

1986

The New Year began with the election of John Parsonson as President of the Club. John had been a member of the Paragon since 1947. He became Magazine Editor in 1951, General Secretary 1952 – 55, Treasurer, Chairman of the Committee and Editor of Blah. He was awarded the John Carter Memorial Book in 1956 in appreciation of his work for the Club and was elected a Vice-President in 1965. He preferred riding long distance time-trials with his best effort being 424 miles in the Catford 24-hour event in 1951. He became one of that group of helpers that appears at all events run by the Club and by the side of the road in long distance races.

The first race of the year for our members according to the Start Sheet we have in the Archives was the East Surrey Hardriders on the 2nd March but no Results Sheet or note of abandonment has been unearthed. Therefore it was the Croydon and District Hardriders in which Gethin Butler came 3rd in 1.12.06 behind Shay Giles (Thanet) that takes the Honours. Gethin also won the fastest Junior prize.

Harry Featherstone won the first Club event of the 1986 season with a 23.11 on a cold and misty morning. Paul Price was 2nd in 24.00 and in 3rd place was Gethin Butler with a 24.56. John Fisher won the handicap with a 28.39 that was subject to a 6.45 allowance giving him an unassailable 21.54. Gavin Sherlock re-appeared on the racing season after a couple of years off. His 25.38 for 5th place augurs well for the future and he took 2nd handicap on the strength of it. Paul Price was 3rd on handicap.

On the 22nd March Harry Featherstone rode his first Open event of the season and came 9th in the West Kent '10' but took fastest veteran of scratch time and on Age Standard as a bonus. Gethin Butler rode the Surrey League handicap on the Walliswood circuit and came 3rd behind Phil Watkins (Old Portlians).

On Good Friday Gethin Butler took the prize for the best Junior in the Crawley Whs Hilly '21' with a time of 53.27 winning by over 2 minutes. On the Sunday he rode the ECCA '25' and came 6th with a 1.0.58 and took the prize for the fastest Junior. In 7th place was Harry Featherstone with a time of 1.1.11, which also collected 2nd fastest veteran prize, and Paul Price came 10th with a 1.2.04. This ensured the Team race came to the Paragon. Chris Marshall also rode and finished in 1.8.36. To complete a busy week-end Gethin rode the Bec '25' and again was fastest Paragon rider coming in with the 4th fastest time of 1.2.24. Paul Price was 10th in 1.4.24 and Chris Marshall a 1.9.03.

On the 5th April on a cool draughty morning Paul Price won the De Laune '10' with a 23.35. Gethin Butler came 4th in 23.59, and took 2nd fastest Junior prize, and Gavin Sherlock was 9th in 25.07. The Paragon won the Team race. Allison Butler, on leave from College, clocked a 29.33 and Marilyn Butler a 33.20. Later in the day Gethin Butler rode the Surrey League road race at Dunsfold. He broke away with Phil Watkins (Old Portlians) with 9 miles to go with a snowstorm in progress but lost the sprint to a faster man.

Paul Price finished in 14th place; Dave Hayward was 35th and John Fisher 36th.

The next morning in the Jim Fox '25' the results of those exertions in adverse conditions really struck home. Gethin Butler took 1.3.08 to get round and Chris Marshall had second fastest time with 1.9.21. Gavin Sherlock and Paul Price found absolutely no go at all and toured round in 1.13.21 and 1.14.20 respectively. Gethin won the handicap by 13 seconds from Chris Marshall. Harry Featherstone went down to the New Forest for the Bournemouth Whs '25' and duly picked up the fastest on Age Standard prize. He only had 2nd on scratch time with as 58.51.

The week-end of the 12th and 13th April was well up to the standard of the 1986 spring i.e. rain, sleet and the occasional flurries of snow! Paul Price came 7th in a Surrey League race. Gethin and Allison Butler rode the Kingston Phoenix '10' with Gethin taking 7th place and the prize for the fastest Junior in 23.25 whilst Allison took the fastest lady prize with a 29.42. Dave Hayward had a great try for a win in the afternoon Surrey League handicap road race. He was caught just half a mile from the Finish after being away for over 20 miles. Dave eventually came 5th. Gethin Butler finished 9th but Paul Price had two punctures and retired.

The next morning the SCCU '25' was held but freezing fog put off many riders. Of the 82 entrants only 44 bothered the Finish timekeeper. Gethin hammered round in 1.2.31 to tie for 2nd place with Keith Butler. Not our one but the youngster in the Bec CC. Chris Marshall also finished but in 1.7.54. In the Surrey League road race for 3rd category riders on Sunday morning Paul price came 7th with John Fisher and Dave Hayward finishing behind the main bunch. Ray Puttick finished 15th in the afternoon race for 2nd category riders.

The Paragon had six riders entered in the Balham '10' on the 19th April. Fastest of our riders was Paul Price 15th with a 23.16, Harry Featherstone, 21st, was next on 23.30, then Gethin Butler 23.53, Dave Hayward 25.06, Allison Butler 28.51 and Marilyn Butler 30.29.

Sunday morning proved to be yet another miserable day of rain and subsequent punctures. Harry Featherstone managed a 58.37 in the Basildon '25' riding the last mile with a 'flat'. Jack Platts got round in 1.2.19 and was equally unimpressed with the weather. Gethin Butler and Paul Price rode the South Eastern RC 28-mile 2-up race and finished in 4th place with a 1.8.53. Chris Marshall rode with Dave Hayward and they took 1.14.06. Marilyn and Allison Butler competed in the shorter 22-mile event taking 1.10.40. They were delayed when Marilyn punctured and lost the Ladies prize by just 5 seconds.

The June 'Blah' was not a happy issue. Three obituaries are not the best way to start a chronicle of the Club's business. Don Corry, father of Peter, joined the Paragon in 1947 after his demobilisation from the Army. Before the War he had been in the Sydenham Whs and was a school-mate of Pete Kitchiner

with whom he rode tandem events. Don's best times were 1.3.45 for 25 miles, 1.18.53 for 30, 2.9.43 for 50, 4.44.42 for 100 and 243.5 for the 12 hours. He worked as a lift engineer and in 1966 he had a serious accident that cost him his left arm, which for a left-handed man meant he had to re-learn all his handling skills. This did not stop him attending all the Club's social events and be out at as many races as possible with Mary, his wife, driving.

Sid Mitchell joined the Paragon in 1936 and soon became involved in all the Club's activities. In 1947 his business took him away but when he moved back to Croydon he rejoined the Club and was soon on the Committee and Editor of 'Blah'. He became General Secretary in 1977. Health reasons prevented him continuing in this post but he continued with the production and distribution of 'Blah'. He lost his leg and had to learn to walk with an artificial one but this never reduced his interest in the Club or his aptitude for Darts.

Eric Mason was the last of the original members of the Streatham Rovers who amalgamated with the Paragon in 1921. He became friends with Frank and Monty Southall and it is interesting to note that in early races he beat both of them. He also rode tandem with Frank and they did a 2.6.08 '50' which was extremely fast by the standard of the day and the roads they had to ride on. During the War Eric's work took him to Sittingbourne where his company remained when peace was restored. However he remained a loyal member of the Club for all that time.

Gethin Butler finished 3rd with a 22.44 in the Southboro' event on the 26th April, he broke the Club Junior '10' Record and he took 2nd prize on handicap as well. Harry Featherstone came 2nd with a 22.35 and with Dave Hayward putting in a personal best of 24.49 the Paragon won the Team race. Paul Price came 8th in the Tooting Sporting '42' with a 1.48.25. Harry Featherstone clocked a 58.03 for 7th place in the Viking '25' and 2nd on Age Standard. Gethin improved the Junior Record again with a 58.37 to finish 9th and Jack Platts came in with a 1.3.43. Again it could not have been a pleasant morning as 37 riders from the 100 entrants failed to start.

On the 4th May Harry Featherstone made 2nd fastest time and 2nd on Age Standard with a 59.14 in the Hillingdon '25' whilst Gethin won the Junior section with a 58.42.

Heavy clouds, drizzle and strong winds slowed the riders for the Club '10' on the 10th May. Harry Featherstone beat Gethin Butler into 2nd place with a 22.41 to Gethin's 22.48. Dave Hayward finished in 3rd place with a 24.11 yet Chris Marshall came in with a personal best of 24.36. Allison Butler, 21.51, took the handicap by improving on her best this year by some two minutes. In 2nd place came Gethin Butler, 22.18, and in 3rd spot was Chris Marshall 22.21 - which only goes to prove that the Handicap Committee expected Chris' improved speed.

Sunday was Moon Trophy day and we had six riders on the card. Gethin Butler turned the tables on Harry Featherstone by producing the fastest time

of the morning of 59.58 whilst Harry 'only' managed a 1.0.21. Jack Platts, Dave Hayward and Chris Marshall all finished in the 1.5 bracket their seconds being 11, 49 and 59 respectively. In Handicap terms Gethin was only in 3rd place with a nett 58.58, Chris came 5th, 59.59, Dave 6th, 1.0.09 and Harry 7th, 1.0.21. The Paragon was second team on handicap times behind the Anerley by 54 seconds but Chris, Harry and Jack won the Tankards for the Over 30s Team.

Gethin Butler took nearly a minute from the Junior 10 miles Record with a 21.48 in the SECA '10' on the 17th May to win the Senior section of the race and the fastest Junior prize as well. Chris Marshall improved yet again to a 23.51, Dave Hayward did a 24.19 and Gavin Sherlock did his best of 24.36. In the veterans section Harry Featherstone came 2nd to Shay Giles (Thanet), 21.45, with a 22.06 but he did take the best on Age Standard prize.

On the 18th May the Paragon had a team in the ECCA '50'. Harry Featherstone came 2nd in 1.57.07 just 1 minute behind Shay Giles (Thanet) and these two took 1st and 2nd in the veteran's section as well. Paul Price was timed in with a personal best of 2.0.59 for 7th place but the surprise of the day came from Gethin Butler who crossed the line in 2.1.23 in 10th place to take same 4½ minutes from Pete Hamilton's old Junior Record. This ride earned him 3rd handicap medal. (There are no money prizes in the ECCA events). Gavin Sherlock was quite pleased with his 2.10.00 for a first time over the distance for some years. Messrs Featherstone, Price and Butler also took the Team award. Allison Butler rode the Ladies National Championship '10' on the local course but in wet, windy and miserable conditions. She was rather disappointed with her 27.39 as it was slower than her time in the last Club event on the same course.

Gethin Butler and Paul Price have been riding the Surrey League races as a means of getting themselves fit and making a thorough nuisance of themselves by making the racing hard. As a reward Gethin was placed in the Scratch group for the handicap along with the elite and 1st category riders but he still managed a 7th place.

More time was carved from the Junior '25' Record when Gethin Butler crossed the line at the Southend & County event with a 56.41 for 5th place. This is nearly 2 minutes faster than his ride in the Viking '25'. Chris Marshall also rode and improved to a 1.1.28. Harry Featherstone chose to ride the Polytechnic '25' at Marlow. His 58.36 gained him 6th place and fastest veteran prize. Jack Platts also rode to record a 1.1. Paul Price, preferring the longer distances, came 7th in the Redmon Hilly '73'. Graham O'Sullivan made his 1986 debut with a 1.5.18 in the Redhill '25' Marilyn Butler took the fastest lady prize with a 1.18.53.

We had a team in the Maidenhead '10' on Bank Holiday Monday morning the 26th May. Gethin Butler was none too pleased to be off No.1. When he asked the Organiser why he should be No.1 the Organiser said that it was because he lived in Purley. The man had not noticed that he lived in Purley, Surrey and not Purley, Berkshire, which was just down the road from the

Start! Anyway Gethin finished 14th with a 23.09, Gavin Sherlock did a 24.23 and Chris Marshall a 25.07.

The Paragon ran a Sponsored '10' in support of Sport Aid/Bike Aid on the 31st May using the Oxted course. Gethin Butler was fastest with a 24.24 leading Paul Price, 25.49 and Gavin Sherlock 26.06 plus 13 other including Ray Runham and Pete Corry on a Tandem, 23.27.

There were high hopes of a team win in the SCCU '50' but these were dashed when Gethin Butler punctured twice. Paul Price finished in 7th place with a personal best of 2.4.53 and another best came from Gavin Sherlock with his 2.9.59. Gavin also took the Tacagni Cup for the fastest rider who had not previously beaten 2.10.0. Allison Butler clocked a 2.28.46 and Marilyn Butler a 2.40.03 but this did include time stopped by the side of the road to give Gethin a spare tubular so he could get back to the Finish.

The Paragon also missed a team race in the Surrey Road CC '25' and this time it was by just 8 seconds! Jack Platss was timed in at 1.2.43, Graham O'Sullivan at 1.2.53, Chris Marshal 1.3.18 and a personal best from Daved Hayward of 1.3.53.

Following his two punctures on the Sunday Gethin Butler had his second bit of bad luck when he was brought down whilst riding the Monday Competition at Herne Hill suffering various scrapes, bumps and bruises. It did not stop him riding the Evening '10' on Tuesday. In this he finished 4th with a 26.18, behind Paul Price, 25.13, Gavin Sherlock 25.17 and Chris Marshall 26.15. Marilyn Butler also finished in 31.27. Riding the Surrey League Evening Handicap Gethin collected his third piece of bad luck when his handlebars came loose and, after adjustment, he had a vain lone chase of the scratch group.

On Saturday 7th June Gethin rode the Letchworth Velo '25' for Women and Juniors and while he produced his second best time ever of 57.30 he was beaten by just 1 second by P Legg (Abergavenny). Allison Butler rode the ladies section and finished in a season's best of 1.8.22. The two of them also collected 2nd Team award. The next day Gethin made up for this defeat by winning the Surrey Division Junior road raced Championship by the considerable margin of 14 minutes.

Paul Price, however, had a much better run. He went down to the New Forest to ride the New Forest 2-up 25 with Gavin Sherlock and they finished 5th in 58.47. Chris Marshall rode with Dave Hayward and they came 11th in 1.2.11. The following Saturday he raced in the ERRA '10' finishing in 3rd place with a personal best of 22.46. Then on the Sunday he passed the time-triallists major milestone – he beat the hour for 25 miles for the first time. In the 29th Whs event he clocked 59.59!

In the Club '50' Graham O'Sullivan rode his first '50' for 2 years and found the going a bit tough near the end. After catching Chris Marshall for 3 minutes he was recaptured and lost 2 of those minutes in the last miles up the Worthing road. Graham finished with a 2.10.11 and Chris a 2.11.03 that also earned

him the handicap prize. Marilyn Butler came 3rd with a 22.25.50. Jack Platts put up a personal best of 1.11.49 in the Essex Roads '30'.

Gethin Butler did fastest time in the Evening '10' with a 23.41 followed by Paul Price, 24.12 and Dave Hayward 25.13. On Wednesday the 11th June Paul Price took Gethin Butler and Gavin Sherlock to the Fenny Stratford for the North Bucks evening '25'. All had the satisfaction of improving their times. Gethin Butler was timed in for 5th place in a new Junior Club Record of 56.34, Paul Price did 58.43 (14th) and Gavin Sherlock a 59.22 (17th).

On Saturday 14th June in the SCCU Open '10' Gethin Butler was 7th and our fastest in 22.36. He also took the fastest Junior award. Paul Price was 9th and next Paragon rider with a personal best of 22.47, Graham O'Sullivan 23.48, Gavin Sherlock 23.56, Dave Hayward 24.13, Chris Marshall 24.29, Allison Butler 27.00, Marilyn Butler 28.20, Graham Moore 29.45 and Megan Butler with a personal best of 30.32.

In the South Eastern '25' Jack Platts finished with a 1.1.46, Graham O'Sullivan a 1.2.24 and Chris Marshall a 1.3.10. Gethin Butler went over to Marlow for the Archer '25' but managed to reach a part of the course before the marshals, as he started No.2, and he lost some time. However he still clocked a 1.0.47 but was well down the results list. Allison Butler rode the Ladies National 25 miles Championship and finished with a 1.9.02.

The Paragon held their promotion at Crystal Palace on a cold and blustery Tuesday evening 10th June. Chris Lillywhite was 1st with John Shand (VC D'Or) 2nd and Tim Stevens (34th Nomads) in 3rd place.

Harry Featherstone came back from holiday and then took himself off to the Wednesday evening St Neots '25' on the North Road. His holiday obviously did him a power of good as he put in a personal best ride of 55.01 (a one second improvement).

The Daily Mail/ Moët & Chandon Meeting was held on the Saturday 14th June on a warm and sunny afternoon. The 500m Handicap for the Stan Harrison Silver Salver went to Brian Fudge (Portsmouth) who beat Pete Green (VC D'Or) and Alistair Watson (Scottish CU) in a very tight finish. Colin Sturgess (Zenith) (son of Alan Sturgess) won the Devil-take-the-Hindmost (or Elimination race) from Tim Warriner (Southport) and Victor Marland (Zenith). Rob Muzio (Haverhill) won the Robin Buchan Memorial 10-minute Pursuit in 8 minutes 54 seconds as he cleared the field! Malcolm Hill (VC Equipe) was the last to be caught and Ray Hughes (Clarence) the second last.

Dan Frost (Denmark) won the 20 laps Points race from Jan Nielsen (Denmark) and Chris Boardman (Manchester Whs). Nick Lett (Old Kent) showed us how to do Derny-paced racing beating George Dixon (Bournemouth Arrow) and Levan Pegg (Halesowen). Dan Frost won the second Elimination race from brother Ken Frost with Adrian Adgar (VC Nottingham) in 3rd place. Adrian made up for that by winning the 'Consolation' 5 miles race for those not riding the Champagne '10'. Alistair Wood

(Dinnington) came 2nd and Michael Borman (VC Nottingham) 3rd. A Great Britain Pursuit Team of Gary Coltman, Chris Boardman, Jon Walshaw and a.n.other beat a Danish Team 4.50 to 4.58. Eddy Alexander (City of Edinburgh) won the Grand Prix of London Sprint from Stewart Brydan (City of Edinburgh). Dan Frost (Denmark) won the Champagne '10' from Chris Boardman (Manchester Whs) and Martin Webster (Manchester Whs) in 3rd place. Martin also took the laps prize and the time for the race was 21.33.

In the Club '10' on Saturday morning Gavin Sherlock had the best time with a 24.35. Gethin Butler came 2nd with 24.49 after a stop to unjam his gears. Graham O'Sullivan was 3rd in 24.59. Marilyn Butler won the handicap with a nett 22.55 from Gavin Sherlock 23.05 and Megan Butler 23.30. In the afternoon Gethin Butler made amends for this when he won the SECA '10' by 2 seconds in 22.12 and took the best junior prize as well.

The Frank Southall '50' was held on the 22nd June on the Worthing Road. Chris Marshall had the honour to be No.1 on the Start list and he spent a very lonely two hours as he finished full 10 minutes before the next rider. At 25 miles Andy Smith (Worthing Excelsior) was leading in 58.35. Gethin Butler, starting just one minute behind, was 2nd fastest in 59.07 whilst Harry Featherstone was 1.05 down on Smith in 3rd place. Paul Price went through in 1.0.37 in 4th place, Gavin Sherlock in 1.2.38 (8th) and Chris Marshall in 1.3.08 (11th). Jack Platts had punctured and retired before 25 miles. At the Finish Smith had extended his lead over Gethin to 1.29 and crossed the line in 1.59.02. Harry Featherstone put in a storming second 25 closing down on Smith but was still 22 seconds too slow at the line. Therefore for the third year in succession Harry was 2nd and this time with a 1.59.24 to his credit. In 3rd place came Gethin Butler with a personal best of 2.0.31 and with Paul Price 5th in 2.4.45 the Paragon won the John Cater Shield for the Team race. Chris Marshall produced a personal best of 2.7.44 and Gavin Sherlock a 2.10.08. Jack Platts' unfortunate puncture and retirement meant the Club lost all chance of team prizes in the Surrey/Sussex veterans event incorporated in our '50'. Harry was, of course fastest veteran. The handicap went to Keith White (Epsom) with a nett 1.48.43, Jeremy Garret (Festival) with a nett 1.50.12 came 2nd and B Sargeant (Catford) came 3rd with 1.51.32.

On Thursday evening in the Surrey League handicap Gethin Butler was placed 8th. This was some race on the Ockham circuit as the scratch group covered the 32 miles in 1.8.00, about 28 mph! Gavin Sherlock rode the Redhill '10' (23.00 limit) finishing 6th with a 23.34. Dave Hayward finished with a 23.53. Then Gavin travelled to the North Road to ride the Century (59.00 limit) '25'. He made fastest time on a breezy afternoon of 59.55 and a personal best ride. Graham O'Sullivan who clocked a 1.1.39 accompanied Gavin. Ray Puttick came 3rd in the Surrey League Handicap on Saturday.

The Robin Buchan Salver '25' was promoted on the 29th June and it was one by a Paragon 'old boy' Pete Hamilton (Wren Whs) in 56.39. Harry Featherstone came 2nd with a 57.42 closely followed by Pete Danckwardt (Worthing Excelsior) 57.47 and Martin Palmer (Redmon) 57.52. Paul Price

came 7th with a 1.0.31. T Brookes (Catford) won the Handicap from his clubmate A Waughman with Pete Danckwardt in 3rd place.

The Paragon had nine riders on the Start sheet. After Harry and Paul came Gethin Butler 12th with a 1.1.08, feeling the effects of Thursday evening, Gavin Sherlock (18th) 1.1.56, Chris Marshall (19th) 1.1.58, Jack Platts 1.2.20, Dave Hayward a personal best of 1.3.13, Terry Slattery riding is first '25' for some years, 1.7.22 and Allison Butler 1.13.04. The Paragon also won the Team race.

The Tuesday evening '10' went to Gethin Butler with a 23.17 from Chris Marshall 24.19 and Dave Hayward 24.41.

In the Sussex CA '50' Paul Price came 9th with a 2.6.00 and in the Surrey RCC Vets and Ladies '10' Marilyn Butler came 5th with a 29.54.

Harry Featherstone took Gethin Butler up to ride the Vegetarian '25' on the North Road. Harry went a little slower than his previous foray to St Neots with a 55.36 but Gethin took more time from the Junior Record with a 55.57. Such was the class of field that this event attracted that Harry was placed 22nd and Gethin 27th! The three Butler ladies rode the SWLLCA '10' on the Holmwood course. Allison came 6th with a 26.10, Marilyn did a 27.00 both of these being season's best rides and Megan produced a personal best of 29.52. Allison, having finished her exams has been riding at Herne Hill and after winning 2 of the races came 2nd in a Ladies Omnium. Our riders in the Surrey League handicap finished well down the list. Gavin Sherlock 18th, Ray Puttick 22nd, Dave Hayward 29th and Gethin Butler 32nd.

At the weekend Harry Featherstone went to the New Forest for the VTTA (Wessex) '50' but had the misfortune to puncture. He was leading at 26 miles but, even with the puncture, he still finished in 2.3.00 only 2 minutes down on the winner. Gethin Butler stayed nearer to home riding the CDCA '25'. This race was won by Pete Danckwardt (Worthing Excelsior) in 58.14. Gethin Butler came 2nd with a 59.00 and led the Paragon to a Team win. Jack Platts came 6th with a 1.0.49 and Graham O'Sullivan 9th with a 1.1.13. Jack repeated his feat of last year by taking the Anerley Trophy for the fastest veteran on Age Standard. Other Paragon times were by Terry Slattery, who improved his Open '25' time to 1.4.38, Allison Butler 1.10.47 and Marilyn Butler 1.15.15. Gavin Sherlock and Chris Marshall went to Eastbourne for a change of scenery Gavin came 5th with a 1.0.32 and Chris 8th with his 1.3.57. Paul Price tried the Sussex CA '100' but after a good first fifty miles blew apart and toured in for the training in 4.50.04.

The Inter-Club '10' against the Addiscombe brought out the best in our riders as per usual. Gethin Butler got the better of Harry Featherstone with a 22.04 to Harry's 22.30 but the surprise of the evening came from Gavin Sherlock who improved to a 22.46. Graham O'Sullivan and Dave Hayward both improved to 23.27 and 23.48 respectively then Jack Platts finished with a 23.55 and Chris Marshall a 24.09. Gavin Sherlock did not count for the Team as he entered late. Terry Slattery confirmed his ride in the CDCA '25' with a

24.27 and with a 4-minute allowance took the handicap award. Nick Morris did a personal best of 25.43, Allison Butler a 25.53, Vin Callanan 26.09, Graham Moore 27.32 and Megan Butler a personal best of 28.59. Megan claimed 2nd handicap with a nett 20.59 with Allison 3rd with a 21.08. The Paragon, of course, won the Team race 2.19.53 to 2.28.18.

At the weekend in the Addiscombe Open '10' Harry Featherstone turned the tables by beating Gethin Butler by 1 second with a 22.17 for 4th place to Gethin's 22.18 for 5th. In addition Harry took the fastest veterans prize and Gethin the fastest junior. Then with Gavin Sherlock finishing with a 22.51 for 10th place the Paragon won the Team race. The next morning in the Bournemouth Jubilee '25' Gethin Butler was timed in with a new personal best and Junior Record of 55.45 for 8th place and 3rd handicap prize. Harry Featherstone won fastest veteran on Age Standard with his 57.05 (14th) and Graham O'Sullivan clocked a 59.34. Gavin Sherlock came 7th in the Redhill '10' with a 23.34.

On Saturday 19th July in the Surrey RCC '10' Gavin Sherlock maintained his good form by clocking 22.51 with Dave Hayward and Chris Marshall coming in with personal best performances of 23.39 and 23.41 respectively. Harry Featherstone was fastest time and fastest on Age Standard in the VTTA (Kent) over 50s '10'. He took just 21.34 for the distance. On the Sunday Harry was the fastest of the Paragon quintet in the Brighton Excelsior '25' with a 58.58 for 12th place. Jack Platts was our next fastest rider with a 1.0.36, Gethin Butler came in with a 1.0.52 after being brought down by a rider he was overtaking who lost control of his bike, Chris Marshall did a 1.1.54 and Marilyn Butler 1.12.57.

In the Charlotteville held on the 26th July Gethin Butler came 4th with a 22.22, Gavin Sherlock was timed in with a personal best of 22.37 for 6th place and Paul Price was 17th with a 23.18. The tables were turned on the Sunday in the Aylesbury '25'. This time it was Gavin Sherlock who led the team with a 59.34 for 6th place. Gethin Butler came next in 8th position with a 1.0.01 and Paul Price finished in 1.0.49 for 13th place. Gethin also took the fastest junior prize.

On Thursday evening Gethin Butler came 2nd in the Surrey League handicap at Ripley. Then on Saturday 2nd August he was beaten by 7 seconds in the Club '10' by Gavin Sherlock. 23.35 to 23.42. Megan Butler on 31.52 was the only other finisher. That afternoon Gethin rode the Sydenham Whs '10' and came 2nd behind Alan Rochford (Poly) 21.22 to 22.16. Gethin qualified for the fastest time in Category A and fastest under 18 rider but could only take the 2nd place prize. Gavin Sherlock won the category C award with his 23.39 and Paul Price finished in 25.11.

In rather damp conditions Gethin Butler came 4th in the Fareham Whs '25' with a 56.39 just 28 seconds slower than the winner Pete Danckwardt's 56.11. Paul Price was 15th with 1.0.21. Harry Featherstone and Gethin Butler went out west to ride the Swindon RC '10' on a reputedly fast course. They came

home rather disappointed with times of 23.20 and 23.36 respectively and way down the finishing order. Harry came 7th in the Old Portlians '10' in 22.35.

The Hemel Hempstead CC ran a double race on Saturday 9th August with a Senior '10' plus a separate event for Juniors, Juveniles and Ladies. Paul Price came 11th in this event with a 23.05 whilst Gethin Butler rode the Junior race and won it very comfortably by 2.33 in a time of 21.48. Allison Butler also rode and finished 8th fastest in 26.00. The next day Gethin Butler rode the National Junior 25 miles Championship. He finished 10th with a 58.15 but some 3.55 behind the winner Chris Boardman (Manchester Whs). He was rather disappointed with this result. Harry Featherstone came 3rd on Age Standard in the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) Group '25'. He had a plus of 13.09 but we are uncertain of his actual time.

Gavin was our fastest rider again in the Aylesbury '25' where had a personal best and had 6th place. Gethin Butler was fastest Junior with his 1.0.01 and Paul Price clocked a 1.0.49. Jack Platts was well pleased with a 58.03 in the Unity '25' as it included time spent picking up his that had been shaken off by a large hole in the road.

It was Harry Featherstone's turn to break a Club Record on the 17th August when, in the ECCA '100' he too 5 minutes from Robin Buchan's Record of 4.3.43 with a 3.58.50 for 2nd place in the race. Not many riders can boast of a sub-four hour hundred at their first try at the distance. Not surprisingly he was fastest veteran! It later transpired that this was a VTTA National Record for a 53 year old. Gethin Butler came 4th in the Eastbourne Rovers '10' with a 23.55 that also took the fastest junior prize. Paul Price clocked a 24.32 for 8th place and with Graham O'Sullivan in 16th place with a 25.17 the Paragon won the Team race. The next day the Paragon took another Team race prize from the Eastbourne Rovers in their 25-mile event. The perpetrators of this were Jack Platts with a 1.1.52 for 8th place, Graham O'Sullivan 1.2.47 and Paul Price 1.3.50.

Some excellent times were recorded in the CDCA Combine '50' that incorporated the Fryco Cup race. What a pity it was due to a Marshall going to the wrong roundabout and turning everyone short. As it was a local event times were adjusted for Club Event Championships. Gethin Butler made fastest time of 1.57.14 (2.00.14) with Gavin Sherlock on 2.4.21 (2.7.33) and Chris Marshall 2.4.51 (2.8.03). In the recent Southend & County '50' Chris Marshall improved by 7 minutes to finish in 2.0.08.

The last Club evening '10' was held on the Haxted course. Gethin Butler made fastest time with 23.55 followed by Chris Marshall, 25.23, Paul Price 26.11, and Allison Butler 28.00.

The Old Portlians '25' was held on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August and it was won by John Pritchard (Poly) in 55.21. Harry Featherstone came 8th in 59.01 whilst Gethin Butler was 10th in 59.46. On the following Wednesday, the 27th, Gethin Butler came 5th in the Spoco Sporting Courses '25' at Sawston, near Cambridge. Riding a fixed wheel he was timed in with a 57.58

and took the prize for the fastest on the single gear. Graham O'Sullivan also made the trip and came 20th in 1.3.02. It must have been a hard evening as a third of the field did not start and the organiser added a special note to the Result thanking the marshals for sticking to their task.

On Saturday 6th September Gethin Butler rode the East Sussex CA '10' and came 4th with a 24.11 behind Simon Barnes (Poly) who won in 22.02. Gethin did win the fastest junior award. Graham O'Sullivan was our other finisher with a 24.42. Then on the Sunday the fast men went to the New Forest for the Salisbury '25'. Ron Keeble (Wren Whs) won with a 53.38 but in 4th place was Gethin Butler. His time was 54.04 and that beats Dave Lovell's old Club Senior Record of 54.40 and reduces the junior Record still further. Harry Featherstone was timed in at 55.15 for 7th fastest and Chris Marshall achieved his first under-the-hour ride with a 59.16. The three of them won the Team race for the Paragon and missed the Club Team Record by 57 seconds. In the Surrey/Sussex Vets '25' Jack Platts had 3rd fastest time of 1.1.43 and had 3rd best on Age Standard.

The Result Sheet of the KCA '10' held on the 13th September thanks all the riders that started on such a foul day. Fifty-two of the 127 entrants failed to bother the Timekeeper! A Wallis (Medway Velo) was fastest with a 22.27 with Harry Featherstone just 20 seconds slower on 22.47. Gethin Butler came 5th with a 23.13 but this was only good enough for him to collect 3rd fastest junior prize. Allison Butler also rode and completed the course in 26.36. The following day for the ECCA (Clubs I-Z) '25' the weather was no better. Only 78 of the 150 entrants started. Unfortunately for the Paragon Gethin Butler was again headed by Wallis but both of them were in turn beaten by Shay Giles (Thanet). Giles finished in 53.54, Wallis 55.28 and Gethin in 56.35. Harry Featherstone came in 6th fastest with a 57.37 to be 2nd veteran on scratch time. Jack Platts beat the hour with a 59.57 that gave him 19th position, Chris Marshall clocked a 1.0.35 and Allison Butler a 1.6.20. The Medway Velo beat us for the Team race by 12 seconds.

The Paragon had two 2nd places in the Rodney '10' on the 21st September. Gethin Butler was 2nd in the Mens, Junior and Juvenile section with a 21.43. the winner was A Williams (Gemini) on 21.35. However Gethin was also fastest Junior although he could not take that prize as well. Chris Marshall was also in this section and he finished on a 23.21. Harry Featherstone was our second 2nd place in the Ladies and Veterans section. Harry finished in 21.36 to Ron Keeble (Wren Whs) time of 20.59. Allison Butler was 5th fastest lady with her 26.23.

The Redbridge '25' attracted a first class field for their end-of-season '25'. We also note that both the Rodney and the Redbridge state on their Start and Result sheets that their event took place on the 21st September! Our research shows that the Rodney CC was a day adrift in their reckoning. John Pritchard (Poly) won the Redbridge event in 52.46. Gethin Butler was back in 8th place with a 55.30, Harry Featherstone was back in 16th place with his 57.02, Jack Platts was only 40th on a 59.01 and Chris Marshall was way back in 56th place with a 1.0.02! It is a sobering thought that even with these times the Paragon

was nearly 10 minutes adrift for the Team race! Allison Butler rode the Ladies race and achieved her best time for the season with a 1.5.09 that gave her 11th fastest time.

On the same afternoon the Club Track Championships were held. Gethin Butler won the Bert Chapman Cup for the 4000m pursuit, the AEU Cup for the 500m Sprint, the Ravensbourne Cup for the 5 miles and the Colget Cup for the Points race. Dave Hayward collected the Frank Burton Cup for the 500 Handicap. Gethin Butler won the Club Track Championship.

The De Laune '10' on the 27th September proved to be a fine afternoon for racing. John Pritchard (Poly) won the Seniors/Juniors and Juvenile event with a 20.29. Gethin Butler was 6th with a 21.49. He also claimed 2nd prize in the Junior section being beaten, again, by the Wallis man from the Medway Velo this time by just 6 seconds. Harry Featherstone also had a 2nd place. This time to Shay Giles (Thanet) whose 21.01 was just 8 seconds too good for Harry. Harry's 21.09 was not only his personal best ride for the distance but it also established a new VTTA National Age record for a 54 year old.

Harry Featherstone and Gethin Butler rode the Viking '50' on the 28th September and with Harry having start number 105 and Gethin number 107 this was going to be some chase. Harry reached the first turn at 12 miles in 28.40 but Gethin had closed in by 30 seconds to turn in 28.10. By the second turn (36 miles) Harry had fought back and he was timed through in 1.20.53 whilst Gethin, although still faster, took 1.20.44. On the way back Harry continued his relentless pace to cross the line in 1.54.38 for 7th place. Gethin however had given his all and 'blew' in a big way. He reached the line in 2.5.11. Harry also had to give best in the Veterans Result as Vic Gibbons, one time BBAR winner, finished with a 2.0.37 to give him a plus on Age Standard of 43 13 whilst Harry had 'only' 37.28! The race winner was Pete Hamilton (Wren Whs) with a 1.48.20.

The destinations of the Junior and Juvenile Time Trial Championships were decided on Saturday 4th October. Gethin Butler completed his 15 miles in 35.31 to break Pete Hamilton's record that has stood since 1969 by 24 seconds. Gethin, thereby, takes the AE (Ben) Davis Plaque for the Junior Championship. Megan Butler completed her 15 miles in 48.44 and takes the Aubrey Hill Shield for the Juvenile Championship. Harry Featherstone took 3rd place in the CC Bexley '10' with a 22.08 and took the prize for the best on Age Standard.

On the 5th October Len's '10' was run on a misty morning on a new Polhill course. Harry Featherstone came 3rd in 23.17 putting Gethin Butler into 5th place, 23.22, but Gethin did collect best junior prize. Simon McNamara rode his first race ever and got round in 28.18 and took the prize for the best novice. Raham Moore finished in 30.26.

In the afternoon Gethin Butler won the Club Hill Climb on Ranmore Common in 3.50. Graham O'Sullivan was 2nd on his work bike with 4.42 and Graham Moore rode up steadily in 6.22 for 3rd place.

Harry Featherstone completed his 1986 season with a 56.15 in the Essex Roads '25', a 56.37 in the ECCA (Clubs G-N) event and a 57.48 in the Hillingdon '25'.

The Mayne Cup was not awarded this year for, at present, unknown reasons. This was the first break since the 1915-1920 break for the First World War.

To round of the racing season the Inter-Club Map Reading was held at Ugley Essex. On a fine and sunny morning but with decidedly muddy lanes and bridle ways M Thomas (Colchester) achieved fastest time with a 1.23.44. A mud and blood bespattered Gethin Butler came in 2nd fastest with 1.30.10 indicating he had taken some 'interesting' routes and had fallen foul of them. Dan Butrgess (Century) was 3rd in 1.32.20 and he also took the veterans prize. The Colchester won the Team race and the Paragon came 3rd out of four. Our other times were Keith Butler 1.34.32, Allison Butler 1.44.35 (with a puncture) Stuart Millington 1.53.04, Graham O'Sullivan 1.54.09, John Mcnee 1.54.58, Graham Moore 2.15.55, John Pocock 2.32.02 and Megan Butler 2.39.30 and Ethel Mcnee who did visit all points but whose time was not recorded as the Timekeeper had retired to the Bar for a pint.

The AGM at the end of the year marked the end of the three years sponsorship by Reliance Fernhill. It also marked a large turn around of members and organisers. Keith Butler would take over from Norman Tyrie as General Secretary, Marilyn Butler would do the 'Blah', Tony Kerss relinquished his Social Secretary post that he had kept for 22 years and this would be handed on to Graham O'Sullivan. John Pocock would take over from Alan Bristow as Treasurer and Gethin Butler offered to run the Robin Buchan '25' next year.