

1971

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February was the start of the new season and it proved to be an absolutely glorious morning more akin to a summer than winter. We had eight entries, seven starters and six finishers in this prelude to the season. We failed to win any awards but Pete Hamilton was by far our best rider finishing 26<sup>th</sup> in 1.15.38, Pete Corry was next with 1.17.40 for 31<sup>st</sup>, Ian Murray punctured after a mile but changed the tube and rode on to finish with 1.18.01, John Jennings took 1.19.06, a slightly overweight Graham Bristow 1.19.32 and Charlie Nichols rolled in with a 1.22.32 muttering things like 'never again'. Andy Murray broke a toe clip in the first few yards and decided that trying to race up them thar hills with only one foot anchored was not a good idea so he became a spectator.

Robin Buchan came 2<sup>nd</sup> to John Smith (Addiscombe) in the East Surrey Hardriders on the 7<sup>th</sup> March with a 1.23.45. Geoff Williams recorded 1.27.58, Peter Hamilton 1.30.13, Ian Murray 1.30.18, Pete Corry 1.32.25 and John McNee 1.33.24. The club also won the Team award. The Polo Team played the Tooting in their final match of the Croydon Winter League but lost 8 – 7 after pulling back from 7 – 2 down at half time. The Team were Harry Corby (1 goal), Pete Durban (2), Derek Bowman, Pete Standen (2), L Barr and Ray Searle (2)

A Club team went down for the Central Sussex Hardriders and their times were Geoff Williams 1.1.01, Ian Murray 1.1.03 and John Jennings 1.3.27. Mike Wilson rode the ECCA '25' and did 1.7.45 for the distance. The Polo Team of Jim Corby, F Corby, Ian Forrest, Graham Forster, Derek Bowman and Ray Searle played Selhurst in the first round of the Surrey Cup but went down 25 – 26. Brian Maxlow came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Morden Winter road race at Elstead with Pete Corry coming in in 16<sup>th</sup> place. Robin Buchan rode the Wally Gimber road race and as usual forced the pace. He broke away with twelve other riders and then split this group. Unfortunately Robin is not going quite so well as this time last year and had to drop back into the second group again. He eventually finished 13<sup>th</sup>. Pete Ansell started the season in fine form when he won the opening Club Event over 10 miles. He clocked 24.27 to beat Ian Murray by 23" and Doug Vacher by 1.20. Mike Wilson went to darkest Essex for the ECCA '25' and achieved his fastest start to any season with a 1.7.45.

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March we had three riders in the VC Londres Junior '10'. Brian Maxlow finished in 24.58, John Overton in 29.27 and Keith Mitchell 29.57. Robin Buchan rode the New Town Classic road race at Crawley and finished 5<sup>th</sup> place plus taking some primes on the way. March 21<sup>st</sup> was Kentish Whs '25' day and eight Paragon riders were found on the Result Sheet. Fastest of our riders was Rowan Vacher with a 1.2.31. Ian Murray was next with 1.4.53, then Doug Vacher 1.5.42, Pete Corry 1.6.41, Graham Bristow 1.6.45, John McNee 1.6.51. Charlie Nichols got round in 1.10.40 after a gear cable jammed leaving him with a 94" gear or nothing. Mike Wilson crept round in 1.12.00 lamenting a bad throat.

The Jim Fox '25' was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> March on what was, for once, a fine morning. Rowan Vacher won in the excellent time of 1.1.43 from Ian Murray, 1.2.08 with Brian Maxlow doing a 1.3.13 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Dennis Young riding his first '25' finished in 1.9.19 and won the handicap from Ian Murray and Doug Vacher. Robin Buchan went road racing and finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the Croydon Premier event. The three Peters, Ansell, Corry and Hamilton rode the 30 miles Yellow Pages road race had an excellent prize list with two primes per lap. Pete Ansell finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place, Pete Corry 6<sup>th</sup> and Pete Hamilton rolled in second from last; a position that won him a special prize. How do you split 13 Mars Bars?

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April and the A Team of Keith Ongley, Pete Durbin, Mick Nash, Pete Standen and Harry Corby beat the Aces B Team 7 – 2 but lost on handicap 7 – 14. The B Team of Ian Forrest, J Corby, Graham Forster, Mick Harding and Ray Searle lost to North Downs 2 – 12. Rowan Vacher came 4<sup>th</sup> in the De Laune with a 1.1.23 and brother Doug turned in a 1.5.07. Charlie Nichols followed with 1.8.04 and Mike Wilson a 1.10.31.

Easter proved a horrible week-end and all the racers took a lot of punishment with cold, wet and very windy mornings. Doug Vacher led the Paragon in the Crawley Whs '25' on Good Friday when he came in with a 1.5.20 to take 1<sup>st</sup> handicap. Pete Hamilton was 35 seconds slower with 1.5.55. Graham Bristow did 1.8.35, Charlie Nichols 1.10.13 and Mike Wilson 1.13.15. Charlie Nichols was the only man to brave the elements on the Sunday when he rode the SCCU '25' in 1.9.55. Messrs Hamilton, Corry and Bristow went up to Nottingham and Leicester to ride the track meetings. Although being successful in various heats they failed to win anything. Bristow and Corry managed to be over-gearred on their tandem at Nottingham and under-gearred for Leicester. It was one of those irritating weekends that are nearly but not quite successful!

Rowan Vacher went down to the Bath Road for the WLCA '25' and clocked a 1.0.50 whilst brother Doug rode the Delta Middlemarkers '25' and came 6<sup>th</sup> in 1.4.48. Charlie Nichols and Bob Corby took to the Sussex hills for the Central Sussex 2up and clocked 1.21.48 for the 50 kms. John McNee being a Scot was revelling in the conditions, (just like Glasgow), and finished the Bec '25' in 1.6.34.

Charlie Nichols did the double in the Dave London Trophy on the 25<sup>th</sup> April when he recorded fastest time and took the handicap. John McNee was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1.23.33. The two Vachers managed to go off course and retired for which Charlie duly thanked them. Pete Corry came 6<sup>th</sup> in the Nova Magnus road race over 55 miles and Graham Bristow got a 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Redmon 100 kms road race.

Three men entered the SCCU '50' and as expected Robin Buchan was up there in the prizes. His 2.3.52 was good enough for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Charlie Nichols came in with a 2.19.44 whilst Pete Corry took 2.28.19 (!). There must be a story there but it is not written down anywhere. Two teams entered the Morden 2up and messrs Hamilton and Murray I with 1.10.00 just got the better

of messrs Corry and Slattery 1.11.11. Bob Corby came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the London VTTA '25' with 1.5.42.

By the time the year had got to May the Club's riders appeared to have done nothing of note. It did not look as if 1971 was going to be a very good year. Robin Buchan seemed to be taking things easier at the start of 1971 Andy Murray was off his bike, Rowan was continuing to improve but no one was impressing. Then Robin rode in the Bath Road Hilly '50' and although his 2.7.40 was less than a minute slower than his winning ride in 1970 he was placed 7<sup>th</sup> this year and there was a glimmer of hope.

Then Andy Murray who has not been riding too much due to crashes and ill-health came back with a vengeance. In the Surrey St Christophers '25' he both broke the hour and won the race with a 59.46. With brother Ian coming home with a 1.0.42 and Pete Hamilton improving by 2 minutes to 1.0.48 the Paragon were 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and, surprise, surprise took the Team race. Robin Buchan came back to shattering form when he won the Ross Whs '50' in the season's fastest 50 of 1.53.50. His nearest rival was nearly 5 minutes slower! All of a sudden everything looked brighter.

Only three entries were received for the first club '50' and Ian Murray was the fastest of these with a 2.7.42 that was indeed a personal best ride. Bob Corby finished in 2.11.05 and Charlie Nichols took 2.15.10. Seven Paragon men finished the 34<sup>th</sup> Nomads '25' with Rowan Vacher leading the way with a 1.0.37. Ian Murray came next with 1.1.46, Andy Murray 1.2.35, Pete Ansell 1.4.07, Doug Vacher 1.5.35, Charlie Nichols 1.5.52 and John Jennings 1.8.06. We were second in the Team race. Pete Ansell, now newly married, did a 1.13.41 in the Havering '30'; which is a personal best, to show he was still in good form. Bob Corby did 1.16.46 but Rowan was unfortunate to puncture when he rode off the road at a roundabout because he was going too fast! He punctured and fell off but got up to cross the line in 1.22 something.

The Team Pursuit squad qualified in 4<sup>th</sup> place for the London Region 4000m Championship. On the road racing front Brian Maxlow collected a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the East Grinstead Junior road race and another 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the SW London and Surrey Junior Championship. In the Tour of East Sussex all the breaks came to nothing and Robin Buchan came 10<sup>th</sup> in the bunch sprint. The east Grinstead Senior road race was a tale of woe. Pete Corry got his front wheel chopped from under him and to add insult to injury Pete Hamilton rode over him. Pete was a bit shaken after the fall and found he could not hold the pace and dropped back. Terry Slattery and Robin Buchan worked hard trying to get breaks together but to no avail so Terry gave up in disgust. Robin soldiered on eventually creeping away near the end with two others but he had not enough left for the sprint and came 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Champagne Meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June and we collected a fine evening with seven National Champions on show. There was also plenty of pre-publicity but we had a disappointing size of crowd. It was bigger than anyone else's bar the Good Friday Meeting but it was not good enough. Dave Rowe (Lewisham) won the Handicap from the 1970 winner Mick Bennett

(Solihull) and T Brockhurst (Leicester Forest). The Old Ordinary 500m scratch went to K Keast (Redmon) from C Berry (Redmon) and J Almond (Boston). The Invitation 10 minutes Pursuit was a hum-dinger with last year's winner Ray Ward (Oldbury) 4 miles 1178 yards, holding off the Commonwealth Champion Ian Hallam 4 miles 1080 yards with R Porter (Feltham) 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Omnium International between the Paragon and VC Epinay was a close run affair as well. Brian Maxlow won the Junior Sprint whilst Alan Sturgess came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Senior event. The Epinay beat us in the 4000m Team Pursuit after one of our men pulled a foot out at the Start. This left the Final result to the Devil-take-the-Hindmost. If we won it the Omnium would have been tied. If we managed to get two riders in the first three we would have won the match. Unfortunately it was the Epinay who got two riders into the top three so won they won the Match.

In the Open Devil-take-the-hindmost P Harper (Becontree) beat R Travis (Solihull) and P Bowler (Beeston). Then came the Champagne '10' for the Harry Grant Cup and the Magnum of Champs. Once again it was a go all the way race with the bunch strung out at high speed. Various attempts to break away were made but the speed and the reactions of this top class field were too quick. 5 miles were covered in 10.29.7 and the full distance in 21.15.6. The last couple of laps had the crowd on their feet and there was a deserving winner in Ernie Crutchlow, (Beeston), the National Sprint Champion, taking the race from Dave Rowe (Lewisham) and Ian Hallam (Beeston)

At Whitsun Robin Buchan took in the Hounslow '100' and won it with 4.11.05. The short distance men went to the Bellingham '25' and Rowan got under for the first time this year when he won the race with a 59.18. Behind him were Pete Hamilton with 1.1.02 and Pete Ansell 1.2.03 and the Paragon collected the Team race. Also riding were Doug Vacher 1.3.57, Charlie Nichols 1.4.43, and Bob Corby 1.6.19. Terry Slattery went over to West London and came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Bath Road 100 kms road race with Pete Ansell finishing in the bunch.

Robin Buchan won another '50', and for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time at that, when he produced a 1.57.21 to win the Archer '50'. (Once was with Ray Runham on the Tandem). Backing Robin was Rowan Vacher with a 2.1.15 but we had no third man! Ray Carthy and Keith Mitchell continued their battles at Polhill with Ray just on top with 26.06 to 26.37. The Murray brothers and John Jennings had a short holiday in Germany where they rode a couple of road races. Their best placing was in a town centre race when Ian was 8<sup>th</sup>, Andy 9<sup>th</sup> and John 12<sup>th</sup> after a wheel change.

Out on the Bath Road '25' both Pete Hamilton and Ian Murray got under the hour. Pete with 59.28 and Ian with 59.43 which was exactly the same as Andy's best! Robin Buchan stepped down the distance and with apparent consummate ease completed the Whitewebbs '25' in 56.55 just a minute short of his own Club Record. The following morning it was all down the Brighton Road for the South Eastern '25' and Robin showed how easy it was with a win in 57.10. Pete Hamilton just missed the hour with a 1.0.02, Andy Murray slipped a bit to a 1.2.03 but Pete Corry did his best ride for a couple of years

with his 1.3.35. Charlie Nichols did a personal best of 1.3.38 and Mike Wilson finished in 1.10.29.

Bob Corby and Mike Wilson went down to East Sussex to ride the Hastings & ST Leonards '25' where Bob clocked a 1.3.41 and Mike a 1.9.33. Charlie Nichols went back a bit in the Surrey Road '25' with a 1.5.06 but honours go to Robin Buchan.

Robin went up North to ride the Nunbrook Whs '50' on the Boroughbridge course. Result – a 1.48.44 to win the event, the fastest 50 of the year and a new Club Record. In complete contrast we lost the Inter-club Purley to Brighton with the Addiscombe on the 20<sup>th</sup> June before anyone had started as we had only 5 riders with 6 to count! It was not a good day. It took Pete Hamilton 1.48.21 to get down to the viaduct and he beat the event specialist, Terry Slattery by just 34". When you realise that Terry held the course record with a 1.30 ride it just shows the severity of the race conditions. There were only two other finishers and they took over two hours to finish. Ray Carthy took 2.12.08 to win the fastest Junior prize! No time is given for Pete Corry although it is known that he finished. After finishing the Clarence Whs with a personal best of 1.2.38 on Saturday afternoon he had not leave enough speed to get him to Brighton into the wind! Bob Corby and Charlie Nichols went to ride the Ashford Whs '30' on the flat Kent courses. Bob was fastest in 1.21.55 whilst Charlie did 1.23.39.

Various evening events had been ridden at Gatwick and Polhill R Carthy had done 26.39 at Gatwick and 25.55 at Polhill whilst Keith Mitchell had only ridden at Gatwick for a 26.43. Ian Murray and Andy did 24.04 and 24.05 on Polhill but Keith Mitchell slowed to a 27.32.

John Overton recorded a 1.11.59 in the Surrey Road Schoolboys '25'. Ian Murray and Pete Hamilton came 6<sup>th</sup> in the Brighton Excelsior 2up with Bob Corby and Charlie Nichols coming in with 1.2.13.

The last weekend of the month and Robin Buchan was back on his favourite Bishops Stortford course for the Shaftesbury '50'. The two Murrays and Pete Hamilton went up with him with the expressed intention of breaking the Club Team 50 Record. As usual with plans of mice and men it did not work out according to plan. Robin duly obliged by winning in 1.56.39 by over 4 minutes but the others found the day too sticky. Ian was our next fastest with 2.8.16, Pete Hamilton 2.9.43 and Andy Murray 2.11.56. However they did win the Team race. When one considers the times these lads have been producing it does put Robin's ride into its true perspective.

Back south of the river Bob Corby came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Bec Veterans '25' and a team rode in the Kingston Whs '25'. Their times were Doug Vacher 1.3.31, Brian Maxlow 1.3.46 and Mike Wilson 1.10.50. Brian also collected 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the SCCU Summer road race

The 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July was Catford '24hours day and this year it was the National Championship event. It was also Robin Buchan's first attempt at this ultra long

distance event and as luck would have it the weather was perfect. Dry, sunny, not too hot, warm through the night and with very little wind. Robin started a little apprehensively and was determined to ride his own race. When you consider Robin is one of the most ruthless of front-runners this decision required tremendous self-control. The main opposition would come from Baines (Icknield), Robertson, John Cahill, Wes and Dennis Clayton and Cliff Smith. Cahill caught and passed Robin before 60 miles with never a flicker of interest on Robin's part. By the time the riders had reached the 100 miles check Cahill was in the lead with 4.31 but Robin passed by in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 4.35. Those of us who knew Robin this came as a revelation. Here was the fastest 50 miles in the country 'ambling' along. Robin was 24 minutes slower over the 100 miles than he rode in the Hounslow event at Whitsun and 32 minutes slower than his best. There is something about a top class rider racing within himself. They make it look so easy. As night fell Cahill punctured but Robin had caught and dropped him and it was at this stage that Robin was in his element. On roads he knows so well he rode relentlessly on. Those of us privileged to be helping spent the night watching Robin go further and further ahead. Experienced 24hour riders waited for the moment Robin would 'break' and slow up. They waited for the moment in vain. After 229 miles he was 14 minutes in front of his nearest rival by dawn it was 40 minutes. He was so far ahead that the helpers could not give him any time checks. In the end Keith Butler waited at Alfold crossways where Robin turned onto the Loxwood detour of 12 miles. Robin rode the whole of that distance before the next man went into it. Keith had to wait over 50 minutes before Cahill entered the detour. When he caught Robin (Keith was driving a car) and told him a small, satisfied smile crossed Robin's face and he got on with the job. Only Robin, he was that far in front, travelled one 18 miles detour around the back of Gatwick to Leigh. Onto the finishing circuit and it was apparent that Robin, although he would win the Championship could not beat Competition record, so he stopped for a wash and brush up and a change of racing clothes. Climbing back onto his bike he proceeded to lap the 15¼ miles Finishing Circuit in a steady 46 minutes moving beautifully and pedalling relentlessly and, apparently, effortlessly. When he ran out of time Robin had covered just less than 484 miles and had won by 20 miles.

Ian Murray and Charlie Nichols went down to the Bath Road to try out 100 miles riding. Ian returned in 4.30.27 and to everyone's surprise, including Charlie, our Mr. Nichols came back in 4.37.57 a fine ride for a first attempt at the distance. Pete Hamilton was also on a personal best in the Maidenhead '50' when he crossed the line in 2.4.26. Pete Corry and Terry Slattery paired up for the Old Portlians '30' and clocked 1.6.58.

Robin Buchan showed everyone that riding for 24 hours does not necessarily slow one up by finishing the North Road '50' in the fastest time of the afternoon of 1.56.31. (He did say that his legs were aching at the finish). Backing up Robin were Pete Hamilton who improved again to 2.3.12 and Ian Murray with his personal best of 2.3.29. The aggregate time was 6.3.12 that gave the lads the Team race in the event plus a new Club Record. Pete Ansell also rode and finished in 2.12.50. In the SCCU '50' Bob Corby came in with a 2.10.47 but Charlie Nichols once again proved the fact that a good 100 does wonders

to your fitness by improving to 2.11.55 and winning the Tacagni Cup for the fastest 2<sup>nd</sup> Class rider. Ken Cattermole finished in 2.26.35. Doug Vacher came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Dulwich Paragon '25' producing a personal best of 1.2.42 to do it. Pete Corry finished in 1.5.41 but our third man punctured at the turn.

On the Track at the Charlotteville Sports in Guildford Terry Slattery regained his SW London & Surrey 800m Sprint title that had in 1969 but lost last year. Graham Bristow was 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pete Corry 4<sup>th</sup>. At Danson Park Terry Slattery amassed 3 2<sup>nd</sup> places, one 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1 4<sup>th</sup> for a rewarding day on grass. At Herne Hill though the Paragon were knocked out of the London Region Team Pursuit in the semi-finals to the 34<sup>th</sup> Nomads.

The Club had its fast men out for the Moon Trophy '25' on the 18<sup>th</sup> July and Pete Hamilton showed us that his win in the Purley to Brighton was no fluke as he recorded 58.58 and beat Terry Slattery by 25". Ian Murray was 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest in 1.1.00. The Paragon won the Moon Trophy with Pete Hamilton (57.38), Doug Vacher (58.33), Graham Bristow (56.27) and Dennis Young (57.25). In our own handicap competition Graham Bristow came 1<sup>st</sup> followed by Dennis Young and Pete Hamilton. Robin Buchan won another '50' taking the Glendene event in 1.53.16.

Robin Buchan went down to the Bath Road for the Bob Amis '50' and came in with a 1.52.45 but that gave him second place only. Doug Vacher finished the London St Christophers '25' in 1.3.10 and Mike Wilson the Sorian '25' in 1.9.48.

Ian Murray showed that his 4.30 ride in the Hillingdon event was no fluke when he produced a 4.27.04 in the SCCU '100' to be placed 4<sup>th</sup> in that and to win the Goss Green Cup. The only other rider was Charlie Nichols, 4.42.41 who did not enjoy the wet conditions. In the Weybridge Whs road race for 3<sup>rd</sup> category riders our only finisher was Brian Maxlow who came 14<sup>th</sup>. In the senior event Terry Slattery was 7<sup>th</sup>.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July the Paragon promoted as an experiment an Open '50' on Saturday Evening on the Bath Road. Would anyone be interested? The answer was so much a 'yes' that 60 entries had to be returned! The weatherman, however, did not co-operate. It became steadily windier throughout the afternoon and in the last hour there were rain showers that made the roads extremely greasy. Ian Murray, as promoter started No.1 and was also first to finish. He even got off at the turn to check the marshals were in the right place before returning to take over the Result Board. His 2.7.0, therefore, was an excellent ride. Pete Hamilton finished in 2.5.20, Bob Corby 2.6.51 and Charlie Nichols 2.12.47. Pete Corry was on a personal best when timed through the Oxford Road roundabout at Newbury but punctured 3 miles from home. Terry Slattery was second fastest going out and was still on a 2.5 when he returned. The man with the hammer must have caught him around Thatcham as he finished with a 2.8.44. Barry Arnison (Kingston Phoenix) was the fastest rider in 2.0.47.

A faster 100 miles time was Robin Buchan's next target so he entered the Essex CRA event. Although he did 4.6.51 we was disappointed a) because it

was a personal best and b) he was 14 minutes slower than the winner Bob Porter (Hounslow). John Jennings won the Fryco Cup with a personal best time of 2.8.35 from Andy Murray 2.10.50 (also a personal best) and Ken Cattermole in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 2.31.37.

Trying to get some speed back into his legs Robin Buchan rode the Unity '25' and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in 57.50. With Pete Hamilton finishing in 59.56 and Pete Corry 1.3.45 the Paragon won the Team race. Pete Corry had, however, ridden the evening before and produced a personal best of 1.0.00 in the Bon Amis event on the Bath Road. Ian Murray finished the Old Portlians '25' in 1.0.43, Andy Murray, back from holiday, managed a 1.3.17 and Mike Wilson 1.9.34. Bob Corby went round the Westerly '100' in 4.29.50 whilst Charlie Nichols was a tad disappointed with his 4.39.40.

Robin Buchan broke another Club Record when he won the Border CA 12 hours event with 267 miles. Mike Wilson did 1.9.37 in the Kingston Phoenix '25'.

The Club 30 miles Record went next when Robin Buchan did 1.8.26 when finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Portsmouth CC event down on the south coast. Pete Hamilton was our next rider with 1.12.32 whilst schoolboy Robert Giles finished in 1.27.56. As Rowan was out of action for a while after getting married it was down to Doug to keep the family name to the fore. He did so by winning the Weybridge Whs '25' in 1.2.46 with Graham Bristow completing the distance in 1.4.48. Doug missed a personal best time by 4 seconds.

Pete Hamilton won the SW London & Surrey 500m sprint title at Herne Hill beating Colin Berry (Redmon) in the Final. Robin Buchan went off to the Bath Road to try to improve his 100 miles time for a good BBAR placing. He was certainly fit enough but a strong westerly breeze put pay to that idea. With this wind you have to ride from 24 miles to 73 miles into the wind. It does lead to fast times. On the Bath Road you require a rising southwesterly and then you hope that it does not start to rise until you are well on your way to Savernake. Nevertheless he managed a 4.9.04 an excellent ride but not fast enough by at least 3 minutes. Backing Robin were the Murray brothers. Ian produced a personal best of 4.23.37 but Andy suffered early on and in spite of a fast finish only managed a 4.39.50. The shorter distance men made hay whilst the big boys were at the Bath Road. Pete Hamilton did a 1.11.24 for 30 miles in the Leo event with Bib Corby also finishing in 1.14.27.

The Frank Southall '50' was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August but most of our fast men were in action elsewhere. Paul Lipscombe (Central Sussex) won in 2.7.35 from Pat Lacey (Clarencourt) 2.7.55 and R Travers (Wigmore) 2.9.51. The Team race was taken by the Central Sussex. Our best man was Terry Slattery who finished 13<sup>th</sup> in 2.13.23. Pete Corry staggered round in 2.20.16 and Ken Cattermole 2.30.15.

There was a double Record breaking session on the next weekend in the Hamsworth '25'. Robin Buchan took 51 seconds off his own record with a 55.07. Pete Hamilton improved to a 57.23, Terry Slattery did his best ride of



the season with a 1.0.11 and Pete Corry finished in 1.1.23. That makes the Team aggregate 2.52.41 for a new record. Ian Murray produced a 1.1.20 in the 29<sup>th</sup> Whs '25' leading Andy Murray 1.3.50 and Keith Mitchell with a personal best 1.6.54. Charlie Nichols was the only starter in the SCCU 12-hour event and he ran out time with 224.14 miles to take the Rotherham Cup and the Bill Saggars Novices Prize.

The Addiscombe '50' went to Robin Buchan with a 2.1.51 and with Ian Murray 2.7.16 and Charlie Nichols 2.15.50 they won the Team race. (It was after all the Addiscombe event). Another Team race was collected in the Belle Vue '25' when Pete Hamilton did 1.0.01 and Pete Corry and Terry Slattery both did 1.4 somethings.

Yet another Team win came our way in the Invicta '25' and Pete Hamilton led the way again. He did 1.0.22, Doug Vacher 1.1.22 and Terry Slattery 1.6.54. Two men rode the Viking '50' and Charlie Nichols produced a personal best of 2.6.53. Not to be outdone Ken Cattermole finished in 2.18.15 which may not be his fastest ever but is his fastest since he returned to the fold.

The juniors had three 'end-of-season' events. A '10' on the 12<sup>th</sup> September then two '15's on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Brian Maxlow won all three. He took the '10' in 26.54 from Keith Mitchell, 27.04, and Ray Carthy 27.28. He then took the first '15' in 39.40 from Keith Mitchell, 40.43, and Ray Carthy 42.32. In the second '15' he slowed a bit to 40.27 but Ray Carthy got better to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in a best of 41.13 with Keith Mitchell 3<sup>rd</sup> in 41.33.

The October Blah also reported the death of John Vallack. He had joined the Paragon before the War and rejoined in 1946 on his 'demob.'. A keen rider he rode at all distances and in 1946 won the Redmon '50'. He was Club Events Champion in 1948 and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the SCCU '100' and won the Goss Green Cup with a 4.47.14. He was a member of the winning Team in the Catford '24 hours' and he contributed 386 miles of it. In 1951 he was 4<sup>th</sup> in this event with 431.5 miles. He continued riding Club events and had his due reward when winning the Mayne Cup in 1955. He was a carpenter by trade and worked at the Dorchester. He made the John Carter Memorial trophy case and the Darts Trophy that bears his name. He is also remembered for wanting to purchase a pair of brake blocks at Allin Cycles. This, at the time, should have cost him 9d. (4p) but it didn't. When Ching Allin went to fit the new blocks he found the reason for the over fast wearing out was that there was metal on the side of the rim. Closer inspection showed that the alloy was coming from the rim and there were holes in the side. The rim was worn out. 'I'd better have a new wheel then' says John. 'I'll check the back wheel as well' says Ching and found the same problem. 'O.K.' says John, 'Swap everything onto a new pair of wheels'. As Ching pulled back the gear mechanism to take out the back wheel the gear fell apart. 'I'd better have a new one' said John. 'with new wires and cables'. It was done. Ching then took the old rear wheel to remove the block of cogs that promptly fell to pieces when he tried to unscrew them. 'If you have a new block you will need a new chain as well' said Ching ' otherwise they will not mesh properly and while we are about it the tyres on those old wheels are down to the canvas'. 'Why don't you finish the job off and give me

new rim tapes and inner tubes?’ says John. So Ching did. John took it like a man. ‘If I hadn’t been standing here watching I would have said you had done it purpose and were thieving b\*\*\*\*\*s. It should be mentioned that John rode to Park Lane and back from Croydon everyday whatever the weather and was not noted for his mechanic prowess.

Robin Buchan dropped his distance by riding a couple of 25’s and beat many established short distance men when he came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the ECCA Championship ‘25’ with a 57.43. Pete Hamilton finished with a 58.29 but Doug Vacher had mechanical trouble and had to retire – so no Team prize. In the SCCU ‘25’ Robin came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 58.31. Also riding were Charlie Nichols with 1.5.39 and Dennis Young with a 1.7.29.

Another two wins finished off Robin Buchan’s season. He won the Redhill Hilly ‘50’ in 2.12.19 and took the special prize for the fastest ascent of Coldharbour Hill. Then he won the Comet ‘25’. In this he had some fortune in that the early starters had thick fog to contend with. The start was halted for about 25 minutes after 40 riders had been despatched but by the time Robin was due to start, being last man off, the fog had all but cleared and the sun was shining brightly and warmly. His time was 58.21.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October we held the Mayne Cup ‘25’ and in spite of clocking a 58.26 Peter Hamilton just missed being Man of the Day by 3 seconds. John Overton had 11 minutes and his 1.9.23 was just enough to win the ‘Pot’. Dennis Young also just missed winning the Mayne Cup for with an 8 minute deduction from his personal best of 1.6.40 he was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place 17 second behind. Second fastest on scratch was, again, Terry Slattery in 1.3.32 and John Jennings was 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1.5.19. At the back of the field there was a bit of hilarity. John Cleeve had a ride to finish in 1.10.15. Stan Lambeth, inspired by his son, ventured forth. He won this event in 1949 and using the same frame and same legs but with considerably fewer miles in them (the legs that is) passed the Timekeeper in 1.16.00. Norman Tyrie and Tony Kerss had a wager to be paid in sundry gallons of beer to the fastest on the day. Tony getting the verdict by 1.12.45 to Norman’s 1.13.43. It’s all good fun for the kiddies!

Pete Hamilton was showing a fair bit of form and not wanting to cash in on it continued to compete. He rode the ECCA ‘25’ in 57.53 with Pete Corry 1.1.03. He then went west to the Maidenhead ‘25’ and slowed by 1 second to 57.54. Terry Slattery came in with a 1.0.43 and Pete Corry a 1.2.28. The Hillingdon ‘25’ was next and in this Pete finished in 58.45 whilst Terry Slattery took 1.2.18 and Pete Corry 1.4.50.

Andy Murray won the Hill Climb in a very respectable 4.06.6 well clear of Graham Bristow, 4.37.4 and Keith Mitchell 4.49.8. The following week-end he climb Yorks Hill in the Catford event in 2.30.3 and in the afternoon Titsey Lane in the Bec event in 2.33.3

The year ended with two further departures by old members. Bert Chapman came to us in 1937 with his friend and tandem partner Cyril Melhuish. Neither wanted to join the others Club. At the time Bert was in the Corrance and ‘Mel’

the Balham. During the War Berft was in the RASC and ended the conflict as a Captain. After the War he continued to race and came onto the Committee. In 1953 he became Treasurer and with ruthless efficiency handed over to his successor at the end of the year a perfect set of books and with every member paid up! He was a perfectionist in all that he did. His machine and he were immaculately turned out and his pedalling style was a lesson in smoothness. His results can be read in these pages but his name remains with the Club with the 4000m Individual Pursuit 'Bert Chapman Cup'.

The other departure was one of the originals. Bill Kite joined the Club very early on although he was not a founder member. He was one of those responsible for the reforming of the Club in 1921 and he served on the Committee in various capacities and as a Vice President. Although never one of the 'heads' he took part in all club activities and details of his performances can be read earlier in this history. He was another of those that we relied upon and are indebted to in the Second World War for keeping the Club alive.

Len's '10' rounded off the season with Keith Mitchell producing the best time from the Paragon with 25.44. Ken Cattermole did a 26 something, Stan Lambeth a 28 something, Paul Lambeth a 29.27 and Keith Butler turned in a 25.27 for a non-competitive ride.

Keith Ongley took over the Captaincy of the Polo teams and in the January Blah informed us that two teams had been entered for the Croydon Winter League. This League is held on a scratch and a handicap basis with every player being allotted a handicap of goals. The A Team were Keith Ongley (1 goal) Mick Nash (2), Peter Durbin (2), Alan Roberts (4), Derek Bowman (4) and Malcolm Harding (6). The B Team were Harry Corby (Captain and 3 goals), Pete Standen (4), Tom Corby (5), Graham Forster (5), Frank Corby (6) and Ian Forrest (6). Therefore in the first match where the A Team had to play Aces C the referee informed Keith Ongley that the Aces had 32 goals on handicap to our 14. This meant that the A Team had to score 1 goal every 4 minutes without replay to win! Give our lads their due but they tried. Final score was a win 16 – 0 (for the Scratch League) but a loss 16 – 19 for the Handicap League. Scorers were Derek Bowman 2, Malcolm Harding 2, Pete Durbin 6 and Keith Ongley 6. Roles were reversed when the B Team met the Aces C team. Our lads had 23 goals handicap to the Aces 10, which meant that Aces had to get 13 goals without reply to win. Unfortunately for the Aces Tom Corby (1), Pete Standen (2) and Harry Corby (2) collected 5 goals between them whilst the Aces only amassed 15. Thus a win on handicap by 28 – 25 even though a loss on scratch 15 – 5.

A third game against the Aces A team started with the Aces in firm control and they racked up 7 goals in the first 30 minutes without a reply from our lads. Then the tide began to turn and our lads scored 4 goals to close the gap. Then, catastrophe, Mick Nash broke his saddle pin leaving a 2" projection of sharp metal pointing to the sky. Various comments were made on how he could continue but few were of any practical value. As there were no spare bikes available the Refereed had to abandon the game as three players does not constitute a team. (Goal scorers Keith Ongley (2), Mick Nash (2)).

Some people never give up and it was reported that three men rode a Christmas '25' The festive lads were Pete Hamilton (1.5.54), Ian Murray (1.9.48) and Pete Corry (1.9.19) and they won the team race on the Bidlake system (i.e. fastest third man). This shows that does pay off – sometimes!

The Result of the Frank Cleeve Prize was a win for Pete Hamilton with 18 points from Ian Murray and Pete Corry both with 13 points. Robin Buchan and Charlie Nichols both had 12 points.

The best news was that Robin Buchan had come 3<sup>rd</sup> in the BBAR with those rides of 1.48.44 for 50 miles, 4.6.51 for 100 miles and 267.1 miles for the 12 hours. With those rides plus a 25 miles time of 55.07 he also won the C.T.C. BAR

#### CLUB CHAMPIONS 1971

Open Road – 1<sup>st</sup> Robin Buchan 25.342 mph  
2<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Nichols 21.329 mph

Club Road – 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Murray 23.367 mph  
2<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Nichols 22.215 mph

Road Racing – 1<sup>st</sup> Robin Buchan 6 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Terry Slattery 2 points

Track 1<sup>st</sup> Peter Hamilton 8 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Terry Slattery 5 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> Graham Bristow 4 points

Junior Time Trial – 1<sup>st</sup> Brian Maxlow 22.880 mph  
2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Mitchell 22.185 mph  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ray Carthy 22.070 mph

Junior Road racing – 1<sup>st</sup> Brian Maxlow