF London Region Junior 500m Sprint Championship

Alan Sturgess won the Mercury Road Race at Staplehurst in spite of derailing his chain and having to chase for over 4 miles to regain the bunch. Robin Buchan produced his fastest '50' of the year when he won the Bournemouth Arrow event with a 1.59.32. Chris Matthews did 1.4.09 in the Oval '25' with Terry Slattery clocking 1.6.26 including time off the bike with a puncture and Derek Hull feeling the effects of the previous weeks crash could only manage a 1.8.06. In the Medway '50' Dick Wilkins did his best '50' of the year with a 2.6.59. He was backed by Harry Corby 2.10.59 and Bob Corby 2.11.21 with a puncture and they missed the Team Prize by 46 seconds. Barry Sturgess also finished in 2.20.53. Geoff Williams had his first outing over 25 miles in the South Eastern Junior '25 and finished with 1.8.17. Lindsay Mercer also rode and finished with a 1.16.

Derek Hull was our lone finisher in the 3<sup>rd</sup> category race of the Paragon promotions on the Ashdown Forest circuit. Although with the leaders, he weakened on the climb to Wych Cross, and finished 12<sup>th</sup>. Alan Williams (Dragon) won the senior race by 4 minutes from D Bugden (VC Crawley). Dick Wilkins was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Mephisto '25' with a 1.1.21. Harry Corby did 1.3.54 and Bob Corby did a personal best of 1.4.06 that also enabled him to win 1<sup>st</sup> on handicap prize. On the same day Robin Buchan came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Old Portlians '25' in 57.55 with Terry Slattery clocking 1.2.19.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August John Sargeant won the Streatham CRC Points race on the Pirbright Circuit. As they put the sprint point at the top of a hill it was 'money for old rope' for a climber as good as John. The fifty milers had a good day too. Robin Buchan did his best ride of the year with a 1.58.47 in the Southend event. Dan Hadfield did his in the Fulham Whs '50' with 2.6.17. Harry Corby put up a personal best in the same event of 2.7.45 and brother Bob came in with a 2.9.10. The Fryco Cup was ridden for on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August and Dick Wilkins trounced the field with a personal best time of 2.6.00. He won by over 5 minutes from Terry Slattery, 2.11.10 and Chris Matthews 2.11.49. Chris Matthews and Derek Hull tied for the 1<sup>st</sup> Handicap prize.

Alan Sturgess had another busy weekend on the 29<sup>th</sup> August. He finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Crystal Palace and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Alton in the Haslemere 'Golden Pot' road race over 66 miles. The he went to Palmer Park, Reading for their track Meeting. Here he won the Individual Pursuit and 'Devil' then came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 10 miles scratch. Dan Hadfield was also in fine form producing a personal best '50' in the Vegetarian event with a 2.4.17. Bob Corby also did the business with a 2.7.00, Dick Wilkins broke spokes but still came in with a 2.9.54 but Harry Corby experimented with a fixed wheel and 'ran out of legs' on the way back to clock 2.11.09. Seven members entered the SCCU '25' and Les Black came 2<sup>nd</sup> in event with a 1.1.57. Backing him were Terry Slattery 1.2.45 in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Geoff Williams riding only his second time trial 1.7.54. This was good enough to win the Team race. Other finishers were Barry Sturgess 1.9.00, Rowan Vacher 1.9.04 and Colin Wye 1.20.19.

The following day Robin rode the Bath Road '100' but could not improve on his Southampton ride finishing in 4.29.54. Alan Sturgess did a 59.10 in the Harold Hill '25' and Dick Wilkins a 1.1.16

Tom Simpson's win in the World Road Race Championship is not really Paragon history except that Tom praised very highly the England team that worked for him in that race. Keith Butler was one of the team and he finished 51<sup>st</sup> after 166 miles of racing in not very pleasant conditions. "My abiding memory is hanging on to Jacques Anquetil for the best part of a lap to prevent him getting across to Tom's group. It was rather fast".

As usual the Rotherham Cup was combined with the SCCU 12 hours and proved to be another Paragon benefit. We had six starters and right from the Start Robin was in command. Over the first 100 miles he was challenged by Norman Luhr (Clarencourt) but this challenge fell away as the race progressed. At the 100 miles check Robin was leading in 4.38.16 by just 35" from Luhr, Dan Hadfield was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place at 3.49, Bob Corby was 4<sup>th</sup> at 5.37 R Wilkins was 9<sup>th</sup> at 13.19 and Harry Corby was languishing over 20 minutes back. Surprise of the day was Les Black who came through in 4.50.58. This put him in 7<sup>th</sup> place and this was his first 12-hour event. By the 200 miles check Harry Corby had given it best and retired. Robin was flying having covered the second 100 miles in 4.48.29 to lead with a total time of 9.26.45. This put him 9.52 up on Dan Hadfield who was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. R Wilkins came through in 3<sup>rd</sup> place 14.58 slower than Robin whilst Bob Corby and Les Black were neck and neck taking 10.1.24 and 10.1.08 respectively for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> places. Onto the Finishing Circuit and there was no stopping Robin. He continued at his relentless pace before running out time with 253.360 miles. Dan held on comfortably to 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 245.911 miles whilst Wilkins dropped back a bit being overtaken by Brook (Bec) to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place with 240.188 miles. Les Black also finished strongly to cover 237.709 miles for 10<sup>th</sup> place and take the Novice Prize. Bob drifted back a bit to finish in 13<sup>th</sup> place with 236.848 miles. It was rather close for the minor placing as just 500 yards covered 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. The Paragon won the Team race by 23.434 miles with a total of 739.459 miles.

The lads entered the Clarence Whs Middlemarkers '25 on the 12<sup>th</sup> September. John Jennings was the fastest of them with a 1.7.02 being closely followed by Geoff Williams, 1.7.19, Barry Sturgess 1.7.46, Chris Swain 1.7.57 and Colin Wye 1.11.56. Bob Corby did 1.4.53 in the East Surrey '25' whilst cousin Harry went back a bit with a 1.8.28.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September we had riders in two events. Bob Corby, 1.5.30, Harry Corby, 1.5.45, Chris Swain, 1.6.29, and Colin Wye, 1.14.2 rode in the WLCA '25'. Dick Wilkins did 1.0.14 in the Becontree Whs '25'. It was also the day arranged for the Club Track Championship. The 500 yards handicap for the Frank Burton Cup proved to be a win for Alan Bristow who took full advantage of his mark to cross the line well in front of Alan Sturgess and Dick Wilkins. The 550 yards Scratch Sprint for the AEU Cup was a win for Alan Sturgess with Les Black and Terry Slattery taking the minor places. The Ravensbourne Cup over 5 miles was won by Alan Sturgess with, this time, Terry Slattery in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Dick Wilkins in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Alan also took the George Colget Cup for the Points award. The 4000m Pursuit was also won by Alan Sturgess with Terry Slattery 2<sup>nd</sup> and Les Black 3<sup>rd</sup>. This meant that the Track Championship was a clear win for Alan Sturgess (9pts), Les Black was 2<sup>nd</sup> (5 pts) and Terry Slattery 3<sup>rd</sup> (3pts).

The last junior event of the year was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September and a new name appears on top. Chris Swain produced a 25.49 to beat Geoff Williams, 26.31, and Colin Wye 27.38. Robin Buchan was hoping to win the Redhill '50' but had to be content with 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 2.4.48. Bob Corby was 6<sup>th</sup> in 2.9.27, Harry Corby did 2.13.09 and Barry Sturgess 2.31.00 including an enforced stop for a puncture.

This year the Mayne Cup had 16 entries of whom 14 started and finished. Les Black supplied the fastest time with a 1.2.36 from R Wilkins 1.3.38 and Bob Corby 1.5.11. Man of the Day was John Jennings who had been given 7 minutes allowance but he produced a personal best of 1.6.42 so finished with a nett 59.42 to take the Mayne Cup. Second on handicap was Barry Sturgess (8') 1.06 behind and 3<sup>rd</sup> was Bob Corby at 1.29.

Robin Buchan had one of the best wins of his season in the Guildford Phoenix '25'. He won in 57.30 and was over 1.15 faster than the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed man. Alan Sturgess was a bit disappointed in his 1.2.35.

Les Black came out to the Hill Climb and put everyone back into their place. Another fast climb of 3.56.8 left Dick Wilkins and Keith Lomath both 10.4" behind as they tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Terry Slattery was 4<sup>th</sup> in 4.10.

Robin Buchan and Alan Sturgess rode the end of season Brentwood '25' and after fighting the traffic all the way to the course they did 58.21 and 59.09 respectively. Then in the Clarence Whs event Robin did his best '25' of the season with a 56.29.

Len's '10' was held on a morning of cold clinging mist. Alan Sturgess was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 23.56, Bob Corby did 25.05 that with 2 minutes handicap won him 3<sup>rd</sup> place

in that section. Harry Corby did 26.00, John Jennings 26.05, Barry Sturgess 26.29 and Colin Wye 29.21. Keith Butler who had arrived from Belgium the night before rode a private time trial in 23.41 and achieved a personal best for the distance.

The report of the Catford Hill Climb says "Les Black had car trouble, Terry Slattery had bed trouble and Dick Wilkins did 2.5.00". By the afternoon Les had managed to get to the Bec Hill Climb on Old Titsey Lane and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2.11. Bob and Harry Corby rode their first Open Hill Climb and got to the top in 2.38 and 2.48.8 respectively.

The prize donated by Frank Cleeve for those riding in a Team in Open Time Trials was won by Harry Corby with 21 points from cousin Bob (18 pts) and Dan Hadfield (16 pts).

The Club Open Time Trials Championship was won by Robin Buchan and in addition to the usual plaque he had a large trophy. This was the Newman Godward Trophy. Frank Southall won this cup outright in the SCCU Tandem paced 50 miles races at Herne Hill during the 1930s. Frank's family has donated the cup to the Paragon.

Dan Hadfield won the Club Events Championship and Pete Ansell the Junior Championship. Alan Sturgess took both the Track Championship and the Massed Start Championship.