

1966

The January Blah reported that Fred Walker, invariably known as 'Johnny' died on January 15th. He had joined the Paragon in 1922 and from the start was an active Club Member. He took part in Club time trials and dabbled on the Track. He was a keen tourist and led the club on many a week-end and took many holidays in Yorkshire and the Lake District. Never a fast man he was however part of the backbone of the Club. 'Johnny' was one of a large group in the 1920s that found they had joined a top class racing club without realising it. Nevertheless he did his own thing racing and touring to his own satisfaction. He enjoyed his membership of the Paragon and he remained a member through wartime service and a later move to Oxford. Latterly he was only seen at Herne Hill on Good Friday, the Bath Road '100' and OPA Suppers. His generation remember him as a good clubman and an inveterate card player!

At the AGM Monty Southall was re-elected President and Harry Grant and Len Niel (Reliance Fernhill) were elected as Vice-Presidents. Stan Butler was made Life Member of the Club. Annual Subscription were to be raised to £1.12s 6d (£1.62½ for Senior Members and 12s 6d (62½ p) for Junior or Honorary members. Entry Fee for Club Events was to be raised to 3s 6d from 2s 6d. This was the first increase since the 1920s! The January Blah also records the election to the Club of one Graham Bristow, son of Arthur, of whom more anon.

20th February and the Croydon and District Hardriders got the season off to a less than flying start. Sixty-five entries and twenty-seven of decided not to start another five failed to finish. It rained – a bit! One man is reported not to have returned to the Finish an hour after the last rider had been timed in! Also there is a note on the Result Sheet asking for the person who left his trousers at the Finish please collect them from Bill Diplo. The mind boggles!

Having said all that the winner was Peter Head (Redhill) in 1.14.46. In 4th place and the best CDCA rider was John Sargent in 1.18.35. Derek Hull was 10th, 1.22.41, Ian Murray 13th, 1.24.50, Chris Swain 16th, 1.26.38, Barry Sturgess 28th, 1.31.36 and Dave Fryer was 33rd in 1.46.20. Messrs Sargent, Hull and Murray collected the Team Race for the Paragon. A good start to the year we believe.

The March Blah reports a move by Len 'Shaggy' Butler giving a 'temporary address' in Leyton E.10. He was still there 25 years later! Shaggy was a Polo player of renown. While we mention Polo it was also noted that the Club had returned to the Bicycle Polo Association the Bartleet Cup and the Dunlop Cup that the Paragon Team had won outright in the English Championship between 1933 and 1939. They had been presented for the English Championship and the Club had been virtually undefeated in this Competition throughout the 1930s. They were returned to the BPA to be used as perpetual trophies. Those who won them were Bill Domeney, Arch Allin, Eric Godman, Bill Ongley, Ernie Ongley, Dick Ongley, George Ongley, Ching Allin, Taffy Carleton and Ron Mitchell.

It was mentioned in the previous year's results but in the March Blah it was made official that Ray Runham had joined the Norwood Paragon. He has stayed with us ever since.

Twelve men went to the Start Line for the first Club Event of the season; the 10 miles Scratch. After a disappointing 1965 season Terry Slattery started 1966 off on the right foot with a win in 25.15. Bob Corby was 2nd with a 25.46 and Barry Sturgess showed some early promise with a 26.59. Two trikes were in evidence; Ian Murray completing the course in 28.17 and Harry Corby 30.18.

Rowan Vacher ought to have been 3rd in the Kentish Whs Novices '25' but if you turn up 15½ minutes late that penalty gets added to your time. His actual riding time on a very cold morning was 1.11.03. Graham Bristow clocked a 1.13, Pete Fryer a 1.16 and Dave Fryer a 1.22. These times ensured that they were second in the Team race. Barry Sturgess did a 1.8.10 in the ECCA '25'.

John Sargeant was 4th in the Woolwich 43-mile road race on the Wrotham circuit whilst Keith Lomath failed to finish after breaking a crank whilst climbing Wrotham Hill! Derek Hull was 3rd in the Southern Velo 3rd Category race around the Lingfield Circuit.

The Polo team came 2nd in the Croydon Winter League behind Palace.

Another hard morning for the Jim Fox '25' on the 27th March with gale force winds and the occasional torrential downpour to make life more interesting. This accounts for Robin Buchan winning in the very slow time, for him, of 1.6.09. Bob Corby came 2nd with a 1.8.45 and Harry Corby was 3rd in 1.9.36. The times speak for themselves! Rowan Vacher won the Handicap from Bob Corby and Graham Bristow.

John Sargeant won the Nonsuch RC road race on the Herriard Circuit near Alton. He broke clear in the last 5 miles and held off the chasing bunch all the way to the line. Keith Lomath rode in support and finished 10th. Derek Hull rode in the 3rd Category event and finished 4th.

Robin Buchan was 5th in the East Surrey Hardriders event with a 1.24.25. Terry Slattery was close behind with a 1.26.21 but Ian Murray found that the choice of a fixed wheel while excellent for training purposes was not a good idea on Rusper Hill and had to be content with a 1.30.48.

In the West Kent '25' Bob Corby finished in 1.4.41 and collected 2nd on handicap. Richard Wilkins was on 1.5.17, Harry Corby on 1.9.29 and Graham Bristow, whose ambition is to actually do a race in sunshine, produce a person best of 1.12.09.

The Dave London '30' on the 24th April proved to be a win for Bob Corby 1.16.20 from Richard Wilkins, 1.17.50 and Harry Corby 1.20.23 (a personal best). Rowan Vacher won the Handicap (that is the second this year) with a

personal best ride of 1.23.27 with a 10 minutes allowance from Bob Corby and Chris Swain.

Ray Runham came 2nd in the De Laune '25' with a 1.0.28, Robin Buchan was 4th in 1.1.40 and Terry Slattery made up the winning team with a 1.5.20. Colin Wye also rode and recorded a personal best of 1.9.55. Robin lost some time negotiating two cars that had become entangle in the middle of the road. John Sargeant and Keith Lomath rode the Archer Spring Handicap and were sent of in the limit group. Not surprisingly, to us, they stayed away to finished 5th and 7th respectively.

Bob Corby was our fastest rider in the SCCU '25' with a 1.5.35 that also earned him the 1st Handicap prize. Also riding were Ian Murray with 1.7.17, Harry Corby 1.8.19, Pete Fryer 1.14.11 and Lindsay Mercer 1.16.59. On Essex Roads three young lads had a hard time on the more exposed courses north of the river. John Jennings finished with a 1.11.20, Barry Sturgess 1.11.51 and Rowan Vacher 1.13.56.

At Easter Ray Runham won the Crawley Whs '25' on Good Friday in 59.03. He was supported by John Jennings 1.7.05 and Barry Sturgess 1.10.21. Then on the Sunday Ray won again in the Fountain '25'. This time he was slightly slower with a 59.37. Best performances were produce by Barry Sturgess, 1.6.23, and John Jennings, 1.6.24 to enable the Paragon to win the Team race. Harry Corby was also in attendance and finished with 1.8.33. Keith Butler came over to ride behind the Dernies at the Good Friday Meeting but did not do well. On the previous Sunday he rode the Kuurne-Brussels-Kuurne that turned out to be 6 hours of cold, rain, sleet and snow. Not surprisingly this ended up giving him bronchial catarrh. The legs were okay but the lungs would not work. Doctor's orders were a week off the bike and keep warm!

John Sargeant came 4th in the Welwyn Easter 2-day keeping in touch on the first road stage and time trial; then winning the final stage on Sunday. Keith Lomath had the misfortune to puncture early on the Saturday losing too much time to figure highly in the results. Derek Hull finished 4th in the West Kent 3rd category race and has now moved up to 2nd category.

Going out to the Actonia '25' the Paragon car was directed 'off course' by a diversion in the Chertsey area so they arrived at the Start a little behind schedule. It proved to be costly. Harry Corby clocked 1.9.21 that was an actual 1.5.41, and his best ride of the season. John Jennings had 15 minutes late start and his nett time would have been 1.6.11 and a personal best. Bob Corby started on time and also did a personal best time of 1.2.46 but the handicapper must be getting wise to this man and he failed to figure in the handicap prize list. Barry Sturgess also finished in 1.7.42.

The Croydon Advertiser Road race saw John Sargeant in action again. Nearing the end he passed the top of Gravel Hill in 2nd place but could not hold his position on the drag up Lodge Lane to the Finish crossing the line in 7th place. John was selected to ride the Dover 2-day for the SW London and

Surrey Division Team. Keith Lomath finished 3rd in the North Road 50 mile road race at Puckeridge and Derek Hull was 12th in the East Surrey Road race on the Newtons Hill circuit.

Ray Runham won his third event in 10 days when he made fastest time in the Bec '25' with 1.2.33 on a very tough morning with a bitter north-east wind blowing that slowed everyone on the way back to Earlswood from Crawley. Ian Murray clocked 1.6.08 and Graham Bristow 1.12.53. The younger members of the Club went to the Portsmouth Road for the Delta Longmarkers '25'. Their times were John Jennings 1.8.10, Barry Sturgess 1.9.04, Colin Wye 1.10.24, Lindsay Mercer 1.13.57 and Rowan Vacher 1.16.55. They did, however, collect a medal each for 2nd team award.

Robin Buchan and John Sergeant rode the Dave Cosson race promoted by the Redhill CC. Stage 1 was a time trial over 10 miles and they came 4th and 7th respectively. On the road race stage they, almost, maintained their positions eventually finishing 5th and 7th on general classification. Then on the Sunday Robin rode on the Lingfield circuit breaking away from the rest of the field he was in the lead for over 40 miles but was caught with just 10 miles to go by a chasing group. At the finish he was in 9th place.

Keith Butler came back to England to ride the Tour of the South West. After a shaky first day, when the climb of Cheddar Gorge proved a little too severe after the flat lands of Belgium and the enforced rest after Easter, he finished 20th. He was 6th into Newquay, 7th to Paignton and 6th into West-super-Mare.

John Sargeant competed in the classic Tour of the North Downs. After 88 miles he crossed the line in 6th place. This was a fine effort against a top class field. Terry Slattery finished 10th in the Morden CRC around the Newtons Hill circuit. At Crystal Palace Ray Runham and John Sargeant rode the main race and broke clear. Unfortunately John had to drop back leaving Ray on his own. Try as he could Ray could not quite hold the bunch at bay and was caught on the run-in to finish 9th.

Ray Runham made it four in a row with a win in the Classic Forest '25'. His time of 59.50 was the only one inside the hour and to emphasise his superiority he also collected 3rd place on handicap. Robin Buchan was 6th with a 1.1.54 getting back to action after a short touring holiday in France. Terry Slattery made up the team with a 1.7.42. Ray also qualified for the 2nd Round of the London Centre 4000m Individual Pursuit after a 4.26.8 in the time trial round.

Graham Bristow who was despairing of ever managing to race on a good morning on a good course eventual achieved his 'ambition'. He rode the Glendene Novices and his time of 1.7.30 took 5 minutes from his previous personal best. Lindsay Mercer also improved to 1.9.07 but the other riders stayed put. Pete Fryer recorded 1.13.04 and Colin Wye 1.19.07 with 4 minutes late start.

Robin Buchan's Club Record for 25 miles was broken by Ray Runham in the Havering '25'. In this event held on the fast E3 or Southend Road he clocked 56.23. Richard Wilkins also rode well with a 1.0.20 - his fastest of the season.

The first Club '50' on the 15th May was a resounding win for Keith Lomath. With his 2.12.33 he won by nearly 10 minutes and took the Handicap as well. Chris Swain came 2nd in 2.22.29 and John Jennings was 3rd in 2.22.59. Colin Wye collected his first win with a 26.02 for the first junior event of the season on the 22nd May. In 2nd place was Graham Bristow, 26.14, and 3rd was Lindsay Mercer 27.05.

The 29th May and Ray Runham was 3rd in the Farnham '25' with 58.06 and Robin Buchan 5th in 59.50 but we had no third man so had to forfeit the team prize. In the Bellingham Whs '25' Terry Slattery was our fastest with a 1.4.43, Bob Corby 1.5.18, Dick Wilkins 1.5.40, Harry Corby 1.6.42, Les Black 1.7.34, John Jennings 1.10.18 and George Walmsley 1.12.34. Then in the Comrades Junior '25' we had Chris Swain 1.4.52, Rowan Vacher 1.5.25, Colin Wye 1.8.36 and Graham Bristow 1.9.15 including a crash. This was all on the Whit-Sunday.

Robin Buchan and Ray Runham dominated the WLCA 10 miles Championship. With two others they completely broke up the field leaving Robin to beat Ray for the Championship. Robin Buchan also won the 20 miles Points race with John Clarey at the De Laune Meeting. News from the North is that Alan Sturgess was making a menace of himself at Fallowfield (Manchester) and leading their Points Table. He also won a 1000 yards handicap and other events (£15 first handicap places we understand).

On the Monday the Juniors won a team race in the Bromley RC '10'. They were Rowan Vacher 26.06, Graham Bristow 27.10 Colin Wye 27.16 and J Hoskins 28.45. The West Croydon Whs '25' had Les Black 1.4.14, Keith Lomath 1.4.16, Barry Sturgess 1.6.50 and John Jennings 1.8.21. Down in the New Forest Ray Runham came 2nd in the Rufus '30' with a 1.10.04, Bob Corby put in a personal best of 1.15.28 and Terry Slattery made up the winning Team with a 1.18.05 that included a 40" late start. Harry Corby also finished in 1.19.11. John Sargeant had a 1st and a 2nd place over Whitsun. He won on the Ashwell circuit and came 2nd at Toot Hill in Essex. He then came 5th in the Spider Trophy event. For his efforts he has been selected to represent SW London & Surrey in the Tour of Scotland. This was Keith Butler's first representative ride so the omens are good for John. Keith Lomath came 2nd in the Norwich Amateur road race and has regained his 1st category licence. In the Surrey St Christophers road race at Pirbright Derek Hull was 3rd, Terry Slattery 6th and Tony Alford 12th and the Paragon won the Team race.

Alec Bird, Keith Ongley and Tony Knight were picked for a Surrey Team to play exhibition matches at the CTC York Rally. In the first match they played Lanarkshire by the odd goal and in the other they played as "The South" against a "Midlands" Team. Some of the Solihull were in this side but our lads

beat them by 3 goals. However the Surrey/South teams did wear Paragon Shirts so kept the flag flying.

Riding in the National Championship '25' Ray Runham achieved the best ride of his career when he finished in 5th place with a 57.03. Nearer home the Surrey RC Longmarkers was being run off. Our lads were John Jennings 1.4.35 (a personal best) Rowan Vacher 1.5.56, Graham Bristow 1.6.03, Barry Sturgess 1.7.42, Mick Marguerie 1.10.43, Andy Murray 1.11.55, Colin Wye 1.11.55 and Lindsay Mercer 1.16.38. We also had a team in the Addiscombe '50' but they failed to take any prizes. Times were Bob Corby 2.8.24, Harry Corby 2.11.59, Ian Murray 2.14.33, Chris Swain 2.16.45 and Terry Slattery 2.26.

The Moët & Chandon Track meeting had the biggest crowds seen at Herne Hill for an Evening Meeting for many a year. The results of the racing was as follows:- Reg Smith (London Coureurs) and Mick Jackson (Basildon) won their semi-finals of the BCF London Region 4000m Pursuit Championship. Ron Keeble (34th Nomads) won the 550 yards handicap and John Froud (Festival) the 'Devil'. Dave Bonner (Mackeson) attempted to set Professional 5000m and 5 miles unpaced standing start records. He failed by just one second to set 5000m figures with 6.36.0 but he did beat his own amateur times for 5 miles. His time of 10.40.9 beat the Amateur figures by 8.8 seconds and will be submitted for a new record. Robinson (Polytechnic) won the 10 miles event for the Harry Grant Cup from Ray Runham and Ron Keeble. Robin Buchan collected the Lap Prize and the race time was 20.43 that is a tad under 30 mph!

On the 12th June Ray Runham set a new course record for the Portsmouth Road when winning the BCF SW London and Surrey '25' in 57.02. In the De Laune Junior '25' Rowan Vacher was 7th with 1.5.46, Graham Bristow did a 1.6 and John Hoskins a 1.28. Robin Buchan came 4th in the Brentwood '50' with a 2.1.39 ride. Harry Corby came in with a personal best time of 2.7.33 beating cousin Bob who could only manage 2.8.29.

Ray Runham won again in the Eastbourne Rovers '25' with a 58.11 whilst Robin Buchan and Alan Strugess rode the Andy Wilson Memorial '50' on the North Road finishing with times of 2.1.21 and 2.5.26 respectively.

It was only a 2nd place for Ray Runham in the Elite '25' on the 26th June even though he completed the course in 56.30. John Hoskins finished the GH Stancer Schoolboy '10' in 27.48. The Bexley 2up '28' saw Harry and Bob Corby do the best of our three teams. Their 1.5 03 was quite an excellent ride as Harry had gear trouble and could only get a 73" gear. Chris Matthews and George Walmsley did a 1.6 and Tony Alford and Derek Hull a 1.7.

Robin Buchan was 2nd in the SCCU '50' with a 2.4.18. Bob Corby did 2.9.46; Harry Corby finished in 2.15.14 and the Paragon were 2nd Team. Arriving at the Start of the WLCA '50' the Paragon Team of Wilkins and the Corby cousins were greeted with torrential rain and a gale. Richard decided not to ride, Bob managed a 2.14.35 that gave him 3rd place and 2nd on handicap

whilst Harry was (un?)lucky enough to puncture. On the same day the Paragon had a team in the West Kent Junior '10' so times were not going to be brilliant. Graham Bristow finished in 26.29 and Lindsay Mercer and Colin Wye both did 27-minute rides.

A very hard morning greeted those racing from Purley to Brighton especially a heavy downpour south of Bolney. Terry Slattery won in 1.39.39 three minutes slower than last year. Bob Corby was 2nd in 1.41.45 (2 minutes slower) and Harry Corby was 3rd in 1.42.43 (4 minutes slower). Dave Fryer and Aubrey Hill took well over 2 hours to get down to the coast! Colin Wye, with 15 minutes allowance, took the Handicap by 5 minutes from Chris Matthews and Terry Slattery.

The Club had three teams entered in the South Eastern 2up time trials in the Cranleigh area. The 'A' team of Robin Buchan and Ray Runham finished 2nd in 1.18.26 missing first place by 26". As Ray also had a puncture this was a superb effort. Bob Corby and Richard Wilkins were 9th in 1.23.42 and the 'C' team of Ian Murray and Harry Corby came 12th in 1.25.24.

In the Kingston Hilly '73' Robin Buchan came 3rd with a 3.3.43 whilst Ian Murray came in with 3.26.04. Rowan Vacher won 1st handicap in the St Christophers '25' with a 1.7.58 ride and with John Jennings, 1.8.18, and Barry Sturgess, 1.8.45, were the 2nd team on handicap.

On a Friday evening the Paragon Team Pursuit Team met the Colnbrook in the 1st round of the WLCA Championship and despite having to put up a scratch team won the tie. Ray Runham, Robin Buchan and Alan Sturgess were joined by Mick Burren (East Surrey) to represent SW London & Surrey Division in the National Divisional Pursuit Championship. They put up the fastest time in the qualifying round of 4.56.0 but eventually collected the Bronze Medal for 3rd place. Colin Wye won his first Championship when he won the SW London & Surrey Schoolboy Sprint Championship.

On the 8th July the next junior event was held. This was a 15-mile event and proved to be a win for Chris Swain in 39.55. Graham Bristow came 2nd in 40.08 and Colin Wye was 3rd in 40.21. John Sargeant won the SW London & Surrey Division Road Race Championship over 3 laps of the large Ashdown Forest Circuit. In an uphill sprint he beat his five companions and opponents to win by three lengths. Keith Lomath was 9th some 2 minutes back. Pete Fryer finished 7th in the Junior race. Keith Butler was reported to have come 6th in professional race at Haumont followed by a 9th and 12th in Kermesse races in Belgium.

We had six riders in the Moon Trophy '25' on the 17th July. Robin Buchan was the fastest rider both in the Moon Trophy and of our own riders in 59.11 with Harry Corby 2nd in 1.4.03 and Barry Sturgess 3rd in 1.4.44 (a personal best). In the Team Race we have to report that the Addiscombe beat us by 1.18. Our counting riders were George Walmsley 58.55, Barry Sturgess 56.24, Robin Buchan 59.11, and Harry Corby 59.13.

John Sargeant came 7th in the 4th Stage of the Tour of Scotland and 17th overall where he was riding for a SW London & Surrey Team. Derek Hull came back from a racing holiday in Belgium and promptly won the Balham 'Champagne and Flowers' Road race at Pirbright. Terry Slattery was 11th.

Bob Corby finished 2nd in the South Ruislip '100' with a 4.24.28. Robin Buchan finished in 4.33.36 and Harry Corby 4.38.50 to also take the Team award. It has been some time since a fellow club rider put 9 minutes into Robin Buchan! Bob also won a special prize for being the fastest at 50 miles with 2.8.17. Some evenings have been spent on the Polhill '10' course with Harry Corby returning with a 23.37, Bob Corby 24.04, Rowan Vacher 24.37, John Jennings 24.32 and Colin Wye 25.40.

In a SCCU '50' Robin Buchan was 1st with a 2.1.23 riding on an 84" fixed wheel. Following him were Bob Corby 2.8.56 and Harry Corby 2.15.07 with a puncture. Terry Slattery won the Dulwich Paragon '25' for the second year running with a personal best ride of 1.0.38. Geoff Williams did a 1.6 and Mick Marguerie a personal best of 1.8.

Ray Runham finished 2nd in the London St Christophers '25' with a 58.25 and with Terry Slattery 1.0.48 and a personal best ride of 1.4.28 from John Jennings they won the Team race. Other riders were Tony Alford 1.4.37, Barry Sturgess 1.5.10 and Mick Marguerie 1.12.12

This year there were only 2 riders for the Goss Green Cup and Robin Buchan, 4.36.32, beat Ian Murray 4.39.07. Ian was riding his first '100' so also collected the Special Novice Medal and the Bill Saggars award for the fastest Novice in the Club '100'.

On the 1st August Ray Runham won the FW Southall '50' and thankfully this year he was riding for the Paragon. He led all the way being the only man inside one hour at the 25 miles check with a 59.18. Sharp (Eastbourne) was in 2nd place, 1.1.09 and Robin Buchan in 3rd place on 1.2.00. Bob Corby recorded 1.2.37, Terry Slattery 1.4.13, John Jennings 1.5.22, Rowan Vacher 1.7.02, Keith Lomath 1.7.12, Ian Murray 1.8.40 and Barry Sturgess (off No.1 again) 1.8.42. At the end Ray had increased his lead to finish in 2.0.12. Sharp was 2nd in 2.2.48 with Robin Buchan 3rd in 2.3.40. Bob Corby came in 5th with a 2.6.42 (a personal best) then came Terry Slattery, 2.10.01, Keith Lomath 2.13.49 (with a much faster second 25 miles), Rowan Vacher 2.16.59 (personal best) and Barry Sturgess 2.20.51 (personal best). Both Ian Murray and John Jennings retired after bike problems. Not content with a win the Club also collected 2nd and 3rd on handicap by Rowan Vacher and Bob Corby and the Team race.

In the Oval '25' on the Portsmouth Road Bob Corby returned a 1.2.58, Terry Slattery 1.3.46 and Ian Murray 1.12.34. Bob was also best Paragon rider in the Mephisto '25' with a 1.32.0. Dick Wilkins came in with a 1.5.14 and Harry Corby 1.6.16.

At the Belle Vue Track Meeting on the 10th August Ray Runham won the 4000m Individual Pursuit Championship of the SW London and Surrey Division. Then to follow, partnered by Robin Buchan, he took 2nd place in the 60 laps Madison. John Sargeant came 5th in a race at the USA Camp at Craughton, Northants. Then in the Mercury road race at Ightham he came 2nd

It was Club Track Championship day at Herne Hill on the 14th August and it was blessed with glorious sunshine. Ray Runham set off as he meant to continue with a 5.29.5 4000m Pursuit that left everyone else looking very slow to take 3 points. Terry Slattery was 2nd in 5.48.6 and Les Black 5.56.0. The 550 yards sprint for the AEU Cup also went to Ray beating Graham Bristow and John Barclay. He did NOT win the handicap for the Frank Burton Cup. That went to Graham Bristow with John Barclay 2nd and Les Black 3rd. It was noted that young Bristow had 45 yards from Les Black. That was the last time anyone was so generous with him! The 5 miles Scratch for the Ravensbourne Cup incorporating the Point to Point was, again, a Runham benefit race. He won both. The Points places for the George Colget Cup were Ray Runham 38, Terry Slattery 26 and Les Black 16. The Scratch result was Ray Runham 1st, Les Black 2nd and John Barclay 3rd. Overall Ray took the Championship with 9 points from Les Black 3 pts and John Barclay 2 pts.

Bob Corby went down to Southend by train for the Southend and County '50'. A silly thing to do on a Sunday as the train came in 15 minutes late. Then a brake cable snapped and he started some 5½ minutes late. To add insult to injury his finish time was 2.8.51, which was, in reality a 2.3.21 actual time. That would have been a 3.21 improvement to his personal best.

In the Mackeson Grand Prix at Crystal Palace we had a team of John Sargeant, Ray Runham, Tony Alford and Derek Hull. Whilst prominent during the race they were unplaced in the bunch sprint. John Sargeant was 2nd in the Redmon trophy 75 miles event with Derek Hull and Tony Alford close behind. News from Belgium was that Keith Butler was finishing regularly in the top 10 places but had failed to get his wheel over the line in first place.

Shades of the past at the Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton on the 20th August. The Club Team of Robin Buchan, Ray Runham, Alan Sturgess and John Sargeant took the Bronze Medals in the BCF Team Pursuit Championship. The lads qualified in 3rd place with a 5.0.4, met a very strong Solihull team in the semi-finals and lost with a 4.57.9 then had a comfortable win against the Old Kent in 5.2.0 in the ride-off for 3rd place. Next day the Club was out Ashdown Forest race for 3rd category and junior riders. John Stoneham (Brighton Premier) won the race by 3 lengths in 2.15.02 for the 50 miles. Alan Ephgrave (Tooting) was 2nd and Alan Colburn (Lewes Wanderers) was 3rd. Our best-placed man was Geoff Williams in 7th position with Pete Fryer some way behind after a puncture.

The two teams in the London Region Team Pursuit Championships had mixed success. The 'A' Team (Robin Buchan, Ray Runham, John Sargeant and Les Black) recorded the fastest time of the round with 5.17.4 but the 'B'

team (Derek Hull, Bob Corby, Richard Wilkins and Terry Slattery) did 5.44.6 and were eliminated. Then on the Wednesday the 'A' team rode against the East Surrey RC and in a thrilling race, with both teams being given the same time, the judge's verdict was that the East Surrey had won. Earlier in the Meeting Ray Runham had beaten Santry (Willesden) in the 2nd Round of the Individual Pursuit. Then immediately after the Team ride was asked to ride the 3rd round tie against Jackson (Basildon). You cannot do two Individual Pursuits and a Team ride in the one Meeting with any chance of success against fresh opponents and Ray was beaten by Jackson 5.27.8 to 5.32.1.

Another poor day on the 28th August as only 2 riders finished the Fryco Cup '50' from six entrants. Harry Corby put his name on the Trophy with a 2.14.32. Terry Slattery finished in 2.22.43.

Bob and Harry Corby rode the Classic Bath Road '100' and finished with 4.30.12 and 4.48.08 respectively. Ray Runham won the Crest '25' in 58.19. Riding in support was Robin Buchan 4th, 59.04, John Sargeant 1.0.06 (personal best), Tony Alford 1.3.20 (personal best), Derek Hull 1.3.52 (personal best) and Keith Lomath 1.4.33. On the Farnham – Alton course Rowan Vacher improved by over two minutes to 1.3.05 for 8th place.

Three riders took part in the SCCU 12-hour event to qualify for the Rotherham Cup. It was a particularly foul day with periods of torrential rain and a good half the field failed to finish. John Dutton (Central Sussex) led through the 100 miles check in 4.43.57 but close behind him was Bob Corby in 4.44.35. Robin Buchan was 6.31 in arrears at this point but still in 4th place. Harry Corby took 5.21.32 for the first 100 miles but at least he was still riding. By the 200 miles check Robin's relentless riding had put him back in front. He passed the Timekeeper onto the Finishing Circuit in 9.46.25 and led Pat Lacey (Clarencourt) by 7.20. Bob Corby was at 11.57 in 3rd place after losing about 10 minutes going off the course. Harry was still going but had been turned short at Cranleigh. At the end of the 12 hours Robin Buchan had done the greatest distance with 244.78 miles. Bob Corby had moved up to 2nd with 238.82 miles and Harry Corby was 20th with 219.17 miles. Not only did we have the first two riders in the race the Paragon also collected the Team award thanks to Harry Corby's perseverance. With this ride Robin also won the SCCU BAR Competition for 1966. He also collected the Club Open Road Championship.

Some idea of the weather can be gained from looking at the result of the 29th Whs '25' held on the same day. Twenty-seven riders decided not to start from the 107 entrants. Ray Runham won the event with 1.0.52. Our other riders were Terry Slattery 1.6.21, Vin Callanan 1.7.28, Tony Alford 1.7.53 and Mick Marguerie 1.9.50. Our best three riders were not quick enough to win the Team race but it should be noted that although over a quarter of the field elected not to start all the Paragon riders did and all finished. The Junior '15' on the 11th September was won by Graham Bristow in 39.54 with Pete Fryer 2nd in 42.26 and John Hoskins 3rd in 42.43.

In the Harold Hill '25' Robin Buchan was 5th in 58.03. Then in the Crest '25' Ray Runham was 1st in 58.19 and Robin Buchan was 4th with a 59.04. John Sargeant was 4th in the Bromley RC event on the Ide Hill circuit. The following Tuesday he came 2nd at Crystal Palace in the Evening races. Rowan Vacher won the junior 10-mile event on the 18th September in 24.30 showing signs of the speed he was to develop over the next few seasons. Graham Bristow was 2nd in 26.19 and Colin Wye 3rd in 26.24. John Hoskins (26.44) won the Handicap. Vin Callanan came 2nd and was 2nd on Handicap in the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) '25'.

The Paragon Polo men were 'invited' to organise the George Brake Tournament held at Purley Way on the 19th September. This is a single day knock-out cup with, in 1966, 18 teams down to play. We had three teams and they all managed to reach the semi-finals. The A team beat the C team but the B team lost to Selhurst. Unfortunately Selhurst proved too strong in the Final beating our A team by two goals. During the year the Paragon were beaten in the semi-finals of the English Cup going out by the odd goal to the eventual winners Crystal Palace. In the Hurlingham Cup we had the same problem losing in the Final to Crystal Palace by that odd goal.

Robin Buchan and Ray Runham rode the Epsom Tandem '30' and won it in 1.2.47 by nearly 4 minutes. Bob and Harry Corby rode the Viking '50' and finished in 2.6.09 and 2.10.48 respectively. In the Clarence '25' Rowan Vacher recorded 1.3.37, John Jennings 1.3.45 and Barry Sturgess 1.6.23.

The Paragon Team of Robin Buchan, Ray Runham, Les Black and Alan Sturgess won the SW London and Surrey Team Pursuit Championship beating the East Surrey in the Final. In the Final of the WLCA Championship they lost narrowly to the Clarence Whs 5.8.3 to 5.9.0. Alan Sturgess won the Division Sprint Championship. In the Junior Omnium Graham Bristow came first. As a result of his riding Graham won the awards for the best Junior Track rider and the track Best-all-rounder. Ray Runham took the award for the most improved track rider.

On September 19th we lost another of our old members. Arthur (Ben) Davis had been a member of the Club since the 1920s and his father was also a member being one of those that came to the Club when we amalgamated with the Streatham Rovers in 1921. He was a very active Clubman for years. He had been Club Captain (1924), Road Secretary (1925) Track Secretary and organiser of our first Track Meeting in 1927. He was Treasurer from 1928 to 1931 and was made Vice President in 1932. He was always out at Club promotions whether racing or social. During the War he and Mrs Davis assisted keeping the Club together by their help in providing tea and cakes at the Guildersfield Road, Streatham, Clubroom. In 1941 he was elected President but his name will remain in the Club records as in 1946 he donated the Junior Road Championship Trophy that bears his name

John Sargeant came 2nd in the NATSOPA 2-day race in Essex. Then he finished off his season by winning the Classic Brighton to London road race organised by the Catford CC. This was the race that climbed Titsey Hill with

seven miles to go and always had a screaming finish as the various groups chased each other down through Warlingham, Sanderstead and Selsdon to the Finish in Addington. (There are now, in 2004, some seven sets of traffic lights on this stretch of road!)

Rowan did it again in the junior 15-mile race on the 25th September. He won in 38.40 from Graham Bristow, 39.54, and Andy Murray 41.06. In contrast to the 29th Whs '25' of the eight Paragon riders in the SCCU '25' five failed to start, one failed to finish leaving two riders with no chance of the Team race. Our two finishers were Vin Callanan in 1.5.03 and Barry Sturgess in 1.7.50. Vin did retrieve something from the debacle with 2nd in the Handicap section. John Sargeant won the Polhill road race over 62 miles of the Frant circuit. With one lap to go he broke away finishing some 1½ minutes before the 2nd rider. Derek Hull finished in 11th place. With this ride John Sargeant wins the Massed-start Championship with the maximum 36 points from six 1st category race wins. The only time this has ever been done.

Les Black appears again in the Mayne Cup '25' but although he made fastest time he did not win the coveted Trophy. Les' time was 1.3.25. In 2nd place was Bob Corby with 1.3.57 and 3rd was Rowan Vacher in 1.4.58. The winner of the Mayne Cup and Man of the Day was none other than Vin Callanan who came in with a 1.5.04. This beat Graham Bristow into 2nd and Rowan Vacher into 3rd place. With his 1.4.58 Rowan Vacher won the Junior Time Trial Championship with Graham Bristow in 2nd place.

Right at the end of the season Harry Corby broke the Club 25 miles Tricycle Record with a 1.11.18 to better the time of 1.12.40 set by WS Jones in 1931!

The Hill Climb was held the week after the Mayne Cup and Les Black duly obliged with a 4.0.6. In 2nd place some 14 seconds behind was Barry Sturgess, with 4.20.6, which in turn was just 1 second better than John Jennings. In the Catford Hill Climb on Yorks Hill Les came up in the very fast time of 2.4.3, for 6th place. Dick Wilkins also reached the top on two wheels in 2.17.4.

A note in the October Blah records the Result of the Inter-Club Map reading (then against the Kentish Whs and Century RC). It starts "Despite conditions more suitable for a boat race..." It was wet but it was not raining. The roads in the Tonbridge area were flooded to hub depth. You had to measure the distance between the two hedgerows to work out where the road was. For those who like that sort of thing it was great fun. Keith Butler found his way round the course in 1.16.00 for 2nd place. Alan Gordon took 2.5.15 and was not a happy man. With Derek Hull 3rd in 1.26.21 and Ian Murray 5th in 1.35.04 the Paragon won the Team Medals. This event is still remembered and spoken of in awe in 2004! Usually by Messrs Butler and Murray, who have a liking for these foolish things, and are still taking part!

At the end of the year the Editor of Blah published the Club Team Records.

25 miles Becontree Whs 4th September 1955

Robin Buchan	57.14
John Llewellyn	57.25
Don Ward	<u>58.23</u>
	2.53.02

30 miles Redmon CC 8th August 1954

Les Ingman	1.10.12
Robin Buchan	1.11.17
Don Chamberlain	<u>1.13.49</u>
	3.35.18

50 miles Brentwood '50' 16th May 1959

Keith Butler	1.56.45
Robin Buchan	2.01.38
John Fisher	<u>2.05.57</u>
	6.04.20

100 miles South Ruislip CC 2nd July 1961

Keith Butler	4.11.56
Robin Buchan	4.25.21
John Pocock	<u>4.29.53</u>
	13.07.10

12 hours Midlands C & AC August 1948

Bernard Brown	247.912
Peter Kitchiner	247.410
Vin Callanan	<u>244.772</u>
	740.094

24 hours Catford CC 1947

John Vallack	409.000
Henry Greatwood	403.000
Fred Sams	<u>369.000</u>
	1181.000