

1973

The racing season started as usual with the Croydon and District Hardriders. Our best rider this year was Andy Murray with a 1.15.01 that just beat Keith Mitchells's 1.15.02. The third man was Ian Murray in 1.16.26. This still put us some 5 minutes behind the 34th Nomads for the Team award. Other rides were by Keith Parkinson, 1.23.02, John Overton, 1.23.13 and Ray Puttick 1.26.14.

Paul Lambeth started his season with two crashes in the same place on consecutive days. Whilst out training over the Hardriders course he missed the hairpin corner by Woldingham Station and ended up in a heap in the station yard. Then to make matters worse he did exactly the same thing, but at faster speed, whilst competing in the actual race. He made amends the following Saturday with a personal best in the South Eastern CA '10' of 27.49.

Two weeks later on the 4th March was the East Surrey Hardriders some 33 miles around Dorking, Warnham and Rusper Hill before returning to Reigate Heath. Ray Runham started his year in fine form coming in with a 1.21.53 only those seconds behind the eventual winner, Sheehy (Hainault). Robin Buchan completed the course in 1.25.05, Peter Corry improved 3' on his 1972 performance with a 1.29.22, Keith Mitchell finished in 1.30.57 and Graham Bristow also improved on his 1972 time by 24" with a 1.33.25. We missed the Team award by 1.06 to the Hainault. We also had two juniors in that section of the event. They finished with times of 36.07 for Keith Parkinson and 36.35 for Ray Puttick against the winner's 32.07. He was Mick Perry (Addiscombe).

The following weekend two intrepid lads went down to deepest Sussex for the Central Sussex Hilly 25. They duly paid dearly for their folly with times of 1.9.55 for Pete Corry and 1.12.51 for Graham Bristow. The winner was Doug Sheehy (Hainault) in 1.2.52. The first Club event was held the same day. This was the 10 miles time trial and conditions could have been slightly worse. Thick fog delayed the start by 45 minutes but it was still extremely cold. Keith Mitchell who was well clear of the six finishers with his 27.51 won the race. Paul Lambeth was 2nd in 30.11 and John Overton 3rd in 30.20.

Sunday 18th March was Kentish Whs '25' day and Rowan Vacher was up with the leaders. His 1.1.59 did not win but he was only 58 seconds behind the winner Steve Smith (West Kent). Backing Rowan were Ian Murray 1.5.14, Andy Murray 1.5.35, John Jennings 1.8.38 and a personal best ride of 1.11.14 from Paul Lambeth. Note – there has been both a Jon(athan) and John Jennings in the Paragon. In conversation, the one mentioned here is usually referred to, in polite company, as the 'Old' John Jennings.

The Cattford Hilly followed and in this the Paragon were successful. Ray Runham led the team with a 1.26.21 for the 50 kms, Robin Buchan produced a 1.28.37 and Ian Murray a 1.32.37 for a pleasant Team race win. The Jim Fox '25' was also held this day. Rowan Vacher showed some form with a clear win in 1.1.15. In 2nd place with 1.2.51 was Pete Ansell and in 3rd place

was Graham Bristow in 1.4.07. John Overton took the handicap from Paul Lambeth and Rowan Vacher 3rd.

April Fools Day saw two teams riding the Brighton Mitre 2-up. Robin Buchan teamed up with Ray Runham and they went round the course in 1.0.17 for 3rd place. Andy and Ian Murray also partook of this dish and returned a 1.4.29. We had six riders in the De Laune '25' on the same day. The best of these was Doug Vacher, 1.8.25, just beating Graham Bristow, 1.8.27. The other riders were John Overton 1.11.02, Paul Lambeth 1.11.37 and Robert Giles 1.15.35. No prizes were collected. Pete Corry was 5th in the Becontree Whs 3rd category road race and the points collected for this place raised him to 2nd category status. Pete Ansell, already a 2nd category rider, rode the senior event and he too finished in 5th place. Keith Mitchell and Dave Worsfold went the other way to Frant for the 34th Nomads road race for 3rd category riders and finished 7th and 10th respectively. Chris Swain did a 1.6 something in the Harlow '25'.

The Morden CRC held their Hilly Time Trial over the Ashdown Forest, as was their wont. They did like hard and testing courses. Rowan Vacher produced a 58.40 for the 22 plus miles just 24" behind the winner Doug Sheehy. Andy Murray came in with 1.1.21, Ian Murray with 1.2.27 and Dave Worsfold 1.2.41 for the Paragon to collect the Team Prize. A number of the Club's riders rode the Croydon Advertiser Meeting at Crystal Palace but with little success. Keith Mitchell was the best man with a 4th place in the 3rd category event only to be brought down after the Finish fortunately without serious injury to man or machine.

The following day saw four teams down for the South Eastern 2up time trial but only two teams managed to get to the Start. Ray Runham and Robin Buchan were on good form and they collected 2nd prize with a 1.21.48 to the winner's 1.20.52. Peter Ansell and Peter Corry finished in 1.26.09. In other parts of the south of England on this cold and blustery morning Graham Bristow was leading a team in the Delta Longmarkers '25'. He was our fastest rider in 1.6.46. Charlie Nichols finished in 1.9.59 and Derek Young 1.11.23.

Around this date the Dave London '30' was held and it proved to be another Vacher benefit race. Rowan took fastest time with a 1.14.18 that was so much better than any other rider he took 1st handicap as well. Keith Mitchell came 2nd in 1.22.03 and Charlie Nichols 3rd in 1.22.38. Dan Hadfield returned to serious competition with a 1.25.57 for 4th place. Dave Worsfold took to the Chilterns for the Tiedman road race for 3rd category riders and finished in 10th place.

Paul Lambeth put in another personal best in the Elite '10' on the 15th April with a 27.08. However Ray Runham and Robin Buchan showed him how far he had to go when they won the 34th Nomads 2up time trial with an event record time of 1.20.14 for the 34 miles plus a special prize for the fastest team over the first 5 miles of the race. The two Murrays plus the 'old' John Jennings went down to Theale to ride the Bath Road Hilly '50'. Andy Murray was the fastest of our three heroes with 2.15.50 with Ian coming in with

2.16.28. John 'died' somewhere on the course and failed to worry the Timekeeper.

Good Friday this year fell on the 20th April and we had eight riders down for the Crawley Wheelers '25'. Success did come our way with Ray Runham coming 3rd in 1.0.41. He was backed by Rowan Vacher, 1.1.45, and Ian Murray, 1.2.00, so the Paragon won the Team race in spite of Ian losing 12 seconds at the Start. The others had their successes Ray Puttick achieved a personal best with 1.10.26 and so did Keith Parkinson with 1.15.32. Charlie Nichols finished in 1.8.18, John Overton 1.9.21, and Paul Lambeth 1.12.11.

The Paragon had a team in the Bill Cox 2 day road race. The first stage was a 9 miles time trial held in pouring rain. Ray Runham came 2nd in 23.37 some 12 seconds slower than the winner John Clarey (Woolwich). Pete Ansell finished 7th in 24.13. The afternoon race had the same unrelenting rain to contend with and it proved the undoing of Pete Ansell who crashed. Ray Runham stayed upright to hold his position on General Classification. On the Final stage Ray came 9th but could not gain time on the leader so remained in 2nd place overall.

Robin Buchan and Ray Runham entered the Southend & County Tandem '30' with thoughts of breaking their Club Record of 1.0.48 that, in 1969, exactly equalled Competition Record. However the weatherman decided otherwise. Heavy rain meant taking things very cautiously on the many roundabouts so they were somewhat adrift of their record. Their 1.3.09 was good enough though for 2nd place. Graham Bristow and Pete Corry went round in 1.8.30 to enable the Paragon to take the Team race.

On Saturday the 28th April the Addiscombe held their 10 miles time trial and once again in trying to lift prizes from the Addiscombe ensured that 5 of our six riders produced personal best times. They were Graham Bristow, 24.07, Paul Lambeth 25.40, John Overton 25.44, Ray Puttick 26.02 and Gerald Hales 28.16. The only 'failure' was John McNee with his 26.22. We regret to add that the Addiscombe won the Team award. Elsewhere the two Murrays plus Charlie Nichols were riding the Crest '25'. Ian returned a 1.0.59 for 4th place, Andy a 1.3.25 and Charlie 1.8.12.

The Southend and County Wheelers held their Tandem '30' on the 29th April and Ray Runham and Robin Buchan were again in fine form with a ride of 1.3.09 to win the event. Graham Bristow and Peter Corry finished in 1.8.30 and the Paragon won the Team race. Nearer home in the Bec '25' Charlie Nichols covered the distance in 1.9.49 and John Overton in 1.11.29. Rowan Vacher led the team in the Cambrian '25' with a 1.1.37 followed by Pete Ansell, 1.3.25, and Doug Vacher 1.7.54 but they were 2' too slow for the Team award. We also had five riders in the VTTA '25' but only Dan Hadfield managed to start and he was not at his best as a 1.13.54 shows but neither were the conditions up to much.

The Paragon Evening Promotion at Crystal Palace had quite an International flavour with Australian Warsaw-Berlin-Prague team and some Dutch riders over for the Brian Robinson Meeting. These two teams dominated the racing with Don Wilson taking first prize after the actual first man over the line was disqualified for throwing both arms in the air in a victory gesture. This was not allowed at Crystal Palace as the finishes there are usually very close and hotly contested. Pete Hamilton was the best of the locals in 4th place. Fortunately there were no Dutch or Australian schoolboys at hand so the winner was P Malone (Old Kent) from D Naylor (Lewisham) and Glen Mitchell (VC Londres).

Sunday 6th May saw teams in the Tooting Hilly '42' and 34th Nomads '25' but with little success. Robin Buchan and Andy Murray failed to finish the '42' and Rowan Vacher had a late start in the Nomads event. Robin Buchan crashed and sustained head injuries and Andy Murray stopped to give assistance. Robin suffered throughout his career with a mild form of epilepsy, usually well under control, but it is believed he suffered a black-out causing him to crash. It certainly curtailed his season as he was then under doctor's orders. He could ride but not race for some time.

Ian Murray was our best in the Tooting event with 1.51.53 and Dan Hadfield managed 2.0.25. Rowan finished in 1.2.18, Charlie Nichols 1.8.43 and Robert Giles 1.15.10 in the '25'.

Six Paragonians were down for the SECA '25' but we had mixed fortunes. Two failed to start, one failed to finish but Graham Bristow produced a personal best by 1 second of 1.2.22. The other riders were Ian Murray, 1.1.06, and Pete Corry, 1.7.32. Rowan Vacher rode the Becontree Whs '25' and finished in 1.0.35. Pete Ansell did an identical time in the Feltham '25' for 8th place but neither won any prizes. Three men managed to finish the Club '50' on the 13th May and the fastest was Dave Worsfold on 2.15.19. Charlie Nichols finished in 2.23.34 (and collected 1st handicap) and Dan Hadfield 2.25.57. Ray Runham was due to ride the Royal Navy Tandem '30' with Robin Buchan but because of Robin's indisposition this was impossible. In the end he went up to Crystal Palace for the Catford promotion 'King of the Palace'. Ridden over 60 laps of the circuit Ray, as usual, got into the break that by the end had almost lapped the bunch. In the final sprint Ray had to settle for 2nd place behind Ray Palin (Vulcan)

It was the turn of the hard men on the 20th May with the Redmon Hilly '73'. Our best man was Dave Worsfold 4th place in 3.8.24 followed by Ian Murray, 3.16.03, and Dan Hadfield 3.25.14 but their combined times were 4 minutes too slow for the team award. Ian Murray broke a crank near the Finish and lost some time before borrowing a marshal's bike to complete the course. The shorter distance men rode the Surrey St Christopher's (1.0.0 limit) '25'. Graham Bristow was our fastest man in 1.4.03 with Pete Corry and Charlie Nichols both finishing in 1.6.09. Paul Lambeth rode the GHS '10' London South Heat and came 3rd in a personal best of 25.23. Other times on the Polhill course were Rowan Vacher 23.21 and Keith Mitchell 24.21.

We have a date of the 23rd May for the first Junior event of the year. This was over 10 miles and it was a close run affair. John Overton, 26.37, just getting the better of Paul Lambeth, 26.43, with Ray Puttck 3rd in 27.40. Steve Hackett, riding his first race ever, clocked 28.35.

On the 27th May Ray Runham won the Glade '50' on the E1 or '32nd' Course with a fine 1.59.16. On the same day Dan Hadfield rode the Hounslow '100' to finish in 4.45.33. On the Monday Dave Worsfold went down to the south to ride the Rufus '30' and finished in 1.15.05. Rowan Vacher and Paul Lambeth rode the Gravesend '25' and produce a 57.40 for Rowan and a tremendous improvement by Paul to 1.2.52. Charlie Nicholls did 1.4.22 in the CC Bexley '25'.

The next Sunday we had a team in the Archer '50' looking for fast times on the Bath Road. Unfortunately while the wind did blow from the best direction, southwest, it blew too hard so it was a struggle to get to the turn. The way back was extremely rapid but one can only pick up so much lost time. Even so Ray Runham almost produced the goods again having to be content with 2nd place with a 2.0.21 ride. With Pete Ansell finishing in 2.4.06 and Ian Murray 2.5.37 the Paragon collected the Team award. Nearer home Graham Bristow was producing another personal best in the SCCU '50' with a 2.17.37. Dan Hadfield recorded 2.19.16 and Charlie Nichols 2.18.00.

Paul Lambeth took his '10' time down to 25.11 on the Polhill course and came 2nd in the Schoolboys 12 lap race at Crystal Palace. Keith Mitchell rode three '10's in a week with almost identical times. He produced a 23.39 at Hampton Court, a 23.37 on Polhill and a 23.33 the following day. Dave Worsfold came 7th in the East Grinstead road race for 3rd category riders.

At the Champagne Meeting first blood went to Pete Corry who qualified for the Final as fastest loser but beat his conqueror into 2nd place in the Final. Graham Bristow also reached the Final and was placed 3rd. Ray Runham went out to Dave Edlin (Poly) in the 10 minutes pursuit that had a tie for first place between Alf Engers (Luton Whs) and D Holliday (Gordano Valley).

Pete Corry and Graham Bristow are regular riders in the Monday Competition being consistent finalists in the Handicaps. They tripped off to Faversham for the Grass Meeting. Graham qualified for the Final of the 800m scratch. After this it started to rain. The shower over they ran the Final of the Sprint. Lying in 4th place on the final bend Graham kicked hard as they came into the straight and now holds the Paragon distance record for sliding-on-ones-ear! Both our men managed to get into the Final of the 500m handicap. In a rather wet Final Pete was 4th and Graham somewhat back preferring to stay upright.

On the 9th June Pete Ansell produced a personal best '25' of 57.02 for 3rd place in the SECA '25' and that is the best time so far this year. Dan Hadfield finished the Worthing Excelsior '25' in 1.4.53 then on the Sunday it was back to the E1 for the Wren Whs '50'. Ray Runham struck again with a 2.1.57 to win the Race. Unfortunately only Dave Worsfold, 2.5.23, rode with him so no Team prize was possible. Charlie Nichols, 1.5.02, and Paul Lambeth, 1.6.13,

rode the Wigmore '25' and Dan Hadfield the WLCA '50' that he covered in 2.17.12. Keith Parkinson finished 7th in the Feltham Carnival Kedrmesse.

Four lads went down to Farnham for the Festival '25' and collected two personal best times. Keith Mitchell was our fastest rider in 1.6.19 and Paul Lambeth did 1.9.45. Ray Puttick, with 1.8.12, and Keith Parkinson 1.10.53, both did personal best times. Another team went out to the Bath Road for the Vegetarian '50' where Dave Worsfold was our best rider. He did 2.7.07, Charlie Nichols 2.17.38 and Ian Murray 2.22.18. Ian rather slow time was due to the after effects of a crash at the start of the Polhill '10' the previous Thursday. (How you come off at the Start is mind – boggling but these Murrays are capable of anything). Pete Ansell went over to Essex to ride the Spider Trophy Senior road race. He missed the vital break but escaped from the bunch near the end to cross the line in 9th place. Pete Corry finished in the bunch.

Ian Murray, 2.10.52, and Dave Worsfold, 2.17.15, rode the Maidenhead '50'. Eight men were down for the South Eastern RC '25' on the 24th June but only six made it to the Timekeeper. The times recorded were Rowan Vacher 1.4.49 (following a non-cycling holiday in Jamaica), Charlie Nichols 1.5.21 (a 1 second improvement), John McNee 1.5.52, Derek Young 1.7.51, Paul Lambeth 1.8.29 and Ken Cattermole 1.11.18. Dan Hadfield recorded 1.6.27 in the Border CA '25'. Ray Runham, Pete Corry and Pete Ansell rode the Bexley 2-day race this weekend. Ray Runham was 5th on Stage 1 after being dropped from the break and losing 3½ minutes over the last 10 miles to John Clarey (Woolwich). Pete Ansell broke away from the remnants of the bunch to finish 10th at 6'13" whilst Pete Corry suffered on this hot and windy afternoon to finish 27th. In the Sunday morning time trial Ray came 2nd to Clarey with 21.47 for the 9½ miles with Pete Ansell 6th in 22.07 and Pete Corry 26th in 24.08. That loss on Stage 1 was to prove decisive for Ray as while he won Stage 3 he only moved up to 4th on General Classification 2'7" behind Clarey. Ansell came 7th at 6.56 and Corry 18th at 25.49.

Pete Corry won the 500m Handicap at the VC Londres/Gemini Meeting at Herne Hill and Graham Bristow did the same at the Belle Vue Meeting.

Saturday 30th June saw Rowan Vacher complete the SCCU '25' in 1.1.00 with Dan Hadfield a little slower in 1.5.06. Dave Worsfold rode the Sorian '50' in 2.5.52. The next day Ian Murray came 2nd in the Kingston Whs '25' with a 1.0.52. Keith Mitchell was our next best in 1.4.30, Derek Young 1.7.11 and Paul Lambeth 1.8.34. Ray Puttick did a personal best '25' with 1.8.10. In the Old Portlians '25' Robert Giles did a personal best time by over 4 minutes with 1.6.32 and Dan Hadfield finished in 1.7.03.

With a 3rd place in the Kingston Phoenix road race on the Newtons Hill Circuit Ray Runham regained his 1st category status. During this race he also collected the King of the Mountains award.

A very fast bunch of riders entered the CC Bexley event on the 7th July hoping to break the Club Team Record of 2.52.41. Our lads were up there with them

but not quite fast enough. Ray Runham finished in 56.35, Pete Ansell 58.12, Rowan Vacher finishing on a flat front tyre 58.27, Pete Corry 1.0.28 and a personal best of 58.54 from Ian Murray. This was just 33 seconds outside the Record. The next day we had two teams racing. The first were in the Dulwich Paragon (1.1.0 limit) 25 and they were Robert Giles, 1.7.15 (who took 1st on handicap), Ray Puttick, 1.9.13 and Paul Lambeth 1.10.46. The others were in the SCCU '50' where Keith Mitchell came home in 2.16.14 for a personal best ride and Charlie Nichols recorded 2.18.09.

On the Sunday, to celebrate his new 1st category status, Ray Runham rode the Ross Whs road race and, as customary, he was in the leading 8-man break. It was not quite a fairytale ending as he only came 5th in the final Sprint. Pete Ansell came 6th in the Westerly road race at Bradenham and Dave Worsfold was 9th.

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We had a team in the Addiscombe '25' and though Ray Runham got to within 5 seconds of his best ever with a 56.28, Rowan Vacher, 58.12 and Pete Corry, 1.3.25, rode well they were not amongst the prizewinners. The Moon Trophy '25' was also held this day. Although the Club had 13 entries only seven men managed to record times. This was enough, however, for us to claim 2nd in the Team race. Ian Murray was our fastest man in 1.0.42, Dave Clarke, 1.2.38, Keith Mitchell 1.2.47, Charlie Nichols 1.3.18, Vin Callanan 1.4.30 and Keith Parkinson 1.6.50. Ray Puttick also finished in 1.8.40. The records do not show if these were handicap or scratch times. We think they are scratch times.

Wet and gritty road played havoc with the field in the SCCU road race Championship at Ellens Green. Pete Ansell finished 8th in the senior event and Bob Giles 12th in the Junior event whilst all our other stars punctured. Keith Mitchell brought his '10' time down to 23.44 on the Polhill course.

Also around this date was the First Inter-Club '10' against the Addiscombe. This was to replace the Purley to Brighton event that was now impossible due to the number of traffic lights on the course. Our first three counting riders were on song. Rowan Vacher was best with 22.30, Pete Ansell, 22.35, and Ian Murray 22.45 but our next three went just that bit too slowly for us to take the Inter-Club Trophy. Keith Mitchell finished in 24.12, Paul Lambeth, 24.39 (and 1st handicap) and Vin Callanan, 24.44. (This Inter-Club Competition is still running and is responsible for a vast number of personal best times over the years as one Club tries to get the better of 'the old enemy').

On the 21st July Rowan Vacher recorded 57.41 in the SECA '25' only 31 seconds slower than the winner. The next day Keith Mitchell finished the London St Christophers (1.0.0 limit) '25' in 1.4.56 and Ray Puttick in 1.10.52. Ray Runham did 2.1.20 in the Glendene '50' that was an excellent ride considering the strength of the wind against the riders on their way back from the far turn. Ian Murray, 1.4.16, and Dave Clarke, 1.3.45, rode the Southend '25'. Paul Lambeth rode in the National GHS '10' Final and produced yet another personal best time of 24.31. Although unplaced he was beaten by a

young Ian Banbury, 22.21, who was to become a professional rider a few years later.

Keith Mitchell finished the Weybridge Whs '25' in 1.3.50. Rowan Vacher, 59.14, Pete Ansell, 1.1.20, and Paul Lambeth 1.5.30 finished the Sydenham Whs '25'. Robert Giles did 1.8.26 in the De Laune '25'. Pete Ansell came 2nd and Dave Worsfold 3rd in the Marlboro road race at Winchmore Hill. This placing enabled Dave to rise to 2nd Category. Dave also rode the Polhill road race where he was placed 9th.

The Paragon Open '50' was run on the 4th August and found the Hounslow & District Whs in glittering form. Bob Porter won with a 1.53.17 beating his clubmate Jeff Marshall by 53 seconds in 1.54.10. Although their other star, Martyn Roach, punctured their fourth man, Stan Ayton produced a 2.1.46. This gave them the Team race by 9'17". However all was not doom and gloom for the Paragon as a new Club Record was established. Ray Runham finished 4th in 1.57.58 (a personal best), Rowan Vacher 7th in 1.59.34 and Dave Worsfold 2.0.58 to set new figures for the 50 miles Team record of 5.58.30. John Jennings also finished in 2.22.24. Rowan also took 3rd place on handicap.

On the Bank Holiday Monday Paul Lambeth came 3rd in the Essex CRA '10' with a 25.43, and Pete Corry finished in 1.8.48 in the Balham Longmarkers '25'. Paul also came 3rd in an Unknown distance race at Herne Hill (West Kent Meeting) and 3rd in the De Laune promotion at Crystal Palace.

Our August Ashdown Forest road race was selected this year to be the venue for the All London Road Race Championship. The five Divisions entered teams of 8 men each. The Winner turned out to be Graham MacNamee (West London and Twickenham) from Ray Palin (SE London and Vulcan) with Brian Bulmer (SE London and Polhill) some 24 seconds back in 3rd place. Richard Portanier (SE London and De Laune) was 4th. In the earlier Junior/3rd category event Dave Pitman (Lewisham) was first over the line from Mick Lee (Gemini) and Dave Worsfold came 3rd. (Dave was allowed to ride as he had had his entry confirmed to this race before obtaining the points for upgrading). Pete Ansell finished 3rd in the Wigmore road race at Cliffe.

Another excellent days' racing was had on the 18th August in the VC Braintree '30'. Rowan Vacher finished in 1.7.16 to regain his '30' record that he lost to Robin Buchan in 1971, break the existing Club Record by 1'10". Then Ray Runham came in with a personal best of 1.8.04 and so did Pete Ansell with 1.10.15. This added up to 3.25.35 that gave the Paragon the Team Award and a new Club Team Record. The old record stood at 3.35.18 so that was quite a chunk taken off. Paul Lambeth is still getting in the places with another 3rd in a Devil at Herne Hill, winning an Unknown Distance race, 5th in the Schoolboys event at Crystal Palace on the Tuesday evening and then coming 6th in the De Laune Meeting on the Sunday at the same venue. Chris Swain was our only finisher in the Kingston Phoenix '25' with 1.7.40.

Pete Corry and Graham Bristow went off to Leicester for the Sprint and Tandem Sprint Championships. A curse note from Graham in the Blah mentioned that next time they will take a Manager along to sort out the Officials as there appears to be more to racing than riding a bike. In the Tandem sprint they went out to Crutchlow and Wright by half a wheel with a last 200m time of 11.2. They have it there – it is just a question of getting out at the right time and place.

Rowan was still in good form at the Paragon Open '25' with a 59.30 that placed him 2nd behind Alaric Gayfer (Archer) who was 2nd in the Junior Championship. Doug Vacher finished in 1.3.22, Charlie Nichols in 1.5.21 and Vin Callanan in 1.6.16. Paul Lambeth rode the Colchester Rovers '25' in 1.3.34. Ray Runham an unknown 2-day stage race. He won the Prologue and finished in the bunch in the evening Criterium to hold 2nd place on General Classification going into Sunday's stage of 92 miles. With only 10 miles to go he 'blew' completely and retired! Pete Ansell finished 5th in the East Grinstead Carnival road race and so had sufficient points to be upgraded to 1st category. Dave Worsfold, combining racing with touring, entered the Gordano Valley road race and was pleased with his 7th place.

The Club Track Championships were held on the 21st August. Ray Runham set things going by taking the 4000m pursuit in 5.39.5 from Pete Corry, 5.42.2, and Graham Bristow 5.54.9. Junior Keith Parkinson held off Pete Corry down the home straight to win the new Frank Burton Cup with a 'blast-from-the-past' Gerry Edmunds getting in the frame with 3rd place. Graham Bristow took the 500 sprint from Ray Runham and Pete Corry. Paul Lambeth had a go to win the 5-mile Points but the power of messrs Runham and Bristow was too strong for him. Eventually Paul was placed 3rd behind Ray Runham and 2nd placed Graham Bristow. The Scratch race went to the wire with Ray Runham beating both Pete Corry and Graham Bristow in the sprint. This left Ray Runham as undisputed winner of the Club Championship but left Graham Bristow and Pete Corry to fight it out for 2nd place. They decided to go for a flying quarter mile instead of the more tradition 1000m time trial. Pete Corry duly won this so he took the silver medal for 2nd place.

On the 1st September we lost one of our keenest members in an accident at Albourne on the Brighton Road. Aubrey Hill was run down from behind by a motor cycle whilst standing at the road side. The front mudguard or number plate dug into Aubrey's thigh and severed his femoral artery. He was never a great racing man but enjoyed all aspects of Club life. He was responsible for getting the Council to replace the 14th milestone to its rightful place by the railway bridge by Coulsdon South Station where many RRA Record attempts started and finished. He also delivered the Paragon Pie Tickets (the annual draw once held by the Club) to Club members scattered over a wide area when it was illegal to send these tickets through the post. The 'Aubrey Hill Shield' presented annually to our Juvenile Champion commemorates him.

On that day the two Vachers went west for the North Hants '25' where Rowan came 4th with a 57.45 and Doug 1.3.18. Paul Lambeth in the SECA '10' with a 24.30 ride achieved another personal best. John Overton won the second

Junior 10 miles event in 26.05 with Ray Puttck 2nd in 27.43 and Adrian Wise 3rd in 28.13. Paul Lambeth also went over to Essex for the Colchester Rovers '25' and did his second best time ever with a 1.3.34.

The Polo Secretary reported that the Paragon had two Teams in the National League but did not quite pull it off the A Team (Harry, Frank and Jimmy Corby plus Ian Forrest, Terry Hyam, Pete Standen and Keith Ongley) came 2nd and the B Team (Brian Oakley, Brian Bookes, Derek Bowman, Mick Nash, Pete Durbin and Alan Roberts) came 3rd.

The Tuesday Evening Croydon Summer League the Results were mixed in that in the Scratch League the Paragon only managed 3rd place but they won the Handicap League winning every game. Also in the news was that Keith Ongley played for England against Scotland in the Finals of the International Tournament that the English Team won 3 – 1.

Ray Runham and Rowan Vacher teamed up for the Viking Tandem '50' and what a good job they made of it. This was first place, a new event record and Club Record with a time of 1.44.12 – just 23 seconds short of Competition Record. This ride took 2'48" off the old Record). In the solo competition Dave Worsfold finished in 2.2.54 and Charlie Nichols 2.10.12. The first Junior '15' was held on this day and once again John Overton proved the best man. He finished in 39.42 with Paul Lambeth 2nd in 40.35 and Keith Parkinson 3rd in 41.19.

On the 22nd September Steven Barr and John Overton finished the Central Sussex 2up in 1.9.22 and Rowan Vacher did 22.18 in the West Kent '10'. Jack Platts revisited his native Barnet and rode the North Middlesex and Herts '25' in 1.6.22. John Overton maintained his hold over the Junior Championship by taking his 4th Junior event win with a 40.32 in the final 15 miles time trial. In this race Stephen Barr took 2nd place with 41.39, and 3rd was Steve Hackett, 45.50.

Paul Lambeth was awarded the RTTC Gold badge for his riding. He had to complete 2 rides under 26 minutes for a '10' and under 1.4.00 for a '25'. With times of 24.30, 24.31 and 1.2.52 he qualified comfortably and is the first Paragon rider to do so.

Conditions were quite tough for the Mayne Cup that was held on the 30th September with 15 names on the Card. Fastest of the 12 finishers was Pete Ansell with 1.4.54 with Graham Bristow 2nd in 1.6.51 and John Overton 3rd in 1.7.06. Man of the day was a blast from the past with ex-track sprinter Gerry Edmunds coming out of the woodwork to win the Mayne Cup – his first race on the road for 20 years! He just beat Mayne Cup 'specialist' John Overton by 19 seconds. John has had two wins and two second placings in four years! In 3rd place was new man Steven Barr in 1.0.40.

Into October and still the personal best keep coming. The Cambrian Whs '25' saw yet another improvement by Paul Lambeth to 1.2.23 and John Overton to 1.2.36 (a 4½ improvement). Jack Platts finished in 1.3.54, his best time for

over 10 years and they missed the Team race by a minute. Junior Keith Parkinson took the Hill Climb with a 4.10.8 ride ahead of Pete Corry, 4.36.6 and Ray Puttick 4.44.2.

The West Kent '25' was shortened to a '10' when an overturned lorry blocked the road. Rowan Vacher was riding and put up his fastest 10 of the year with a 22.18. In Len's '10' Andy Murray came 2nd with a 24.37 with Paul Lambeth making 3rd place in 25.08. Next came Ian Murray with 25.13, Pete Corry 25.41, Keith Parkinson 25.49, Ray Puttick 26.03, Steve Barr 26.45 and Steve Hackett 27.16. Also timed in was Adrian Wise 42.39 who missed the vital turn into the finishing lane!

Dan Hadfield wasn't finished with the season as he rode the Dulwich Paragon 'Christmas' '25' on the 16th December and did 1.10.19 for his pains!

The Frank Cleeve Team Points prize went to Ian Murray with 14 points with a tie for 2nd place between Rowan Vacher and Charlie Nichols with 12 each. 5th was Paul Lambeth with 11 points.

John Overton took the Junior Time Trial Championship with an average speed of 23.019 mph, 2nd Paul Lambeth 22.889, 3rd Keith Parkinson 22.737 and 4th Ray Puttick 22.376.

Ray Runham won the Club Road Race Championship.

The Club's Cyclo-cross promotion on Shirley Hills was blessed with a bright and frosty morning. The Schoolboys had their race over 20 minutes plus a lap won by Mike Gill (Addiscombe) from Mark Taylor (Redhill). Graham Read (34th Nomads) came 3rd but Paul Lambeth had to retire with a stomach upset.

Keith Mernickle (Chris Barber-Geoffrey Butler) won the senior event very comfortably from Keith Hanson (Festival) and Ian Jewell (GS Barossa). Jewell crashed early on grazing his nose and forehead but fought back to 3rd place by the Finish. This was a fine promotion by Andy Murray.