

1980

At the AGM Arthur Bristow was elected President of the Norwood Paragon and two names were added to the list of Vice Presidents namely John Pocock and Sid Mitchell.

The first pedals pushed in anger came on the 9th March in the Croydon & District Hardriders. Howard Chadburn came 18th after derailing his chain on a couple of occasions with a 1.23.34; Paul Dennison suffered somewhat but made the Finish in 1.38.08. In the East Surrey Hardriders John McNee finished in 1.34.00. Then in Clarence Whs Medium Gear Pete Smith finished with a 1.11 and John McNee a 1.13.

The first Club 10 miles time trial was held on a cold, bitter day but it proved to provide no deterrent for some. It was a first win of the season for Steve Hackett with a 24.06 and a serious drubbing of the rest of the field. Keith Butler came 2nd in 26.20 and Howard Chadburn was 3rd in 26.44. Gavin Sherlock rode his first race and came in with a 27.22 but new member Nick Reardon was a non-starters as someone stole his bike on the Saturday night!

Howard Chadburn rode the Kentish Whs '25' and finished in 1.11.11. A nice easy time to remember when filling entry forms but one that he improved upon extremely quickly. He suffered in the wind on the Tonbridge bypass when riding the Gravesend '10' and was not happy with his 27.50. Nick Reardon was slightly more pleased with his 25.39.

Steve Hackett won the Jim Fox '25' with Buchan-like ease. His 1.2.33 was a mere 5 minutes better than Keith Butler's 1.7.26 and Howard Chadburn's 1.7.31. Howard had improved some 3,30 on his time in the Kentish Whs event.

Nick Reardon (on new bicycle) produced the goods in the West Kent '25' with a 59.29. Graham Bristow and Les Black tried their luck in the same event but on a tandem but were not happy with their 57.07. (Note: the Blah gives it as 37.07. Anyone would have been extremely happy with competition record!) Keith Butler rode the Crawley to Shoreham and back time trial in 2.5.29 even if it did include time changing a tubular down at Small Dole. On the Saturday Keith rode both Crawley Whs events: the '25' in 1.7.37 and the '10' in 26.10. Les Black entered the Charlotteville '50' and completed the course in 2.21.18.

On the Monday we had a team in the Actonia '25'. Pete Smith was the quickest of the trio in 1.4.05; Les Black did 1.4.49 and Keith Butler 1.5.37. Howard Chadburn had entered the Bec '25' and endured a ride in thick mist after the start had been delayed for about an hour to give it time to clear. He finished in 1.8.51. In the SCCU '25' Alan Colburn did a 1.3 something and beat Les Black by about 30 seconds. Keith Bowman managed to beat evens at last with a 1.14.44. Pete Smith and John McNee rode the Eagle middlemarkers '25' with Pete getting the better of John with a 1.6.31 to John's 1.7.13.

Howard Chadburn had a much more satisfying ride in the 34th Nomads event when on a very tough morning he did a personal best of 1.6.05 to beat Pete Smith by 4 seconds and Keith Butler by 45 seconds.

Les Black and Howard Chadburn rode the De Laune '25' on a cold windy day on the Portsmouth road. Les did a 1.5.54 but had the satisfaction of holding young Howard (1.7.01) at bay. Pete Smith went to Essex for the Hainault Middlemarkers and put up his best ride of the year so far with a 1.3.11.

On the 28th April Les Black made his intentions of riding longer distances very clear by riding the Bath Road Hilly '50'. His time of 2.20.55 was nearly 2 minutes faster than on the 'flat' Charlotteville course at Easter!

On Wednesday evening Keith Butler and Nick Reardon tripped round the Polhill '10' course in 23.57 and on the Thursday evening Keith came 9th at Eastway. On Saturday morning Keith rode the Redmon 'Aspirants' '10' and collected 2nd prize with a 24.53 a 1 second improvement on his come-back performance. Pete Smith did a personal best in the Catford '10' with a 23.57. Jack Platts and John McNee rode the VTTA (London) '25' and finished in 1.6.12 and 1.7.28 respectively.

On Sunday 12th May Howard Chadburn 'arrived' winning the Club '25' with a personal best of 1.5.12. Jack Platts came 2nd with 1.6.11 and John McNee 3rd in 1.6.24. Gavin Sherlock was riding his first '25' and finished in 1.9.01 to win the handicap by over 2 minutes. We also had a team in the Tooting Sporting '35'. Pete Ansell was our fastest on 1.32.57 from Keith Butler 1.35.02 and Les Black 1.36.48. Les was complaining that young son Ian was not allowing him, Les, to get enough sleep!

The first Team race of the year was won in the Redhill '25'. Pete Ansell, 4th with a 1.1.57 led Jack Platts, 1.4.53, and John McNee 1.5.08. John's ride was his best for 2 years and also enabled him to collect best veteran on standard award and 2nd handicap. Pete Smith finished with a 1.5.15 and Keith Bowman 1.14.33. A team also competed in the Redmon Hilly '73' with Keith Butler leading the team with a 3.12.59 from Les Black 3.13.38 and Howard Chadburn 3.23.13. Graham Watson finished the Glade '50' in 2.7.30.

Keith Butler rode a time trial on the Polhill course and improved to a 24.08 and the next day collected yet another 9th place at Eastway.

On the 17th May we had a Club '10' and, for once, had a very fine morning. Steve Hackett won with a 23.16, Les Black was 2nd on 23.41 and Keith Butler improved to a 23.57 for 3rd place. Gavin Sherlock improved by over 3 minutes and won the handicap event with his new personal best of 24.04, Howard Chadburn put up a personal best of 24.19, John McNee also a PB with a 24.32 that also collected 2nd handicap prize. Charlie Rodgers had a 25.10 and Keith Bowman a 27.35 both personal bests. It was a very satisfactory morning for all concerned.

Over the Bank Holiday we had a team in the Clarence Whs '10. Graham Watson, 23.56 with Pete Smith 24.53 and John McNee 25.09 were the riders concerned. The following morning we had a team in the Hounslow '100'. Keith Butler improved his comeback time by over 10 minutes to get just under 4 ½ hours with a 4.29.53 and just beating Nick Reardon's 4.29.59. Nick had actually

scheduled himself for a 4.30 so it was an excellent effort on his part. Les Black made up the best 100 team time we have had for some years with a 4.33.29.

In the Addiscombe '25' Pete Ansell put up his best time for a while with a 1.1.03. Young Chadburn put in yet another personal best; this time of 1.3.49 whilst Pete Smith did a 1.4.43 and John McNee 1 1.7.54. Then in the Southend & County '25' Peter improved again to 59.37 to take 2nd place and win his group award. Pete Smith also won his group award with a 1.2.52.

In the SCCU '50' Jack Platts was our fastest man – just. Jack clocked a 2.15.16, Les Black a 2.15.29 and Howard Chadburn a 2.16.04 for his first race over this distance. The following weekend Jack produced a personal best in the VTTA (Kent) '25' with a 1.0.00 then on the Sunday in the Club '50' he came home in 2.10.27 that was his fastest ever in 28 years of racing! Les Black won the club event with a 2.7.36 and took the handicap from scratch. Jack Platts was 2nd and Howard Chadburn improving yet again on his SCCU time came in 3rd with a 2.10.46. However the Handicappers were wise to young Chadburn so he 'only' managed 3rd place in this section. Gavin Sherlock collected 3rd handicap with a nett 2.7.52 that might have been better if he had not chosen to fall off on one of the roundabouts. Keith Butler, Pete Ansell, Graham Watson and Gavin Sherlock rode the Southend & Country 60kms 4-up team timetrial and finished in 1.26.10.

On the 16th June Les Black and Graham Bristow came 2nd in the South Western RC Tandem '25' with a personal best of 55.02 and then on the Sunday came 3rd in the Archer RC Tandem '25' with a 56.15. For this they won £15 worth of Findus Fish Fingers! Four riders took part in the South Eastern RC '25' the fastest of them being Pete Ansell on a 1.1.30 followed by Jack Platts, 1.3.50, Gavin Saherlock with a personal best of 1.4.05 and a disgruntled Howard Chadburn who went back to a 1.5.32! Keith Butler went back to his first love of road racing and had the mortification of being put into the 3rd category and Junior event that the Clarendon CC were running. Later it surfaced that his entry had arrived late and all places in the 1st category event had been taken so the promoter, Mick Ayliffe, out of the kindness of his heart, put Keith into the smaller and shorter of the races. Keith taking 3rd place in the final sprint for the line.

The Champagne Meeting was held on the 11th June and the many spectators observed some fine racing. In the Invitation Team Pursuit Match the Dutch Olympic Possibles clocked a 4.48.5 but were beaten by the British Possibles of Tony Doyle, Sean Yates, Glen Mitchell and Steve Denton when they finished in 4.43.7. The Dutch rather made up for this defeat by taking the Pro/Am 'Devil' (Henk Vonk with Dirk van Egmond in 3rd place), the Unknown Distance race (Henk Vonk) whilst Dirk van Egmond broke away with 7 laps remaining in the Champagne '10' and resisted all counter attacks. He finished in the event record time of 20.32.8 with his country man Koppert taking 2nd place with Glen Mitchell (34th Nomads) in 3rd place. The Stan Harrison Silver Salver went to Colin Barber (VC Londres) whilst the Robin Buchan award went to Barry Smallwood (VC D'Or) who beat Mark Wiffen (Zenith) in the Individual Pursuit.

On the Thursday Evening Keith Butler finished 4th in the Eastway series of races. He followed this with a 1.1.12 in the SECA '25', on Saturday, his fastest '25' since returning to active competition. Pete Ansell was faster with a 59.33 and Pete Smith slower with a 1.2.20.

The Frank Southall '50' was held on the 23rd June and resulted in a fine win for John Oakes (CC Bedouin) in 1.58.45. In 2nd place was M Woolfries (Bournemouth Arrow) in 2.00.12 with Pete Corry riding for CC Bedouin 3rd with a 2.1.54. This was a 6 minutes improvement on his previous best time and it enabled him to scoop the Handicap Prize. With Gareth Earwicker coming in with a 2.10.44 the CC Bedouin took the Team prize. Of our riders Les Black proved to be the fastest with a 2.10.54, Jack Platts followed with 2.12.24, Keith Butler 2.13.03 and Howard Chadburn selling out over the final miles to record 2.21.51.

Keith Butler collected a 5th place on Tuesday in the Crystal Palace Handicap, his best of the season on that circuit.

In the CDCA Open '25' our best rider was Les Black with a 1.3.15, Keith Butler finished in 1.4.55 and Pete Smith 1.5.04. Frank Payce-Drury completed the Wessex 24 hours event with 314.5 miles.

The Robin Buchan Silver Salver '25' was held on the 7th July on the Portsmouth and had the best morning of the year. Mike Wilcox (Bec) won in a course Record time of 55.38 with his clubmate R Walker a minute slower on 56.56. In 3rd place came Ray Hughes (Clarence) in 57.25. Nine riders beat 1 hour for the distance. P Worrell (Addiscombe) won the Handicap with C Hanson (Old Portlians) in 2nd place with R Campbell (Dulwich Paragon) 3rd. We had eight finishers and the fastest of them was Nick Reardon with a 1.0.30. Pete Ansell did 1.0.48, Les Black 1.2.22, Jack Platts 1.3.15, Keith Butler 1.3.36, Howard Chadburn 1.3.48, Pete Smith 1.4.52 and Charlie Rodgers 1.7.33.

The SCCU '100' and the Goss Green Trophy race saw 6 riders go to the start and all completed the distance. Les Black was in fine form but punctured. He then found that his spare tubular had dropped off but in a fine sporting gesture John Smith (Addiscombe) gave Les his bike so that Les could finish. No only would Les have not collected 5th place for the event he would not have won the Goss Green Cup and would not have been able to lead the Paragon to a Team victory. Nick Reardon was 6th in 4.33.33; Keith Butler finished in 4.36.09 to take 3rd spot in the Team and just edged out Graham Bristow by 5 seconds (4.36.14). Graham is usually seen at Herne Hill so this was a specially fine effort. Jack Platts came in with a 4.40.36 to take the Bill Saggars Prize for the fastest Novice. Charlie Rodgers was also well pleased with his 4.43.12 as he had 37 minutes allowance so he took the Handicap award with some ease.

Throughout this History we do dwell on the successes that we have over the Addiscombe and mourn our few defeats but when 'push comes to shove' it cannot be denied that there is a great deal of camaraderie between our two Clubs. It is only when we come upon actions such as John Smith's that the true state of affairs emerges.

Charlie Rodgers and Keith Bowman achieved two personal bests on the 12th July. In the SECA 1.4.00 limit event Charlie finished in 1.2.30 and Keith 1.11.58. During the week Keith Butler came 6th in a race at Eastway.

Having said all those nice things about the Addiscombe all out warfare was once again declared for the Inter-Club '10'. Even though Steve Hackett achieved fastest time he could not be one of our Team counters as he is only a second-claim member. Our best riders were Nick Readon, 23.20, Les Black and Gavin Sherlock, tied with 23.47, Keith Butler 23.59, Graham Bristow 24.03 and Gordon Button 24.04. (This was on an 81" fixed wheel). Unfortunately, even with all these times, we lost 2.21.37 to 2.23.00. Graham Bristow took our handicap award from Steve Hackett and Brian George. Brian had done a 26.40 as his first attempt at the distance.

On the 28th July Keith Butler put up his second best 12-hour distance when he finished 6th in the Border CA event based on the Bath Road. He rode out time with 247.75 miles. Les Black had back problems that, at one stage, were so bad that he thought he might have to retire. However he persevered and ran out time with 235 miles that included a couple of miles off-course on the rather tricky finishing circuit. Gavin Sherlock put up a personal best of 23.23 in the Surrey Road CC '10' and the following morning improved his '25' time to 1.2.25. A 9 minute allowance enabled him to take 1st handicap prize with some ease. Jack Platts finished in 1.3.06 and Charlie Rodgers 1.4.48. Nick Reardon clocked a 57.59 in the Sydenham Whs event and Pete Ansell also broke the hour with a 59.54.

The Saturday morning Club 10 produced a win for Nick Reardon in 23.47 beating Pete Ansell by 16 seconds. In 3rd spot came Gavin Sherrlock on 24.13. The Handicap was extremely close with Gavin Sherlock winning by 4 seconds from Nick Reardon (23.43 to 23.47) with Pete Ansell and Keith Butler tying for 3rd place just 1 second slower. On the Sunday Les Black rode the VTTA 100 miles Championship on the Bicester course. He finished 6th in 4.28.06. Charlie Rodgers improved by 6 minutes to record 4.37.41. Messrs Reardon, Butler and Sherlock went for to the Fareham Whs '25' where Nick was our fastest rider in 1.1.11. Keith Butler recorded his fastest '25' since becoming a vet with 1.1.48 and Gavin Sherlock improved his best to a 1.2.04. Jack Platts was our sole entry in the Balham Vets '25' where he recorded a 1.3.16.

August 11th and we had five riders in the Westerly '100' on the Bicester course. Pete Ansell surprised everyone, including himself, by coming home in a personal best by 17 minutes of 4.18.30. This also enabled him to collect 1st place on handicap. Keith Butler was our next fastest with a 4.21.39 - his best time since the early 60s. Third counter was Les Black who was disappointed with his 4.29.01 that was slower than his ride the previous week on the same course. The aggregate time of Messrs Ansell, Butler and Black (13.09.10) was just 1 minute short of the Club 100 miles Team Record. This made Les even more disgruntled! Charlie Rodgers finished in 4.38.15 but Nick Reardon stopped at 80 miles with stomach problems after being with the leaders at 50 miles.

Keith Butler went straight from Bicester to the Club Track Championships and paid suitably for his efforts! In the first event, the 4000m Individual pursuit Gordon Button and Graham Bristow tied with 6.01.8 whilst Keith Butler was just 0.1 seconds slower in 6.01.9. This was his slowest ever 4000m ride. Graham Bristow took the AEU Cup for the 500m Sprint for the 11th time from Gordon Button and Keith Butler. Keith, however had his revenge in the Handicap where he held off Graham by two lengths to win the Frank Burton Cup. The 5 miles was postponed to the 29th August. Frank Payce-Drury completed 218 miles in the North Midlands 12 hours event. This was a personal best and it enabled him to collect the Handicap award.

The Fryco '50' was run-off on the 18th August in foul weather yet Gavin Sherlock improved again to win in 2.11.29 beating Pete Ansell (2.11.47) by 18 seconds. Howard Chadburn was 3rd in 2.14.54 and Graham Bristow produced a personal best, by over 2 minutes, of 2.16.58. Keith Butler and Charlie Rodgers both punctured but finished in 2.18.54 and 2.21.55 respectively.

The Paragon promotions at Crystal Palace took place on the 20th August promoted by Graham Bristow. Peter Main (Redhill) won the Schoolboy event from P Harvey (Wandsworth) and M Fletcher (CC Basingstoke). Steve White (Gemini) won the Senior event from Bob Downs (GS Strada) and Colin Bateman (Festival). Pete Corry (CC Bedouin) came 4th and Keith Butler 5th.

On the 25th August Keith Butler produced his fastest '50' since he became a vet with a 2.5.12 in the Middlesex RC event. Then on the Bank Holiday Monday he came 3rd in the East Grinstead Carnival road race behind Sean Yates. On the run down the A264 Sean and another broke away and could not be caught. But the feature of the Carnival race was that it finished in Escot Park on the grass. This required you to be at the front coming down the hill by Queen Victoria Hospital as one has to turn sharp left into the Park, sprint uphill over the speed humps, turn sharp left and then in another 50 yards turn sharp right to finish with the last 100 yards on the playing fields. Being old and by definition crafty Keith had 'cased the joint' so it was no surprise to us that he took off at the Hospital and was never headed. A pity the effort was only for 3rd place. Jack Platts did a 1.6.40 in the Old Ports '25'.

Les Black was disappointed in his ride in the National Championship 24 hours. Lack of night riding experience and the intense cold riding over the Fens took its toll. However when the sun came out again he moved back into action and was actually the fastest rider over the last two laps of the Finishing Circuit. However he could not do better than 422 miles. Frank Pryce-Drury also rode and finished but no note has been made of his distance.

The Moon Trophy was held on the Portsmouth road and Pete Ansell produced a 1.0.04 that with an allowance of 4 minutes enabled him to take the Handicap Prize. Gavin Sherlock improved to a 1.1.45, Howard Chadburn clocked 1.4.04, Charlie Rodgers 1.4.51, Brian George 1.11.53 and Keith Bowman 1.14.43. Pete Ansell came 6th in the East Sussex CA '50' with a 2.10.25 with Keith Butler clocking 2.12.54.

Pete Ansell entered the Redbridge '25' with thoughts of a fast ride but a hard and strong crosswind put paid to that. He finished with his slowest ride of the season of 1.1.48. Gavin Sherlock rode the San Fairy Ann '25' and his 1.3.35 took 2nd on handicap and the fastest Junior prize. Charlie Rodgers attempted to improve his '50' time in the Viking event but the gale force winds ensured that he was unsuccessful. A 2.21. 58 was not what he intended. The Club had a Team in the ECCA '25'. Pete Ansell led this team in 1.1.10 from Nick Readon 1.1.48 and Keith Butler 1.3.03.

The Mayne Cup (combined with the CDCA Club events) had an unfortunate day. There was a 25-minute delay as the mist was too thick to send riders down the road. Conditions improved and about 60 riders were despatched but then the Fog came down again. The Police sent our last three riders, Les Black, Graham Bristow and Brian George, off the Ae3 and on the road to the Finish. In spite of all that Gavin Sherlock produced fastest time of 1.1.04 from Keith Butler 1.2.07 and Jack Platts 1.4.34. Tom Parr was Man of the Day. Having been given a whopping 15 minutes handicap as in his only other race, last year, he had only managed a 1.17; Tom came in with a 1.8.48! Gavin Sherlock was 2nd on handicap and Keith Butler 3rd both at some distance!

Howard Chadburn won the last Club Event of the season when he took the Les Black Cup for the Hill Climb. He beat Pete Smith by 12 seconds with Charlie Rodgers in 3rd place.

The Club Track Championships were finally completed on the 20th October when the 5 miles Scratch and Points race was held. Graham Bristow was too good for the others and took both the Ravensbourne Cup for the 5 miles and the George Colget Cup for the Points prize. Gavin Sherlock came 2nd and Howard Chadburn 3rd in both competitions. This meant that Graham had won the Track Championship for 1980 with Gordon Button and Keith Butler as runners up.

Les Black rode the VTTA (West) '25' and finished in 1.1.08. Brian George was our fastest rider in Len's 10 with a 27.51 that enabled him to take 4th on handicap. Howard Chadburn did a 28.02 on a 72" gear, M Peronious, a new member, went round in 28.50 and Keith Bowman took 29.35.

The Inter-Club Map Reading took place on the 27th October and although the Paragon riders were almost on Home Ground in the Lingfield area failed to take the Medals. Dan Burgess (Century) won in 1.14.35 with Keith Butler coming in in 2nd place nearly 12 minutes adrift (1.26.07). At the post race excuse-making ceremony (i.e. Lunch) Keith actually admitted to making an error of judgment! Our second man, in 7th place was Pete Smith, 1.31.21, including a puncture. Our third and fourth counters were Jack Platts, 1.48.20 and Graham Bristow 1.50.22.