

1982

For the first time in its existence the Norwood Paragon was to be a Sponsored Club. Thanks to the generosity of Len Neil, owner of Reliance Fernhill, we had a name change to Norwood Paragon/Reliance Fernhill, some money in the Bank and a brand new racing strip.

Howard Chadburn's season got off to a poor start when he punctured when in the break of the Eastbourne Rovers road race at Hellingley but the next morning he made amends with 10th place in the East Surrey Hardriders 33 miles race in 1.21.44. He then rode the classic Eastbourne to London promoted by the Old Kent CC and whilst only 15th he was in the leading bunch of riders.

Tim Parr started 1982 with a vengeance clocking 1.17.55 in the Croydon & District Hardriders for 6th place. Our only other rider was Steve Rickwood who covered the distance in 1.30.43.

The 20th March saw the first of the Club Events with a 10 miles event on the Gatwick course. On a bright but cold and blustery afternoon Dave Lovell swept to victory in 23.42 beating Howard Chadburn by 29 seconds. Keith Butler was a distance 3rd in 25.47 just in front of Glyn Durrant's 25.52. The Handicap was a much closer affair. Seven riders were within 43 seconds. Dave Featherstone had the best handicap time of 23.14 due to a personal best ride of 26.14. John McNee came next just 4 seconds down then Steve Rickwood at 6 seconds after a personal best of 27.20.

On the 27th March Dave Lovell rode his first Open Event of the season on his brand new aero-dynamic bike and won the SECA 10 miles in 22.09 just 30 seconds away from Club Record. He beat into 2nd place ex-international rider Ron Keeble by 2 seconds. Dave Featherstone (25.00) and Keith Butler (25.11) backed Dave but they missed the Team race by 1 second! Howard Chadburn went off to deepest Kent to ride the Ashford Whs road race at Tenterden. He missed the break and spent the rest of the event chasing with two others eventually finishing in 9th place just 200 yards behind the leaders.

April Fools Day and we had three riders in the Gravesend '10'. Dave Featherstone improved another 30 seconds to 24.30; Steve Rickwood went even better by taking 56 seconds from his best when recording 26.24 whilst Dave Lovell 'only' did 22.15. Howard Chadburn stirred the field in the Surrey Road CC event at Ellens Green but was 'rewarded' by having the whole field regroup on the last lap and he had nothing left for the mass sprint.

The Jim Fox '25' was held on a bitterly cold morning with freezing mist to make matters worse. 'Steam' was rising from the lake on the Portsmouth road it was so cold. It was warmer standing about than 'warming-up'! Nevertheless Dave Lovell started in a skin suit with no gloves, hat, arm or leg warmers. The fact that he won in a course record time of 58.35 and was 7½ minutes faster than Dave Featherstone is scant comfort to the rest of the Club who thought him absolutely bonkers! Dave Featherstone clocked 1.6.03,

Jack Platts 1.6.08 and Keith Butler 1.6.30. Dave Lovell took the handicap from the scratch mark from Graham O'Sullivan (9 minutes) and Dave Featherstone (6.15). Howard Chadburn finished 5th in the Addiscombe road race on the Smallfields circuit whilst Paul Quaglia found the cornering speed a bit higher than he was comfortable with.

The first team win for the Norwood Paragon/Reliance Fernhill squad came in the Festival '25'. Dave Lovell won in 58.49, Bryan Hodgson clocked a 1.0.36 for his first ride of the season for 4th place and Graham O'Sullivan made up the winning team with a 1.6.39. Howard Chadburn was hoping to win the St Christophers road race on the Woldingham circuit. He attacked in the right place and opened up a commanding lead along the Botley Farm road but then came to grief on the corner into Slines Oak road. While he remounted very quickly it gave the bunch a chance to catch him and they did just that on the last climb to Woldingham. He crossed the line in 9th spot a rather disappointed young man.

Howard Chadburn finished 10th in the Crawley Whs Shoreham and back time trial just 3 minutes down on the winner. Keith Butler punctured at Small Dole and rode home for 'training' to finish in 2.3.13.

On Easter Monday Dave Lovell was back on the Portsmouth Road and although going faster with a 58.19 he had to be content with 4th place behind Mick Ballard (Unity CC). Howard Chadburn finished in 1.2.08 and Dave Featherstone finished in 1.5.40 to take 24 seconds from his best ever. Graham O'Sullivan finished in 1.7.14.

Dave Lovell produced his best performance of the season over 10 miles when he came 5th in the Gemini event with a 21.49 just 26 seconds slower than the winner Mick Ballard (Unity). Dave Featherstone had yet another personal best with a 24.21. Graham O'Sullivan, 25.14, and Glyn Durrant, 25.20, were our other finishers in this event. The following morning Dave Lovell slowed to a 59.55 on the Portsmouth Road and Jack Platts came in with a 1.5.57 to win the handicap.

Keith Butler showed a little of his old form in the Clarendon 'Races for the lads' event on the Lingfield circuit when he came 2nd a length or so behind the winner, John Moore, (Ross Whs). Ray Puttick also finished just behind Keith in 13th place. The day before the Paragon had a team in the Southboro '10' and Dave Lovell was beaten once again by Mick Ballard. This time Dave was over a minute back in 7th place with a 22.41 to Ballard's 21.30. Keith Butler finished on 25.27, Dave Featherstone 25.48 and Glyn Durrant 26.21. In the Ladcies event Allison Butler came 4th with a 29.11 to take 2nd on handicap. Ray Runham and Pete Ansell returned to racing with a ride in the South Bucks 2-up and were rewarded with 4th club team and 5th overall with their 1.0.14

Howard Chadburn and Keith Butler went out to the wilds of Berkshire to ride the Bath Road Hilly '50' with Howard taking 2.11.29 for this lumpy course whilst Keith slowed over the last hills to a 2,22,53. In the Hainault

Middlemarkers '25' Jack Platts did a good ride to finish with a 1.1.11 whilst Glyn Durrant did 1.5.55 and Rfita Durrant clocked a personal best of 1.12.48.

Harry Featherstone, once of the Kentish Whs, inspired by son David's racing, joined the Paragon and in his first competition for 29 years rode the VTTA (London) '25'. To the surprise of all he came home in 1.2.50 to take the handicap prize by some margin. Also making a come-back after a much shorter lay-off were Ray Runham and Pete Ansell and they too took handicap prizes. Ray and Pete did their smash and grab act in the Tooting Sporting where Pete took 1st prize with his 1.36.53 less 12 minutes and Ray came 2nd with a 1.37.04 also less 12 minutes. Glyn Durrant made up the Team with a 1.52.08. Jack Platts rode the Norland Combine '30' and was just 1 minute down on the winner coming 3rd with a 1.17.43.

Brian Hodgson beat Dave Lovell in the Addiscombe '10' finishing in 23.15. Dave Lovell came in with a 24.07, Dave Featherstone did 26.12, Glyn Durrant 26.22, Graham O'Sullivan 27.34 and Rita Durrant 31.22 but it was a hard, windy, afternoon. Sunday saw Dave Lovell in action at the Hove Park Kermesses where he was unplaced and on Monday he was back on his time trial bike to clock a 23.18 in the Croydon RC '10. Howard Chadburn finished 10th in the Dave Cosson Memorial road race at Ellens Green being one of the 20 finishers in this gruelling 94 miles race.

On the 10th May Brian Hodgson equalled the Club 10 miles record with a 21.36 for 3rd place in the Catford event. He also beat Dave Lovell again by 16 seconds, 21.52, with Dave Featherstone completing the team with a 24.50. Dave Featherstone had also ridden earlier in the day in the Redmon '10' clocking a 25.03. This was beaten by Glyn Durrant, 24.56 but just pipped Graham O'Sullivan by 3 seconds, 25.06. Rita Durrant finished in 28.20. On the Sunday morning Keith Butler did fastest time in the Club '25' on the A24 with a 1.5.35. In 2nd place came Harry Featherstone with a 1.7.17 and Graham O'Sullivan took 3rd place with 1.7.39 but this was good enough for him to take the handicap award. Ray Runham and Pete Ansell essayed another 2-up event this time it was the Medway Velo '25'. Once again they finished in 4th place but improved their performance to clock 59.02.

Dave Lovell put up his fastest 25 miles time of the season when finishing the Becontree event in 57.21. Pete Ansell and Ray Runham rode the High Wycombe '25' as singles with Pete doing his best time since 1978 with a 58.42 whilst Ray was a mite slower on 59.26. Les Black also made his season's debut with a 1.1.48. Howard Chadburn confirmed his fitness with an excellent but unknown time in the Redmon Hilly 73. Keith Butler was our second counter with a 3.10.31 and Graham O'Sullivan came in with a 3.19.21. Rita Durrant became the first lady member of the Paragon to ride a National Championship when competing in the 10 miles event in Suffolk. She finished in 29.51 somewhat down on the leaders but equally somewhat from the bottom of the list.

The Club '10' on Saturday morning 24th May saw a win for Howard Chadburn in 24.18 with Keith Butler 2nd in 24.32 and Les Black 3rd with a 24.38. The

Handicap went to Graham Clark who improved by 3 minutes to 29.20. In 2nd spot was Brian George and 3rd was Dave Featherstone. Jack Platts put up a personal best time for 50 miles when he did 2.10.02 in the North Middx & Herts event on his favourite F4 course. (This was near South Mimms Service Station).

Brian Hodgson came up with a personal best of 58.03 for 4th place in the Addiscombe '25'. Harry Featherstone finished in 1.3.07 in the same event and Keith Butler was going well as he clocked 1.7.00 including a stop to change a tubular after puncturing. Dave Lovell did a 58.35 and Jack Platts a 1.3.20 in a 25 miles time trial whose promoting club is not mentioned! The SCCU '50' had two Paragon entries. Graham O'Sullivan just missed a personal best with a 2.21.31 but Glyn Durrant arrived at the start to find he had left his racing shoes behind hence a DNS! The Cycling that week had a feature on the London to Brighton Bike Ride (12000 riders that year) with credit for the photographs to our own Graham Watson.

The June 'Blah' reports a Club Evening '10' on an unknown date with only two starters due to commitments elsewhere. Dave Lovell beat Keith Butler 23.45 to 24.39. A Club '50' was held on the 6th June. The winner was Les Black with a 2.11.23. In 2nd place came Jack Platts 2.12.34 and Graham O'Sullivan was 3rd with a personal best of 2.16.02. He took the handicap prize with this ride as well.

June 9th was the date for Champagne Meeting at Herne Hill and this year it was blessed with a beautiful evening and some top class racing to make the occasion. Highlight of the evening was a pursuit match between Dave Lloyd, winner of the RTTC National 25 miles Championship just three days before and Sean Yates. Yates was in devastating form catching Lloyd in 8 laps and going on to complete the 9 laps in 5.10.5. That is the equivalent of a 4.52 time for 4000m! Not only did Sean win this race but in the Champagne '10' he broke away with John Herety at about half distance staying clear to win the race and to take the prize for the inner of most laps. In 3rd place came Paul Swinnerton and 4th was Tony Mayer. Tony Mayer also won the 10 laps pursuit for the Robin Buchan Track award with a distance of 4 miles and 1046 yards. The 500m Handicap for the Stan Harrison Salver had a special interest for the Paragon as Howard Chadburn qualified for the Final but lost out to the 34th Nomads rider Gary Edwards.

Dave Mayes (VC D'Or) won the Devil-take-the-Hindmost, John Herety took the 15 laps Point race and Gary Edwards the 20 laps scratch. Boxing Champion Alan Minter presented prizes. It was another very successful promotion by Graham Bristow.

In the Evening '10' series Dave Lovell repeated his victory with a 22.27 from Keith Butler who did his fastest ride for some time with a 23.52. In 3rd place was Paul Quaglia, 25.44, and 4th was Nick Readon 26.08.

Brian Hodges continued to improve. He came 2nd in the South Eastern '25' with a 56.16 behind Pete Hamilton (55.31). Also riding for the Club were Jack

Platts, 1.1.55, and Howard Chadburn 1.2.38. Pete Ansell came 6th in the Essex Roads '30 with a 1.12.20 and Rowan Vacher completed the course in 1.16.49. Keith Butler and Ray Runham went to Stevenage for the Veterans road race over 60 miles. Keith punctured in the first mile and was assisted back to the bunch by Ray eventually finishing in 8th place. Ray was in the main bunch.

The 20th June was Frank Southall '50' day and it produced a time and winner that did justice to the man whose name is honoured by this event. After 25 miles Pete Hamilton (34th Nomads) led Mark Adamson (Richmond & Darlington) by just 26 seconds with John Oakes (VC Etoile) another 13 seconds slower. John Woodburn (Manchester Whs) was at 1.34 whilst our best riders, Ray Runham and Howard Chadburn, were at 4.13 and 4.20 respectively. On the return from Arundel Hamilton maintained his pace and crossed the line in 1.56.12 to break the course record by 2½ minutes. The once course record holder was John Oakes who picked up time on Adamson to finish in 2nd place with a 1.58.40 to Adamson's 1.58.52. John Woodbutn came 4th in 1.59.10. Our hopes were centres on Chadburn and Runham and they too maintained their speed. Howard produced a personal best of 2.4.15 for 6th place and to take 1st on handicap. Ray came 7th in 2.5.20, his best for some years, and he took 2nd on handicap. Alun Millard (Charlotteville) was 3rd on handicap. With a 6th and 7th place the Team race was ours and although Keith Butler's name appears on the shield with a 2.12.22 either Jack Platts, 2.12.27, or Les Black, 2.16.57, would have ensured that we won the Team award.

Dave Featherstone's 1.0.15 inspired father Harry as he improved to a 1.1.36 in the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) '25'. The two youngest members of the Club rode the GH Stancer Schoolboy/girl '10'. Graham Clark improved again to a 27.12 whilst Allison Butler came in with a 28.32. As the only girl riding she qualified for the Final to be held near Littlehampton in September.

Just to show we can do the impossible a week after the Frank Southall '50' we promoted the Robin Buchan '25'. Something must have been a matter with the morning as 21 riders decided not to start and another 6 failed to finish. Tim Stevens (34th Nomads) achieved fastest time with a 54.48 just beating Mick Ballard (Unity) by 8 seconds. In 3rd place came Tim Goodsell (Archer) with a 56.32 and 4th was Ron Keeble (CC Bedouin) 56.43. The CC Bedouin Team of Keeble, Earwicker (58.28) and Corry (58.56) won the Team race. Tony Cosstick (London Fire Brigade) won the handicap from Bob Douglas (then still with the Clarencourt and not Norwood Paragon) with Chris Lillywhite (Wandsworth and later win the Tour of Britain) in 3rd place. Our best finishers were Dave Lovell in 20th place with a 59.54, Howard Chadburn 37th, 1.1.28, Dave Featherstone 1.3.34 and Les Black 1.3.38

On the 4th July Brian Hodgson won the CDCA '25 by just 1 second with a 57.02 ride from A Percy (Shaftesbury). Other Paragon times were by Les Black 1.2.29, Dave Featherstone 1.3.50, Graham Bristow 1.5.02, Graham O'Sullivan 1.5.43 and Steve Rickwood 1.7.48. Howard Chadburn, Rowan Vacher, Ray Runham and Keith Butler rode the Clarencourt 4-up taking

1.19.53 to cover the 50 kms. Jack Platts did a 1.1.04 in the North Middx & Herts '25'.

We do not have a copy of the Blah for July 1982 but have gleaned some detail from the records of the records of individual's performances kept by Alan Bristow. Jack Platts achieved a personal best '50' in the ECCA event with a 2.7.19 on the 11th July. On the same day 4 Paragons rode the Farnborough & Camberley '25' their times being Pete Ansell 1.2.26, Les Black 1.4.14, Dave Featherstone 1.4.16 and Keith Butler 1.4.24.

Howard Chadburn came 2nd in the SCCU '100' with a great ride of 4.21.16 for a first attempt at the distance just 3½ minutes behind Pete Crofts (Southboro) Graham O'Sullivan did 4.52.18. Keith Butler equalled his personal best since returning to the fray with a 23.52 in the 34th Nomads event whilst Dave Featherstone reduced his time to a 24.12.

The Cycling of the 17th July featured a stunning picture of Bernard Hinault in the Prologue Stage of the Tour de France – taken by Graham Watson on his first assignment to the Grand Boucle.

The Inter-Club '10' against the Addiscombe was held on Tuesday 21st July. Times for the best Paragon riders were Dave Lovell 24.17, Ray Runham 24.37, Pete Ansell 24.47, Howard Chadburn 24.50, Les Black 25.15 and Gordon Button 25.19. Ethel McNee won the Club Handicap with a net 21.39 from new member Warren Higgins 22.30 and Allison Butler collected 3rd prize with 22.49.

On the 24th July Brian Hodgson took 20 seconds off the Club '10' Record with a 22.16 when finishing 3rd in the Ashford Whs event behind Mick Ballard (Unity). Gordon Button improved to a 23.36 in the Surrey Road CC '10' and Allison Butler did a 27.37. The next day Les Black covered 232 miles in the Border '12' and Graham O'Sullivan did 232 miles

Pete Ansell and Ray Runham rode the Southboro & District '10' finishing in 22.49 and 22.48 respectively. Then Pete produced a 1.0.41 in the Aylesbury '25'. However after his holiday, on the 1st August he really pulled out all the stops when he finished the Essex Roads '50' in 1.54.13 improving by over 6 minutes and taking 2nd place on handicap. This is the 2nd fastest time ever done by a Paragon member. Only Robin Buchan, 1.48.44, has gone faster. Ray Runham did a 59.56, Jack Platts a 1.0.54 and Harry Featherstone 1.2.53 in the Bec '25'. Jack Platts recorded a personal best for 100 miles in the Century event with a 4.29.55 an improvement of over 10 minutes. Graham O'Sullivan finished with 4.54.45 after a 100 miles and 12 hours event in the last two week-ends.

Dave Lovell scored again in the Club '10' on a Saturday early in August. He finished in 22.22. Gordon Button took 2nd place with a personal best of 23.29. Harry Featherstone came 3rd. At 49 years of age he was riding his first 10 miles time trial. In HIS day '10's were for Juniors and beginners only but times do change and Harry has ridden the distance times past counting since.

This day he went round the course in 23.41 and beat son David, 23.53. Allison Butler improved her personal best and Schoolgirl record to 27.12. The handicap went to Harry Featherstone with 22.11 but it was a close run thing. Gordon Button was 2nd, 22.14, Dave Lovell 3rd, 22.22, Dave Featherstone 4th 22.23 and Allison Butler 5th 22.42.

On the 9th August Brian Hodgson knocked more time from the 10 miles Record when he clocked 21.13 for 4th place in the SECA '10'. Dave Lovell was not far back on 21.39 and with Dave Featherstone on 23.54 the Club had a new Team race Record figures of 1.6.46. Harry Featherstone clocked a 24.20 in the Old Portlians '10'. On the Sunday the Southboro had a windy morning for their '25' at Headcorn that is reflected on Pete Ansell's time of 1.1.54 for the distance. Dave Featherstone also slowed to a 1.3.10. Les Black rode the Westerley '100' and came home in 4.31.18.

The Club Track Championships were held on a sunny afternoon in August when Dave Lovell produced the Goods. Dave started off in good form by winning the Bert Chapman Cup for the Pursuit in 5.38.6 with Howard Chadburn in 2nd place, 5.43.7, and Gordon Button in 3rd 5.45.6. He then took the AEU Cup for the 500m sprint beating Howard Chadburn and Graham Bristow in the Final. The 5 miles for the Ravensbourne Cup was a different kettle of fish as Howard Chadburn's stamina came into play. Howard took both the Final sprint and the George Colget Cup for the points race. Dave Lovell came 2nd in both competitions and Keith Butler took 3rd place. Thus Dave Lovell won the Track Championships with 9 pts from Howard Chadburn's 8 pts. Gordon Button, Graham Bristow and Keith Butler tied for 3rd place with a point each. The 500m Handicap for the Frank Burton Cup went to the limit man Steve Rickwood who just held off a fast finishing Keith Butler with Gordon Button 3rd.

In the Sydenham Whs '10' Pete Ansell put up a personal best of 22.22, Ray Runham came in with a 23.19 and Allison Butler in 29.35 after delays changing a tubular. Interesting point is that Brian Hodgson did not get in the race. His entry was returned as being too late even though it was sent with the others!

The Fryco Cup '50' was run-off on the 16th August and Howard Chadburn won it in a time of 2.11.53. Heavy overnight rain deterred a number of possible riders and only three men faced the timekeeper. In 2nd place was Les Black, 2.12.38 and in 3rd Jack Platts 2.17.10.

The 29th Whs '25' saw Brian Hodgson make amends for missing the previous weekend's racing when he finished 3rd in 56.47 once again behind Mick Ballard (Unity). Pete Ansell came in with a 59.56, Harry Featherstone 1.0.41 and Dave Featherstone a 1.3.44. Ethel McNee went round in 1.15.08 for the first '25' she had ridden for 20 years!

Keith Butler promoted the Paragon road race but could not put on a 1st category road race because of the proximity of both course and date to the World Championship road race(s) to be held at Goodwood. If you can believe

anything so stupid! Some of the Rules that the UCI and BCF manage to think up beggar belief. John Sargeant put in an entry as having not raced for 2 seasons he had reverted to 3rd category. However his undoubted class was to be very apparent as the race unfolded. Adams (Hounslow) broke away early in the race and took the first 4 primes on Norwood Hill although never more than 1½ minutes in front of the bunch. Eventually a group of four chasers caught him. They were John Sargeant and Barry Charlick (CC Basingstoke), Andrew Sellar (Addiscombe) and Alan Roberts (Highgate). With a lap to go Sargeant took off opening up a good gap to cross the line 1.10 in front of his clubmate Charlick with Adams 3rd, Sellar 4th and Roberts 5th. The rest of the field fell apart under the effort of chasing the leaders and only 4 others reached the Finish between 5.55 and 11 minutes behind.

The 6th September and we celebrate two new Club Records. In the De Laune '10' Dave Lovell took 30 seconds off Brian Hodgson's Record with a storming 20.43 and still only finished 7th. Brian was also inside his previous record with a 21.10 and the third rider to put in a personal best was Pete Ansell with a 21.57. This gave us the Team race in the event plus a new Team Record of 1.3.50 that still stands in 2004. In the Veterans section Ray Runham finished in 22.39 and Rita Durrant clocked a personal best of 27.37 in the Ladies section. The next day Brian Hodgson took a fine 2nd place in the Old Portlians '25' with a 56.10 behind Derek Cottington (Charlotteville). Harry Featherstone also put up a personal best with 1.0.26 whilst son David did 1.2.18. Steve Rickwood finished with a 1.6.35. Dave Lovell and Ray Runham rode the Colchester Rovers '25' and on a windy morning got round in 58 and 59 minutes respectively with the seconds not being known. Jack Platts got near to the magic hour with a 1.0.43 in the North Midds & Herts '25' on his favourite F4, South Mimms course. Allison Butler took a 13th place on the West Malling circuit and a 10th place at Crystal Palace whilst a young sprog called Gethin Butler, although not yet old enough to join the Paragon, won a schoolboy handicap at Crystal Palace. We may hear more of this lad.

It was Allison Butler's turn to shine on the 13th September when she finished 5th Schoolgirl in the GH Stancer Memorial National Championship Final with a new Club Schoolgirl Record and a personal best of 25.56. This put her just 40 seconds down on the winner. Ray Runham did his best '25' since returning to the fray with a 57.02 in the Redbridge '25'. Also improving was Pete Ansell with a 57.05. In the Walter Moon '25' the Paragon had to be content with 2nd team behind the Old Portlians but had the satisfaction of taking the Tankards for the 'Over 30s' team. Harry Featherstone was our fastest rider with a 1.2.16 followed by Les Black 1.2.50, Gordon Button 1.3.11, Graham O'Sullivan 1.6.07, Steve Rickwood 1.7.58 and John McNee 1.8.03. Howard Chadburn had the misfortune to puncture and then repeated the act in the SW London & Surrey road race Championship that afternoon. You get days like that in the bike game!

The Belle Vue '25' on the 20th September was another good day for the Paragon with Brian Hodgson finishing 5th with a 57.1`8 behind Derek Cottington then with Pete Ansell's 58.41 and Jack Platts on 1.1.03 we won the

Team race. Les Black finished in 1.2.11 and Steve Rickwood won the prize for the best improvement when he finished in a personal best of 1.5.57.

Pete Ansell got under the hour again in the SCCU '25' with a 59.31 but Harry Featherstone didn't quite do it with a 1.0.56. Dave Featherstone recorded a 1.4.26 after a bikeless holiday in Majorca and Steve Rickwood a 1.40.10 that included a 31 minutes late start. Steve rode a 15 miles time trial the day before for the AE Davies Plaque for the Junior Championship and recorded a 42.52. On the Sunday Allison Butler and Graham Clark rode the same course. Allison took 46.07 to cover the distance and Graham 52.07 after leaving the proscribed course and losing some minutes.

Harry Featherstone achieved the fastest time in the Mayne Cup '25' with a 1.1.27 just in front of Gordon Button who improved by nearly a minute with a 1.1.29. In third place was Les Black with a 1.3.15. The Man of the Day and winner of the Mayne Cup was Gordon Butler whose allowance of 4.30 took him way in front of anyone else. Allison Butler established a Schoolgirl Record with her 1.9.54 and with 12 minutes handicap took second in that section. Harry Featherstone came 3rd.

Jack Platts had his just reward in the SECA '25' when he achieved a lifetime ambition to 'beat the hour'. He took nearly a minute from his previous best to cross the line in a memorable 59.09.

Another Club Record was broken in the Epsom Tandem '25' when Ray Runham and Pete Ansell finished in 53.11 on a calm but cool morning. In the silo event Brian Hodgson came 5th with 56.53 and Harry Featherstone produced another personal best of 1.0.24 that gave him 3rd place on Age Standard in the Vets section. Dave Featherstone came in with a 1.2.34 and Steve Rickwood a 1.8.39.

Graham O'Sullivan wound up the season by taking the Les Black Cup for the Hill Climb on Ranmore Common from Keith Butler and new member Alistair Mitchell.

Gordon Button finished his season by being fastest paragon rider in Len's '10' on the Polhill course. On a bright, breezy and showery morning he did a 24.51 well ahead of Graham O'Sullivan's 26.12. Keith Butler finished in 26.21, John McNee 26.25 (fastest vet on Age Standard), Allison Butler 29.16 (and fastest lady prize), Graham Clark 29.45 and Ethel McNee 31.41 after missing the final turn into the finishing lane.

The Redmon 2-up 'Grand Prix du Gentlehomme' where a Veteran is paced by a younger and hopefully faster rider had Paragon representation. Les Black was paced by Steve Hackett and they finished in 3rd place with a time of 40.36 just 40 seconds down on the winners. Harry and Dave Featherstone were hoping to win the Father and Son prize but although they did fastest time of 44.49 the prize went to the team with the best plus on Age Standard and this was done by a 74 year old paced by his 39 year old son!

Just to round off the season some intrepid souls rode the Holdsworth Company '10' Dave Lovell came 2nd with a 22.59 on a very wet and windy afternoon. Keith Butler managed a 25.02, Allison Butler 27.55 and Eric Bonner, who has not raced since the Romans were over, was very pleased and should have been with his 29.44.

A note in the November Blah records nine new members to the Club. Amongst them were Marilyn Butler and her young son Gethin who had just turned 14.

Other articles from Cycling in the Archives include a page from the December 4th issue giving news that Keith Butler will be trying to start a road-racing League in Surrey for the 1983 season. This was to become to be the biggest and most successful League ever in Britain but we did not know it then.

Dan Burgess (Century) won the Inter-Club Map Reading in 1.4.30. The Century then filled the first four placings and so won the Team race by over an hour!!! Keith Butler was 6th, Glyn Durrant 7th and Howard Chadburn 11th.

The Cyclo-cross event promoted by the Paragon in Frylands Wood attracted a good field. Graham Douce (CC Bedouin) won in fine style with 2 minutes in hand over Ian Jewell (Pearson Cycles). In 3rd place came Mick Bell (London Fire Brigade) and 4th Arthur Ellis (VC Elan). The Schoolboys section was taken by Steve Rowlands (VC D'Or) from Alan Watkins (Old Portlians) and our Alistair Mitchell in 3rd place.

The end of the year was marred by the death of Vice President Arthur Sharp. He joined the Club in the mid 1930s winning the most improved novice prize in 1937 and the Mayne Cup as well that year. Like many riders of that generation Military Service, that in Arthur's case meant 5 years in the Navy, curtailed his cycling achievements. He served on the battleship HMS Renown. After demobilisation he returned to competition but preferred the shorter distances of 25, 30 and 50 miles. He won the Addiscombe '50' in 1947. When he retired from racing he served on the Club Committee and was Social Secretary from 1956 to 1960. Arthur was noted for his outspoken and cryptic remarks on things in general. He did not suffer fools gladly! To his circle of friends he was also known as 'Smiler'. In his honour we now have the Arthur Sharp Plaque for the fastest '50' of the year. He would NOT have approved. 'After 10 years who knows anything about the old b****r you are commemorating. Put up the money for a few years and then drop it' - would have been his advice.

Les Black repeated his win in the Open Time Trial Championship with an average speed of 22.140 mph. Graham O'Sullivan took the Club Events Championship at 21.755 mph. Howard Chadburn took the Road race Championship and Dave Lovell the Track Championship. Steve Rickwood was Junior Champion with Allison Butler as Runner-up. Allison also took the Aubrey Hill Shield for the Schoolboy/girl Championship.

