

1976

The season started in its customary way with the Croydon and District Hardriders on the 29th February but with only two Paragon riders and, due to the nature of the course, only one finisher. He was Andy Murray and even he punctured after 3 miles and lost 5 minutes but he did complete the course albeit it 1.15.32 and exactly 10 minutes behind the winner Bob Downs (VC Olympiasport). Two other riders started their campaign the same day but they preferred flatter and shorter events. Rowan Vacher came 3rd in the SECA '10' with a 23.44 and Steve Hackett won the fastest Junior award with his 25.17.

The Club had eight entries in the East Surrey Hardriders of whom seven started. This in itself is a good start as snow, sleet and rain fell at various times during the morning. Robin Buchan began his season in fine form with 1.24.03 and 2nd fastest time just 23 seconds slower than the winner John Lyons (CC Orpington). Backing Robin were Pete Corry, 1.27.11, Ian Murray, 1.27.57, Gareth Earwicker, 1.39.01, George Clare, 1.28.10, Alan Colburn 1.30.32 and John McNee, 1.40.54. Messrs Buchan, Corry and Murray I collected our first Team race of the Year! Ray Puttick and Steve Hackett essayed the 34th Nomads 3rds and Juniors event at Paddock Wood. Ray managed to get into the vital 8-man break eventually crossing the line in 5th place. Steve found 48 miles in February a bit long for junior legs but did finish with the main bunch.

Four men went down to the Central Sussex Hardriders event but came away without any major prizes. Andy Murray came in with 8th fastest in 1.7.08 and beat Robin Buchan, 1.7.18, Dave Worsfold finished in 1.9.29 and John McNee 1.20.29. They missed the Team race by about 1 minute.

The next morning Robin went down to the South Coast for the Hampshire RC 'Circuit of Hambledon' even. He took 3rd place in 1.5.00 just 35 seconds down on the winner. In both events this weekend he took the fastest veterans prize. Alan Colburn and Andy Murray rode the Twickenham 2up '25' and finished in 1.0.22 whilst closer to home Steve Hackett was winning the Club '10' in 25.35 from Barry Gregory, 26.36, and Keith Parkinson 27.04. Pete Corry and George Clare opted for the Hounslow road race with Pete collecting licence points with 6th in the sprint but George was baulked and unplaced.

A second Team race came our way in the Catford Hardriders event. Once again Andy Murray beat Robin Buchan, and this time by some margin. Andy completed the course in 1.15.47 for 6th place whilst Robin took 1.17.01 and won 1st Veterans prize. Alan Colburn finished in 1.22.11 to make the Team. The next day Andy won the Jim Fox '25' in 1.0.50 and took 1st on Handicap. Alan Colburn was 2nd in 1.3.15 and Gareth Earwicker 3rd in 1.7.38.

On the 28th March we had riders in five different events. Robin Buchan came equal 2nd in the Sotonia Hilly 26½ in 1.9.32 39 seconds behind Glen Longlands (Crabwood) 1.8.53. Alan Colburn came 3rd in the Harlequin CC Middlemarkers event in 1.4.03 with his usual partner Jack Platts finishing in 1.9.53. Pete Corry and George Clare gained another 3rd place in the Viking

2up '25 with a 1.2.25 ride on a very windy morning. Andy Murray finished 2nd in the Kentish Whs '25' with 1.1.33. Gareth Earwicker, 1.9.12, and John McNee, 1.11.23 also finished. Rowan Vacher completed the day's story with a 1.3 in the San Fairy Ann '25' but was so disgusted with his ride he did not bother to find out how many seconds the Timekeeper had added!

April 3rd was the Morden CRC Hilly event around the Ashdown Forest. Andy Murray was in fine form when he finished 1st in 57.31. The Cycling report said that his Mum, Vera, fancied seeing the Trophy on the sideboard so Andy had to oblige. Andy reckoned that it was one of those days when your legs never hurt. He flew up the road from Fairwarp over the Forest to Kingstanding Down to Groombridge he reckoned that 52 x 13 (108 inches) was far too low coming off the Ashdown Forest. Robin Buchan was 7th over 2.40 behind with 1.0.16 and little did we know then that this was to be his last race. John McNee rounded up the Team with a 1.8.14. Dave Worsfold did 25.22 in the Southborough & District '10'. However he made up for that the next day by winning the East Region Tricycle '30' in 1.20.15. Pete Corry and George Clare rode the Twickenham road race at Fifield but missed the vital break. Pete was the best placed in 16th position.

On Sunday morning the 4th April Robin Buchan was found dead by the side of the Flanchford Road near Reigate Heath. He was still strapped to his machine. The autopsy revealed that he had had a massive heart attack that could have occurred at any time. He also had viral pneumonia. Those of us that knew Robin were of the opinion that after his East Surrey Hardriders performance when he had to take a couple of days off work with 'the shivers' he had not given himself a chance to recover. Certainly his performances were not at the level we would expect and Robin was never one to give in to a bit of a cold.

Robin joined the Paragon in 1953 after starting his racing career with the now defunct Caterham C & AC. He soon became established as a short distance time triallist and trackman but was also capable of riding in top class company in road race. Such was his ability that he was selected as travelling reserve to the Rome Olympics in 1960 for both the Road and Track teams. No one else has ever been capable of that feat. He represented Great Britain in the World Championships in Leipzig in the 4000m Individual Pursuit. He was a member of the Paragon Team Pursuit team that won the National Titles in both 1956 and 1958. In 1969 he won 17 Open events (10 single, 6 Tandem and 1 Team time trial) and broke 7 Club records. He came 13th in the BBAR.

He improved on this in 1970 by coming 11th in the BBAR and winning 12 Open events. In 1971 he took the National 24 hour Championship and finished 3rd in the BBAR, won the CTC members BAR and won 8 Open events.

In 1972 he suffered a bad head injury and had two quiet seasons but came back in 1974 to take 10th place in the BBAR, win the CTC Members BAR and win 5 Open events. He attempted to win the 24 hours Championship in 1975, as it was held on local roads but extreme cold during the night that brought on

problems with his eyesight and he had to be content with 2nd place. He failed to make the top 12 of the BBAR in spite of winning 11 Opens as he failed to get in a very fast '50' time. His best of the year was a 1.57 as against his best ever of 1.48.44.

His ambition for 1976 was to attempt the Lands End to John O'Groats record for which he was training when he died. His true record is also in this history as it chronicles nearly all of Robin's performances with the Norwood Paragon. He lived to race and gave his all in every event. In road events and on the track he would berate anyone not doing their share of the work. Yet he was a great sportsman as anyone who had beaten him fair and square could tell you. The day before at the Morden event no one could have more pleased than Robin both on Andy Murray's win, even if Andy had beaten him by the best part of three minutes, and the fact that the Paragon lads had won the Team award. He had actually arranged to go on a training ride with Andy and was riding out to the Finish of the Club '25' when he died. Without doubt he was a Paragon man first and last and an outstanding allrounder rider in the mould of Frank Southall.

Ian Murray rode the Crest '25' on the 10th April and finished with a 1.1.53. The next day six riders started the SCCU '25' and their times were Rowan Vacher 1.0.41, Alan Colburn 1.3.00, Ian Murray 1.3.13, Gareth Earwicker 1.6.31, John McNee 1.7.09 and Jack Platts 1.8.05. Ray Puttick was 4th in the Catford 3rd category road race.

At the Croydon & District Meeting at Crystal Palace Steve Hackett came 6th in the Junior event. Andy Murray and Ray Puttick worked well to split the field in the 3rd category event with Andy getting clear with two others with 3 laps remaining. The other two were quite happy to let Andy do all the work and, as expected, left him behind in the sprint. Andy was pleased with his 3rd place though as the Licence Points gained have upgraded him to 2nd category. In the Senior event George Clare went clear with Steve White (De Laune) and stayed in front for 30 of the 50 laps to pick up the Points Prize. Pete Corry hid himself in the bunch and crossed the Finish line in 7th place.

Better luck was had the following Easter Saturday in the Crawley Whs '25'. Andy Murray was 2nd fastest in 1.0.45, Ian Murray came 6th in 1.2.08, and Alan Colburn 1.3.29 and the Paragon won the Team race. Then Steve Hackett finished in a personal best time of 1.5.32, and John McNee clocked 1.6.12, Gareth Earwicker 1.7.25 and Jack Platts 1.9.10 made up our list of finishers. John McNee's ride also earned him the 2nd on handicap prize with Andy Murray taking 3rd prize. Later in the year the winner of the handicap was disqualified and John and Andy claimed 1st and 2nd prizes.

Ian Murray rode in the famous Charlotteville '50' on the Sunday and finished 15th in 2.7.52. Then on the Easter Monday Alan Colburn came 3rd in a personal best time of 59.50 in the VTTA (Birmingham) '25'.

On the next weekend Barry Gregory rode the Farnham '10' on the Saturday in 27.46. Andy and Ian Murray elected to ride the Bath Road Hilly '50' on the

Sunday. Andy finished 5th fastest with 2.11.38 and Ian clocked 2.16.05. Nearer home we had four finishers in the Kent RC Middlemarkers '25'. Gareth Earwicker, 1.8.24, was the best of them. Next came Jack Platts, 1.9.53, Barry Gregory 1.10.06 and John McNee 1.10.08.

Four men took part in the Addiscombe '10' on the 1st May. Rowan Vacher 23.33, Ian Murray 24.26, Alan Colburn 24.37 and Barry Gregory 26.13 but no prizes were won. The next morning Alan came 3rd in the VTTA (London) '25' with a 1.4.02. Also riding was John McNee, 1.9.16, and Jack Platts, 1.10.20. Dave Worsfold was in the leading group of four riders some minutes in front of the main bunch when the race was stopped in the West London road race Championship. The Police took the view that there were too many cars on the road for the safety of the riders so stopped the race. The four man break shared the prizes. Steve Hackett came 2nd in the Circuit of Crowhurst organised by the Croydon RC. Keith Parkinson was in the main bunch. Andy Murray rode the Gemini road race in the Orpington area. He got away but punctured. Far too late he managed to get a replacement wheel to enable him to carry to finish 25th. Pete Corry was also in the break finished in 9th place.

Two personal bests were achieved in the SW London Ladies Open '10' Peter Corry got his time down by 23 seconds to 23.03 and Barry Gregory by 1'45" to 24.28. The Tooting Sporting '40' had three riders from the Paragon. Andy Murray was the best of the Paragon with 5th place in 1.40.44, Ian Murray was 10th with 1.42.01 unfortunately Alan Colburn punctured and finished with a 1.51.45. On the same day Barry Gregory did 25.53 in the Clarence Whs '10'. In the Gemini evening '10' Steve Hackett did a 25.16. Ray Puttick came 3rd in the East Grinstead 3rd category race on the Lingfield circuit.

Tony James (De Laune) won our promotion at Crystal Palace from Alan Clarke (Basingstoke) and John Withey (Wandsworth). Phil Parkinson (South Western) won the Schoolboy race from Russell Williams (VC Londres) and N Brown (Old Kent).

On the Thursday evening Ian Murray reduced his 10 miles time to 22.52 in the Redmon club event at Holmwood. Barry Gregory went even better on the Saturday in the Southborough '10' when he reduced his personal best by 1 second to a 24.27. Steve Hackett was a mite slower with 24.49 and John McNee made up the team with a 25.35. Alan Colburn did a 1.3.25 in the Banbury Star '25' and Rowan Vacher finally got himself racing with a purpose with a 58.18 in the 34th Nomads '25'. In the Moon Trophy '25' our best riders were Ian Murray 1.2.33, Alan Colburn 1.4.05 and Barry Gregory 1.6.30 with Ian taking the Handicap from Gareth Earwicker and John McNee. In the Redhill 'Hexad Grand Prix' in the Ockley area George Clare missed the first break but stayed in with the second group to finish in 11th place. Pete Corry escaped from the main field to cross the line in 19th place whilst Andy Murray, who is adjusting to the faster pace, but safer riding, of the higher category racing was content to finish in the bunch at 25th. Steve Hackett took another 2nd place over the weekend. This time it was in the CC Bexley road race for 3rd category riders. With this ride he ensures a 2nd category licence when he

turns Senior.

Sunday 23rd May and the Redmon Hilly '73' and two excellent rides were delivered by the Murray brothers with Andy finishing 5th in 3.2.41 and Ian 3.6.42. We needed a 3.13 for the Team but had no third man so had to let the Addiscombe have it! The Vets came into their own in the VTTA (Kent) '25'. John McNee put in a personal best of 1.4.07; Jack Platts produced a 1.5.57, his best for 3 years, and Alan Colburn a 1.5.56 after breaking a chain and losing 3.30 before he could make the start. Rfay Puttick picked up more points in the CC Bexley 3rd category race by crossing the Finish line in 6th place. He now moves up to 2nd category. George Clare rode the Bec CC road raced over 75 miles of the Lingfield circuit and came 3rd in a three-man sprint for the line. Pete Corry was in a chasing group and collected 6th place just 24 seconds behind.

Over Whitsun we had four riders in the CC Bexley 'Middlemarkers 25' on the 29th May and the best of them was Gareth Earwicker with a 1.5.36 ride. Other performances were put up by John McNee, 1.5.45, Barry Gregory 1.6.33 and Jack Platts 1.9.33. A team went off to Welsh Wales for the Builth Wells Cycling Rally for holiday and promptly upset the applecart. Ian Murray was 2nd in the Acme (Rhondda) '10' with 24.09, Andy was 3rd in 24.16 and Dave Worsfold finished in 24.54 suffering from an injured wrist caused by an argument with a car the previous week.. Somehow they did NOT win the Team race!

Les Black managed to complete the Festival '25' in 1.10.30. Not his best ride! Ian and Andy Murray continued their conquest of South Wales by finishing with a 1.0.56 in the Abertillery 2up '25'. Dave Worsfold rode the afternoon 62 miles road race and had the mortification of having to abandon the race whilst in a four-man break with a lap to go when his wrist became too sore for him to hold the bars.

Barry Gregory went off to the Farnborough & Camberley '25' on Whit-Monday and finished in 1.6.50. Alan Colburn finished the Gravesend '25' in 1.5.44. The Murrays and Dave Worsfold finished off their Welsh Tour with a well deserved Team Win in the Welsh CA '25'. Ian crossed the line in 1.1.59 Andy did 1.2.47 and Dave 1.5.40.

The Moet & Chandon 'Champagne' Meeting had its usual evening of high class racing immaculately presented by Alan Gordon. The results are as follows- the Old Ordinary 1 mile race was taken by Joe Vaughan (Boston) from M Phillipson (City RC Hull) and G William (Long Sutton). The 500m Old Ordinary handicap went to A Booth (Balham) from M Phillipson and B Gunn (City RC Hull). Pete Malyon (34th Nomads) took the 500m Handicap from Jim Robertson (Dulwich Paragon) and S Baker (Bedouin). Maurice Burton took the 10 laps Points race from Stu Morris (Teeside) and Steve Heffernan (Archer). The 6-lap Italian (Olympic) Pursuit was a win for the Olympic Senior Squad (Ian Banbury, Mick Bennett, Maurice Burton, Robin Croker. Stu Morris and Ian Hallam) over the Olympic Junior Squad (Tony Doyle, D Hunt, Glen Mitchell, D Porter, R Smith and M Tanks). Alf Engers (Woolwich) had a

fine tussle with Eddie Adkins (High Wycombe) in the 10 minutes Pursuit when between them they cleared the track. Alf won by 45 yards with 4 miles and 1000 yards. Paul Medhurst went for the 500m Flying Start record and recorded 33.8 in his successful attempt. Steve Heffernan took the Unknown Distance race from P Fennell (Unity) and Geoff Cooke (VC Europa) and that brought us to the Champagne '10'.

Steve Heffernan started the real racing with 27 laps to go with Robin Croker. They were soon joined by Tony James (De Laune) and Tony Doyle then Mick Bennett (Coventry Olympic) led across another 11 riders and the chase was on. The first 5 miles were covered in 10.22. Twelve laps to go and Croker was out with a puncture. One and a half to go and Alaric Gayfer took flight but had not the power to keep away in this class of competition. He was caught and passed by Ian Hallam and Mick Bennett and then the bunch. Down the straight it was a neck and neck fight with Ian Hallam just getting the verdict from Mick Bennett with Tony Doyle coming through for 3rd spot. Time for the race was 20.43 so it was faster in the second 5 miles!

On the 26th May the Club lost one of its oldest members with the death of George 'Pop' Butler at 91 years of age. Originally he was with the West Norwood Wheelers and joined the Paragon when that club amalgamated with us sometime before the First World War. He won both Club and Open races during that period. Looking back through this History one can read of the races he took part in. Before the War he had recorded a 1.11.53 for 25 miles, a 2.34.07 for 50 miles and a 5.41.19 for 100 miles that made him one of the fastest men in the Paragon. He won some of the earliest Open Veterans races that the Paragon promoted. Then again he rode an occasional tandem event on both road and track with his son Stan. Pop was extremely proud of his lad's success. When Keith started to show the same interest he was out to watch him as well. Pop was a brilliant engineer designing, amongst other things, a rotary engine. In today's parlance he would be considered a lateral thinker. He certainly had a very lively and enquiring mind. So much so that he worked for ICT until well into his 70s. Stories abound of his eccentricity and most of them are true!

Ray Puttick rode his last 3rd category event and took 2nd prize in the Crawley Whs event in spite of riding in pouring rain. Alan Colburn brought his 10 miles time down to 24.29 on the Polhill course whilst Gareth Earwicker reduced his to 24.50 around the Gatwick course. Steve Hackett had two good placings when he came 4th in the Catford Evening races at Crystal Palace and on the Sunday 5th in the Clarendon junior race.

Rowan Vacher and Alan Colburn had qualified for the National Championship '25' run over the Farnham/Alton Course. Neither was placed but Rowan did 1.0.33 and Alan 1.1.52. Nearer home Gareth Earwicker finished the Surrey Road Middlemarkers '25' with another personal best of 1.4.35. Steve Hackett collected a 2nd place in a junior race on the Eastway Circuit.

Alan Colburn and John McNee went off to ride the Monmouthshire Cycling League '25'. Alan finished with 1.2.41 and John 1.6.44. The following day he

rode the Combine '50' event on the Southwater course and had the satisfaction of putting up a personal best time of 2.11.25. On the 13th June the Redmon '30' was held and it incorporated our Dave London Trophy. Ian Murray produced a personal best of 1.12.45 to take the pot and Andy, with a fine 1.13.53 had to settle for 2nd place.

The Track Squad qualified for the semi-finals of the London Region Team Pursuit Championship at Herne Hill. They then rode against the 34th Nomads and beat them to go into the Final. George Clare, (5.30.3), Andy Murray (5.48.3) Steve Hackett (5.55.0) and Pete Corry (6.08.5) rode the Qualifying round of the Individual Pursuit with George and Andy going into the Quarter-finals. In that stage of the Championship George Clare beat Nick Lett (Old Kent) but Andy went out to Malyon (34th Nomads).

Ian Murray finished the SECA '25' in 6th place with a 1.0.18 on the 19th June. We had seven riders down for the Southborough '25' but only four decided to venture out into the pouring rain. All four did manage to finish - they were Ian Murray 1.2.09, Alan Colburn 1.4.07, Barry Gregory 1.6.26, his best this year, and Jack Platts 1.8.55. In the London Fire Brigade road race over 90 miles on the Lingfield Circuit the Paragon had a double success with George Clare taking the Honours then with Pete Corry crossing the line in 5th place and Andy Murray in 14th the Paragon won the Team Award.

The reason for Messrs Colburn and McNee's trip to Wales became obvious on the 26th June when they went down to ride the VTTA National Championship '25' on the self same course! Not stupid these lads, you know! Unfortunately Alan went slower with a 1.3.13 but did get 6th place. John went considerably faster with a 1.5.07 but won no prizes. Les Black improved on his Whitsun time with a 1.9.37 in the East Sussex CA '25'. The SW London & Surrey Division road race Championship was held on the Woldingham Circuit. This is a tough circuit designed for 1st category racing. Eight laps had to be covered and the temperature went up into the 90's. George Clare relished the heat and finished in 2nd place whilst Ray Puttick also rode well on the hills to claim 8th place. In the Junior event, over a shorter distance, Steve Hackett came 5th.

Yet another personal best was put up by Rowan Vacher on the 3rd July in the Woolwich '25' when he passed the Timekeeper in 55.20! It was a sobering thought that the winner, one Alf Engers, was 4 minutes quicker! The next day down in the New Forest Alan Colburn produced a personal best for 50 miles in the VTTA National Championship with a 2.11.23. Nearer home Barry Gregory was also improving. This time in the Redhill '10' he lowered his time to 24.23. The following morning he went for the '25' time but had to be content with a 1.3.34 in the Hemel Hempstead event. Gareth Earwicker also improved his 25 miles time in the VC Sacchi event dropping down to 1.3.48.

Tuesday night and the Inter-Club '10' versus the Addiscombe and, as usual, it brought out the best in our riders. Finishing times of our counting riders were George Clare 21.36, Ian Murray 22.55, Rowan Vacher 23.10, Peter Corry 23.52, Barry Gregory 24.09 and Alan Colburn 24.22. We won!

Club Team Record for 25 miles went on the 10th July in the Addiscombe event. Andy Murray put in a personal best of 56.26. Rowan Vacher followed with a 56.31 and Pete Corry put in his personal best of 57.07 to win the Team Race and drop the Team record to 2.50.04. That time lowers the Record by 2'37". At last Pete Corry got rid of that 1.0.0 as a best '25' and as a reward he won first handicap prize. It seems a shame to mention that Ian Murray did a 1.2.33 in the De Laune '25' on the same morning and that Gareth Earwicker just missed a further improvement to his 25 miles time in the Dulwich Paragon event with a 1.3.55. On the Sunday July 11th Pete Corry came 5th in the SCCU road race Championship at Ellens Green. Alan Colburn lowered his best '50'; to 2.10.27 in the Reading event on the Bath Road.

The 17th July and another personal best for Andy Murray when he lowered his 25 miles time to 55.28 in the SECA '25'. Then news came through that Dave Worsfold had broken Competition Record for 25 miles Tricycle with a 58.56 taking over 30 seconds off the old record. Not only that he went faster on his tricycle than he has ever done on his bicycle. As the Cycling lists the 6th man at 58.47 there must have been one or two red faces that morning. On the Sunday morning there were two more personal best for 50 miles in the Glendene '50'. Ian Murray taking three minutes off his time finishing in 2.0.41 and Alan Colburn taking four minutes of his in 2.6.28. Dave Worsfold did a 2.9.35 on his trike. George Clare and Pete Corry rode the 'Champagne & Flowers' road race at Dunsfold with George taking 3rd place and Pete 7th.

In the Southboro '10' Dave Worsfold equalled Competition Record for the 10 miles Tricycle with a 24.06 ride. Barry Gregory's personal best of 23.21 got rather overshadowed! On the same day Ian Murray won the Border CA '25' with a 59.48.

Club Record for 25 miles went on the 25th July when George Clare finished 4th in the Sydenham Whs event with a 55.06 beating Robin Buchan's time by 1 second.. In the London St Christophers 'Middlemarkers 25' Gareth Earwicker was our fastest man in 5th place with 1.4.47 from Barry Gregory 6th in 1.5.09 and Les Black, getting faster, in 1.8.20. Andy Murray took a break from time trialling and went off to the Venta Grand Prix road race near Winchester with Pete Corry and Dave Worsfold. Andy went off on his own for some 25 miles and succeeded in winning the Points prize. Alan Colburn had another personal best ride but this time at 100 miles. In the SCCU '100' he finished in 4.38.10 and also took the Novice Award. Jack Platts went back 'home' for the Barnet '25' and finished in 1.4.34 his best time for some 3 years.

Our Open '50' was held on the 31st July. Ray Palin (34th Nomads) won in 2.3.28. Ian Murray was well up with a 2.5.31 for 5th place, Andy Murray produced a personal best of 2.5.34 for 6th place and Alan Colburn finished in 2.11.19. This was sufficient to win the Team race for the 'Home' Club. Jack Platts finished the Bec '25' in 1.6.59 and Gareth Earwicker took 1.4.41. The Team Pursuit Squad of George Clare, Pete Corry, Steve Hackett and Andy Murray rode the Finals of the London Region Team Pursuit and were beaten by just 0.2 of a second by the De Laune. The times were 5.05.5 and 5.05.7.

In the Individual event George Clare lost to Tony Peachey (De Laune) with the Timekeepers giving both riders the same time. The Judges called in favour of Peachey

In the Surrey Road CC 'Enterprise' road race over four laps of the Lingfield circuit George Clare came 6th with Dave Worsfold unplaced in the bunch. Steve Hackett came 4th in the 3rd category and junior race.

On Saturday 7th August Ian Murray was 2nd in the Croydon RC '10' with 23.34. and Gareth Warwicker finished in 25.58. The following day in the Unity '25' Andy Murray finished in 58.08 and Ian Murray 59.02. Our one long distance man, Alan Colburn improved again in the Westerley '100' by 2'41" to bring his best time down to 4.35.29. Dave Worsfold had two ride on his trike that weekend attempting to beat the Competition Record that he tied earlier in the season. On the Saturday he did a 24.45 in the Farnborough & Camberley '10' then on the Sunday he won the Tricycle Association (South East)'10' in 25.26.

The Paragon Ashdown Forest road races were held on the 8th August. After a hard and fast race taking only 2.13.00 for the 53 hilly miles Glen Read (VC Elan) beat Dave Watson (Southend & County) by two lengths to win. In 3rd place came Bob Beatie (VC St Raphael). George Clare punctured on the last lap when with the leaders but still came 8th. J Finney (Redmon) won the 3rd category and junior race over 40 miles in 1.44.00. S Wheeler (Surrey Road) came 2nd N Wallis (De Laune) 3rd with the brothers Peter and Paul Elliot (Gemini BC) 4th and 5th Steve Hackett won one of the primes but then got mixed up in a crash and could not finish.

On the 15th August Dave Worsfold, again on his trike did 2.12.53 in the Bournemouth Arrow '50' and Alan Colburn a 2.15.23 in the Oxonian '50'.

The following weekend Dave Worsfold finished the North Hants '10' in 24.52. Then on the Sunday Barry Gregory did 1.4.26 in the Charlotteville '25' and Alan Colburn rode out time with 220.50 miles in the VTTA (London) event. Jack Platts covered the 50 miles in the CDCA Combine in 2.20.59.

The Club Track Championships were run off on the 21st August. The 4000m Individual Pursuit went to Andy Murray (5.42.0) with Steve Hackett in 2nd place (5.43.3) and Pete Corry 3rd (5.45.0). All very close. Following this the 500m handicap was taken very slickly by Pete Corry off Scratch with Barry Gregory 2nd and Wally Happy back in 3rd spot. The 500m Scratch went comfortably to Graham Bristow from Steve Hackett and Pete Corry. The 5 miles with the Points race incorporated in it provided its usual interesting race. Andy Murray went for the Points Award and got it. The Final sprint went to Graham Bristow from Pete Corry and Steve Hackett. That left Graham Bristow as the 1976 Champion with Steve Hackett in 2nd place and Pete Corry in 3rd spot.

More improvements on the 28th August with Barry Gregory getting down to 1.2.33 (39 seconds faster than his 1969 time) and Gareth Earwicker to 1.3.20 (28 seconds improvement) in the Farnborough & Camberley '25'. The

following Saturday Gareth almost did it again but had to be content with 1.3.30 in the VC Sacchi '25'.

After equally Competition Record for 10 miles Dave Worsfold had to have another go and in the SECA '10' he took 8 seconds off the Record to set new figures of 23.58. On local courses three men rode the 29th Wheelers '25'. Alan Colburn was best with 1.4.56; Barry Gregory did 1.5.10 and Gareth Earwicker 1.6.03. George Clare won the 1st category race at the Old Kent Meeting at Crystal Palace. He broke away with two laps to go building up a lead of about 100 yards that he held to the finish. Steve Hackett rode his last race as a junior and tried hard to win it but was pipped on the line to take 2nd place.

The Midland TA was the Tricycle Championship '25' on the 11th September and our man Dave Worsfold came 3rd with a 1.0.22. Unfortunately he also lost his Competition Record as the early starters had the benefit of a tail wind both ways and one of them produced a 58.38. Dave had to struggle to the turn against a strong headwind! (The vagaries of British weather will always ruin the script!) On the same day Alan Colburn rode the Coventry CC '25' and finished in 1.2.30. Nearer home Barry Gregory did a 24.17 and Gareth Earwicker a 24.50 in the Crawley Whs '10'.

Four men went to the Start of the Redhill '25'. They all finished and Barry Gregory did 1.4.48, Alan Colburn 1.5.23, Gareth Earwicker 1.5.53 and Jack Platts 1.9.01. Dave Worsfold and George Clare rode the Catford CC's Brighton to London road race. Dave was dropped climbing the 'Wall' from Coleman's Hatch to Gills lap but George Clare hung on to eventually finish in 2nd place.

Dave Worsfold took another 16 seconds off the Tricycle Competition Record on the 18th September. His time in the Rodney event was 23.42. Barry Gregory was also riding and he also produced a personal best with a 23.48. This was good but the next morning Barry went even better by lowering his best 50 miles time to 2.13.33 in the South Western event. Jack Platts and Alan Colburn tripped over to North London to ride the North Midds & Herts '25'. Alan, 1.3.20, just beat Jack 1.4.56.

Gareth Earwicker's hard work during the season paid off right near the end with a personal best ride by nearly 2 minutes of 1.1.29 in the West Kent '25'. Les Black was also steadily improving and he came in with a 1.6.50 in the SCCU '25'. Also doing a personal best in this event was Alan Richardson who lowered his time to 1.8.19. Alan Colburn rode the VTTA (Kent) '25' and finished with a 1.5.32 for 5th place.

Mayne Cup day was the 3rd October and some pretty quick times. Fastest was Andy Murray in 1.1.55 from Pete Corry, 1.2.11, and a personal best from Steve Hackett of 1.2.56. Man of the Day was Steve Hackett with 5.30 handicap he won by over 2 minutes. Les Black's efforts throughout the year were of no avail. Even though he produced a season's best of 1.5.56 and had been gifted a 6.15 handicap he was no match for the youth and speed of

young Hackett. Having said that only 10 seconds behind Les in 3rd spot was Vin Callanan. Also between 2nd and 8th place there was only 1'07!

Some were still keen to race on through the autumnal mists and chills. Pete Corry was our best man in the Epsom '25' with 1.2.50. Steve Hackett did 1.4.15 and Alan Richardson 1.9.24. Dave Worsfold took his trike to the Brentwood '25' and returned with a 1.0.40. Jack Platts took to anti-gravity matters, this time in the East Sussex Hill Climb. Jack, as usual, gets up them faster than Alan. He finished in 9.6.6 to Alan's 9.27.8.

Gareth Earwicker finished the Brighton Mitre '25' in 1.5.06. Steve Hackett was our fastest rider in Len's '10' with a 24.48 for 4th place. Also riding were Graham Bristow 25.54, Les Black 26.02 and Paul Dennison 27.39..

We also had some riders in the Redmon's Grand Prix Gentlehomme where a Veteran is paced by as fast a youngster as he reckons he can hold onto. Ian Murray took on Jerry Waters of the Kentish Whs and they completed the course in 48.40 whilst Pete Corry paced Alan Colburn to finish in 50.33.

Alan Colburn took the Frank Cleeve Prize for Team Support with 13 points. There was a tie for 2nd place between John McNee and Gareth Earwicker with 11 points each.

The Open Time Trial Champion was Alan Colburn (22.234 mph) and he also took the Club Events Championship with 22.704 mph. Steve Hackett won the Junior Championship with 23.301 mph and the Junior Road Race Championship. George Clare took the Road race Championship with 30 points. Graham Bristow won the Track Championship

A Memorial Fund was opened for Robin Buchan. The object of the Fund was to give additional prizes to race on road, track or time trial events that Robin rode or he would have approved of. For 1977 the first of such awards will be given to the 10-minute pursuit at the Champagne Meeting. This was one type of event in which Robin excelled and it is a fitting tribute to his memory.

Our Cyclo-cross event was turned into the South of England Championships. This in turn meant far more course preparation, more marshals and more riders as the whole range of distances had to be catered for. First off were the Schoolboys with 3 laps of the 1½-mile circuit to cover. Then came the Juniors and Veterans with 6 laps to be covered. They were racing as one event but being placed in their own category. Then came the Finale with 60 riders in the Senior race over 10 laps.

Mike Bell (Sydenham) won the Schoolboy title with a powerful display of riding. In 2nd place came Ian Cockram (Crabwood) with Dave Scott (Barnet) in 3rd place. The Veterans race went to Alan Brunsden (Middlesex Clarion) from old professionals Ron Pannell (East Grinstead) and Mick Coward (Redmon) in 48.54. The Junior winner was Richard Simmons (Hillingdon) in 50.20. At 50 seconds came Mark Sullivan (Festival) and at 1'10" was Owen Leigh (Brighton Mitre).

The Senior Championship was a fast and furious affair. Keith Mernickle and Ian Jewell (Both Chris Barber/Geoffrey Butler Cycles) took the lead very early on changing positions but pulling away from the rest of the field. In the sixth lap Ian Jewell put in an extremely fast lap of 6.30 to break the lap record and to get distance between himself and Mernickle. Mernickle pushed himself to the limit but pushed too hard clipping a tree with his head on one of the tricky descents. Behind the leading two another battle was being fought with Hanson (Mills/Pearson Cycles) trying to hold off Martin Springer (Crabwood) for the bronze medal. At the Finish Jewell had opened up a lead of 3'26" over Mernickle. Hanson was some 4.13 behind in 3rd place with Springer 4th at 4.34. Springer did have the satisfaction of leading the winning team – the Crabwood CC.