

1974

On the 17th February five lads ventured forth into the highways and byways of Surrey for the Croydon and District Hardriders '25'. The surprise of the day was that Dan Hadfield led the way with 12th place in a time of 1.14.19 just ahead of Keith Parkinson who also took the prize for the fastest Junior. Dave Worsfold completed the course in 1.17.55, Ray Puttick 1.18.52 and Ian Murray 1.19.58. Ray had the worst ride of the morning having to start at number 1 he was not caught and saw no one but the marshals for nearly 80 minutes but still improved 7 minutes on his 1973 ride.

A week later and two youngsters went down to the Tonbridge by-pass for the SECA '10'. Paul Lambeth was the fastest of the pair with 25.24 but Steve Hackett's personal best of 25.55 earned him the Fastest Schoolboy prize.

The Croydon Winter League was a little smaller this year with an increase in pitch fees and fewer players wanting to play regular Polo. Nevertheless the Paragon produced the goods winning the Handicap League without dropping a game and with one game in hand are level with Crystal Palace at the top of the Scratch League. Watch this space!

The East Surrey Hardriders event was on the 3rd March and we had three riders in the Senior Event and another three in the Junior race. Our best in the Senior event was Pete Corry with 1.34.06. Ian Murray finished in 1.37.33 and Dan Hadfield 1.38.15. These times were some 5 minutes slower than 1973 as a set of temporary traffic lights meant a detour and an extra 2 miles to cover. The Juniors were closely packed with Keith Parkinson being the best of them with 34.31, Paul Lambeth did 35.00 and Ray Puttick 35.21. Alan Richardson who is still learning the ropes finished in 38.30.

Still on the hardrider events another four lads tried the Central Sussex Hilly '25' on the 9th March. It was a day of cold sleet and drizzle; not ideal racing weather. Our lads should be congratulated on both starting and finishing on such a day. Dave Worsfold was our fastest with 1.10.28, Pete Corry 1.11.53, Ian Murray 1.12.27 and Dan Hadfield 1.15.17. No prizes were collected. The next day for the Twickenham 2up '25' conditions had worsened with snow falling overnight leaving large puddles of freezing water lying around for the passing motorists to throw at the cyclists. Ninety-nine of the pairs decided not to start enabling our pair, Pete Corry and Ian Murray, to come 3rd of the fifteen finishers with a 1.2.17. It should be pointed out that conditions in Surrey were so bad that the Club '10' was postponed.

On the 17th March only Dan Hadfield was racing and he completed the Hampshire RC Hardriders in 1.11.58.

Ray Runham found that 'honesty pays' at the end of the Folkestone to Bromley race when he crossed the line in about 20th place only to be placed 2nd. It happened thus – between Ashford and Maidstone Ray broke away with John Sargeant (Vulcan) and held a slender lead all the way to Badgers Mount. Then a set of lights turned red. They stopped and waited and still had

some 30 seconds in hand when the lights turned green. The bunch happened upon these lights as they went from green to red but the riders swept straight through. Whilst agreeing with each other that the lights were on 'orange' it was not the opinion of the accompanying Commissaires (Referees). In the charge for the line into Orpington Ray and John were caught with John just staying near the front for 6th place. However the Commissaires awarded the race to John Sargeant with Ray in 2nd place. Not a satisfactory end to a race but a fair decision.

The following weekend saw our club riders in three time trials. Four rode the Kentish Whs '25'. Graham Bristow was the best of them with 1.7.32 followed by Ray Puttick, with a personal best by 8 seconds of 1.7.57, then Dan Hadfield 1.8.18 and John McNee 1.10.57. Robin Buchan went down into Hampshire for his first race since last May. He took things as steady as far as Robin takes things in the Sotonia Hilly 26½ and got round in 1.11.23 but some 5 minutes slower than the winner. Ian Murray and Rowan Vacher took on the Catford Hilly 50kms and Rowan came 2nd with 1.15.26. Ian took 1.22.19. Dave Worsfold finished 5th in the Commencement road race at Hoo to add more 2 points towards his 1st category licence. Ray Runham collected another 2nd place in the Twickenham road race over 80 miles at Fifield. In a very fast race with 30 miles covered in the first hour, and the whole race dried and dusted in less than three, Ray was in every break. He eventually got clear with three others to sprint out the Finish. In the 3rd category event Keith Parkinson and Paul Lambeth finished in the middle of the mass sprint for the line.

The Jim Fox '25' had only 5 starters and a very cold morning. Of the five riders Rowan Vacher was far and away the best. He was timed in with a 1.1.41. Dan Hadfield was 2nd in 1.6.57 and John McNee 3rd in 1.7.54.

Saturday 6th April saw our first Team race of the season when five members took part in the Morden Hilly event over the Ashdown Forest. Robin Buchan was our best in 59.41 with Dave Worsfold on 1.1.22, Ian Murray, 1.4.15, Dan Hadfield 1.5.11 and John McNee 1.7.18. The first three gentlemen won the Team race. Rowan Vacher and Graham Bristow preferred a shorter, flatter, race and they opted for the Southborough and District '10'. Rowan finished in 24.11 and Graham 26.24.

On Sunday these two rode the Delta RC '25' and this time Rowan was 3rd with a 1.1.40. Graham finished in 1.8.57. Robin Buchan finished the South Bucks Hilly '25' in 1.9.28 but was some 4' slower than the winner.

Ray Runham had probably the finest win of his career when he took the Croydon Advertiser road race at the Crystal Palace. He broke away with 25 laps to go and held on to win by 1'25 from Dave Pitman (Lewisham). In the Surrey Road event for 3rd category and junior riders at Ottershaw Paul Lambeth came 3rd, Keith Parkinson 8th, Ray Puttick 19th after 36 miles

Good Friday fell on the 12th April and we had four starters in the Crawley Whs '25'. While not achieving the main headlines there was some successes. Ian

Murray was our best man in 1.2.49. Ray Puttick came in with a personal best time by nearly 4 minutes of 1.4.04 and Keith Parkinson followed suit with another of 1.6.15. John McNee completed the course in 1.7.43.

Easter Sunday is the time of the Charlotteville '50' and it was Rowan Vacher's time to have a go at it. He finished in 2.5.02 for 10th place on not a good morning. On the Monday Steve Hackett recorded 27.32 in the Gemini BC '10' and Ray Puttick and Graham Bristow finished the Bec '25'. Ray finished with a 1.5.29 and Graham with 1.5.16.

After his win in the Advertiser road race Ray Runham had high hopes of another win in the Bill Cox 2-day race. He won the opening stage by 2 minutes and came 2nd in the Monday morning time trial. However in the afternoon stage around Frant he spent too much effort chasing down attacks and missed the vital break. Of course no one would help (tactics you know!) so he lost some 3 minutes that relegated Ray to 5th overall. Pete Corry also rode getting 12th on Stage 1 and 10th on Stage 3 to finish in 12th place.

On the following Saturday in the Addiscombe '10' Rowan Vacher was just 43" behind the winner with his 22.43. A win for Peter Corry in the Glendene Middlemarkers '25' was the good news for the 21st April. His winning time was 1.1.47. Rowan Vacher was 2nd in the SCCU '25' with a 59.53. This time he was 38 seconds too slow! Ian Murray was our other rider with 1.2.31. Dan Hadfield went out Theale way to ride the Bath Road Hilly '50' and took 2.20.35 to cover the distance – an almost identical time to the one he did 9 years ago on his last attempt at this event. Andy Murray started his season with a 1.4.00 in the De Laune '25' being fastest of the Paragon contingent. Ray Puttick went back to a 1.7.04, Steve Hackett did 1.8.50, a 2-minute improvement, Jack Platts clocked 1.13.01 and Gordon Davies toured round in 1.22.44. Ray Runham and Robin Buchan went north of the River to Princes Risborough for the Lester Young road race. This race was over 8 laps of 10 miles and to add some flavour had a mile long climb with stretches of 1 in 6 in it. Strange to relate the field broke into small pieces. Ray kept close to the action crossing the line in 5th place. Robin was detached towards the back end of the race so continued to ride round for training but still finished in 7th place albeit some 12 minutes behind the winner.

The Dave London '30' on the 28th April was a close run event. Andy Murray, 1.21.03, beat brother Ian, 1.21.40, and Dan Hadfield, 1.22.06. Dan actually collected the 'Pot' with best on Handicap. Pete Corry looked good for fastest time but went off course at one of the many roundabouts. Ray Runham went west of Guildford for the Festival 'Camel Filters' road race over 90 miles of the Cutmill circuit. As per usual Ray broke away early on. This time he went with Bob Porter (Hounslow). They stayed away for nearly 70 miles before being caught by a chasing group consisting of Jeff Marshall and Martyn Roach (Hounslow) and John Sargeant (Vulcan). Roach went on to win with Ray finishing 4th behind Marshall and Sargeant. Dave Worsfold also finished but no placing has been recorded. He was at one time part of the chasing group.

Two teams went down South for the Brighton Excelsior 2up. Pete Corry and Ian Murray finished in 1.1.51 and Graham Bristow and Terry Slattery took 1.4.32. Pete Ansell did 1.2.11 in the 34th Nomads '25' but Rowan Vacher was even faster with a 59.29. Dan Handfield rode the Tooting Hilly '42' and his 1.51.47 enabled him to collect First Handicap Award. Rowan Vacher came 4th in the 34th Nomads '25' with a 59.29 with Pete Ansell also finishing but in 1.2.11.

Those riding the SW London and Surrey road race Championships did not have a good day. The Senior and Junior events were being held on the rather difficult Woldingham Circuit with its 1½-mile of climb every lap. Ray Runham took off with Ted Boorman (Croydon RC) but had nothing left when caught by the remnants of the bunch. Both Robin Buchan and Dave Worsfold had also given the course best by then. In the Junior Championship Keith Parkinson came 5th and Paul Lambeth 7th.

The 11th May was a good day for the Paragon. Ray Runham won the SECA '25' with a 58.03. Rowan Vacher followed him with a 59.32 but with only Graham Bristow of our other four riders managing to record a time his 1.6.06 was not quick enough for the Team race. Dan Hadfield was the only finisher in the Club '50'. His 2.14.21, therefore, took first prize but more significantly it was an 11-minute improvement on his ride in 1973. Graham Bristow collected a 3rd place in the Track League Promotion at Herne Hill.

Ray Runham qualified for the Quarter Finals of the London Region 4000m Individual Pursuit with a 4.36.2 ride. He then teamed up with Rowan Vacher, Pete Corry and Pete Ansell to ride the 4000m Team Pursuit Qualifying round. Their time of 5.11.7 was good enough to put them through. Not content with that Ray then had to ride his Quarter-final Individual. He did that well and won. He had then to face Tony James (De Laune) in the Semi final.

Bob Giles, Ray Puttick and Paul Lambeth finished in the bunch at Ellens Green. This was the pre-cursor to the Fred Cowley Senior road race in which we had messrs Buchan, Runham and Ansell entered. Constructor's lights on the course did not make conditions conducive to fast racing and with one lap to go Robin Buchan said 'enough is enough' and pulled into the changing rooms. Runham and Ansell continued to the finish but we do not have their placings on record. In the Bath Road Club 2nd and 3rd category road race at Seder Green Dave Worsfold came 4th, Pete Corry 8th and Ian Murray 12th.

The Club's Evening Meeting at Crystal Palace was on the 14th May. The Senior event was won by Alan Upcraft (Colchester) with John Nicholson (Australia) in 2nd place. Barry O'Leary (Clayhall) came 3rd. G Read (Old Kent) won the Schoolboy race from M Tonks (34th Nomads) and S Pearce (Old Kent).

Graham Bristow came 5th in the Upton Manor road race at Ugley and was very pleased with the tubular he won for that placing.

Another good day on the 19th May as Robin Buchan showed a return to real top class form when he came 2nd in the Redmon Hilly '73' with an excellent 2.59.37. With backing from Ian Murray, 3.16.03, and Dan Hadfield 3.20.53 the Paragon won the Team race. Dan Hadfield's time was 5 minutes faster than his 1973 effort whilst Ian's was 3 seconds slower! Robin was uncertain whether to be pleased or not with his additional prize for fastest veteran! Anno Domini catches us all in the end. However it did Ian Murray no harm as the following week he produced a 59.43 in the Atherstone '25'.

May 22nd was the Champagne Meeting and our Guest of Honour was Mary Peters, the Olympic Gold Medallist in the Pentathlon. Pete Corry won his heat of the 500m handicap and later came 3rd in the Final behind Keith Penfold (Festival) and Maurice Burton (VC Londres). Carol Barton beat Denise Burton and Beryl Burton in the Ladies Omnium. John Almond (Boston) won the Old Ordinary 1 mile race. The 10 minutes Pursuit developed into a 2-horse race between Dave Holliday (Gordano Valley) and Alf Engers (Archer) with Alf just shading it at the end with 4 miles 946 yards to Holliday's 941 yards. R Ward (Birmingham) was 3rd with 4 miles 901 yards.

The Unknown Distance race came next in the Programme and was won by a crafty Aussie John Nicholson from Steve Heffernan and J Platten. Then the Tandem was brought out for Ernie Crutchlow and Geoff Cooke to attack some National records but the wind in the back straight was just too strong and they failed both by 0.6 of a second. Then came the race everyone was waiting for – the Moet & Chandon 10 miles.

At half distance a break formed consisting of Ray Runham, Steve Heffernan, Rick Evans, Maurice Burton, Len Double and Tim Evans. Once they drew away from the bunch they really started to work well together until with three laps to go they were on the tail of the bunch. It was then that Steve Heffernan unleashed his full power. He went straight through the lapped field with no one capable of staying with him. The others fought their way through but were hindered by lapped riders trying to get a tow. In the end Heffernan was a clear winner with Rick Evans (34th Nomads) crossing the line in 2nd place and Maurice Burton in 3rd place. Everyone had a great evening's sport.

Rowan Vacher did a 58.39 in the Viking RC '25' and Ray Puttick a 1.6.27 in the Surrey St Christopher's '25'. The same weekend Rowan Vacher and Ray Runham won the Glendene 2up '25' with a 56.51. Graham Bristow and Doug Vacher went off to the Bexley '25' where they took 1.3.38 and 1.4.17 respectively to cover the distance. This was a season's best for both riders. Steve Hackett did 26.10 in the GHS Schoolboy Local Heat and Robin Buchan came 3rd in the Farnham '25' with 1.0.43 on the Saturday and did 58.25 in the Marlboro '25' on the Sunday. Dan Hadfield completed the Hounslow '100' in 4.36.43.

The Team Pursuit squad of Ray Runham, Graham Bristow, Pete Corry and Pete Ansell won the SW London & Surrey Championship beating the Festival in the Final. The previous Wednesday with Rowan Vacher riding instead of

Graham Bristow they had lost to the 34th Nomads 5.03.8 to 5.09.4 in the Final of the London Region Team Pursuit Championship.

On the Wednesday Ray Runham finished 2nd in the 25kms Points race at Herne Hill a ride that made up for the disappointment of being beaten by Tony James in the semi-Final of the London Region Individual Pursuit.

Profiting from his GHS ride Steve Hackett improved to 25.44 the next weekend in the CC Bexley '10'. The next morning would appear to have been rather hard as whilst our three riders in the SCCU '50' won the Team race their times were not of their usual standard. Ian Murray did 2.13.02, Andy Murray 2.15.26 and Dan Hadfield 2.18.14. Doug Vacher finished the Surrey Road CC '25' in 1.7.00. Out on the Archer '50' course things were really going well. Ray Runham produce a personal best of 1.56.32 to take 2nd place whilst Robin Buchan came in with 2.1.42 for 3rd place. Rowan Vacher was then 4th with 2.1.50 and the Team race went rather comfortably to the Paragon on a no means fast morning. The Blah makes an interesting comparison between men and courses. The Archer was won with a team time of 6.00.04 and the SCCU by 6.46.42!

On the 9th June Rowan Vacher finished the Wigmore '25' in 59.23 and Doug Vacher the Hainault Middlemarkers '25' in 1.5.18.. Dan Hadfield did 2.11.40 in the WLCA '50'. Robin Buchan came 2nd in the Wessex '50' with a 2.1.07 ride. Les Black appeared on a start sheet and took 1.11.16 to complete the Festival '25'. Pete Ansell finished 9th in the Belle Vue road race for 1st category riders and Peter Nye, an American riding his first race in England, was placed in the bunch. Ray Runham took part in the Tour of Mid Essex. He finished 3rd beating John Sargeant into 4th place after the five-man break had split during a sudden thunderstorm. Two men slipped away to finish just 200 yards in front of Ray. Steve Hackett won the SW London & Surrey Schoolboy Championship at Crystal Palace on the 11th. June and Ray Runham claimed 2nd place in the Senior event. Pete Corry has been getting placing in the Handicaps at Paddington and took 2nd place in the 5 miles event at the 34th Nomads Meeting.

Over the weekend of the 15th and 16th June Dan Hadfield rode the Catford 24 hours event and ran out time with 430.76 miles for 2nd place 4½ miles behind the winner. On the Saturday Steve Hackett produced another personal best ride with 24.56 in the Kent CA '10'. The Wren Whs '50' on the 16th June was another Paragon benefit day. Ray Runham came 2nd with 2.0.03; Robin Buchan was 3rd with 2.1.29 and Rowan Vacher 4th in 2.2.30. Another Team race for the Paragon. Our American recruit finished in 2.12.20 and with the ever-generous handicapper (if ever) giving him 20 minutes allowance he won the Handicap section. Robin also took the Veterans prize. Also riding were Dave Worsfold 2.5.42, Ian Murray 2.12.20 and Graham Bristow 2.23.15.

Ray Runham had a good evening in the SCCU Meeting on the 19th June by winning the Invitation Omnium. He won the Pursuit and Points race then came 2nd in the 2 laps sprint.

Graham Bristow finished the SECA '25' with a season's best of 1.2.30 on the Saturday. Rowan Vacher finished the Southend '25' in 59.27.

Robin Buchan was back at the top and again on song in the Vegetarian '50' when he recorded fastest time with a 1.58.59 that also enabled him to collect 2nd on handicap. Dave Worsfold also took part and passed the Timekeeper with a 2.6.54. (He was the scratchman!). Unfortunately the Paragon had no third man and only wanted a 2.48.00 to take that prize! Steve Hackett improved his 25 miles time in the South Eastern RC '25' with a 1.8.26. In the Redmon '30' Ian Murray finished in 1.15.25 and Dan Hadfield 1.16.57. Ray Runham went up to the Midlands for the Bass-Worthington 2-day road race. In the Prologue he finished 5th behind Phil Griffiths the 1974 Commonwealth Gold Medallist. In the afternoon scheduled 80 miles race but actually over 90 miles of heat and wind he finished 8th. On the Sunday stage of over 100 miles five riders slipped away in the first 5 miles and were never caught. Ray did his best, as ever, and finished with the chasing group to collect 14th overall.

Pete Ansell took some of his holiday in Cornwall and rode the St Budeaux Festival. He did 25.55 in the 10 miles event, 1.20.00 in the Mountain Time Trial and 1.2.34 in the '25'.

Three of our best 50 milers went north for the National Championship on the 30th June but failed to conquer. Ray Runham finished in 1.58.13, Rowan Vacher, 2.0.49 and Dave Worsfold 2.5.19 after puncturing. Robin rode the Shaftesbury '50' on the '32nd' Course and came 2nd missing 1st place by just 4 seconds with his 2.2.19. At a local level the Moon Trophy '25' was held and we had four finishers. They were Les Black in 1.9.18, Jack Platts, 1.9.35, Paul Lambeth, 1.9.48, and Gordon Davies in 1.16.29. No mention is made of any Team placing.

Ray Runham took 4th place in the 20 miles scratch race at the Catford Meeting. Pete Corry reached the Final of the 500m handicap.

We had three finishers in the SCCU '50' but this was good enough for the Paragon to win the Team race. The Paragon have now won the Team race in both the SCCU '50's. Pete Ansell was our best man in 2.8.38, Ian Murray finished in 2.9.29 and Peter Nye 2.10.46 that was also a personal best ride and it took the Tacagni Cup for the best 2nd class rider. On the same day Robin Buchan rode the Bramley Whs '50' and recorded a 2.0.45 for 6th place. Dave Worsfold won the Westerley road race at Braddenham for 2nd and 3rd category riders. Ray Runham rode the Billericay-Takeley-Billericay road race over 95 miles. He missed the vital break and tried to chase it down without success to be finally caught near to home. He was placed 13th.

The 11th July was Inter-Club '10' day with the Addiscombe. Our best riders were Pete Ansell, 2nd in 23.05, 4th Dave Worsfold, 23.26, 5th Ian Murray 23.33, 7th Paul Lambeth 24.12, 10th Pete Nye 24.56 and 12th Vin Callanan 25.24 but this was just not good enough to beat the Addiscombe. We lost by just 14 seconds. Shame! Ray Runham went to Herne Hill instead and came 3rd in the 20 miles events at the Redmon Meeting.

Ray Runham was our best rider in the Addiscombe '25' with a 57.08 but Ian Murray improved to 58.46 in the same event. This was on the Saturday. On the Sunday Robin Buchan was 3rd in the University '50' in 1.59.17, Dave Worsfold finished in 2.4.37 and Ian Murray made an excellent 3rd man with 2.7.52 for the Paragon to win the Team race.

Gordon Davies came 2nd on Handicap in the Walter Moon Trophy but he was the only man to get himself into the awards. His 1.16.28 was reduced to 57.28 by his 19 minutes allowance. Other times were by Les Black, 1.9.18, Jack Platts 1.9.35 and Paul Lambeth 1.9.43.

Pete Ansell was our fastest man in the SECA '25' on the 20th July with a 59.59 but pride of place has to go to Dave Worsfold who set a new Club Trike Record of 1.4.51 taking 6'27" off Harry Corby's record set in 1966. The next morning only one man managed to finish the SCCU '100' and that was Dan Hadfield in 4.45.39. Robin Buchan was the only team member to finish the Glendene '50' in 1.59.43 for 5th place.

The 28th July was another Team race day with our lads riding the Goodmayes '100'. Robin Buchan finished in 4.24.43, Pete Ansell in his first 100 ever, an excellent 4.34.58, and Dave Worsfold 4.39.40 to complete the winning team. Closer to home Ian Murray did 1.0.15 in the Sydenham '25'. Dan Hadfield did 1.2.48 in the Bon Amis Middlemarkers '25' on the Saturday and 1.5.27 for 3rd place and 3rd on handicap in the Bec Vets '25' on the Sunday.

August 3rd was the Paragon Open '50' day but without any local success. Mick Crowther (Archer RC) won the race in 2.0.23. Robin Buchan was 2nd in 2.2.33 after being level with Crowther at 35 miles. Mike Ryall. (Epsom) came 3rd with 2.3.36. Crowther won the handicap with an allowance of 5½ minutes and Mike Ryall collected 2nd place. Our riders were Dan Hadfield, 2.11.07, Dave Worsfold, suffering from with a heavy cold, 2.13.26, and Pete Nye 2.13.52. Back at home Paul Lambeth came 4th in the 3rd category race at Crystal Palace and Steve Hackett was 6th in the Schoolboy event.

The Farnborough & Camberley '10' saw Dave Worsfold out on his trike and the result was another Club Record with a 25.32 for the distance. Robin Buchan rode the Addiscombe '50' on a windswept day and came 3rd just 1.10 behind the winner John Clarey (Gemini) with a 2.3.59. The severity of the wind can be judged by the fact that Robin took 1.10.00 to reach the 24½ miles turning point and just less than 54 minutes to get back! Dan Hadfield was riding another 100 miles time trial and finished with 4.35.38 in the Westerley event.

The Paragon road races were again held on the Ashdown Forest circuits. Colin Batch (34th Nomads) won the Junior and 3rd category event in 1.42.32 for the 39 miles. Bob Arnold (Twickenham) was 2nd and J Patterson (Hemel Hempstead) 3rd. The afternoon Senior event over 4 laps (52 miles) was dominated by Brian Bulmer (Polhill). He broke away shortly after the start and

rode the whole distance on his own crossing the line 52 seconds in front of Ray Woodley (Kingston Phoenix). Ray Runham came 3rd at 2'35", Pete Ansell finished just outside the top six, as did Dave Worsfold.

The weekend of the 17th and 18th August saw Robin Buchan in fine form. On Saturday he won the Easterley '25' in 58.23 on his favourite Bishops Stortford course and on the Sunday he was 3rd in the Charlotteville '25' with a 57.23. Dan Hadfield won the Fryco Cup with a 2.14.45 from Pete Nye, 2.16.02 but the result could have been reversed had Nye not crashed on the wet roads at Offington roundabout.

The Paragon Track Championships were decided on the 21st August. The evening started with 4000m pursuit races and in this Graham Bristow just beat Pete Corry by one tenth of a second 5.49.2 to 5.49.3 to take the Bert Chapman Cup. Dave Worsfold was 3rd in 5.53.1. The 500m Sprint for the Frank Burton Cup saw Paul Lambeth, Graham Bristow, Pete Corry and Les Black reaching the Final. In a very tight finish Bristow just got his wheel in front of Corry with Black very close up in 3rd spot. Ray Runham then went for a 440 flying start Standard Medal and clocked 27.5" to collect a second-class medal. The Handicap was an excellent win by Pete Corry. Starting from scratch he caught and passed everyone. Pete Patterson was 2nd (from 55 yards) and Les Black 3rd (from 40 yards). Ray Runham then went for the Standing Start 1 mile Standard crossing the line in 2.07.5 for a 1st class medal.

The Championship 5 miles was a 'go-all-the-way' job. Paul Lambeth went for the Points prize collecting most of his points in the early stages before blowing up and staggering to the Finish. In the end Pete Corry held off Graham Bristow to take the Ravensbourne Cup with Pete Nye in 3rd place. In the points competition there was a three way tie with the George Colget Cup going to Andy Murray thanks being the only rider of the three to take points in the last counting sprint. The Track Championship went to Graham Bristow with 8 points, 2nd was Pete Corry with 7. Les Black, Dave Worsfold and Pete Nye tied for 3rd place with 1 point each.

Dave Worsfold had taken his three wheeler down to the West Country for the Somerset RC '25' and he promptly set new figures for the Club Trike Record with 1.4.14. Dan Hadfield came 2nd in the Wessex Vets '25' with 1.4.47. Then on the Monday Robin Buchan rode the famous Bath Road '100' and came 2nd with a fine 4.9.01 just 1.40 slower than Ernie Bore (Farnborough & Camberley). Ray Runham went off to Mentmore for the All London Road Race Championships and came 3rd behind John Sargeant (Vulcan) and Ray Palin. In the meantime Pete Ansell collected a 7th prize in the East Grinstead race on the Lingfield circuit.

The Open '25' had an entry of 105 of whom four had personal best times faster than 55 minutes for the distance. The Portsmouth Road course cut these gentlemen down to size as they all only just beat 60 minutes. Terry Ewing (Archer) won in 59.06 with John Woodburn (Maidenhead) 2nd in 59.07. M Hartley (De Laune) came 3rd in 59,25 and Jeff Marshall (Hounslow) 4th with

a 59.33. Les Black kept the Club's name on the front of the Result Card as he won 1st on handicap prize with his 1.6.15 with 9½ minutes allowance. The team race went to the Epsom by just 4 seconds from the Bec.

Keith Ongley, Harry Corby and Frank Corby were selected to play for England in an International Polo Tournament in Dublin and just lost to Scotland in the Finals by 2 goals to 1 in a very hard fought match – as the score shows.

On the 31st August Dave Worsfold lowered the Trike Record still further with a 1.3.26 in the North Hants RC '25'. The next day Dave took 6th place in the Natsopa 75 miles road race in Essex and Graham Bristow came 4th in the Charlotteville 3rd category road race at Ottershaw. Steve Hackett was in action at Crystal Palace and collected a 6th place in what was to be his last race in the Schoolboy category. Robin Buchan won the Fulham '50' in 1.53.17, his second best time over the distance. The Fryco Cup, also on the 1st September, had only two finishers and Dan Hadfield, 2.14.45, was comfortably in front of Pete Nye, 2.16.02. Dan Hadfield covered 232.30 miles in the SCCU event to take 1st on handicap and the Club Events Championship for 1974.

Dan was busy again the following week-end with a fight through the wind and rain to record 1.8.41 in the South Western '25' for 16th place and a 1.5.59 in the Belle Vue '25' on a much better morning. Our short distance man Robin Buchan went for the BBAR distances in the Border CA 12 hour's event and proved his fitness and versatility by completing 260.672 miles to win the race. He had quite a fight with Ernie Bore (Farnborough & Camberley) as Bore led at 100 miles with 4.12.58 to Robin's 4.20.06. By 140 miles Robin had reduced this gap to 4 minutes and by 175 miles the two were level. On the leg to Oxford Robin had drawn out a 2-minute lead that was shortened by an enforced stop at the Wallingford traffic lights. By the time the two protagonists had reached the Finishing Circuit Robin was in full flow and his experience at this type of riding was really paying dividends. He drew further and further away from Bore to finish with 260 odd miles to Bore's 258. This ride put Robin, provisionally, into 9th place in the BBAR

Pete Ansell produced a fine 57.15 in the Redbridge '25' and Robin Buchan came 2nd in the Icknield '50' with a 1.53.27. He followed this the next day with a 59.10 in the San Fairy Ann '25'. Dan Hadfield came 2nd in the VTTA '50' with a personal best ride of 2.11.01 in spite of pouring rain. Dave Worsfold collected yet another Club Record with a 25.09 on his trike in the North Hants RC '10'. The rain also washed away the Juniors with Steve Hackett the only taker for the '10' finishing in 26.55. The following week it was Hackett's turn to cry off leaving Paul Lambeth to ride the '15' in 43.09.

Another win for Robin Buchan came on the 22nd September with a 2.1.53 ride in the Glade CC '50'. Dan Hadfield recorded 1.5.52 in the SCCU '25' and this ride enabled him to take 3rd place in the SCCU BAR for 1974.

Robin Buchan was really going for his BBAR average when he went up to Harrogate for the Nova '50'. He passed the Finish Timekeeper with only

1.51.19 on the clock that should put him into 10th place in the BBAR. In more mundane races the Mayne Cup was hotly contested as per usual. Pete Ansell produced the fastest time of the morning with a 1.1.00 to win by nearly 4½ minutes from Dan Hadfield, 1.5.24, and Pete Nye, 1.9.19. However the Man of the Day was Dan Hadfield who had enough handicap allowance to beat Pete Ansell into 2nd place by just 6 seconds. Jack Platts was 3rd on handicap.

Into October and Pete Ansell continued his fine riding with a 1.0.19 in the Lea Valley '25' with Pete Corry also finishing in 1.1.56. The same day Ray Puttick won the Hillclimb with 4.52.0 from Pete Nye, 4.55.8 and Ian Murray, 5.27.8.

The 13th October and we had another Team success for the Club. Pete Corry was our best man in the Clarence Whs '25' finishing in 4th place with 1.1.06. Dan Hadfield followed this with a 1.3.29 and Dave Worsfold completed the team with a 1.4.39 on his trike! In Len's '10' Pete Ansell was our fastest rider when he finished in 3rd place with a 23.57. Graham Bristow clocked 25.31, Pete Nye 25.50, Ray Puttick 26.37 and Gordon Davies 29.56.

Pete Corry and Dave Worsfold rode the Hainault 2up (on bicycles) to finish 8th in 1.1.18. Pete Nye climbed Titsey Lane and the Bec Hill Climb in 2.50. Pete Corry also rode on the 27th October in the Hillingdon '25' and finished in 1.3.33.

Dan Hadfield could not get enough racing during the season so he rode the Dulwich Paragon event on the 22nd December and recorded 1.7.43 some 10 minutes slower than the winner. This was, however, some 3 minutes faster than Dan's 1973 time.

The Season long Championships resulted in a fine 10th place in the BBAR for Robin Buchan with an average speed of 24.256 mph. His counting rides were the 1.51.59 in the Harrogate Nova '50', 4.09.01 in the Bath Road '100' and the 260.67 miles in the Border CA 12 hours. With these rides he also won the CTC BAR substituting a 57.38 at 25 miles for the 12 hours distance he averaged 25.690 mph. Added to this Robin and Dan Hadfield also won 1st Team Award in the VTTA Championship. Dan had another success in the SCCU BBAR where he was placed 3rd.

Fifty-two riders lined up on Shirley Hills for the Paragon Cyclo-cross on the 8th December. The circuit was about a mile round with most of it being rideable. There were, of course, a few run-ups and some tricky descents for the unwary and the more ghoulish spectators. Tony Barlett (Redmon) took the Prime for the leader at the end of the first lap but then paid for his efforts and avarice. Steve Snowling (Chiltern RC) attacked and took the lead on the 2nd lap and was never headed. At the end Addiscombe Junior Mike Parker, who had tremendous local support, outsprinted the more experienced Keith Hanson (Chris Barber – Geoffrey Butler) for 2nd place. In 4th place was Tony Bartlett. Ray Puttick started but managed to smash his rear wheel so he desisted. Michael Karawosik (South Eastern) won the 3-lap Schoolboys event from Owen Leigh (Brighton Mitre) and Andrew Hazlehurst (Poly)

