

1970

First success of the year came on the 18<sup>th</sup> January when Brian Maxlow won the Dulwich Paragon Junior event on Shirley Hills. He put his success down to the skills he learnt on Purley Way playing Polo but it is the first cross won by a member of the Paragon for some years.

The first 'real' race took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> February with the CDCA Hardriders event. It was a cold crisp morning with a blanket of snow making for a very pretty countryside not that any of the riders noticed! Ian Murray was our best man with 9<sup>th</sup> place in 1.17.23 and he took the prize as fastest CDCA member. Pete Corry was 21<sup>st</sup> in 1.21.45, Derek Bowman 31<sup>st</sup> in 1.28.13 and Bob Strevens 41<sup>st</sup> in 1.40.43. On the Polo field we beat the Northdowns B team 17 – 3. Unfortunately the Club A Team arrived extremely late so the Northdowns claimed the points but they decided to play the game anyway with the expected result! Those playing were Tony Knight, Mick Nash, Ray Searl, Malcolm Harding, Peter Standen and Jim Corby. The B Team had the reverse happen to them when their opposition (Tweedale) failed to turn up. They then arranged a friendly (?) with Rufus but lost by the odd goal.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March at the BPA AGM Tony Knight was elected to the panel of Vice-Presidents. Robin Buchan started his road racing season with a win in the Rapier road race in Essex. In typical Buchan fashion he attacked early blowing the field apart. He then began the task of whittling down his break companions that by the time they reached the Finish numbered but two Roly Crayford (Polhill) and Tedrly Ewing (Archer). Showing no mercy he beat them both comfortably in the sprint.

A report in the March Blah of Andy Murray shows that he has not had a good start to the season. He has had back trouble, knee trouble, a car crash and was knocked flying by a lorry that jumped some lights. He has a lump on his head, two 'shiners' and a broken nose. Nothing that will permanently detract from his beauty(?)

Two races and two wins for Robin Buchan this year. Not a bad start to the season. On the 8<sup>th</sup> March he won the East Surrey Hardriders in 1.19.28 just 11 seconds outside his own course record. He also climbed Rusper Hill in 3.29 to win that subsidiary prize as well. Ian Murray also finished in 1.28.29. Brian Maxlow finished the Junior event in 34.49 and Derek Bowman 36.44. Chris Swain, Pete Ansell and Pete Corry went north of the river to ride the Chequers 'Unisex' road race. This was one of the first road races in the country where the ladies were allowed to race with the men! Chris Swain and Pete Corry started in the 3<sup>rd</sup> category group that contained many ladies. However they belied their Paragon upbringing by leaving this group shortly after the Start never to be seen again. Chris beat Pete in the sprint for the Finish. Pete Ansell started with the 2<sup>nd</sup> category riders some 6 minutes behind that closed the gap but never caught the escapees. In the final Sprint Mr Ansell finished 7<sup>th</sup>. Geoff Williams had intended a heavy weekend of racing in the Midlands. He had entered the Letchworth Velo event at Ashworth and in very nasty conditions came 5<sup>th</sup> of 11 finishers. The weather (snow) was so bad that the Northampton event was cancelled.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March we had more winners when our team of Chris Swain, Rowan Vacher and Pete Ansell won the Redhill 3up team time trial by 37 seconds in 1.18.44. Bob Grafton won the first Club Event with a 26.12 for the 10 miles. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Brian Maxlow in 26.57 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Derek Bowman in 29.01. Mike Wilson and Bob Strevens went to Essex to ride the famous Southend Road course but found, as many did, that early in the season it is cold, wet and exposed. They were very disappointed in their 1.12.02 and 1.17.20 respectively. Robin Buchan was in action in the Eastbourne Rovers 45 miles race on the Saturday. He had a bit of a mechanical problem when his gear lever obstinately refused to stay in the gear Robin wanted to race on. This left him using a 100" gear on an uphill finish. He did manage to get 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Geoff Williams came in with the pack. On the Sunday Robin and Geoff rode the 'Wally Gimber' road race. Although he missed the early break of seven riders Robin forced a chasing group of four away from the main bunch. This four man group caught the tiring leaders in the last mile and Robin proved his strength and fitness by taking the sprint to win. Geoff finished in the main bunch. The Paragon B Polo Team lost to North Downs.

Chris Swain produced the fastest '25' of the year so far with a 1.1.09 in the Hounslow event on the Bath Road. Ian Murray led our team in the Kentish Whs '25' with a 1.4.24 from John Jennings 1.7.02, Graham Bristow 1.7.33 and Mike Wilson 1.10.16 and Jack Buzelin a 1.16.39. This was Jack's only second ride on a bike this year. Brian Maxlow finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the VC Londres '10' with 25,41 whilst Derek Bowman improved a minute on his time in the Club '10'. Robin Buchan's run of success came to an end in the Sorian road race around Baynards. He was brought down in a crash in the bunch and although neither man nor machine was damaged it meant a hard chase to get back to the main group of riders. He did that but it had blunted his finish so he 'only' managed a 5<sup>th</sup> place. Terry Slattery was not so lucky and had to retire after the crash with an unraceable machine. Geoff Williams missed this carnage by riding the Classic Dover to London. In a hard race, where no breaks were successful, Geoff finished 10<sup>th</sup>. In the Sorian 3<sup>rd</sup> category event Pete Corry was 8<sup>th</sup>. The Paragon Polo A Team were reduced to 4 men and lost to the Aces 17 – 2. In another part of Purley Way the B Team were up against the Crystal Palace whilst they lost the game 21 – 5 they won on handicap 23 – 21½. Note - each player in the League is given a handicap ranging from 0, the best players, to 5 the novices. Our B Team had an allowance of 18 goals between the 5 of them. Crystal Palace being top class players had only ½ a goal between the 5 of them.

Easter came and on an extremely cold morning on the 27<sup>th</sup> March Chris Swain finished 7<sup>th</sup> and took 1<sup>st</sup> on handicap in the Crawley Whs '25' with a 1.3.17. Pete Ansell finished with a '7' and Graham Bristow a 1.8.34. Even with these comparatively slow times the lads missed the Team race by just 37 seconds. On the Sunday Pete Corry rode the famous Charlotteville '50' and in spite of the cold and rain finished in 2.19.39. On the Monday Messrs Swain, Ansell and Corry rode the Actonia '25' on the Bath Road. Chris Swain punctured in the wind, rain and near freezing temperatures so his 1.7.04 was quite a good ride. Pete Ansell actually went better than in the Crawley '25' to record 15.11 whilst Pete Corry felt the effect of the '50' to come home in 1.10.13. Brian Maxlow gave us something

to cheer about when he won the Mercury Schoolboys '10' in 26.50 and then came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Basildon Schoolboys '10' with an even faster 25.40.

The Jim Fox did not have a good day with only nine finishers on a cold un-helpful morning. Geoff Williams was fastest in 1.3.54 and collected 2<sup>nd</sup> on handicap. Bob Corby was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1.6.06 and was 3<sup>rd</sup> on handicap whilst Brian Maxlow was 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest in 1.7.47 that was only seconds slower than his best, but took 1<sup>st</sup> on handicap. Harry Corby rode a trike round in 1.21.44 and was sensibly attired in long woolly tights. It was a pity that they were mauve!

The weather this year seems to be pretty abysmal. Chris Swain, after an excellent start to the season went down with bronchitis doubtless brought on by his quest for miles and racing in the bad weather. Robin Buchan won the South Bucks Hilly '25' in 1.16.23 whilst the Murray brothers and John Jennings rode the Eagle RC '25'. The weather was not to their liking either but they did finish. Andy in 1.5.17, Ian 1.6.21 and John 1.7.20.

12<sup>th</sup> April. The B Team won their first game on merit when they defeated North Downs B on the Polo field 10 – 3. This also meant that they won the Handicap section. Robin Buchan and Geoff Williams rode the Croydon Advertiser road race this weekend. Robin, as usual, took a group of riders out in front of the race to lead for over 30 miles. He then had the misfortune to puncture. The break, without Robin's drive, was brought back so that when Robin regained the bunch the field was altogether. Geoff Williams finished 13<sup>th</sup> and Robin had won the King of the Mountains competition for consolation. Brian Maxlow won again with a 26.28 in the East Surrey Junior/Schoolboys '10' with Derek Bowman in 4<sup>th</sup> place with a 28.21. Rowan Vacher led a trio of Paragon riders in the De Laune '25' with Rowan recording 1.3.03, Doug Vacher 1.7.37 and Bob Corby a few, unrecorded, seconds slower. Ian Murray and John Jennings went out to the Bath Road for the Harlequins '25' and splashed round in 1.6.50 (Ian) and 1.8.24 (John).

Robin Buchan showed good form in the Bath Road Hilly '50'; which he won in 2.6.11. Nearer home Brian Maxlow also won taking first prize in the Kent CA '10' in 26.03. John Overton also finished in 34.13. John Jennings did his fastest '25' of the year with 1.4.32 in the WLCA event. Geoff Williams was riding the Crawley 2-day coming 6<sup>th</sup> on the first stage and 6<sup>th</sup> overall. In the Addiscombe road race Pete Ansell was in the break that was caught on the final hill and Pete Corry had a pedal through his front wheel that ensured the loss of a few spokes. This was not a good weekend for these lads.

The riders in the Dave London Trophy had another poor day for only five of them made the Finish. Andy Murray was quickest with a 1.21.40 from Bob Corby 1.23.37 and Charlie Nichols 1.27.08. Harry Corby took the 'Pot' for the handicap. Andy Murray remarked that it was ridiculous and one of the worst mornings he had ridden on. A Team race was collected in the Buccaneers Tandem '30'. Robin Buchan and Rowan Vacher won the race with 1.6.49, a time that only underlines the comments made by Andy Murray. Ian Murray and Pete Ansell were also riding and with their 1.12.21 the Paragon won the Team race. Geoff Williams was 7<sup>th</sup> in the Bellingham '10' in 25.17 in front of Derek Bowman 29.28, Keith Bowman 30.21 and John Overton 31.55. Geoff Williams was 4<sup>th</sup> in the Festival road race and Brian Maxlow came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Eltham Paragon

Schoolboys race. Around those dates Pete Corry came 8<sup>th</sup> in the Redmon road race on the Ellens Green circuit.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May Robin Buchan teamed up with Rowan Vacher to ride the Morden 27 miles 2up and they finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Ian and Andy Murray also rode a 2up but theirs was the Eastbourne Rovers event. They covered the 25 miles in 1.4.24. Now that warmer weather had arrived times and efforts were getting more rewarding. Robin Buchan won the East Grinstead road race on the Lingfield circuit breaking clear on the last climb of Dormansland. Unluckiest rider was Geoff Williams who attacked earlier on the last lap but punctured whilst leading. He managed to get a wheel change, chased and caught most of the field but had to be content with 5<sup>th</sup> place. Bob Corby was our fastest rider in the SCCU '50' with 2.12.09 from Pete Corry 2.19.08, Charlie Nicholls 2.19.099 and Ken Cattermore 2.27.19. Harry Corby rode his trike in the London VTTA '25' and finished in 1.12.43. Rowan Vacher is starting to move very quickly as his 1.12.44 in the Sorian '30' shows. Also speeding up quite nicely is Pete Ansell who also finished this race in 1.14.06.

Brian Maxlow almost won two races in two days on the second weekend in May. On the Saturday he came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Clarence Whs '10' in 25.24 followed by Doug Vacher in 26.23 and Derek Bowman 27.35 then on the Sunday he again came 2<sup>nd</sup> this time in the ESCA '10' with a 26.15. A team was riding the 34<sup>th</sup> Nomad Campagnolo '25'. Fastest of them on the day was Pete Ansell with a 1.1.55 followed by Ian Murray 1.3.13, Andy Murray 1.5.05, Pete Corry 1.7.40 and Mike Wilson 1.9.33. Robin Buchan won the SW London and Surrey road race Championship but was relegated to 5<sup>th</sup> place due to some jersey pulling that Robin managed to get the blame for. A strong protest was lodged. Geoff Williams finished with the main bunch.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> May Robin Buchan and Rowan Vacher won the Weybridge Whs Tandem '30' in 1.4.44 and the following day Robin came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Catford '50' in 2.2.29. Geoff Williams came 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2.6.18. The following morning Geoff Williams won the Surrey St Christophers '25' in 1.3.30. Ian Murray was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1.4.16, Bob Corby was fastest Veteran in 1.6.12 and these three gentlemen took the Team award. Other rides were done by Andy Murray 1.6.26, Doug Vacher 1.7.49, Charlie Nicholls 1.8.49, Mike Wilson 1.12.01 and Ken Cattermole 1.12.13. If those times seem a little slower than normal it is because they are. There was a marshal in the wrong place and the course was about 1 mile too long. This was very irritating for Geoff and Ian for 2'30" off their time would have given them new personal bests. Pete Ansell and Pete Corry forsook time trialling to ride the Southborough & District road race for 3<sup>rd</sup> categories and Pete A came 3<sup>rd</sup> whilst Pete C finished in the bunch. The points gained in this race should elevate Pete Ansell to 2<sup>nd</sup> Category.

Brian Maxlow won the first junior '10' in 25.24 from Doug Vacher, 26.23, and Derek Bowman 27.35.

The Paragon held their evening Circuit race at Crystal Palace on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. Ray Palin won the Senior Event and S Howe (Festival) won the Schoolboys event with Brian Maxlow in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Polo Secretary reported at the end of the Croydon Winter League that the A team finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place and the B Team 8<sup>th</sup>. This was a good effort for a team in its first season. The B Team finished 4<sup>th</sup>

in the Handicap League whilst the A Team were 6<sup>th</sup>. There is no truth in the rumour that this League is for those with brains!

The Club had six riders in the Bellingham '25' over the Spring Bank Holiday. Robin Buchan came 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 59.40 and following him were Bob Corby 1.4.09, Doug Vacher 1.4.24, Brian Maxlow 1.5.25, Charlie Nichols 1.5.50 and Ken Cattermole 1.10.51. The next day Robin was under the hour again with a 58.31 in the Basildon '25'. Rowan Vacher clocked 1.0.03 and Pete Ansell 1.1.23. Graham Bristow and Terry Slattery went down into Kent for the Faversham Sports. Graham came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Handicap and Terry reached the Final of the 880 yards Scratch Sprint. The following day Graham Bristow and Pete Corry went to Nottingham Meeting held in conjunction with the Milk Race Stage Finish but found themselves up against formidable opposition. While they enjoyed the experience they came away empty handed.

Robin Buchan, Pete Ansell and Ian Murray went down to the Bath Road for the Vegetarian '50' and they won prizes. Robin was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1.58.09 and with Peter finishing in 2.9.01 and Ian 2.9.41 the Paragon won the Team race. The first Club '50' was won by Bob Corby in 2.12.16 from Charlie Nichols 2.14.59 and Ken Cattermole 2.27.33. In spite of the poor field it was a personal best time for Charlie Nichols.

The Champagne Meeting lived up to its Title by providing some sparkling racing on a gloriously sunny evening. Racing started with heats for the 500m handicap and then a couple of quarter-finals of the London Region Team Pursuit. The Sorian best the De Laune and the Clarence beat the Willesden. The Final of the Handicap saw Mick Bennet (Solihull) catch and beat Dave Rowe (De Laune) in a close finish. Keith Wingrace (Old Kent) won the Course de Primes. We then had one of the star attractions of the evening. This was a Ten Minute Pursuit between Claude Kearley (Whitewebbs), Robin Buchan, Derek Cottingham (Charlotteville), Rob Donnington (South Eastern), Ray Ward (Oldbury) and Pete Watson (Clifton). Watson, who travelled down by train and arrived late, was soon in trouble. A lack of warm-up time was finding him out. Ward caught him before half distance and went on to catch Kearley as well. Cottingham put out Donnington but was being overhauled by Buchan who in his turn was in danger of being caught by Ward. Fortunately for Paragon interests Ward tired after his early effort but it was extremely close between Buchan and Cottingham. Robin got the verdict by just 3 yards. Distances were Ward 4 miles 1040 yards, Buchan had 441 yards and Cottingham 438 yards over the four miles.

Ron Keeble was next on the programme with an attack on the National 500m and 1000m flying start records. These were doomed to failure for although it was a warm and pleasant evening there was still a stiff breeze blowing to hamper the riders. A second Course des Primes was run and the winner of this race was John Middlemore (De Laune). Bush (Mercury) won the Devil-take-the-hindmost and the stage was set for the Champagne '10'.

It was 35 laps of go-all-the-way racing. Pete Watson made up for his defeat in the 10-minute pursuit by being chief stirrer eventually taking the lap prize. The speed was too great for any breaks to stay clear so it was with 2 laps to go there was a huge bunch ready to go for the line. Then, coming up to the bell it was

Mick Bennett (Solihull) and Bob Bicknell (Coventry) who jumped clear whilst everyone else was looking at each other. Coming in to the back straight Rowe, Keeble and Buchan took off to try and catch the escapees. They closed a tremendous amount of the distance but it was too late. In the sprint Bennet beat Bicknell and the time for the 10 miles was 20.49.2 – a shade under 29 mph! A fine ending to a smashing evening.

Riding at the Champagne Meeting put the needed edge to Robin Buchan's fitness, as he was to prove during the month of June. On the 7<sup>th</sup> June he won the Archer '50' with a 1.56.48. Behind him were Bob Corby 2.7.12, Charlie Nichols 2.15.17 and Ken Cattermole 2.25.04. Brian Maxlow came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey Road '25' with a 1.3.55 and Pete Corry was 7<sup>th</sup> with 1.4.31. Alan McKean came home in 1.7.32 and thus secured the Team race for the Paragon. Mike Wilson came in with 1.8.36 and new member A Cheeseman 1.18.36. Ian Murray clocked a 1.3.15 in the Middlesex Clarion '25'. In the ECCA evening '25' it was reported that Bob Corby had beaten the hour with a 59.19.

Another weekend and we report another win by Robin Buchan. This time he won the Wren Whs '50' in 1.54.35. Bob Corby rode the same event to finish in 2.10 something and Harry Corby trundled his trike round in 2.42.31. In the Oild Portlians '25' our finishers were Pete Ansell .1.1.25, Andy Murray 1.2.34 and Brian Maxlow 1.4.42. The Veterans rode the South Eastern '25' and recorded the following times; Charlie Nichols 1.4.55, Mike Wilson 1.7.56 and Ken Cattermole 1.10.10.

On the Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June Graham Bristow came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the North Mids & Herts Sprint Championship at Paddington. The time triallists were riding the Clarence Whs '25' with Ian Murray leading the team with a personal best ride of 1.1.19 but very close behind him was junior Brian Maxlow with a personal best, at 15 years of age, of 1.1.34. Pete Corry was our third man in 1.3.35. The Sunday saw Robin Buchan still flying as he won the Sorian '50' in 1.55.51. In contrast Mike Wilson finished the Upton Manor '50' in 2.22.41.

Those riding from Purley down to the coast on The 20th June enjoyed a slightly better day than last year. Geoff Williams making the fastest time with a 1.44.04 beating the fastest junior, Brian Maxlow by just under a minute. Brian's 1.45.01 was over 3 minutes quicker than Charlie Nichols. As this was also an inter-club race against the Addiscombe the first six riders in each team were to count. Our other three 'counters' were Pete Corry 1.48.05, Graham Bristow 1.49.15 and Ken Cattermole 1.56.07. Pete Corry won the handicap from Ken Cattermole and Charlie Nichols. We won the inter-club part by 19 minutes.

Robin Buchan won his 4<sup>th</sup> '50' in 4 weeks when he recorded fastest time in the Shaftesbury '50' with a 1.57.05 ride. In the Chelmer '25' veteran Charlie Nichols produced a personal best time of 1.4.19 whilst Mike Wilson finished in 1.7.22 and Ken Cattermole did 1.9.36, his best for some years. Ian Murray rode the Redhill Hilly '50' and completed the course in 2.30.34. Our Junior John Overton clocked a 28.55 in the East Surrey '10'. Pete Ansell came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Polhill road race with Pete Corry equal 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Polo Secretary reported a mixed bag of results with a large number of defeats. The Club has a pool of sixteen players but most of them have only

been playing for about eighteen months. Thus the skill level does not match the fitness level. They have had success in the Handicap Leagues but cannot yet match the top players on a scratch basis.

The Club Track Championships were very nearly rained off. So close it came that it kept some riders and spectators away. The first event was the 4000m Pursuit and it proved to be a clear win for Pete Ansell in 5.42.2 from young Brian Maxlow, 5.48.5 with Pete Hamilton 3<sup>rd</sup> in 5.50.9. Pete Hamilton, Graham Bristow, Pete Corry and Pete Ansell qualified for the Final of the 500m sprint and managed to finish in that order. The 500m handicap saw Brian Maxlow take off like a rocket and although Graham Bristow and Pete Corry were closing fast down the straight they could not catch young Brian. Brian was the animator in the 5 miles Scratch and Points taking maximum points for the first five laps. With 7 laps to go he still had a lead but then the strength and experience of Graham Bristow began to tell. Even though Brian managed another first and second Graham then had another two firsts and four seconds to get 29 points to Brian's 28 and take the George Colget Cup. Came the last lap and Terry Slattery proved that hanging on for grim death early and not worrying about the points on can pay off for with a timely sprint he beat Pete Corry and Brian Maxlow to the line. At the end of the 5 the Track Championship stood thus:- Pete Hamilton had won the Championship with 4 points but Pete Ansell, Terry Slattery, Pete Corry and Brian Maxlow had 3 each. A 1000m time trial would have to be run. In this Pete Corry did fastest time, 1.19.3, and claimed 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Championship. Pete Ansell claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 1.19.5, Brian Maxlow 4<sup>th</sup> in 1.21.3 and Terry Slattery 5<sup>th</sup> in 1.22.4

Early in the month Terry Slattery defended his SW London and Surrey 880 yards grass track Championship but he had to contend with tougher opposition and a lower state of fitness than last year. He had to be content with 4<sup>th</sup> place. However he did not go away empty handed as he came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 880 yards handicap and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 5 miles Scratch. Geoff Williams had a good ride in the Weybridge Whs road race at Chobham taking a prime and getting 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the final sprint.

The wind put pay to any thoughts of fast rides on the 5<sup>th</sup> July. Robin Buchan was out on the Bath Road for the Hillingdon '10' in which he clocked a respectable 4.12.16 but only made second fastest time. Mike Wilson, hoping for a good morning on the Portsmouth Road, was also disappointed with his 1.7.26 in the Kingston Whs '25'. We had two riders in the Polhill '10' and Pete Hamilton just beat Pete Corry 25.16 to 25.27.

More strong winds on the 12<sup>th</sup> July saw some very fast 'out' sections followed by comparatively slow 'in's. Robin Buchan and Pete Ansell went north to the North Road '50' and proved the point. Robin reached the turn in 56.01 and Peter 57.36. It took Robin 1.2.50 to get back and the less experienced Peter took 1.10.57! Robin was fastest rider in 1.58.51 with Pete finishing with 2.8.39. Those riding the SCCU '50' had the same problem with Geoff Williams being very disappointed with his 2.8.08 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Bob Corby finished in 2.10.40, Charlie Nichols 2.15.04, and Mike Wilson and Ken Cattermole tied on 2.26.17. The yolungsters rode the Dulwich Paragon '25' where Brian Maxlow finished 5<sup>th</sup> in 1.3.05 leading in Pete Hamilton 1.6.42 and Bob Strevens 1.13.33.

The Moon Trophy was run on the 19<sup>th</sup> July on an atrocious morning and fourteen of the thirty-four entrants decided not to bother. Our best rider on the day was Charlie Nichols with a 1.4.29, which gave him 1<sup>st</sup> handicap as well, from Peter Hamilton, 1.5.18 and Brian Maxlow 1.6.04. We did not get fastest time, fastest on handicap, the handicap team, the over 30s team or second team. Not a morning to dwell upon and a complete wash out in all senses. Robin Buchan went to ride the Boroughbridge '50' course and in spite of the weather got within 8 seconds of his Club Record with a superb 1.51.25. It was a pity that he only(!) came 2<sup>nd</sup> with that time. Pete Ansell rode the Redmon '30' and finished in 1.15.25.

Geoff Williams took the Goss Green Cup with an excellent 4.22.29 around the southern roads course on another wet day. This was even better than it looks as Geoff went off course when he passed a marshal that was sheltering in his car. Fortunately the marshal chased after Geoff and got him back on course but he still lost some time. Not only did Geoff win the Goss Green Cup but he won the Counties event as well. Pete Corry was also riding this his first '100' and he finished in 4.57.18 to win the fastest novice prize. Robin Buchan rode the Bon Amis '50' and it was raining on the Bath Road as well. He won the race with a 1.55.13. Pete Ansell could only manage a 1.2.0 in the Sorian '25'. Then Charlie Nichols did a 1.5.50 and Mike Wilson 1.6.55 in the London St Christophers '25'. Charlie punctured just before the Start and managed to borrow a wheel. If it were not enough to fight the rain and wind this wheel started to shed spokes. At the end of the race Charlie had a very wobbly wheel seven broken spokes and three others had come unwound. All things considered that 1.5 was a good ride.

Brian Maxlow finished the South Eastern '10' in 25.06 and the following times were recorded on the Polhill evening time trials. Pete Ansell 22.58, Brian Maxlow 23.25, Pete Hamilton 24.00 and John Overton 27.56.

The Inter-Club Track Meeting between the Paragon, Redmon, De Laune and Sorian resulted in a tie between the Redmon and the Paragon. On the (correct) judges decision the first place went to the Redmon as their rider was th highest placed in the last event. Best Paragon places were by Brian Maxlow with 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior/Schoolboy sprint followed by a win in the Junior 10 laps Points race. Pete Hamilton and Pete Corry were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Senior Sprint and the Paragon were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Italian (Olympic) Pursuit. Other Paragon riders were Graham Bristow, Doug Vacher and Gerrard Kellegher.

Once again the bad weather took a hand in our Ashdown Forest events. Only 18 3<sup>rd</sup> category and Junior riders took the Start and 29 in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> category race. Bob Beatty (East Grinstead) won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Category race breaking clear on his own to take all three primes at Kingstanding and finishing 2'38 clear of our own Brian Maxlow. Brian in turn was 1'53" clear of the remaining 6 riders in the race! Pete Hamilton led in this small remnant for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The Senior race had the addition of E Wissfeld of the West German World Championship team He, Brian Bulmer (Polhill) and John Lyons (Morden) drew away from the main field on the last lap. Bulmer took the last prime and pulled away. His lead had stretched to 52 seconds at the line. Wissfeld beat Lyons to the line to take 2<sup>nd</sup>



place. Fourth place went to Trevor Budgen @ 2'29" who in turn led in Horne (Highgate) and Edmonds (Redmon).

Robin Buchan put together a cracking 100 miles time trial when winning the Essex CRA '100' in 4.3.43. He took 1.58.46 for the first 50 miles and just on 3 hours for 75 miles. Unfortunately because of the traffic his helpers missed giving Robin a drink in that last hour and it really does matter at that stage of the proceedings thus he 'slowed' to a 1.3 for the last 25 miles. This was yet another Club Record for Robin by just 6 seconds. Six men went out for the De Laune '25' and the fastest of these was Ian Murray with a 1.2.59. He was closely followed by Brian Maxlow 1.3.15, Pete Hamilton 1.3.58, Pete Ansell 1.4.01, Charlie Nichols 1.5.19 and Mike Wilson 1.7.14.

How the mighty have fallen! Keith Butler once National Professional Road Race Champion rode the local BCTC (British Cycle Touring Competition) heat and came 2<sup>nd</sup> to qualify for the Final. He actually finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Final and won the NOVICES award. He had 35 penalty points as against the winners 32. Asked, facetiously, why he did not win Keith told us - 'On the final stretch we had to navigate and say how long it would take us to reach the end. My slow speed judging leaves a great deal to be desired so I said 15 minutes. That is about 20 mph for the 5 miles section. Actually I was spot on with the speed but I was going a bit too quick down a gravelly bridleway to stop before a Halt sign (I straddled the stop line and lost 2 points) and I did not follow the wiggles in the road near the finish but kept on a straight line as any self respecting racing man would do (another point lost). I'll never make a tourist!'

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August Ian Murray won the Oval Middlemarkers '25' in a personal best time of 1.0.40. Not to be outdone brother Andy also put together a personal best of 1.2.19. Mike Wilson made up the team with a 1.7.38. Geoff Williams should have been the third man but he overslept! Robin Buchan went up to Yorkshire, again, and found that the wind is just as strong up there as down here. He was somewhat displeased with his 4.16.29. Pete Corry and Pete Hamilton paired up again for the East Surrey Tandem '30' but like Robin were disappointed with their time - 1.9.29.

Robin Buchan fitness and strength were plain to all when he rode the Harrow and Rickmansworth '25' on yet another hard windy day. He won the race with a 57.46 and was the only man inside the hour.

All this hard slogging racing paid off in the Clifton CC '50' up on the Boroughbridge course. Starting at number 65 he roared round to finish in a new Club Record time of 1.50.08 and for a long time led the race. Then the wind started to rise giving the tailenders a flying finish. Eventually Robin was placed 17<sup>th</sup> his lowest placing of the year and his fastest time! Ain't there no justice in this world? There were thirteen entries and ten finishers in the Fryco Cup '50' on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Geoff Williams won this Cup as well with a 2.8.51 from Ian Murray, 2.10.32, and Peter Hamilton 2.11.09. Ian took the handicap from Charlie Nichols and Peter Hamilton. Once again strong winds played havoc with the times and found out those who had not had adequate training. Rowan Vacher was one of these. At one point he had caught Geoff Williams for 3 minutes but lost these and 5 more minutes between Findon and the Finish.

The Bank Holiday weekend was also our Open '50' promotion. Geoff Williams followed his good ride in the Fryco Cup with a personal best ride of 2.5.18 to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Rowan Vacher had recovered from his pasting in the Club '50' to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place just 4 seconds slower than Geoff. With Bob Corby coming in with a 2.8.08 for 9<sup>th</sup> place the Team race was ours. Charlie Nichols and Brian Maxlow with 2.14.12 and 2.14.30 respectively both did personal best times. Doug Vacher finished in 2.19.09 and Ken Cattermole 2.24.59.

The Polo Squad went camping on the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> September and took their Polo bikes with them. They played 5 games in two days and thoroughly enjoyed themselves with other like-minded players. Peter Corry was the only rider from the Paragon in the SCCU 12 hours event. He persevered and ran out time with 218 miles. Persevered is the right word as he broke a crank, had two punctures and fell off once – but he did finish. Robin Buchan rode the National Championship 12 hours and came 6<sup>th</sup> with 262.5 miles. While this was outside his Club Record it was good enough for him to achieve a lifetimes ambition as it placed him 11<sup>th</sup> in the BBAR. Four riders took part in the 29<sup>th</sup> Whs '25' and leading the team was Rowan Vacher with a 1.0.23. Pete Ansell was next with a 1.2.58 followed by Charlie Nichols 1.4.32 and Doug Vacher 1.4.58. Brian Maxlow rode at Crystal Palace in the De Laune promotion to finish in 9<sup>th</sup> place in the Junior race.

Brian Maxlow improved on his '10' in our Club event held in conjunction with the Clarence Whs Junior '10' by winning in 24.27. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place (4<sup>th</sup> in main event) was Doug Vacher, 25.52, and 3<sup>rd</sup> G Kellegher in 27.19. These three lads took the Team prize. John Overton also finished in 29.34. Robin Buchan won the Addiscombe '50' with a new course record time of 1.59.50. Bob Corby did 2.8.51 and Charlie Nichols 2.13.38. As it was the Addiscombe promotion we are pleased to report that we won the Team race. Geoff Williams went road racing and won the Kingston Phoenix Autumn road race over 86 miles with Pete Ansell finishing in the bunch. Also, at an undisclosed date, he came 4<sup>th</sup> in the SCCU road race Championship

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September the juniors had a '15' and this time Doug Vacher, 39.20, just beat Brian Maxlow, 39.22. John Overton was 3<sup>rd</sup> in 47.32. Robin Buchan went to Essex for the Viking '50' and again finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place. This time he completed the course in 1.57.04. Bob Corby was with him on 2.6.37 and Charlie Nichols 2.10.12 for a personal best. The George Brake Memorial Polo Tournament was played this weekend and the Paragon had 3 teams. (Numbered B, C and D ?) B and D teams lost early on but the C team reached the Semi-finals. Here they met 'Glaziers' and went out by 3 –0.

The next week only two riders turned up for the second '15' and Doug Vacher dropped a few seconds to record 39.31 but John Overton improved over three and a half minutes to finish in 43.59. (Pete Hamilton did 39.05 for a private time trial). Robin Buchan rode two time trials this weekend. In the ECCA '25' he won with a 56.06, only 8 seconds short of the Club Record, and in the Hounslow '25' he came 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 56.39. Ian Murray was also in attendance finishing in 1.2.45. Three others rode the SCCU '25' and their times were Charlie Nichols 1.4.45, Mike Wilson 1.9.02 and Ken Cattermole 1.9.20.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> September the A Team met the Aces A Team in the semi-final of the Surrey Cup and after a very close match came out winners 10 – 9. The team were Tony Knight, Keith Ongley, Pete Durbin, Harry Corby and ray Searle. The A Team will meet Selhurst in the Finals. The Team became TV Stars when a film unit from 'Magpie' came along to film a friendly match that was to be shown sometime in November.

Twenty men sent in forms for the Mayne Cup and it turned out to be a close event for the scratch prize. Andy Murray was the quickest in 1.4.05 followed Peter Hamilton in 1.4.45, Ian Murray 1.4.50, Bob Corby 1.5.06 and Pete Ansell 1.5.08. The Man of the Day was John Overton whose 1.13.42 was subject to a large allowance to take him well clear of the fast men. Even so Andy Murray was 2<sup>nd</sup> on handicap and Vin Callanan 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Andy Murray won the Hill Climb in 4.05.8 very comfortably from Peter Hamilton, 4.38.0 if it is possible to win any hill-climb in comfort! Pete Ansell came 3<sup>rd</sup> in 4.47.0.

Len's '10' was on the 19<sup>th</sup> October and Brian Maxlow was our best rider with a 23.53. Charlie Nichols did 24.57, Graham Kellegher 25.33, Harry Corby 26.06, Ken Cattermole 26.15 and Graham Forster 26.37. Pete Corry and Pete Hamilton tripped off to the Bath Road in the hope of a fast morning but found it too cole for good results so came home with 1.4.39 for Pete C and 1.2.40 for Pete H. The Murray brother and John Jennings went to Essex to ride a 3up team time trial. They recorded 1.5.07. As this is considerably slower than all three of them had ridden 25 miles during the year three things could be the cause. A) someone had lots of trouble, B) the course was well over 25 miles or C) Saturday night was much better than Sunday morning. Brian Maxlow finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Catford School Schoolboys Hill Climb in the Biggin Hill area

Sometime during the year Pete Hamilton won the BCF SW London & Surrey Sprint Championship and came 4<sup>th</sup> in the 10 miles event. Pete Corry was 3<sup>rd</sup> in that 10 as well.

The Frank Cleeve Points Competition was won by Ian Murray with 14 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Mike Wilson and a three way tie for third place between Pete Ansell, Ken Cattermole and Charlie Nichols with 9 points each.

Robin Buchan with 25.117 mph won the Club Open Road Championship with Pete Corry as runner-up. Geoff Williams won the Club Road Championship with 23.205 mph and Pete Corry was runner-up again with 21.192 mph. Robin Buchan took the Road Race Championship with 26 points from Geoff Williams who had 21 points. The Club Junior Champion was Brian Maxlow with 23.372 mph, 2<sup>nd</sup> Doug Vacher 22.531 mph and 3<sup>rd</sup> John Overton 20.369. Brian Maxlow also won the Junior Road race Championship.