

1984

The Club Dinner was held on the 30th January at the Selsdon Park Hotel. This is the first change of venue for twenty years! Since 1964 the Club had dined at Cobbs Corner in Sydenham. The food was always good and reasonably priced and it had the advantage that the Bar was off to the side of the Dance Hall. Unfortunately the proprietors closed the store leaving us in the lurch. We tried to go to the Holiday Inn, East Croydon but the kitchens were not ready in time so they booked us at the Selsdon Park Hotel and paid the difference. Very nice too! It is a sad reflection on the choices available in Croydon and the surrounding area that we have yet to find a truly regular 'home' for our dinner since losing Cobbs.

Steve Rickwood was the first to go racing in 1984 with a 1.17.14 in the Croydon & District hardriders. He then rode the Festival 2-up on his own and finished the course in 1.6.56. His supposed partner also rode round the course as an individual and clocked 1.12.00. There is a story there somewhere. Warren Higgins was leading the field by over a minute on the Lingfield circuit when he cramped up solid and crawled in for 15th place one very disappointed young man. Glyn Durrant was with the survivors and finished one place ahead of Warren in 14th spot.

The Club '10' opened most riders' season and found Dave Featherstone in good form as he won with a 24.53. Glyn Durrant was second fastest with a 25.30 and John McNee showed some excellent early morning form taking 3rd place with a 26.33. Mike James won the handicap his 28.04 being subject to a 5.50 deduction. He won by 8 seconds from Andre Webster, 22.22, with Simon Grieve 3rd in 23.13. The following morning Dave, partnered by father Harry, rode the Antelope 2up and collected 3rd prize with a 57.50. Harry also collected the prize for the fastest Veteran.

Warren Higgins made up for losing the Lingfield race by winning the Weybridge Whs road race at Forest Green. He broke away with a group of six and then with 14 miles to go broke clear from the others with Dave Collins (East Grinstead). Warren won the sprint with some ease.

On the 1st April three Paragon riders took part in the Crawley Whs '10' with Dave Featherstone being the fastest with a 25.00. Glyn Durrant was our second man in 26.18 and John McNee, going even fastest than his ride in the Club '10', 26.29. Harry and Dave Featherstone rode the ECCA '25' with Harry claiming 5th fastest time on 1.1.07 and Dave a 1.2.50.

The following morning was The Jim Fox '25' day and one to be remembered, or if you rode, never to be forgotten. A strong, freezing, north-easterly wind was blowing into the riders faces back from the turn and snow showers made everything else quite jolly. Harry Featherstone managed to do his slowest ride since returning to competition – a 1.5.40 with son Dave just 2 minutes back on 1.7.25. The rest were absolutely nowhere with times that were reminiscent of the 1900s. They are listed in the Club Results but we will

spare riders blushes. Dave Featherstone won the handicap from Harry and Steve Rickwood came 3rd in both the race and the handicap.

Steve Rickwood and Glyn Durrant rode the 34th Nomads '25' finishing in 1.4.06 and 1.4.32 respectively. Harry Featherstone went somewhat faster in the Crabwood '25' than he did in the Jim Fox event on a considerably warmer morning finishing in 1.1.05. Graham O'Sullivan and John McNee essayed the SCCU '25'. Graham was pleased with his season opening 1.5.41 whilst John did a 1.7.08.

After his spirited riding at the start of the season Warren Higgins received an invitation to ride for the BCF Surrey Team in a 2-day race in the Bournemoluth area. Harry Featherstone got 'under the hour' for the first time in 1984 with a 58.54 in the Marlboro '25'. Rowan Vacher, in his first ride of the season, was just 2 seconds slower and Dave Featherstone completed the team with a 1.0.28. Jack Platts preferred the De Laune '25' and collected 3rd fastest on Age Standard with his 1.7.02. Simon Grieve, 1.10.22, and Mike James, 1.10.42 found conditions rather batter than the Jim Fox and were rewarded with 2nd and 3rd prizes in the Junior section. John Mcnee won fastest Vet prize in the Kingston Phoenix '10' with his 25.02 and on the Sunday came 1ⁿ with a 1.5.20 in the Harlequins event. Glyn Durrant was 7th in the Kingston event with a 24.34. Doug Vacher clocked a season's best of 25.46 in the Gemini '10'.

The first Team success of the year came in the Victoria '25' when Harry Featherstone came 4th in 1.0.43, Dave did a 1.3.16 and Graham O'Sullivan made up the team with a 1.3.38. Harry also won the Age Standard prize. Jack Platts and John McNee were also riding and they finished in 1.4.58 and 1.8.43.

John McNee was in excellent form clocking 1.49.12 in the Crawley Whs Shoreham and back event. He was 2nd veteran on Age Standard. In the Dragon '25' Graham O'Sullivan clocked 1.2.17 and John McNee a 1.3.32. Rowan Vacher beat the hour with a 59.34 in spite of having his rear tyre roll off when making an emergency stop. It was either that or hit the car. Graham O'Sullivan finished in 1.2.12 and Doug Vacher a 1.5.12, his best for 11 years!

Rowan Vacher came 4th in the West Kent '25' with a 58.03 and Harry Featherstone produced his season's best of 58.04 when coming 8th in the Bournemouth Jubilee '25'. Dave Featherstone and Steve Rickwood rode the Bognor Regis '10' and finished with 24.03 and 25.29 respectively. Dave Featherstone came 7th in the Crawley '10' in 24.14 with Doug Vacher on 26.10 in spite of snow showers and strong winds.

Over Easter the Paragon had a team in the Surrey League 3-day but only Ric Drake managed to finish. Bad weather, snow and rain made this a race of attrition. Warren Higgins had not recovered from a collision with a car whilst training and failed to get to the end of the first stage. Ray Puttick failed to reach the end of Stage 2 and Steve Rickwood lasted until 20 miles to go on the last stage. Ric stayed away for 70 miles on the third stage only to be

caught with 9 miles to go. He eventually finished 29th on General Classification.

The ladies were in action on the 26th April when Allison beat Marilyn 27.28 to 28.41 in the SWLLCA '10' where they were placed 5th and 8th. Harry Featherstone came 5th in the Crabwood '25'.

Two Club events followed both of which suffered with strong north-easterly winds that slowed times considerably. In spite of that Harry Featherstone won them both. In the '10' he finished in 24.17 beating Rowan Vacher, 24.42, and Graham O'Sullivan 25.29 and in the '25' he clocked a 1.3.03 to beat Dave Featherstone, 1.4.51 and Graham O'Sullivan 1.6.30. There was a good entry of 22 for the 10 miles and 19 for the 25 miles event. The handicap in the '10' went to Gethin Butler with a 4-minute deduction to take from his 26.57. Mike James came 2nd with a net 23.05 and Stuart Millington 3rd with 23.12. The handicap in the '25' went to Paul Price whose 1.12.09 was subject to a 12-minute deduction. As this was a 7-minute improvement on his Jim Fox time in similar conditions he deserved the prize. Stuart Millington claimed 2nd prize with a net 1.1.46 and Simon Grieve took 3rd prize with a net 1.2.43.

On the following fine but draughty Saturday afternoon in the Redmon '10' Dave Featherstone recorded a 25.03, Glyn Durrant 26.49 and Marilyn Butler 30.44. Harry Featherstone came 7th fastest in the VTTA 10-mile Championship on the Southwater course with a season's best of 23.50 and followed this up with a 5th in the Hillingdon '25' on a 1.037. Jack Platts also excelled clocking a 1.1.28 and taking 1st place on handicap. Dave Featherstone was our fastest rider in the Tooting Sporting '42' with a 1.48.53 followed by Graham O'Sullivan 1.52.28, John McNee 1.56.01 and Stuart Millington 2.3.08. Steve Rickwood was doing rather well in the Surrey League Thursday evening handicaps. He came 10th at Ockley in the Surrey Road CC promotion and 4th in our own promotion on the 10th May. He has also recorded a 26.30 and 25.33 in private time trials on the Gatwick course.

Glyn Durrant, who prefers racing to training, had some figures to back up his theory when on the 21st May he produce his fastest ever '10' of 24.00 dead. He followed this with a 15th place in the Surrey league handicap and then another personal best of 2.9.59 in the ECCA '50'. Steve Rickwood, following the same regime collected a 9th place in a League handicap and in the Southern Velo Sunday 52-mile event came 4th on the Henfold Hill circuit. He then recorded a 24.39 in the SECA '10' and a 1.5.36 in the Addiscombe '25'.

Dave Featherstone was our best rider in the Addiscombe event with a 1.2.11. Along with Steve Rickwood Mike James also rode and, with the benefit of much better conditions than prevailed at his first two attempts at the distance, improved from 1.13.21 to 1.8.12. The Paragon also had a team in the Redmon 73 miles Hilly event. Graham O'Sullivan was the best of the quartet with 3.15.52, John McNee finished in 3.24.15, Paul Price 3.27.43 and Stuart Millington 3.51.17. Doug Vacher was also inspired by the better weather came in with a personal best in the Archer '25' with a 1.3.28. Allison Butler

came 5th in the SWLLCA '10' with a 26.44 whilst Marilyn a bit further back on 29.00. Glyn Durrant came 7th in the League handicap.

The Paragon's Crystal Palace promotion was held on the 15th May and resulted in a win for Chris Lillywhite (VC D'Or) from Paul Dennis (Gemini) and Lee Rowe (VC D'Or). The first lady was Sue Hulls (West Croydon Whs). Adrian Hawkins won the Schoolboy race from S Playford (Gemini) and Nick Mills (De Laune).

The Junior '10' was run off in dreadful conditions but Gethin Butler still produced his personal best for the distance to win in 26.36 and take the handicap prize. In 2nd place came Mike James in 27.36 and 3rd Allison Butler with 29.42. Doug Vacher did a 25.47 and Mike James a 25.55 in the San Fairy Ann '10'. Rowan Vacher just missed the hour with a 1.0.03 in the Middlesex '25' whilst Allison and Marilyn Butler finished with a 1.12 and 1.14 respectively. On the Bank Holiday Monday they both rode the Becontree '25' coming home with a 1.12.15 for Allison and a 1.13.44 for Marilyn. Steve Rickwood did not enjoy his 1.9.10 in the Redhill '25' neither did Graham O'Sullivan whilst riding his 25.29 in the Hastings '10' on Pevensey Marshes or Glyn Durrant his 1.7.56 in the Southend & County event. It had been typical Bank Holiday weekend with plenty of rain and strong winds!

On the 2nd June Gethin qualified for the Final of the GH Stancer Memorial 10 miles Championship for Schoolboys. He came 3rd in the SE London heat with a personal best ride of 25.48. Allison Butler was also in action in the Surrey Road CC ladies and Veterans '10' collecting 2nd lady prize with a 26.51. Marilyn Butler finished in 29.01 and John McNee, in the veterans sections it should be added, took a 2nd place on Age Standard with his 25.50. Five riders entered the SCCU '50' and we had hopes of the Team race however it was not to be. We only needed a 2.19.00 for the Team after good rides from Dave Featherstone, 2.9.14, and Graham O'Sullivan, 2.11.34. Unfortunately Dame Fortune was not on our side as Rowan Vacher and John McNee both punctured and Glyn Durrant's crank parted company with his bike and although he struggled to the Finish his 2.35.16 was not enough.

The Champagne Meeting took place on the 6th June with a field of 70 International; professional and top class Amateur riders. The Stan Harrison Salver for the 500m Handicap went to Garry Edwards (VC Nottingham) from Robert Barber (CC Bedouin) and Richard Grace (Antelope). The Devil-take-the-hindmost went to Yvon Cloarac (France) from Jon Walshaw (VC Nottingham), Thierry Pirard (Belgium) and Darryl Webster (Manchester Whs) who were the last on the track. The Grand Prix of London Sprint was a truly International affair with Brian Christensen (Denmark) beating both Fabrice Colas and Yvon Cloarac of France. It is not just anybody that can beat two French sprinters at one go! Steve Bent (Highgate CC) won the 'Consolation' 15 laps Points race from Malcolm Hill (VC Nottingham) and Martin Webster (Manchester Whs). Danny Clark (Australia) won the Professional Derny paced race from Tony James (PCA) and Shane Sutton (EverReady-Marlboro). Andy Smith (Clarence) took the 20 laps Scratch race from Bruce Drew (34th Nomads) and Robert Barber.

The Moët & Chandon 10 miles Scratch was its usual humdinger of a race. It was fast from the start and ended in a tremendous sprint for the line. The last 200m took just 12.3 seconds, which is the same speed as the top class sprinters. Danny Clark took off in the back straight and held his position all the way to the line. In 2nd place was Glen Mitchell (EverReady-Marlboro) with Simon Cope (34th Nomads) 3rd and Tony James (PCA) 4th. A wheel covered the first four places! Danny Clark also took the lap prize and they took just 20.53.4 to cover the 10 miles. This was another successful Paragon and Graham Bristow promotion.

Harry Featherstone won his fourth Club Event of the season with a personal best time when he took the Club '50' on the 11th June. His 2.6.39 was too good for Graham O'Sullivan who knocked Dave Featherstone out of his customary 2nd place with a personal best of 2.8.05. Dave could only manage a 2.9.64. Glyn Durrant finished with a 2.15 for 4th place. Graham O'Sullivan deservedly took the handicap prize. Steve Rickwood had a very busy weekend with four races in 2 days! He clocked a 24.54 in the Balham '10' on Saturday morning, rode the Surrey League road race later in the morning then the KCA '10' in the afternoon. One was not surprised to learn that he ran out of 'go' in the Club '50' taking 2.29.49 to cover the distance some 14 minutes slower than his best ride!

Graham O'Sullivan also rode the Balham '10' as did John Mcnee and their 24.18 and 25.00 added to Steve Rickwood's 24.54 almost won them the Team prize. They missed by just 20 seconds. Pete Ansell started his 1984 campaign in the 29th Whs '25' but had the misfortune to puncture just a mile after the Start. Luckily Les Black was by the side of the road and a quick wheel change enabled Pete to finish in 1.6.34. Jack Platts had a better ride finishing with a season's best of 1.0.17. Roger Endacott and Malcolm Smith, two Paragon newcomers, rode the Surrey Road CC Middlemarkers '25' and completed the course in 1.10.48 and 1.14.50 respectively.

Graham O'Sullivan led the Paragon to a Team win with a personal best 23.23 for 8th fastest in the SCCU '10'. Glyn Durant came in with a 23.52 and Dave Featherstone a 24.01 to complete the Team. Other good rides on the day were by John Mcnee whose 24.38 won him 2nd veterans prize and Graham Moore who improved 4 minutes to a 28.34. Allison Butler took fastest lady award with her 26.42 and Marilyn Butler finished in 27.47. On the Sunday morning Graham went one better by taking his '50' time down to 2.4.24 in the Sussex CA event; an improvement of over 3½ minutes! In support John Mcnee also did his best ever '50' with a 2.13.33 and was 3rd veteran on Age Standard. Steve Rickwood improved his '10' time in the SECA event and it now stands at 23.43. Then he took more time from his 25 when recording a 1.2.09 in the SERC event on the Sunday. Harry Featherstone was our best rider in this event with a 59.16 for 3rd place followed by Dave Featherstone, 1.1.39, Jack Platts 1.2.00 and Pete Ansell 1.2.18. Glyn Durrant put up his best 25 of the season with 1.2.52 in the Woolwich event.

Glyn Durrant won the Club Evening '10 with a 23.45 ride from Steve Rickwood, 23.55 and Graham O'Sullivan 24.18. Then on the Thursday Steve Rickwood took 6th place in the Surrey League handicap at Newdigate. The Juniors were in action on Saturday morning with Gethin Butler taking just 39.55 to get round the Red Barn course. Andrew Raybould came 2nd in 46.35 and Graham Moore 3rd in 47.32.

The 25th June and Allison Butler produced a personal best time of 25.43 in the Weybridge Whs '10'. This beat the Junior First Class Standard time of 26.00 and it stands as a new Club Record. The ride actually beat her mother's best time by 1 second and brother Gethin's by 5 seconds.

In mid-week events Graham O'Sullivan clocked a season's best of 1.0.48 in the Bishop Stortford '25' and Glyn Durrant rode round the Gatwick '10' course in 25.18. In the Surrey League handicap at Ripley Steve Rickwood finished in 3rd place, Keith Butler came 9th, Allison Butler 11th and Glyn Durrant 18th.

Marftin Palmer (Redmon) won the Frank Southall Open '50' in 2.1.38 from his clubmate Bob Edmunds, 2.2.40. Ian Murray came 6th with a 2.6.18 and the Redmon took the Team race. Harry Featherstone came 5th with a personal best of 2.4.56; Graham O'Sullivan came 9th in 2.8.11 and Dave Featherstone 10th in a personal best of 2.8.11. Jack Platts completed the course in 2.10.58 and John McNee 2.17.03. The Handicap went to Ron Palmer, now riding with the South Eastern, with a net 1.57.43 from John Butcher (SERC) 1.59.22 and Jack Platts 1.59.28. Run in conjunction with the Frank Southall event was the VTTA Surrey/Sussex Veterans group Championship and it proved to be almost a clean sweep for the Paragon. Harry Featherstone was fastest on Age Standard, he was also fastest on scratch time. With John McNee he won the Fastest Team on Age Standard and with Jack Platts the fastest veterans Team. The only thing the Paragon did not win was the fastest lady prize!

In the week-end Surrey League race over 50 miles at Newdigate Ric Drake came 2nd and Steve Rickwood 3rd. Graham O'Sullivan achieved that memorable first sub-hour ride with a 59.35 in the Newbury '25'. A never to be forgotten day!

The Butler family entered the Clarendon 4-up Team Time Trial. Keith, Marilyn, Allison and Gethin were due to ride and, as a wind-up, nominated Stan Butler as their Reserve rider. Wife Ann said he lay awake dreading an early morning call but he should have known better. The Butlers, as expected, won the Family Team prize with a 1.30.02 for the 50 kms. It was not without some strain on the older members of the family. 'Keep together until we hit the Brighton Road at Albourne' was the instruction Keith gave to his troops. This they did. However on reaching the Brighton Road with climbs of Bolney, Warninglid and Handcross to come the two younger elements saw that they were catching another team. They went up Bolney as if it were not there leaving Mum and Dad floundering. Keith dug deeply into his self-esteem and rejoined his offspring over the top. He hung on over Warninglid but the blighters attacked again on Handcross. Over the top and Keith put it into the Big One recaptured Allison and Gethin and made them pay

for it all the way to the Finish. We think that this is when Keith began to think that it was better to take the kids racing rather than to join them!

Steve Rickwood came 4th in the Redhill '10' with a 23.39 just 1 minute slower than the winner Chris Worsfold (Unity).

The Club Open '25' was held on the 1st July and we had half a win. Ulric Drake (South Eastern) won in 58.18 and he is a second claim member as he does his road racing in Paragon colours. In 2nd place there were two riders both with 59.07 to their credit. Harry Featherstone tied with Phil Headon (East Surrey) and in 4th spot came George Rattenbury (South Eastern) on 59.53. The South Eastern took the Team award but Harry Featherstone won the Handicap with a net 53.37 by just 1 second from C Hales (De Laune) and 12 seconds from C McIntyre (Central Sussex). Dave Featherstone was 6th with a 1.0.03.

On the 7th July Harry Featherstone won his 5th Club Event of the season on a calm warm morning when he took the Saturday morning '10' by just 1 second from son Dave 23.19 to 23.20. Glyn Durrant came 3rd with a 23.47. Gethin Butler won the handicap with a personal best of 24.55 from Stuart Millington and Malcolm Smith. Harry and Dave followed this with personal bests in the Bournemouth Whs '25' at Ringwood. Harry produced a 56.40, an improvement of 19 seconds, and this took 2nd veteran on Age Standard prize. Dave did a 57.20 and he took the 1st handicap award. Together with Pete Ansell, 58.46, they won the Team race. Rowan Vacher came 6th in the CDCA open '25' with a 1.0.31. Glyn Durrant improved his '50' time by over 2 minutes in the ECCA event with a 2.7.12. Allison Butler finished the San Fairy Ann '50' in 2.26.26 to take the fastest Junior prize and Marilyn came in with a 2.35.44. Graham O'Sullivan took on the Sussex CA '100' finishing 7th in a personal best by 20 minutes of 4.23.55. Steve Rickwood maintained his form in road races with an 8th place at Lingfield in the Surrey League event.

In the Addiscombe Open '10' we collected another Team award. Harry Featherstone was 4th in 23.22, Dave Featherstone 5th in 23.36 and Graham O'Sullivan made up the winning team with a 24.59. On Sunday 15th July seven Paragon riders went down to the Brighton Excelsior '25'. Harry Featherstone came 4th with a 1.0.15; Dave Featherstone was 6th in 1.1.14 and Rowan Vacher 7th with a 1.1.30. In spite of that packing we lost the team race by 40 seconds to the Lewes Wanderers. Harry also took the fastest veterans prize. Graham O'Sullivan came in with a 1.2.27, Pete Ansell 1.2.45, Jack Platts 1.2.55 and Doug Vacher 1.8.02. Allison and Marilyn Butler rode the Belle Vue '50' finishing with times of 2.28.51 and 2.39.26 respectively.

The Interclub '10' against the Addiscombe took place on the 11th July and 19 Paragon riders took part in the affray. As is no doubt just the Paragon took the Raleigh Cup for fastest Club. Our six counters were Harry Featherstone 23.12, Dave Featherstone 23.19, Graham O'Sullivan 23.58, Glyn Durrant 24.33, Les Black 25.20 and Gethin Butler 25.31. Stuart Millington came in with a personal best of 26.10 to take 2nd place on handicap. Terry Slattery made a comeback and produced an excellent 26.42 to take 1st on handicap

whilst Vin Callanan riding his first race for 6 or 7 years took 3rd handicap. Malcolm Smyth with a 26.21 also had a personal best time.

Steve Rickwood came 6th place in the Surrey League handicap and was selected to ride the Cosmos Grand Prix in Bristol for the Surrey Division but finished out of the top places. Ric Drake came 2nd in the Surrey League race on the Crowhurst circuit with Ray Puttick in 15th spot. Allison Butler came 5th in the SWLLCA '10' in 26.10.

In the 34th Nomads '10' we had a turn-up for the books when both Rowan Vacher, 5th in 22.49, and Dave Featherstone 6th in 22.50, finished in front of Harry Featherstone who could 'only' manage a 22.52 for 7th place and fastest veteran. Unfortunately the 34th Nomads had 2nd, 3rd and 4th placed riders so we did not win the team race. Steve Rickwood also rode and completed the course in 24.11. In the afternoon both he and Rowan Vacher rode the Ashford Whs '10'. Rowan was fastest with a 22.27 but Steve improved nearly a minute with a 22.50. This follows another 5th place in the Surrey League race last Thursday.

Another Team race was won in the New Forest '50'. Harry Featherstone came home with a personal best time of 1.58.43, as did son Dave with a 2.1.33. Pete Ansell's 2.2.49 completed the winning team. Graham O'Sullivan improved yet again this time in the SCCU '100' when he finished in 2nd place with a 4.22.07 and by doing so took the Goss Green Cup. Glyn Durrant also rode this event and finished with a 4.48.18. Doug Vacher clocked a 1.4.13 in the St Christophers '25'. Allison Butler improved her '25' time to 1.8.14 and Marilyn Butler did her season's best of 1.9.23 in the SWLLCA '25' and Nick Reardon also achieved a season's best on the Tandridge '10' course of 27.36. Allison also came 5th in a weekday SWLLCA evening '10' with a 26.10.

On Saturday the 28th July Harry Featherstone came 2nd in the Surrey Road CC '10' in 22.52 losing by just 18 seconds to Ulric Drake. Harry did win the veterans prize. Glyn Durrant finished in 24.39 and Gethin Butler improved to a 24.53 to take the Juvenile's prize. Marilyn Butler, 28.21, also rode and finished.

The run of success continued when on Sunday 29th July when Harry Featherstone recorded a 58.39 in the Bec Veterans '25' for 2nd fastest and 2nd fastest on Age Standard. Jack Platts clocked a 1.2.03 and they took the fastest team on Age Standard. In the Essex Roads '50' Rowan vacher produced a season's best of 2.0.48, as did Pete Ansell with his 2.2.28. In the Border CA 12-hour event Graham O'Sullivan seemingly untroubled by the heat came 4th with a personal best by some 23 miles of 248.04 miles. Paul Price tried the Wessex '100' but did not enjoy the heat during his 4.49.52 ride. Allison Butler finished 14th in the De Laune road race.

On the 2nd August Allison Butler caused quite a stir when she won the Surrey League handicap beating four men in the final sprint. This follows some spirited riding at Herne Hill over the previous Mondays with a 2nd in a 6 laps points race, a 1st in a 3 lap dash, another in a 6 lap scratch race and a 2nd in a

4 lap race. In the WCRA Championships at Leicester she came 3rd in the 6 laps scratch and recorded a 1.26.20 for 1000m and 4.39.40 for the 3000m pursuit.

On the 4th August Marilyn Butler rode the Hounslow '25' and finished with a 1.9.53.

The Moon Trophy was held on the 5th August and the result, based on a club's four best handicap times, was a win for the Paragon. Our riders to count were Roger Endacott, with a personal best of 1.8.53 and winner of the handicap, Harry Featherstone, who collected 2nd place on handicap with his 1.0.14, Malcolm Smith, with a personal best of 1.11.34, and Jack Platts 1.4.55. Other rides were by Graham O'Sullivan 1.4.35, Stuart Millington 1.10.18, Allison Butler 1.13.35, Nick Reardon 1.15.33 and Marilyn Butler 1.16.27. Heavy rain during the early morning deterred seven of our riders from starting!

That afternoon the Club Track Championships took place at Herne Hill. These Championships resulted in a convincing win for Dave Featherstone. Dave won the 4000m pursuit from Glyn Durrant and Graham Bristow. Graham won the AEU Cup for the 5000m Sprint from Dave Featherstone and Steve Rickwood. The 500m Handicap for the Frank Burton Cup went to Dave Featherstone from Graham Bristow and Glyn Durrant. The Points race for the George Colget Cup proved to be a bit of fight but Dave Featherstone came out on top again from Steve Rickwood and Glyn Durrant. Dave also won the final sprint to take the Ravensbourne Cup and with it the Club Track Championship. Glyn Durrant and Graham Bristow tied for 2nd place and Steve Rickwood was 4th. Earlier in the day Steve Rickwood had ridden the Surrey League road race and finished 7th and Warren Higgins was 8th. Allison Butler won the 4 laps ladies scratch race at Herne Hill, won the 1st lady prize in the Old Portlians '10' with a 27.06 (Marilyn Butler did 28.53) and then came 8th in the Surrey League Thursday handicap. Nick Reardon also rode the Old Portlians event and was timed at 26.46 a bit down on the previous week's effort when he did a 26.26.

In the Sydenham Whs '10' on the 11th August the Club's three representatives all achieved personal bests. Rowan Vacher did a 21.44, Steve Rickwood 22.06 and Glyn Durrant 22.26.

The next day Steve Rickwood led the Paragon to a Team win in the Balham Longmarkers '25' with a 1.2.53 for 3rd place. Doug Vacher did a 1.4.05 for 6th and Nick Reardon a 1.8.10 to wrap up the prize. Harry Featherstone also produced a personal best in the Unity Veterans '25' when he recorded a 55.30 for 2nd place. Jack Platts also recorded a personal best of 58.51. In the Southend & County Whs '50' Pete Ansell came in with a 1.55.51. His teammates also achieved their best times as Graham O'Sullivan clocked a 2.0.40 and Glyn Durrant a 2.4.45. Yet another personal best was ridden by Paul Price when he finished the East Sussex CA '50' in 2.18.07.

In the final event of the Surrey League evening handicap series Steve Rickwood came 10th and finished in 2nd place in the season long series.

The Club 25 miles Team Record was broken on the 19th August in the Finsbury Park event. Harry Featherstone won the race in with a 55.47 followed by personal bests of 56.27 by Pete Ansell and 56.49 by Dave Featherstone. This brings the Team time down to 2.49.03. Rowan Vacher was very disappointed with his 1.1.07 in the Eastbourne Rovers '25' but he was faster than Steve Rickwood, 1.2.46, and Doug Vacher 1.6.18.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend Allison Butler produced outstanding performances. On the Saturday in the Farnborough & Camberley '25' she recorded a 1.5.05 that was a personal best and set new figures for Junior Ladies. Then on the Monday in the Essex Roads '25' she came in with a 1.3.57 to set another personal best, a new Junior Record and new Senior Ladies Record. Marilyn Butler rode both events and clocked 1.9.33 on the Saturday and a season's best of 1.8.40 on the Monday.

Steve Rickwood came 4th in the Surrey League road race and by this ride he is upgraded to 2nd Category. Rowan Vacher was timed in with a 59.07 for 8th place in the Old Portlians '25'. Doug Vacher and Nick Reardon rode the Weybridge Whs '25' and found things to their liking as both riders recorded season's best for the distance. Doug did a 1.2.15 and Nick a 1.3.27. Jack Platts rode the Surrey/Sussex Vets '25' when he was 4th fastest and 3rd on Age Standard with his 1.2.23. Pete Ansell closed on the Club 30 miles Record with a 1.8.37 in the Leo '30'. Three riders had a go in the Redhill '10' with Steve Rickwood being the fastest of them with a 24.36. Glyn Durrant came in with a 25.02 and Nick Reardon a 25.05.

On the 2nd September Harry Featherstone was timed in with a personal best '10' of 21.32 for 2nd place in the Veterans section of the De Laune event. Earlier in the main event Dave Featherstone was fastest of the Paragon trio with a 22.21, Glyn Durrant finished in 23.06 and Steve Rickwood 23.07. Rowan Vacher did a season's best of 57.29 in the Southend & County '25'. Gethin Butler rode the GH Stancer Schoolboy Championship Final but was disappointed with his 25.19 for 49th place. Allison Butler went to Leicester for the Ladies Track Championship and qualified for the Final of the 15 kms Scratch Race but was unplaced after having a go at the 'big-hitters' of women's racing.

Having once broken the Club '25' miles Team Record the trio of Harry Featherstone, Dave Featherstone and Pete Ansell did it again to prove it was not a fluke. All three produced personal best rides of 55.12, 56.00 and 56.26 respectively to reduce the Team figures to 2.47.38.

On Thursday 6th September Rowan Vacher did a 56.58 and Pete Ansell a 59.32 in the (We quote) British Telecommunications and Port Office Recreational Council 25 miles Time Trial Championship (!)

Glyn Durrant beat Steve Rickwood 23.09 to 23.10 in the KCA '10' on the 9th September with Doug Vacher recording a 24.27.

Stuart Millington won the Club 12 hours run off in the Luton Whs event. Two punctures did not help him during a day of westerly gales and torrential rain in the closing stages of the ride. He finished with a modest 206 miles. Not bad for a man who had not previously raced longer than 50 miles! Paul Price also tried the 12-hour event for the first time and although faster than Stuart earlier on he 'died' between 100 and 150 miles but persevered to run out time with 204.5 miles.

In the SWLLCA '50' Marilyn Butler did her best ride for many years when finishing 7th with a 2.27.21. In the Bognor '25' Marilyn Butler finished in 1.12.10 to beat daughter Allison by 47 seconds. Only Rowan Vacher of the five Paragon entries in the Belle Vue '25' managed to finish the course. In wet and windy conditions he came 3rd in 1.1.48. Three Juniors took part in a '10' on the Crowhurst circuit. Andrew Raybould was fastest with a 29.50, new member David Norman came 2nd with a 30.40 for his first race and Robert Shepperd, also having his first race, did 36.58.

After missing a week-end due to the celebrations commensurate with his 30th wedding anniversary Harry Featherstone came back to win the Rodney '10' with a 21.45 that took both 1st prize and fastest on Age standard. Also in the Rodney event were Dave Featherstone, 22.49, Glyn Durrant 23.43 and Steve Rickwood 24.07. Graham O'Sullivan was getting himself into the limelight with a 3rd place in the Crawley Whs '10' with a 24.27 even with a broken spoke in his rear wheel that left the rim rubbing on both brake blocks. Alison Butler came in with a 27.18 and Marilyn Butler 28.39. In the Junior '15' Gethin Butler confirmed his position in the Junior and Juvenile Championship with a comfortable win. His 39.03 was much faster than Allison Butler's 44.38 and Graham Moore's 46.08.

On Sunday 17th September Harry Featherstone came 7th fastest in the Southampton Whs '50' with a 1.55.39 and took fastest time on Age Standard. Dave Featherstone was timed in with a personal best of 1.57.22 for 9th place. On the other side of the Thames we had various riders in the ECCA (Clubs L-Z) '25'. Rowan Vacher came 5th in 56.46 followed by Jack Platts, 59.34, Glyn Durrant, 59.46 (his first time 'under the hour'), another personal best from Doug Vacher, 1.0.39, and Graham O'Sullivan 1.0.49. Allison Butler also rode and finished with a 1.11.06. Steve Rickwood rode the Surrey League road race at Elstead for 2nd category riders and won the bunch sprint for 5th place.

After many weeks competing against each other the two Featherstones rode together in the Reading 2-up and finished in 2nd place with a 22.21. They also took the best Family team prize. Graham O'Sullivan and John McNee came 4th with a 23.01 and took the Veterans Age Standard award. Gethin Butler won the Junior '10' and the handicap to go with it in a time of 26.33. In 2nd place came Graham Moore, 30.53, and 3rd was Andrew Raybould 31.20.

On the Sunday the Featherstones and Jack Platts ventured once again into darkest Essex for the Redbridge '25' hoping for fast times and team wins. However, as often stated in these annals, Mother Nature was having none of it and they faced high winds and rain. As usual Harry proved to be the fastest returning with a 56.55, Dave did a 57.35 and Jack a 59.37. Allison and Marilyn Butler were riding the Hillingdon '25' in similar conditions. Marilyn punctured and Allison finished in 1.9.31. Doug Vacher was in the Men's section and clocked a 1.0.55 and not the '59' he was hoping for. Graham O'Sullivan recorded a 1.3.25 in the SCCU '25'. Steve Rickwood came 13th in the Surrey League 2nd category race at Ewhurst over 67 miles.

The Mayne Cup had a particularly foul and wet morning on the 30th September. Consequently only nine of the twenty entrants started. Fastest time came from our 'under-the-hour' man Graham O'Sullivan who took 1.6.15 to cover the distance. That, in itself, gives some measure of the severity of the weather. Gethin Butler recorded a 1.8.13 that included a wheel change with Marilyn. Marilyn had already punctured and retired and was just in the right place at the right time. (How rarely does this happen!) Gordon Button, on his fixed wheel was 3rd fastest with a 1.8.14. Gethin was also 'man of the Day' as he took first handicap with an allowance of 3 minutes that gave him a net 1.5.13 just beating Mike James whose 6 minutes allowance gave him 1.5.19. Graham O'Sullivan collected 3rd on handicap from scratch. With this ride Gethin became the third member of the Butler family to win the Mayne Cup. Grandfather Stan won it in 1930 and Father Keith in 1979. With this ride Gethin won the Junior Time Trial Championship.

Harry Featherstone was our only starter in the SECA Championship '25' ridden under similar conditions to the Mayne Cup. He finished 2nd with a 58.15 and was fastest veteran on Age Standard. He was also trying to improve on Dave Lovell's Club 25 miles Record of 54.50 put up in 1981 but was not having much luck. The wind and the weather appeared to be conspiring against him. He went up to the F1, North Road, for the Verulam '25' but a strong north-easterly wind blew away all hopes of a record but he did have the consolation of taking 2nd place in the veteran's section. Dave Featherstone competed in the main event and clocked a 1.1.58 for 4th place. Graham O'Sullivan successfully defended his Hill Climb Championship by taking 15 seconds out of Gethin Butler on the slopes of Ranmore Common. Doug Vacher came 3rd. At the top of the hill he was complaining that his legs were aching. As he had ridden the Epsom '25' that morning, finishing in 1.5.26, he got little sympathy.

The Essex Roads '25' was Harry Featherstone's next objective on the 15th October. He did an excellent 55.36 but this was still not fast enough for the Club Record. Son Dave got within 20 seconds of the 'old man' with a 55.56 and Graham O'Sullivan made up the team with a personal best of 59.07.

Len's '10' was also on many calendars and this year Glyn Durrant was the fastest Paragon rider in 23.52 just in front of Gordon Button, 23.53, and Gethin Butler's 24.45. This was Gethin's personal best and it also earned him the 1st Under 16 prize. Alistair Mitchell finished in 26.43 and John Fisher

finished his season with a personal best of 27.51. Graham Moore finished with a 29.12. Down on the A24 Allison Butler was pacing Ethel McNee in the Redmon Gentleman's 2-up and they finished in 52.34. Marilyn Butler was being paced by Ian Burt (Surrey Road CC) and they finished in 46.09.

Still searching for that fast '25' Harry Featherstone rode the ECCA (Clubs G-N) '25'. Once again he was denied success as a strong westerly cross wind put pay to any ultra-fast times. He did finish in 2nd place with a 59.07 and with Dave clocking a 1.2.19 and Graham O'Sullivan a 1.2.55 the Paragon won the Team race. Glyn Durrant also finished but gave the weather best coasting in with a 1.7.52. The next day he rode the Hillingdon '25' at Marlow but he was again out of luck when he lost an argument with a van on a roundabout. This was less than a mile from the Finish and although his bike was undamaged and he was able to complete the race his time of 56.47 was too slow for him to achieve his objective. Dave Featherstone finished in 57.47.

The Map Reading competition was held near Colchester this year. Graham O'Sullivan finished in 3rd place with a 1.15.29. Allison Butler was 8th in 1.20.16 and John Mcnee 11th in 1.23.18. Notwithstanding the high places we were third team of three! On a dull and drizzly day one of our 'normal' team Keith Butler paid the penalty of riding tubulars in the Essex lanes. He had to ride back to the start on flat tubs having punctured four times!

Glyn Durrant was 21st in the Addiscombe cyclo-cross at Shirley Hills on the 7th October. Both Glyn and Steve Rickwood rode the Brighton Cross in Stanmer Park. It was misty, raining and very muddy at the Start and it got worse as the afternoon progressed! Steve managed to crash when a tree stepped into his path but continued to finish 34th whilst Glyn was a little more successful in 31st place. Their next outing was at the Arlington Turkey Farm (! – we are only quoting Glyn Durrant's report). Steve finished 17th and Glyn 21st at this esoteric venue! Their latest effort was at The Nower, Dorking, when even with Keith Butler as Commissaire they could not manage a win. Glyn finishing, again, in 21st place and Steve in 27th.

In the season long competition at Herne Hill Alison Butler came 3rd in the Ladies Golden Wheel competition.

Keith Butler won the Freewheel competition at Godstone before the Christmas Lunch.

Graham O'Sullivan finished the BBAR with an average of 22,808 mph that makes him 98th in the country. He also won the Open Time Trials Championship, the Club Events Championship and had personal best performances from 10 miles to 12 hours. Steve Rickwood took the Massed Start road race Championship. Gethin Butler took the Junior and Juvenile Time Trial Championships and Allison Butler was Junior road race Champion.

