

1969

The Croydon and District Hardriders Result ends with a note that 'The CDCA thanks all riders and officials for their support on such an atrocious morning!' It snowed heavily. There were 48 non-starters and 14 non-finishers from the 90-rider field. C Latter (Portsmouth) won the race in 1.20.13. Andy Murray finished in 9th place with 1.28.42, Pete Ansell came 11th, 1.32.14, Bob Chambers 12th, 1.32.50, and Ian Murray 15th in 1.34.38. To make up for the morning the Paragon won the Team Race.

The next week, 23rd February, Terry Slattery led a team to the wastes of Hertfordshire for the North Road Hardriders. He came 2nd and managed to get his photo in Cycling. Terry's time was 1.10.13 whilst Derek Hull finished in 1.12.15 and Pete Ansell 1.14.40 to take 2nd Team.

The weather was also made this week-end but our team in the Castlenau '25' all finished. Rowan Vacher recorded 1.4.12, Pete Ansell 1.5.43 and Doug Vacher 1.12.02. Terry Slattery came 4th in the Rapier road race in Essex whilst Robin Buchan came 7th after sorting the men out from the boys. Unfortunately Derek Hull and Geoff Williams were not amongst the men on this occasion.

The Paragon's first two wins of the year came in the East Surrey Hardriders '33' on a cold and misty morning on the 9th March. Robin Buchan produced the fastest time of 1.19.17 and established a new event record. He also won the prize for the fastest ascent of Rusper Hill being the only rider to break 4 minutes. Other Paragon times were Ian Murray 1.26.26, Pete Ansell 1.28.57, Andy Murray 1.32.20 and Mike Marguerie 1.36.51. In the 12 miles Junior event John Day put up the fastest ride of the morning of 31.35 to take that event. Two in one morning! Not bad eh!

Andy Murray struck his first winning blow of the 1969 season with fastest time in the Club '10'. He recorded 25.45 to beat Bob Corby, 26.21, into 2nd place and Pete Hamilton, 27.01, into 3rd place. Over the week-end we had riders in the Eastbourne road race where Robin Buchan and Geoff Williams finished equal 10th. On the Sunday Derek Hull finished 3rd in the Colnbrook road race after catching and dropping most of the break. Geoff Williams was 10th and Robin Buchan 13th after collecting a couple of primes.

On the 23rd March John Day took 5th place in the Kentish Whs '25' with 1.3.19. Ray Runham returning to competition after a two-year lay-off was 6th in 1.3.25 and Terry Slattery completed the winning team with a 1.4.04. Other Paragon times were by Bob Corby 1.5.30, Pete Hamilton 1.7.47 and John McNee 1.11.07. Down on the Bath Road Rowan Vacher finished 8th in the Hounslow '25' with 1.2.32 but Barry Sturgess found the wind rather troublesome and he finished in 1.11.45. Robin Buchan won the Dulwich Paragon 'Wally Grimber' road race. He broke away with 25 miles to go and reached the Finish with just 3 seconds in hand over the chasers. Pete Ansell finished 9th in the Medway Velo 3rds and Junior race after being away on his own for most of the race.

In spite of breaking a toe-strap at the Start and losing 30 seconds Robin Buchan won the Bromley Hilly event in 1.18.38. Ray Runham made up the two-man team and finished in 1.21.20 to enable the pair to take the team award. Terry Slattery came 5th in the Sorian road race.

The Jim Fox '25' had 13 starters and Rowan Vacher was again on top of the list of finishers. He covered the distance in 1.3.05 with Andy Murray 2nd in 1.4.02 and his brother Ian 3rd on 1.5.17. Andy collected 1st on handicap, Ian 2nd and Pete Hamilton 3rd handicap prize.

On Good Friday 4th April Ray Runham came 2nd with a 59.50 in the Crawley Whs '25'. Backing him were Rowan Vacher with a 1.1.24, Bob Corby 1.4.28, Geoff Williams 1.5.02 and Barry Sturgess 1.7.35. Bob Corby managed to lose time by going off course and we lost the Team race by 28 seconds! Doug Vacher recorded 26.33 and Brian Maxlow 26.56 in the Mercury Junior '10'. Then on the Sunday Rowan Vacher came 3rd in the Dulwich Hamlet '25' with a 1.1.45. Other rides were by Pete Ansell 1.6.00, Barry Sturgess 1.8.11, Harry Corby 1.10.45 and Alan MacKean 1.12.41. On Easter Monday Chris Swain finished the Thanet and Canterbury '25 in 1.3.32 whilst the Corby's did 1.4.44 (Bob) and 1.8.39 (Harry). Peter Hamilton and Graham Bristow both reached the Final of the 550 yards handicap at Portsmouth. John Lovell and John Harding were also riding. On the Sunday the foursome went off to Nottingham where Peter Hamilton scraped a 2nd in the Handicap Final with Graham Bristow in 6th place. The two Johns then survived a three miles Course des Primes with 52 riders on the Track! On Monday the same lads went to Coventry. You had to be born in Coventry to ride 'The Butts' track. It was very similar to trying to ride around a three-penny bit (or to bring it into 2004 parlance a 20p piece). Pete Hamilton came 2nd in the Junior Sprint but a crash in the Point to Point put Peter into the fence and John Harding off the track with a badly bent front wheel. Though the lads won very little it was an educating experience especially considering the vastly different shapes of the Tracks ridden. Portsmouth is D shaped and extremely windy; Nottingham is the same size as Herne Hill but with steeper bankings and no shelter from the elements; Coventry is nicely sheltered but peculiarly shaped. On the road racing from John Day came 3rd in the Sorian 3rd and Junior race.

On a very hard morning our three-man team of Robin Buchan, Ray Runham and Terry Slattery won the West Kent team time trial by just 4 seconds from the Hounslow. They did 1.6.06 for the 25 miles which gives one some idea of the conditions. The B Team of Derek Hull, Geoff Williams and Jon Jennings finished in 1.12. On the Sunday Rowan Vacher came 3rd in the De Laune '25' in 1.1.42. John Day was 8th with a 1.3.05 and Doug Vacher chipped in with a season's best of 1.8.47 to collect the Team race. John Day also took the Prize for the fastest Junior. Andy Murray celebrated his 19th birthday by taking 4th place and 2nd on handicap in the SCCU '25'. His time was 1.4.04 and brother Ian finished 7th in 1.5.31 but there was no third man. Robin also came 7th in the West Kent road race.

Another of our old and esteemed Clubmen passed away on the 17th April after a long illness. This was Bill Saggars. He joined the Club in 1923 as a young lad of 18 and raced extensively in Club and local Association events from 1924 to 1933. Although not a 'flyer' he rode tandem with Freddie Nightingale and his brother George. The two Saggars brothers had their moments of glory pacing Frank Southall in many of his distance races at Herne Hill. It was in his Committee work that Bill is chiefly remembered. He was elected to the Committee in 1926 and held various posts taking over as Secretary/Treasurer when George Moffat had to resign through ill health. In 1930 he was elected Honorary General Secretary a post he held on three occasions (1930-31, 1933-35 and 1938). Bill was always willing to undertake other work of various kinds and it is true to say that nothing was too much trouble for him if it was to the benefit of the Club. All this would be done quietly, efficiently and without fuss. He was a natural mediator and could pour oil on all sorts of troubled waters. He became 'Uncle Bill' a most deserved nickname. In 1936 he was one of the founders of the Old Paragonians Association. During the War he served with the Royal Army Pay Corps but after Peace was declared he moved to Essex. Even so he would be on hand to act as Timekeeper for Club Events. Then in 1959 he was elected President of the Club. In addition he was Secretary to the Trustees. On the 17th April we lost a great clubman and a true Paragon in every sense of the word. In his memory the Club perpetuates Bill's annual donation of medals to the best Junior Track rider and the best Novice in both the Club 100 miles time trial and 12 hours event together with a cash prize for each.

Sunday 20th April and Bob Corby won the VTTA London '25' in 1.5.32. Harry Corby was bit slower with a 1.10.42. Ray Runham came 2nd in the Bec '25' with a 1.0.47 and led home the winning Team. Backing Ray were John Day, with his fastest ride of the year, 1.1.42 and 3rd man in the team was Rowan Vacher in 1.2.28. The previous day Ray and Rowan had ridden in the Basildon '25' and finished with a 59.25 and 59.08 respectively. Other times were by Ian Murray 1.4.32 (to win a Group Award), Andy Murray 1.4.44 and Barry Sturgess 1.8.52. Chris Swain came 3rd in the Glendene '25' with a personal best of 1.2.56. The Delta Longmarkers had a number of Paragon riders. Their times were Doug Vacher 1.7.43, Alan MacKean 1.8.55, Pete Corry 1.9.17, Ian Hearn 1.12.35, Brian Maxlow 1.14.15 and Ian Forrest 1.15.42. While these gentlemen were disporting themselves in short distance events Robin Buchan took on the Bath Road Hilly '50' finishing in 2.10.35 for 5th place.

University Tandem '30' day was the 27th April and once again the Paragon were victorious. This time it was Robin Buchan partnered by Ray Runham that produced the winning 1.3.57. It was 14 years since Robin won this event for the first time (then being partnered by Dave Hill (Kentish Whs)). Bob Corby rode with Ken Cattermole in the SERC 2up and came in with a 1.36.02. Rowan Vacher was again on song for the Dave London Trophy as he won by just over 4 minutes in a time of 1.12.55. Andy Murray came 2nd with a 1.16.56 and Ian Murray was 3rd in 1.17.30. Roger Ash won the handicap and Trophy from Doug Vacher and Rowan Vacher in 3rd spot.

On the 4th May Bob Corby won another VTTA London '25' on the Portsmouth Road with a 1.2.44. Cousin Harry finished in 1.7.18 and Ken Cattermole a 1.14.55 after a trip away from the true course. The two juniors riding the Bath Road in the Hillingdon '25' both improved. Pete Hamilton by 2 minutes to 1.3.41 and Pete Corry by 4 minutes to 1.4.01. A team went up to Doncaster to try out a really fast course and, as usual when trying to find fast courses for fast times, collected a stinker of a morning. Rowan Vacher finished in 1.1.29, Chris Swain in 1.3.41 and Barry Sturgess 1.7.31. Down South Andy Murray made a personal best time of 2.13.37 in the SCCU '50'. Robin Buchan rode the Dave Cosson 2-day. He finished 7th on the Saturday, 3rd in the time trial stage and 8th in the afternoon road race to be placed 4th overall. In the Ross Whs road race Pete Ansell finished 7th.

Saturday 11th May saw our best tandem pair in action when Robin Buchan and Ray Runham won the Southgate Tandem '30' in 1.5.16. The report says that conditions were atrocious with heavy rain, heavy traffic and tandem trikes! The following day Robin came 2nd in the Tooting Sporting '43' with a time of 1.40.25 to lead the Paragon team to victory. The other members were Andy Murray 1.47.39, Les Black 1.49.59 and Ian Murray 1.51.19. Another Team win and Rowan Vacher achieved another 2nd place with a 1.0.42 in the 34th Nomads '25'. Behind Rowan was Chris Swain 1.5.24, Doug Vacher 1.6.14 (after riding the last 3 miles on a flat tyre), Alan MacKean 1.9.29, Mike Wilson 1.10.09 and Ian Forrest 1.11.04. Pete Hamilton won the Junior '10' in 25.48 with Pete Corry 26.48 in 2nd place and Derek Bowman 3rd in 35.42 after suffering mechanical problems.

In the First Round of the National Team Pursuit Championship Les Black, Graham Bristow, Peter Hamilton and Terry Slattery recorded 5.23.8 to beat the Mercury CC. In the London Region Pursuit Championship the same Team recorded 5.20.1 for 5th place to qualify for the later rounds. Graham Bristow won a 10 laps Derny paced race.

Robin Buchan took 2nd place in the Ross Whs '50' on the 18th May. It was rather a hard day on the Bath Road. Bob Corby finished well up with a 2.8.50 but both Harry Corby, 2.22.37, and Ken Cattermole, 2.31.55, found conditions a bit too hard. It is galling to report that if Harry had been 9 seconds faster the Team race would have been ours! Doug Vacher came 3rd in the Folkestone and District '25' with a 59.59 and Barry Sturgess came in with 1.9.20. Pete Ansell improved to a 1.2.06 in the Kent Road Middlemarkers '25' and was 4th fastest. Ian Murray did not have a good weekend. He rode the Catford '50' in pouring rain finishing with a 2.16. His car broke down on the way home and the next morning in the Kingston Hilly '73' he collected 2 punctures. He was not a happy man. Brother Andy was the only Paragon finisher in that event with a 3.16.38.

Over the Whitsun weekend Robin Buchan took 4th place in the Fanham '25' in 58.20. Ray Runham finished in 59.21, Pete Ansell 1.1.42 (a personal best), Terry Slattery 1.2.18, Barry Sturgess 1.8.01 and Alan MacKean 1.11.11. The Paragon won the Team race. The next morning Robin came 2nd in the West Croydon Whs '25' in 59.04. Ray Runham did 1.0.35, Terry Slattery 1.2.27,

Andy Murray 1.3.12, Harry Corby 1.6.31 and Mike Wilson 1.9.25. It is reported that in the Bellingham '25' Les Black finished in 1.5.35 Roger Ash in 1.12.42 and Harry Corby 1.6.31. We think a small error in reporting has been discovered. Other rides over the extended holiday weekend were as follows:- In the Bexley '25' Chris Swain 1.4.45, Pete Hamilton 1.6.04, Pete Corry 1.8.00 and Mike Wilson 1.9.11. Chris Swain produced a personal best of 1.1.53 in the Marlboro '25' whilst Peter Hamilton, 1.5.46, and Pete Corry 1.6.21, were our other finishers. Bob Corby and Ken Cattermole went south to the Rufus '30' and did 1.17.39 and 1.31.33 respectively. Ian Murray had another bad day when making a late start and then puncturing in the Swindon Whs '50' but still finishing in 2.16.30. Doug Vacher put up a personal best '25' of 1.3.52 in the Comrades event and Bob Corby did 1.3.00 in the Portsmouth '25'.

1st June and Robin Buchan strikes again! He won the Vegetarian '50' with a 1.56.11 - just 28 seconds outside his Club Record. Ray Runham finished in 2.3.29 and Chris Swain rose to the occasion with a personal best ride of 2.6.11. This also enabled him to collect 3rd handicap and the Paragon won the Team race. In the meantime John Day was on the Farnham course and he won the Westerley Junior '25' in 1.1.29. Andy Murray won the first Club '50' with a personal best of 2.12.12. Mike Wilson came 2nd in 2.29.37 having been off the bike with mechanical trouble. Pete Ansell did 1.2.19 in the Hainault Middlemarkers '25'.

A goodly crowd came to Herne Hill on the 4th June for our Evening Track Meeting. Terry Slattery took prizes in the Course de Primes to put the Club's name forward. Then Alf Engers won the Omnium and Ron Keeble wrapped up the evening by winning the Champagne '10'.

Another Club Record went on the 8th June. This time it was the Tandem '50' when Robin Buchan and Ray Runham won the Archer event in 1.47.22 to beat the existing Record of 1.50.01 set by Bernard Brown and Vin Callanan in 1950. John Day won two events this weekend. He won the Catford Junior '10' with a personal best of 23.01 then on the Sunday he took the Addiscombe Junior '10' in 24.13. Derek Bowman also rode and improved to 27.49. In the Surrey RCC '25' Doug Vacher led the Paragon squad with 1.5.20 but Brian Maxlow took the Handicap award with an improvement from 1.14.00 to 1.7.51. Alan MacKean did 1.9.03, Mike Wilson 1.9.47 and Gordon Davies 1.18.30. Harry Corby did 1.7.12 and Ken Cattermole 1.18.34 in the VTTA Surrey/Sussex '25'.

Yet another Club Record on the 15th June when that man Robin Buchan lowered the '50' time to 1.53.18 (from 1.55.43) when winning the Wren Whs '50'. Rowan Vacher put up a personal best time in the Elite '25' when he recorded a 58.12. Pete Ansell joined the fast men with a personal best of 58.24 in the same event that also won him a group award. Barry Sturgess fell *before* the Start but still came in with a 1.2.28. In the SERC Campagnolo '25' Alan MacKean finished in 1.7.55 and Mike Wilson 1.8.37. Harry Corby did some training for his 24 hours race with a 5.1.56 in the Norland Combine '100'.

Rowan Vacher was the next man on the Bandwagon when he broke the 30 miles Record in the Roamer event. His 1.8.44 broke the 1956 record set by Robin Buchan of 1.9.15. Barry Sturgess also finished this event in 1.18.33. Not to be outdone Robin Buchan and Ray Runham took their '50' time down to 1.47.00 when winning the Nunbrook Tandem event. In the ECCA '25' Chris Swain was 5th with a 1.2.07 and Dave Fryer collected 2nd prize on handicap with a personal best of 1.7.58. Geoff Williams went down to the West Country on holiday and to keep his hand in rode two '25's and clocked 1.2.11 and 1.2.06. A different name was to be engraved on the Purley to Brighton winners list, as Terry Slattery was not riding! The name to go on the pot was to be Peter Ansell. There was an extremely strong headwind and it took Peter 1.47.45 to get to the viaduct. This is one of the slowest winning times since the first running of the event. Andy Murray came 2nd in 1.48.10 with brother Ian just 7" slower. The Murray brothers also collected 1st and 2nd on handicap with Ken Cattermole getting 3rd spot. Peter Corry was fastest junior with 1.53.15. Geoff Williams rode the Witcombe 2-day event. He finished 11th on the First Stage, 5th in the Time Trial and 7th on the Third Stage to be placed 7th overall.

Another weekend and another Record! This time it was the Tandem '30' Record when Robin Buchan and Ray Runham equalled Competition Record of 1.0.48 when winning the Old Portlians event. Ian Murray and Pete Ansell also rode to finish 6th in 1.5.12 to enable the Paragon to take the Team race. Derek Hull returned to Time Trialling when he rode the Redhill Hilly '50'. His time was 2.23.15 and it earned him 1st place on handicap. Pete Ansell came in with 2.25.45 and Chris Swain 2.32.08. Rowan Vacher continued to bring out personal best times. This weekend it was his 25 miles time taken down to 57.06 in the Chelmer '25'. Barry Sturgess did 1.6.16. John Day was 6th in the East Surrey Junior '10' in 24.26. The Paragon Team Pursuit Squad went through to the 3rd Round of the London Centre Championship but no record is at hand as to the team they beat.

The Saga continues on the 6th July when Robin Buchan rode the Hillingdon '100'. He eventually put together an excellent 100 miles to beat Keith Butler's Record of 4.6.29 with a 4.3.49 effort. Rowan Vacher is snapping at his heels in the shorter distance events though. He won the Kingston Whs '25' with a 58.04 to lead the winning team. Geoff Williams put up a personal best of 1.0.10 and so did Pete Corry with his 1.3.18. Then came personal bests from Doug Vacher 1.3.40, Alan MacKean 1.5.20. Barry Sturgess finished in 1.6.22, Mike Wilson 1.7.35, Dave Fryer 1.7.58 and Brian Maxlow 1.8.30. In the Bec '25' Bob Corby was our fastest with 1.4.30 followed by Harry Corby 1.6.59 and Ken Cattermole 1.10.57.

Terry Slattery won the BCF SW London and Surrey Sprint Championship at Guildford on grass at the Charlotteville meeting. He also won the 880 yards handicap, the 5 miles and came 3rd in the Points section of the 5 miles. Bob Chambers also reached the Final of the Sprint Championship.

At the Catford Meeting at Herne Hill Robin Buchan took 2nd place in the 10 laps Points race and 4th in the 10 miles race. At the Southern Counties

Meeting he was 2nd in the 5 miles motor paced event but was unfortunate to puncture in the Roadmans '25'.

The 13th July continued the story of the purple patch that the Paragon was going through. Rowan Vacher won the Belle Vue '50' with a 9-minute improvement on his time on the Bath Road. His 1.56.32 could have been faster but he broke a gear cable and could not change gears. Pete Ansell also put in a personal best of 2.5.25 in support. If Rowan can do it so can Robin. This time Robin Buchan won the prestigious North Road Memorial Cup '50' on the Bishops Stortford course in 1.56.14. This was the first Paragon victory in the Memorial '50'since Frank Southall won in 1931. Getting in the winning mood was Bob Corby who recorded fastest time in the East Anglian Veterans '50' with a 2.10.44. Ken Cattermole won 1st handicap as his 2.25.43 had a 24 minutes deduction. Geoff Williams nearly won the SCCU '50' finishing 2nd with a 2.6.50. John Day went off course but finished in 2.13.31, Pete Corry did 2.16.49. Both these lads were riding their first '50'. In the Dulwich Paragon '25' Mike Wilson was our fastest rider with a 1.6.51 followed by Dave Fryer 1.7.28, Alan MacKean 1.7.15, Roger Ash 1.10.36, John Lovell 1.12.38 and Keith Bowman 1.13.05. John Day finished 6th in the 29th Whs 3rds and Juniors road race.

Looking back from 2004 there have been very few clubs that could win 3 races on one day, have a 2nd in a fourth event and a fifth team in action as well. We have had three Team wins in one day on a couple of occasions.

The end had to come and over the weekend of the 20th July the Paragon did not win any Open events or break any Records. However Rowan Vacher did a hatchet job on the field in the Moon Trophy '25'. His winning margin was 4 minutes! A superb 57.49 but it did not get him into the winning team! In 2nd place were Pete Ansell, 1.1.49, and 3rd John Day 1.2.17 that just beat Peter Hamilton 1.2.19. The Paragon won the Team race with Pete Hamilton, Nigel Litterick, A McKean and G Kellegher. Nigel was actually fastest on handicap. Twenty of the 49 names on the Start Sheet came from the Paragon. Robin Buchan rode the National Championship '100' on the Bath Road and did his second best 100 to finish 9th in 4.7.25.

In the London Region Team Pursuit our lads were beaten by the Dulwich paragon in the semi-finals 5.10 to 5.15.

The Inter-Club Meeting between the Paragon, De Laune and the Dulwich Paragon resulted in win for us. Pete Hamilton won the Junior Sprint and Junior Point to Point. Graham Bristow won the Senior Sprint and the Team won the Italian Pursuit (now know as the Olympic Sprint). Others riding for the Club were Les Black, John Day, John Lovell, Nigel Litterick, Pete Corry, Dave Fryer and Derek Hull

Four men finished the Goss Green '100' and the man who got his name on the pot was Geoff Williams with a 4.24.52 ride. This ride was 3rd fastest in the SCCU event and it won him a special standard medal and the Bill Saggars Special Award. Andy Murray came 2nd to Geoff in 4.30.12; brother Ian 3rd,

4.41.23 and John Jennings 'died a death' but made the four with a 4.54.55. Robin Buchan 'only' came 2nd in the Bon Amis '50' with a 1.54.45. Rowan Vacher was also 2nd but this was in the Sorian '25' with a time of 58.02. Pete Ansell was 10th with a 1.0.25. The Paragon had ten finishers in the London St Christophers '25' on the 27th July and collected the Team prize. Doug Vacher led in our riders with a personal best of 1.3.17 then came Graham Bristow 1.4.02, Pete Hamilton 1.4.15, Pete Corry 1.4.59, Mike Wilson 1.6.34, Dave Fryer 1.10.02, John Lovell 1.10.03, Roger Ash 1.10.29, Ian Forrest 1.10.37 and Bob Strevens 1.21.35 (mechanical troubles).

Another weekend and another Record. This time it was the turn of the 12-hour to be updated. 263.816 miles by the unstoppable Robin Buchan replaced Keith Butler's old Record of 261.111. Ian Murray also rode and covered 245 miles. Ian's ride also won him the handicap beating into second place one Robin Buchan. In the De Laune '25' riders reported flooded roads but they all finished. Pete Hamilton took 1.2.23, Pete Ansell 1.3.15, Terry Slattery 1.4.02 and Harry Corby 1.9.02. Bob Corby and Mike Wilson rode the Southboro '25' finishing in 1.4.54 and 1.7.59 respectively.

No new records on the 10th August but a new tandem pairing of Robin Buchan and Rowan Vacher won the East Surrey '30' in 1.2.06. Pete Hamilton and Pete Corry also teamed up to finish in 1.7.25 to enable the Paragon to take the Team race. The Oval Middlemarkers '25' was cursed with a set of temporary traffic lights. Doug Vacher had no problems in his 1.4.29 but Mike Wilson got caught both ways for a 1.7.39. Brian Maxlow was also lucky and managed a personal best of 1.7.39 whilst Roger Ash abandoned after getting stopped the second time.

Bob Corby made 2nd fastest time in the VTTA Surrey/Sussex '50' with a 2.12.24. Ken Cattermole also rode to finish in 2.25.22 and won the handicap. On the Portsmouth Road Brian Maxlow did 1.8.03, Mike Wilson 1.8.33 and John Lovell 1.13.42 in the Kingston Phoenix '25'.

On the 24th August only three men finished the Fryco Cup but a worthy, and fast, winner was Peter Hamilton in 2.5.58 for a first ride over 50 miles that also gave him 1st on handicap as well. Geoff Williams came 2nd in 2.9.05 after puncturing in the last couple of miles and finishing on a flat tyre. Pete Corry was 3rd in 2.16.48 and that was a 1 second improvement! Robin Buchan rode the Clifton '50' but no times or results are recorded. Doug Vacher did 1.4.22 and Mike Wilson 1.9.32 in the Weybridge Whs '25'.

Robin Buchan won a motor paced event at the SCCU Meeting on the Bank Holiday Saturday whilst Terry Slattery took to the grass. He won the 880 yards handicap at Danson Park and 3rd in the Point-to-point. Graham Bristow also had a go and reached the finals of the Handicap and Scratch Sprint but was unplaced in both.

The Club Open '50' only attracted 44 entries and had a strong northerly wind to ensure that those who were not fit would surely suffer over the last 15 miles. Robin Buchan won with a 2.1.31 and led the winning Team with Geoff

Williams (2.9.34) and Bob Corby (2.11.54). Bob also took the handicap and Robin was in 3rd place. In addition Bob took the fastest Veterans prize and the fastest on Standard. Other times recorded were by Pete Hamilton (9th) 2.13.03, Ian Murray (13th) 2.18.17 and Ken Cattermole 2.29.45. That was on the Sunday. On the Bank Holiday Monday Robin Buchan won the Harold Hill '25' with a 57.17. Rowan Vacher was 6th in 58.30, Pete Ansell finished with a 1.0.38 and Doug Vacher 1.5.06 but we missed the Team race by 38 seconds.

Fancy finishing a 50 miles time trial in 1.51.24 and only getting 5th place! That is what happened to Robin Buchan in the Yorkshire RC event. It was a new Club Record and it was meant to get Robin into the top twelve of the BBAR. Unfortunately he missed by 0.008mph to finish 13th. Down South three men started the SCCU and Rotherham Cup 12 hours. Ian Murray was suffering from back problems and while persevering for some hours had to call it a day. Andy Murray and Geoff Williams were both riding their first 12 hours and did well. Andy ran out time with 242.210 miles to claim 4th in the event, the Club Novice Award, the Rotherham Cup and 2nd place on handicap. Geoff also had backache (it was that sort of day) but carried on to finish with 231.09 miles. The short distance men were on the Portsmouth Road. Pete Ansell was 6th in the 29th Whs event with 1.1.04, John Day 7th in 1.1.32, Mike Wilson 1.7.38, John Lovell 1.7.57 Derek Bowman 1.12.25 and Bob Strevens 1.13.18. Rowan Vacher was a victim of misfortune. He had entered the Greenford '25' but although receiving a Start Sheet found that his name had been omitted. He was allowed to ride a 'Private' that ought to have given him 3rd place in 57.23. Thirty-five years later we cannot follow this. If it were a typographical error he should have been allowed to take the Start properly. You can only ride a 'private' in an Open event when you have beaten the entry limit after entering (i.e., say, improved to a 1.1 the week before a Middlemarkers 1.2.0 limit). Terry Slattery won the Eastbourne Rovers 63 miles road race on 7th September.

During the season a number of junior events were run but the Record book does not give any dates for them. In the first '10' Pete Hamilton was 1st in 25.48 from Peter Corry 26.48 and Derek Bowman 35.42. In the second Roger Ash, 26.45 beat Derek Bowman who improved to a 28.52. Brian Maxlow won the first '15' in 42.13 with Derek Bowman 2nd in 43.18. In the second '15' the competition was a little fiercer. Peter Hamilton coming in with a 35.55 to beat Brian Maxlow, 39.30, and Roger Ash 41.49.

In the Epsom Tandem '30' Pete Hamilton and Pete Corry recorded a 1.6.00 an improvement of 1.25 on their previous effort. In the Clarence Whs '25' the Club had mixed results. Alan MacKean produced a 1.6.10, John Lovell improved to a 1.7.08, Keith Bowman came in with a 1.13.42 but Derek Bowman had mechanical troubles and Mike Wilson crashed at the turn and was carted off to hospital.

21st September and Robin Buchan is back in the news by winning the Viking '50' with a 1.55.40. This was an excellent ride as only two others beat 2 hours for the distance. Bob Corby also rode this event and finished in 2.8.09. Pete Ansell put in another personal best in the Rapier '25' when he clocked 57.58.

Bob Corby finished on a high note when he crossed the line in 1.1.54, his best this year, in the SCCU '25'. Andy Murray also had a personal best of 1.2.26, as did brother Ian with 1.2.52. Ken Cattermole finished in 1.11.28 and Keith Bowman 1.14.15. In the Clarence Whs '10' Roger Ash clocked 26.45 and Derek Bowman 28.52. The anticipated fast ride by Pete Hamilton did not materialise as he broke his seat post. Robin Buchan went up to the Boroughbridge course to ride the Harrogate '50' and hoped for improvement in his BBAR qualifying time but picked a bad day. His 2.4.48 was his slowest this year.

The Track Championships were held at Welwyn on a bright but windy afternoon and it proved to be a Hamilton benefit match. He won everything. He beat Nigel Litterick and Terry Slattery in the 4000m pursuit, Brian Maxlow and Pete Corry in the 550 yards handicap, Graham Bristow and Terry Slattery in the Scratch Sprint, Graham Bristow and Les Black in the 5 miles Scratch and Les Black and Graham in the 5 miles points. The Track Championship was, obviously, won by Pete Hamilton with Graham Bristow 2nd. There was a tie between Terry Slattery and Nigel Litterick for 3rd place. In the Final of the SW London and Surrey Team Pursuit Championship the Paragon lost to the Clarence Whs.

Geoff Williams was THE Man of the Day on the 4th October as not only did he produce the fastest time of the race with a 1.1.02 but he won the Handicap and the Mayne Cup as well. Pete Ansell was 2nd in 1.2.42 with Peter Hamilton 3rd 1.2.57. Geoff had only 30" allowance so had a nett 1.0.32. In 2nd place on handicap was Derek Bowman (1.0.52) and third was Keith Bowman (1.1.30).

With the 'retirement' of Les Black after 14 victories there was to be a new winner of the Hill Climb. There was also a Cup to go with it donated by Les himself. The first name on the pot was Derek Hull. His 4.04.5 was just that bit too fast for Terry Slattery. Terry climbed the hill in 4.07.8 and Pete Hamilton was 3rd in 4.14.0.

The Results of the SCCU BAR showed that Geoff Williams had come 3rd with 21.854 mph and Andy Murray 7th with 21.612 mph.

Eleven riders took part in Len's '10' on the Polhill course. Fastest of our lads was Pete Hamilton with 24.26. He was followed by Pete Ansell 24.41, Bob Corby 24.54, Brian Maxlow 25.09 (personal best), Pete Corry 25.42, Harry Corby 26.01, Derek Bowman 26.31, Gerald Kellegher and Roger Ash, both 26.55, Ken Cattermole 27.14 (personal best), and Simon Lansdown 28.51. Brian Maxlow collected the Handicap prize and Ken Cattermole took 2nd handicap. On the same day the anti-gravity men were in action in the Cufford and Bec Hill Climbs. Terry Slattery climbed Yorks Hill in 2.21 and Graham Bristow took 2.40 then in the afternoon Terry finished the Bec event up Titsey lane in 2.34 whilst Graham repeated his time of the morning – 2.40. Nothing if not consistent our Graham!

On the 12th October the Paragon were at home to the Rufus Whs in a National League game. The team was Harry Corby, Tony Knight, Keith Ongley, Mick Nash and Roger Ash. In a fast game the lads held their own and at half time were leading 6 – 5. Then George Ongley turned up to watch and give ‘advice’. At the final whistle we find that the Paragon Team had won 12 – 6. There is a moral there somewhere!

The November ‘Blah’ confirms the Open Time Trials Championship with Robin Buchan, 24.905 mph, leading Geoff Williams, 22.623 mph, and Bob Corby, 22.389 mph. Pete Ansell won the Frank Cleeve Award for Team racing with 16 points from Rowan Vacher, 14, and a tie between Robin Buchan and Bob Corby for 3rd place with 12 points. Thirty-six riders scored points.

Geoff Williams (23.490 mph) won the Club Events Championship from Andy Murray (22.773 mph) and Pete Hamilton (24.128 mph) won the Junior Championship from Roger Ash (21.582 mph) and Derek Bowman (20,874 mph)

Terry Slattery won the Road Raced Championship with 11 points from Robin Buchan, 9 points, and Geoff Williams 8 points.

The Polo Section reported that some of our Junior members turned up to play. Captained by Barry Houghton the team of Tom Corby, Brian Maxlow, Roger Ash, Ian Forrest and Derek Bowman they played in the Junior National League Knockout Competition. They were unfortunate in that they were faced with the Waddon Youth Team who had been playing together for some years. A loss by 23 – 1 ensued. Our lads had the speed and fitness but, not surprisingly, lacked skill.