

1988

The year really started at the AGM on the 7th December, 1987 as Johnny Dennis was elected as President. John Dennis has been a member of the Club since 1946 and he was mainly interested in the Track and massed start racing with just an occasional time trial thrown in. With his partner Ivor Cox they rode tandem to such good effect that they were short-listed for the 1948 Olympics. John broke the 440 yards Tandem paced flying start record with a ride of 23.0. He now holds this in perpetuity as the UCI has decreed that all records must be in metres. In 1951 John took over the Management of Herne Hill, he had a stint as Editor of 'Cycle Sport' a real cyclists newspaper that failed through lack of advertising support from the Trade. He eventually found his niche in Commercial Motors, then at AEC Southall (the makers of the London buses), Leyland Motors and finally Volvo in 1972. He was the ideas man. John is responsible for re-introducing the Grand Prix of London Sprint to the Champagne Meeting in 1978. He was elected a Vice-President in 1971.

The first noteworthy ride of the season came from new member Terry Hulme who came 9th in the Central Sussex '25' with a 1.7.25. The following morning another new member Pete Danckwardt made 10th place in the Croydon & District Hardriders event when he finished in 1.12.36. Allison Butler won the first lady prize with a 1.24.47. Allison also rode the Bournemouth Jubilee 28 miles event and again was first lady with a 1.24.09. Terry Hulme and Harry Featherstone came 3rd in the Antelope 2-up '25' with a 59.30.

The first Club event of the year on the 19th March had a hard windy morning but Gethin Butler made the fastest time of 23.25 followed by Harry Featherstone 24.01, Pete Danckwardt 24.24 and Graham O'Sullivan 25.31. Tim Collyer won the handicap with a nett 22.35. Allison and Marilyn Butler rode the SWLLCA '10' and finished with 28.48 (9th) and 29.56 respectively. In the afternoon Gethin Butler won the 34th Nomads '10' with a 22.19. Harry Featherstone was 5th in 23.35 and Pete Danckwardt did a 23.56 for 8th place. Thus the Paragon won their first Team race of the season. In addition Harry was 2nd veteran on time but fastest on Age Standard.

Graham O'Sullivan won the Jim Fox '25' on another tough, cold morning with a 1.5.59. In 2nd place, making yet another comeback, was Ray Runham on 1.6.32 and Tim Collyer was 3rd with a 1.8.29. Graham won the handicap from scratch. Gethin Butler took part in the Victor Berlemont road race at Elstead. This was the best field he had raced against and came 2nd on this hilly circuit just 3 seconds behind Phil Morgan (Festival). Gethin also took the prize for the best 2nd category rider. Gavin Sherlock was 16th and Chris Marshall was 18th in the Surrey League race at Charlwood. Pete Danckwardt came 6th in the Salisbury '25' with a 1.1.37. Harry Featherstone took a 2nd place in the ECCA '25' with 1.2.00 and Terry Hulme clocked 1.4.31. K Salter came 8th in the San Fairy Ann '25' with 1.5.15.

Over Easter Pete Danckwardt came 2nd in the Redmon '25' with a 59.16 on the Sunday and a 1.0.50 in the Bec event on Monday. Harry Featherstone

also rode the Bec and completed the course in 1.1.38. The day before he rode the Elite '25' in Essex and finished in 57.12. Gavin Sherlock rode the Surrey League morning race on the Saturday and came 7th.

Gethin Butler had to miss the Easter 4-day due to a bout of 'flu but he had recovered for the Kingston Phoenix '10' on the 9th April. It was not a good morning for racing as snow was falling throughout the event. Notwithstanding that Gethin finished 4th of the 36 riders who had the courage/foolhardiness to ride. His time was 23.39. Ray Runham took 27.28 and Allison Butler 29.06 and the ladies prize. In the afternoon Gethin Butler rode the Wren Whs '10' where he was placed 3rd with a 22.21 then came Chris Marshall 24.22, Bob Patton 27.22 and Kaye Patton 28.46. Pete Danckwardt rode the West Kent '10' to finish 7th in 23.50.

The next morning Dave Adams and Ray Runham went over to Essex for the Clacton CC 2-up and were 4th with a 1.5.19. Chris Marshall and Ray Puttick finished with the main bunch in the Surrey League 3rd category race at Lyne but Gethin was brought down in a crash during the 2nd category event and could not finish. Allison Butler finished 4th in the SWLLCA '25' with a 1.11.41 and Marilyn did a 1.17.02 for 9th place.

The Paragon took the Team award in the Sydenham Whs '10' on the 16th April. Gethin Butler was 4th, 22.11, Harry Featherstone 23.02 (9th) and Chris Marshall 23.56 (23rd). On Sunday morning Gethin Butler won the SCCU '25' by 1.35 from Phil Headen (East Surrey) with a 57.19. Pete Danckwardt came 3rd with a 59.10 and then Chris Marshall 1.3.03, Ray Runham 1.3.11 and Graham O'Sullivan 1.3.41 lined up to be in the winning Team. Anyone of them could have been the third man and we would have still won the Team prize. Dave Adams was a little further down the list with a 1.9.29 and Allison Butler finished in 1.14.14 but still won the Ladies handicap prize. Harry Featherstone and Terry Hulme went to the New Forest for the Bournemouth Jubilee veterans '25' with Harry collecting the runner-up prizes on scratch time and on Age Standard with his 58.01. Terry Hulme clocked a 1.1.38. Ray Puttick came 7th in the 3rd category event at Smallfield and again 7th on the Lingfield circuit. Ken Salter finished 3rd in the Thanet/KCA '25' with a 1.1.49.

On the 24th April Gerry Horn finished the Viking '25' in 59.06 to beat Harry Featherstone by 46 seconds. However in the veterans section Harry has such an advantage with his age that he was fastest on Age Standard by over 4 minutes. Terry Hulme made up the team with a 1.4.08. Chris Marshall turned in a 1.4.43 whilst the long outward leg into the wind found out the not-quite-so-fit so Bob Patton had to be content with a 1.12.00 and Kaye a 1.16.15. Ray Runham made his road-racing debut for 1988 with an 8th place in the Surrey League race on the Lingfield circuit. Ray Puttick came 3rd in the San Fairy Ann road race and 10th in the Surrey League race on the Witherham circuit.. Allison Butler came 6th in the WCRA Mixed Handicap and was 3rd lady with Kaye Patton 8th. Ken Salter came 8th in the Dartford Hilly 31½ miles time trial in 1.27.48.

On Thursday evening the ladies got into the winning ways by taking the Team race in the SWLLCA '10'. Allison Butler finished in 26.30 (8th), Kaye Patton 26.58 and Marilyn Butler 29.04

Gethin Butler, who is at Lancaster University, was 2nd in the Preston Whs Open '25' with a 57.18 on May 1st. Pete Danckwardt was 6th in the Epsom '10' leading Chris Marshall 23.48 (10th) and Graham O'Sullivan 24.10 for the Team with Bob Patton 26.15 and Kaye Patton 27.22 in reserve. Harry Featherstone came 6th on Age Standard in the Icknield '25' with a 1.1.44 with Ken Salter close up on a 1.2.03. In the Hillingdon event Harry was 2nd fastest in 58.35 and took fastest on Age Standard award. Terry Hulme finished in 1.0.53 and Dave Adams 1.9.41. In the Southboro '10' Gerry Horn beat Ken Salter by 23.47 to 23.52. Chris Marshall came 7th in the Tooting Sporting '42' in 1.48.28 with Allison Butler taking 2.10.00. Ray Puttick finished 13th and Bob Patton 18th in the Surrey League road race Championship. In local club time trails Gethin Butler on May 3rd beat a course record with a 22.12 and repeated the offence on another course the following evening with a 22.03.

May 5th Kaye Patton and Allison Butler were placed equal 8th in the Surrey League Handicap at Ripley when their group were caught just a mile from the Finish. On the 7th May Gethin Butler came 3rd in Cleveleys RC '10' with a 22.46. The Club '10' was on the Portsmouth Road and attracted 13 entries most of whom were new to the Club. Pete Danckwardt put in the fastest time of 22.44 well away from 2nd placed man Graham O'Sullivan on 24.05. Chris Marshall came 3rd with a 24.14. The Handicap went to Henry Gompertz who did a 25.46 in his first ever race and with the handicapping committee being very generous to a novice he had 6 minutes to take of this time. Pete Own collected 2nd handicap with a nett 21.05 and Roger Amer 3rd with 22.03.

The following morning the Moon Trophy '25' was held on the Holmwood course. This morning the advantage of having so many newcomers to cycle racing was extremely apparent as this race is decided on handicap times and many of our riders had no 'form' at all for the handicapper to go on. Pete Owen was the winner on handicap with a 16-minute deduction from his 1.7.22 (51.22). In 2nd place came Henry Gompertz who had a tremendous first '25' of 1.4.34 and a nett 54.34. Roger Amer was 3rd best with 16 minutes to take of his 1.11.22 (55.22). Our 4th counter was Graham O'Sullivan who did his best ride on the course of 1.1.55 less 6 minutes making a nett 55.55. We won the Tyeam race by 6 minutes - 3.37.13 to the Anerley's 3.42.15. Pete Danckwardt achieved fastest actual time with a 59.23 beating Harry Featherstone into 2nd place (59.47). With Chris Marshall finishing with a 1.1.28 the three of them won the Tankards for the Over 30s Team.

The ladies went off to the SWLLCA '10' with Kaye Patton leading the team with a 26.27 from Allison Butler 27.41 and Marilyn Butler 28.45. Ray Runham came 2nd in the Eastbourne Rovers Antiques Road Show Vets road race. 51 seconds behind the winner. Gethin Butler came 2nd in the Ribble Valley '25' with a 57.43. Bob Patton rode the Catford '10' finishing with a 26.01.

Up near Lancaster Gethin Butler improved the previous week's course record to 22.02 and repeated the dose on the other course with a 21.53. In the Wigan Whs '10' on the 9th May he came 4th with a 22.33 and on the 10th he came 2nd in the Wigan Whs '30'. This was the first time Gethin had ridden the distance and he was pleased with his 1.11.29 although not so pleased at being beaten by 3.24 by Sweetnam (Preston Whs).

Gethin Butler repeated the two evening '10's for a third week coming in with a 22.32 in rather windy conditions but making amends the following night with a 21.28, just 1 second off his best ever. Returning to home ground he met defeat at the hands of Harry Featherstone in the Sydenham Whs '10' when Harry came 4th in 21.39 2 seconds faster than Gethin. Ken Salter was 19th in 22.23 and both Patton produced personal bests. Bob raced in with a 23.48 and Kaye with a 25.49. Terry Hulme went up to the Letchworth Velo event on Saturday afternoon and came away with a very satisfying 57.49. Gethin Butler got his own back on the Sunday in the Colchester Rovers '25' when he beat Harry comfortably with a 56.46 to Harry's 58.10. In the class of field that had entered Gethin was 13th and Harry 25th! Terry Hulme made up the team with a 1.0.6. Chris Marshall rode the 'B' event and did a 59.39 for 5th place. Locally the Paragon had a team in the Addiscombe '25'. Pete Danckwardt beat the hour again with a 59.46 with Graham O'Sullivan on 1.2.53 and John Fisher a 1.9.09.

Gerry Horn and Ken Salter rode the Medway Velo 2up '25' and were placed 4th with a 59.03. Harry Featherstone beat two hours in the ECCA '50' with a 1.59.36. Chris Marshall led the Paragon team in the SECA '10' with a 23.20 followed by Rowan Vacher 23.58, Bob Patton 25.04 and Kaye Patton 27.19. On the Sunday Chris Marshall was timed at 1.1.47 in the Bournemouth Ladies Open '25' in 9th place. Bob Patton finished in 1.6.40 and Kaye Patton 1.13.55. Ray Puttick took 6th place in the Southern Velo 50miles road race on the Ellens Green circuit with Kay and Bob Patton finishing in the bunch.

Pete Danckwardt was timed in with a 22.54 for the Belle Vue '10' whilst Bob Patton took 24.22 and wife Kaye 26.21. Gethin Butler re-appeared in down south for the Hainault '10' in which he came 5th with a 21.27. Chris Marshall managed a 22.48 and won a 2nd prize for his Group.

The Frank Southall '50' was held on the 29th May and was not quite a clean sweep for the home team. Gethin Butler won by over 8 minutes on a cool, blustery and showery morning. In 2nd place came Eddie Quistorff (Clarencourt) who stopped Harry Featherstone coming 2nd for the fourth year in succession by 1 second - 2.7.36 to 2.7.37. Chris Marshall was 4th 2.7.41, Ray Runham 5th 2.8.24 and Terry Hulme 6th 2.9.44. This packing left no doubt as to where the John Cart Team Shield was going to spend the next year. Something went wrong with the handicapping as no Paragon names are mentioned. Andy Smith (Anerley) took 1st handicap; Paul West (Worthin Excelsior) was 2nd and Eddie Quistorff 3rd. In the Surrey/Sussex veterans part the fast three veterans were from the Paragon – Messrs Featherstone, Runham and Hulme and Harry was fastest veteran on Age Standard. John Goode (Weybridge) was 2nd and Steve Averley (Tooting) 3rd.

Allison Butler came 2nd in the Surrey League handicap on the 2nd June. Dave Adams came 14th in the BCF Surrey Division Junior/veterans road race Championship at Alfold. Ray Runham punctured and retired from the senior event. Bob Patton rode the Glendene '25' on Saturday afternoon recording a 1.5.53. On Sunday 5th June Gethin Butler and Pete Danckwardt rode the National 25 miles Championship on a course near Andover. Gethin finished 26th with a 57.31 whilst Pete punctured just before the turn and retired. Two personal best were achieved in the Southend & County Whs '25' when Chris Marshall took 4 seconds off his best with a 58.35 and Kaye Patton brought her best down to a 1.3.39. This gives her a faster time over 25 miles than her husband Bob!

The Norwood Paragon promoted the Crystal Palace Circuit races on the 7th June by Pete Ansell. Tim Knight (Kenton) won the Juvenile race from Ian Nash (Surrey RCC) and J Le Sage (Gemini). Tony James (unsponsored professional) won the senior race over 30 laps from Spencer Wingrave (Old Kent) and Tim Stevens (34th Nomads). Simon Cope (Vulcan) won the bunch sprint for 4th place with Andy Naylor (San Fairy Ann) 5th. On the same evening the first of the Tuesday '10's was held. Mike Stoalong made fastest time with a 24.04 from Dave Adams 26.20 and Allison Butler 26.39. On the Thursday evening Allikson Butler came 11th in the Surrey League handicap and took the bonus points for 1st lady.

The ladies were in action on the 12th June when a team rode the Chelmer '25'. Allison Butler was the fastest with a 1.5.19; Kaye Patton clocked a 1.7.12 and Marilyn Butler 1.11.16. Chris Marshall finished 9th in the Archer '25' with a 59.50 but Bob Patton was still slower than his wife in spite of a 1.4.43. The Tuesday '10' only had three takers with Gethin Butler 23.00 and Allison Butler, 27.26, getting the better of Dave Adams 27.40.

A team went to the Great North Road on Wednesday 15th June to ride the St Neots '25'. Gethin Butler got to within 1 second of his best and club record with a 53.20. Harry Featherstone came in with a season's best of 55.07 and Pete Danckwardt had a personal best of 56.08. As mentioned before this race gets a first class field and it is really no surprise to report that in spite of their good times our men were 12th, 48th and 65th and our Team time was nearly 10 minutes slower than the Poly.

Terry Hulme got to within 10 seconds of a personal best in the Unity '25' with a 56.21 and Ken Salter clocked a 57.03. Rowan Vacher covered the SECA '10' in 23.02 and Bob Patton took 23.55. Kaye Patton put up the fastest time done by a lady member of the Paragon with a 25.07.

On Sunday the 19th June Gethin Butler went to Essex for the ECRA '100'. Ian Cammish (Manchester Whs) was riding and in fine form. At 50 miles Cammish went through in 1.48.57 over 4 minutes faster than the second place rider. Gethin was down in 15th place with 1.57.48. Cammish failed to slow up during the second fifty miles taking 3.34.57 for the distance. Gethin did not slow either and moved up to finish in 10th place with a 3.51.12 and a

new Club 100 miles Record. This took 7½ minutes from Harry Featherstone's old record. Terry Hulme took 58.47 to cover the 25 miles of the Whitewebbs event.

Chris Marshall finished 4th in the SCCU '50' with a 2.5.07 unfortunately Graham O'Sullivan managed to get cramp and slowed to a 2.10.09. The Pattons went down for the Rufus '25' with Bob asserting his authority with a 1.3.51 to Kaye's 1.8.57 – but she still has the faster personal best! Rowan Vacher came 10th in the South Eastern RC '25' with a 1.3.48. Harry Featherstone was 3rd fastest on Age Standard in the VTTA (East Anglian) '50' but we have no record of his actual time.

The two-day Moët & Chandon Meeting was held over the weekend of the 18th/19th June. As per last year the Grand Prix of London Sprint and the Champagne '10' were held on the Saturday. The results are as follows: - Andrew Friedman (Marlboro) won the Devil-take-the-hindmost. Patrick van Hollands (Belgium!) won the Points race. Paul Sydenham (Halesowen) took the Stan Harrison Salver for the 500m Handicap. Tony Doyle won the 40 laps Derny paced race. Volin Sturgess (Team Haverhill) was a comfortable winner of the 9 laps pursuit. Dominic de Josse (Belgium) won the Consolation 5 miles. The Grand Prix of London Sprint went to Patrick de Rocha (France) who beat Paul McHugh (Great Britain) in the Final. The man who really livened up the proceedings was Maxwell Cheeseman (Trinidad) even though he was eventually beaten into 4th place by Eddie Alexander (Scotland).

The Champagne '10' was its usual high performance and fast race with the English Professionals proving to be the best riders. Tony Doyle (Eveready) came 1st, Nick Barnes (PMS-Dawes) was 2nd and Russell Williams (PCA) came 3rd in 20.50.5.

The Sunday races were awarded as follows: - 100-lap Madison Alister Wood and Rob Coull (Great Britain). Grand Prix of Southwark Sprint – Maxwell Cheeseman (Trinidad). Professional Kierin – Russell Williams (PCA).

The Bishops Stortford CC held their 8th Annual evening time trial on the 21st June. Graham O'Sullivan and Gethin Butler ventured north for the race. Gethin came 5th in 57.36 and Graham was 21st in 1.0.53. The following evening Gethin, this time accompanied by Harry Featherstone, went even further north for the Team Chiltern evening '25'. In this event Gethin finished 19th in 54.27 and Harry was 33rd in 55.17 but Harry did win the best on Age Standard award. In the Club evening '10' fastest time was achieved by Pete Dankwardt his 22.30 being nearly a 1½ minutes faster than Bob Patton's 23.55 and over 2 minutes quicker than Bob Bell's 24.47. Three ladies rode their times being Kaye Patton 25.38, Allison Butler 26.19 and Megan Butler 29.51. Chris Marshall and Terry Hulme rode the Wren Wh '25' with Chris just beating Terry with a 58.01 to 58.42.

Saturday 25th June was the day for the National 50 miles Championship. We had some high hopes but they did not materialise. Gethin came 21st in the Men's '50' with a 2.1.18. The winner Mick Bradshaw (GS Metro) came in with

a 1.52.35. In the Women's race we had a team entered but Kaye Patton was heavily engaged in moving house leaving Allison Butler to finish in 2.29.50 and Marilyn Butler with a 2.36.08. To be honest it would have needed a 1.50.35 from Kaye for our ladies to win the Team. Ken Salter finished 10th in the Kent CA '50' in 2.7.52

The next morning it was our Open '25' for the Robin Buchan Silver Salver. There were hopes for a home win but Gethin Butler had to content with 2nd place behind Clive Pugh (Team Chiltern). Pugh finished in 55.27 whilst Gethin took 56.15. There was a tie for 3rd place between Ron Keeble (Wren Whs) and Bob Addy (Hemel Hempstead) both being timed in at 56.49. Harry Featherstone took 57.34 for 6th; Pete Danckwardt was 13th, 59.00 and Chris Marshall 15th, 59.06. Other Paragon times were Terry Hulme 16th 59.08, Rowan Vacher did a 1.1.10, Bob Patton 1.3.50, Jack Platss 1.4.29, John Fisher 1.7.00, H Gompertz 1.7.45, Dave Adams 1.7.52 and Roger Amer 1.12.21. John Withey (VC Etoile) and J French (Wigmore) tied for 1st on handicap with a nett 51.18 with Jim Reeves (Epsom) 3rd. The Paragon took the Team prize with an aggregate 2.52.49.

The Red Barn course record fell again to Gethin Butler this time with a 22.37. Dillon Adams came 2nd beating Dave, his father, by 10 seconds 27.29 to 27.39 with Allison Butler close up on 27.40. The Club '10' on the Portsmouth Road on July 2nd had 10 riders with Henry Gompertz making fastest time with a personal best of 24.40. Bob Patton was 2nd with a 25.01, John Fisher 3rd with a 25.50. Nick Fink, a schoolboy with 4 minutes handicap and in his first race, scooped the handicap with a nett 22.07. Dillon Adams collected 2nd on handicap and John Fisher was 3rd.

There was another sub-4 hour '100' from Gethin Butler in the ECCA '100' on the 3rd July. He was leading at 50 miles by just 10 seconds from Whitehead (Hainault) and Hennesey (Southend) with a 1.58.00. Chris Marshall was not too far back with 5th fastest time of 2.1.00. Gethin gradually pulled away in the second half of the race to finish with a 3.58.17. Chris Marshall pulled up to 4th and crossed the line with a 4.6.53 – a mere 33 minutes improvement on his SCCU time. The Handicapper, though, saw him coming so Chris was only 7th on handicap in spite of such a huge improvement. Harry Featherstone went to the New Forest for the VTTA (Wessex) '50' and returned a 1.55.40 to take 3rd on scratch time and 2nd on Age Standard. Terry Hulme finished with 4th fastest time of 1.56.23. John Fisher rode the SECA '25' taking 1.12.57 for the distance.

The Paragon had twelve entries in the CDCA '25'. Pete Danckwardt was our best man with 6th place and a 59.12. Next came Graham O'Sullivan 1.2.49 and Jack Platts 1.4.44. This gave Jack a plus of 9.11 on Age Standard and with this he won the Anerley Cup yet again. Henry Gompertz did a 1.6.42, John Fisher a personal best of 1.6.57, Dave Adams 1.7.47, Paul King a personal best of 1.12.13, Marilyn Butler 1.14.22 and Roger Amer 1.15.49.

Gethin Butler made fastest time in the evening '10' with a 22.27, Bob Patton came in 2nd fastest with a 25.03, Dillon Adams 25.46 Dave Adams 26.09 and

Allison Butler 26.26. Pete Danckwardt and Terry Hulme went up for the Oundle '10' hoping for a fast evening and, for once, got one. That evening Colin Sturgess, son of the old Paragon rider Alan Sturgess, broke the Competition Record with an 18.40. Pete produced his best of the season with a 21.44 and Terry a personal best of 22.04.

On the 9th July Gethin Butler won the Newbury '25' by 1 second from Dave Marshall (Weybridge) with a ride of 55.34. Graham O'Sullivan came in with a 1.0.38 and Allison Butler with a 1.8.03. Marilyn Butler went round the earlier Middlemarkers event in 1.11.16 that equals her best of the season. Then on the Sunday Gethin Butler won the ECCA '50' with a 1.57.53. Harry Featherstone came 6th in 2.2.24. Unfortunately Terry Hulme punctured when we only required a 2.16.17 to win the Team race. The Blah does not mention anything about the conditions but we can add that 39 of the 120 riders elected not to start that morning!

The Inter-Club against the Addiscombe had its accustomed effect on the Paragon who nearly all managed a season's best or close to it. Gethin Butler was fastest in 21.46, Harry Featherstone 2nd 22.42, Pete Danckwardt 3rd 23.08, Chris Marshall 6th 24.08, Graham O'Sullivan 8th 24.20, Bob Patton 9th 25.13. With 6 riders in the first 9 the Paragon took the Raleigh Cup with an aggregate of 2.21.17 to the Addiscombe's 2.30.46. Roger Amer took the Paragon handicap with a nett 21.08 from Marilyn Butler, 21.29 and Megan Butler 21.31. The Blah reported that the first 9 on handicap were squeezed into 50 seconds but does not give full details. If you check the results you can see that we have found the first five.

As an aside we note that one Tony Garner was the slowest Paragon rider finishing with a 29.06. A few weeks previously Tony had called in to Chez Butler to ask about racing and was he too old at 34? He was told about Messrs Featherstone, Platts, Hulme et al. so was reassured. Shortly after he started to race. Every time he returned home his lads would ask if he had won and, not to disappoint them, Tony used to tell them he had. Of course next Friday in the Croydon Advertiser race report the truth would out! He got his come-uppance a year or so later when he did become a pretty fast, competent rider and did win races (as this History will show). None of his lads believed him and wouldn't read the Advertiser. He had to pay for them to come to the Club Dinner to help carry home all his trophies before they again took notice!

The Addiscombe Open '10' on Saturday morning had Gethin Butler in 7th place on 23.12 whilst John Fisher had a 26.43 and Marilyn Butler 30.33. All slower than their Tuesday times and it goes to underline just what real competition can do. Kaye Patton rode the National 10 mile Championship finishing with a 26.02. Pete Danckwardt and Terry Hulme went north for the VC Slough '25' returning with a 57.29 and 59.50 for their pains. The SCCU '100' had an absolute pig of a day. No competition records were going to be beaten that morning but at least it wasn't cold. Gethin Butler took it very comfortably indeed. At 25 miles he went through in 1.5.11 just 3 minutes down on Steve Dennis (East Grinstead) 1.2.10. Chris Marshall took

1.7.04 for 3rd fastest, Allison Butler 1.18.04 and Marilyn Butler 1.22.29. By 50 miles Dennis had stretched his lead as he covered the distance in 2.4.13 and now over 5 minutes clear of Gethin (2.9.38). Chris was established in 3rd place (2.12.15), Allison took 2.35.16 and Marilyn 2.44.55. By 75 miles Dennis had stretched his lead to over 6 minutes passing the timekeeper in 3.7.14 to Gethin's 3.13.35. Chris came through with 3.18.32, Allison 3.52.39 and Marilyn 4.5.10. Then came the surprise as Dennis wilted but Gethin kept on. Gethin finished in 4.17.25 whilst Steve Dennis was timed in at 4.18.15. In fact when one studies Gethin's split times he covered each 25-mile section faster than the previous – 1.5.11, 1.4.27, 1.3.57 and 1.3.50. This takes some doing!

Chris Marshall came 3rd with 4.28.14 somewhat down on his 4.6 in the ECCA event but 11 minutes faster than the same event last year on a similar day. Allison came 13th with 5.14.36 and Marilyn 15th in 5.27.13. The Paragon won the Syd Gray Shield and would have done so even with Marilyn's time. Only 19 riders finished the race.

In an attempt to make up for missing the ECRA '100' Harry Featherstone entered the Goodmayes '100' on the same course but the bad weather that affected the SCCU event was even worse on the exposed roads of Essex. Harry was disappointed with his 4.8.42 but it was good enough for 9th place on such a foul day. John Fisher and Dave Adams essayed the Brighton Excelsior '25' returning times of 1.7.40 and 1.8.50 respectively. Terry Hulme came 8th in the Glade '25' on 1.2.51 on a day when only 2 riders beat the hour.

Allison Butler won the Surrey League handicap on the 21st July on an unknown circuit.

On Saturday 23rd July Gethin Butler won the Reading '25' in 54.24 from a class field. Chris Marshall finished with a 58.39 for 47th place (!) and Allison Butler clocked a 1.5.59 in the ladies event. Pete Danckwardt was the fastest Paragon rider in the Surrey RCC '10' with 23.02. Dave Adams put in a personal best of 25.31 beating son Dillon's 26.35 and John Fisher 26.46. In the Bec Open '25' on Sunday morning the Paragon had a good morning. Gethin Butler won with a 59.32 and Harry Featherstone came 2nd on 1.0.51. Harry also was fastest veteran on Age Standard and with Jack Platts coming for 14th place with a 1.6.39 the pair won the fastest veterans team on Age Standard. Gethin and Harry also had Terry Hulme to back them with a 1.4.41 to be 8th and these three won the Scratch Team award. Just to wrap things up Allison Butler won fastest lady prize with a 1.14.34. Other Paragon times were by John Fisher 1.9.08, Dave Adams 1.9.11 and Marilyn Butler 1.15.28. Judging by these times it was not a good day weather wise.

Only three riders turned up for the evening '10' on the Red Barn course. Fastest of them was Chris Marshall with a 25.10 followed by Bob Patton 26.22 and Mike Stoling 26.34.

On the Wednesday, 27th July, as an experiment the Surrey League promoted a mid-week road race as an experiment. Thinking they may get 20 – 30 riders

plans were made accordingly and these plans were almost, but not quite, ruined when 59 riders turned up! This 'experimental' mid-week event is still being promoted in 2004. The Paragon interest, apart from the organiser, Keith Butler, was that Gethin Butler finished in 5th place.

Gethin Butler has a week-end away from time trialling when he rode the Surrey League 2-day. He was placed 11th on the Saturday, 3rd in the short time trial on Sunday morning and with the main bunch in the afternoon to be placed 4th overall. Ray Puttick rode in the support event and came 20th.

Harry Featherstone came 3rd in the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) '25' with a 59.36. He was best on Age Standard and led in the winning team of Ray Runham 1.1.23 (10th) and Jack Platts 1.4.51. Dave Adams achieved a personal best of 1.5.57 and John Fisher a 1.7.27.

Tuesday's '10' went to Gethin Butler with a 21.24 from Bob Bell 23.43 and Mike Stooling 23.51. John Fisher came in with a personal best of 25.14, as did Pete Owen 25.44 and Tony Garner, in only his second event 26.56. In Thursday's Surrey League handicap Oliver Penny came 4th only 2 lengths down on the winner, Allison Butler 9th and Henry Gompertz 25th. When Henry was introduced to bunch racing he thoroughly enjoyed it. That he found it a mite confusing was apparent with his shouted comments to the Club "Aren't there *any* rules in this game? Everyone wants my place!"

Sunday 7th August was the ECCA 12-hour event and our own Club 12-hour Championship for the Rotherham Cup. It turned out to be a scorcher of a day. The Paragon had a team of three Harry Featherstone, who wanted to better the 254 miles he did in atrocious weather in the Poole '12' last year, Gethin Butler who at 19 was taking on a big task and Chris Marshall who was there to make up the team. At 50 miles Paul Bennet (Poly) came through in 1.54.25! Harry was up with the leaders in 1.59.53, Gethin was taking it steady with 2.4.08, as was Chris with 2.6.15. By the 100 miles Timekeeper Paul Bennet had increased his lead. He had taken 3.57.30 to this point, Shay Giles (Leo) came through in 4.5.06, Harry was still up there with 4.11.31, Gethin had taken 4.16.30 and Chris 4.20.42. It was now 11am and the heat started to bite and all sorts of things went wrong. Harry had two punctures and had wheel changes and bike changes and then went off course. Stan Butler had to chase him down and bring him back! Typical of the problems was Bob Douglas, now a member of the Paragon. (In 1988 he was a member of the Surrey RCC but was being fed and watered in this race by the Clarendourt!) Bob went through 100 miles in 4.15.37 and was well in touch with the leaders when he needed a toilet stop. This was done but he was unable to get back onto his bike because of cramp. Gethin Butler was also suffering from cramp and the heat. So was Harry. As an indication of the effect the heat was having Paul Bennett took 5 hours 2 minutes for the 108 miles from the 100 miles check to the start of the Finish Circuit and he was the best rider. Harry took 5.33, Gethin 5.34 but Chris only took 5.15.

By the time the riders reached the Finish Circuit it was Chris who appeared completely unaffected by the heat and he had moved into 3rd position. He

had recaptured and dropped Harry, he had caught and dropped Gethin and was moving steadily on. You can imagine the satisfaction this must have given Chris so often the third man. While he was not catching the two leaders, Bennett and Giles he was moving away from the rest of the field. When everyone had run out time Bennett had covered 270.441 miles, Giles had not quite closed the gap with 270.099 miles. Chris Marshall did 256.111 for 3rd place, Harry Featherstone 249.10 for 6th and Gethin 248.274 for 8th place.

It was only then that the lads realised what they had achieved. Gethin had won the John Norris Cup for the greatest distance for a rider under 20 years of age. Chris Marshall had won the Rotherham Cup. The three of them had won the Association Shield for the Team race with a aggregate distance of 753.495 miles. This broke the Club Team Record of 740.09 miles set up 40 years earlier in 1948 by Bernard Brown, Pete Kitchiner and Vin Callanan. The best part of this was that Vin and Pete were out to the race helping with the feeding etc. Keith Butler had some idea of the possible result as he a bottle of Champagne in the car (Moet & Chandon of course). It was a bit warm – but who cared!

Two days after the 12 hours Gethin made fastest time in the Club '10' on the Red Barn course with a 24.06. Mike Stoaling was 2nd fastest in 25.07 then John Fisher 26.49, Pete Owen 27.37 and Tony Garner 28.01. Allison Butler won the last of the Surrey League handicap series and in doing so has topped the Points table for these events. Oliver Penny came 7th in the Surrey RCC Summer road race at Elstead. In the Surrey League road race Ray Puttick was 6th, Henry Gompertz 14th, Bob Bell 20th and Pete Owen 24th.

Gethin Butler's speed had not completely deserted him after the efforts in the 12-hour heat wave as he was placed 15th in the Southend & County '50' with a 1.54.55. Harry Featherstone was completely out of luck when he punctured at the Start with 4 minutes to go with his car some 10 minutes ride away. John Fisher put in a personal best '50' in the East Sussex CA event with a 2.19.45 and he took 3rd prize in the handicap as well. Pete Dankwardt rode the Salisbury '25' to finish 6th with a 59.18.

On August 20th Gethin Butler won the Eastbourne Rovers '10' by 8 seconds from Steve Dennis (East Grinstead) with a 22.57. Paul King put up a personal best of 26.45, John Fisher did 27.54 and Allison Butler took 2nd in the ladies section with he 28.40. Harry Featherstone and Pete Danckwardt went north of London hoping for a fast '25' but wind and rain kept times slow. Harry had a 57.05 and Pete a 57.29. Chris Marshall rode the Older Man's road race at Ellens Green, got into the leading break but had the mortification of being caught close to the Finish.

The second part of the Eastbourne Rovers week-end was the '25'. In this event we did not have a great deal of luck. Gethin Butler punctured and failed to finish. John Fisher misjudged his start time and lost 6.10 so his 1.14.33 was not as bad as it first appears. Allison Butler won first lady priuze with her 1.13.04. Harry Featherstone rode the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) group '25' and had the satisfaction of making fastest time of 1.0.17 as well as being fastest

on Age Standard. Pete Danckwardt came 6th in the Old Portlians '10 with a 22.57.

Gethin Butler managed a hat trick of 2nd places over the Bank Holiday weekend. In the Charlotteville '10' on the 27th August he lost to John Pritchard (Poly) with a 21.49 to Pritchard's 20.52. Chris Marshall finished in 23.51. On the Sunday Gethin rode the Oxonian '50' and came 2nd to Ian Cammish. Cammish won comfortably with a 1.50.13 and Gethin pulled up a few seconds on the return half of the course to collect 2nd place with a 1.53.06 just 8 seconds in front of Eddie Adkins (High Wycombe). Chris Marshall returned a 2.7.46. Allison Butler was riding the same course, but in the SWLLCA '50', and put up a personal best of 2.18.35 that will be a new Club Record. Dave Adams and John Fisher rode the South Eastern '10' finishing with a 24.50 and 25.59 respectively. Dave also rode and finished the Weybridge Whs Middlemarkers '25' clocking a 1.7.20 on a cold windy morning.

Gethin Butler's third 2nd place was in the Old Portlians '25' on Bank Holiday Monday when he lost by 6 seconds to Dave Marshall (Weybridge Whs) in 56.52. Harry Featherstone was 12th with a 59.49 and Chris Marshall 21st on a 1.1.59. Dave Adams did a 1.6.59 and the Paragon won the Team race.

John Pritchard (Poly) won the Clarence '10' on the 3rd September with Gethin Butler 1.01 behind him in 2nd place that also earned him 5th on handicap. Harry Featherstone managed a rare Saturday off to race away from the business and he came 5th with a 22.59. Chris Marshall made up the team with a 24.13 (21st) and Allison Butler came in with a 27.31. There is an intriguing note on the Result Sheet that "The Timekeeper apologises for the slightly long course" (How far was it?)

The following day Gethin was riding another Clarence promotion; their 97 miles Summer road race in the Plaistow area. Breaking away with two laps (20 miles) to go he had 40 seconds lead at the bell. Although tiring a little he held onto 19 seconds of his lead to cross the line first. The Norwood Paragon won another team race on the 4th September in the Belle Vue '25'. Harry Featherstone came 7th in 58.28; Chris Marshall did a 1.1.20 and Dave Adams a personal best of 1.5.03 to win the Team. John Fisher also had a personal best, 1.6.00, as did Dillon Adams 1.6.58. Ray Runham finished in 1.8.35 after delays with a puncture and Allison Butler a 1.11.42.

As a bit of fun Allison and Gethin Butler entered the Thames Velo 'Jack and Jill 10'. This was a 2up time trial where the one of the contestants had to be male and the other female. They finished in 5th position taking 22.50 to do the 10 miles and being the best brother/sister combination. A good bit of 'end-of season' fun. In Essex John Fisher did his second best '10' ever with a 25.29 whilst Chris Marshall was a mite faster in 23.01. Sunday was the SCCU '25' and Gethin Butler repeated his early season win with a 56.39. Just to assert our superiority the Paragon had 4 riders in the top six finishers and we won the Team race. After Gethin came Harry Featherstone in 2nd place 59.16, Chris Marshall 4th 1.1.13 and Ray Runham 5th 1.1.21. Further down the list came Dave Adams 1.6.08, Dillon Adams 1.7.03, John Fisher 1.7.50, Allison

Butler 1.11.12 (1st lady on handicap) and Paul King 1.19.42 after some mechanical problems.

With this ride Chris Marshall improved his average speed in the SCCU BAR and won it. He comfortably beat Tony Gould (Crawley Whs) at all distances.

Two Club Records went on the 17th September. In the Wandsworth & District '25' on the A34 near Didcot Gethin Butler came 2nd to Roger Queen (VC Slough) in 53.08 to take 11 seconds from his own record. Harry Featherstone came in with a 55.37 that only gave him 19th place but Chris Marshall put in a personal best of 56.53. The other Record went in the Tandem event that Ray Runham and Dave Adams won. They took 52.21 to cover the 25 miles taking 50 seconds from the 1982 record held by Ray and Pete Ansell with a 53.11. Closer to home the Paragon had a team in the Crawley Whs '10' where Dillon Adams was our fastest with 25.54. John Fisher did a 26.16 and Paul King a personal best of 26.25. Steve Rickwood popped up with a late return to fitness with a 24.24 in the Rodney '10'.

On Sunday Gethin Butler rode the Surrey League 2nd category race on the Staplefields circuit. He broke away with 26 miles to go and finished 4.30 up on the remains of the shattered bunch. Ray Puttick was in the 3rd category race and came 11th.

Harry Featherstone made fastest time in the Mayne Cup '25' with a 1.0.17 to win the Imperial Whs Cup. Second fastest was Henry Gompertz in 1.4.41 and 3rd was John Fisher in 1.9.00. 'Man-of-the-day' was Henry Gompertz who had a 7-minute handicap to take his time down to 57.41. Tony Garner, riding his first 25-mile race took 1.10.26 but had an allowance of 12 minutes to take him to 58.26 and 2nd best time. Harry Featherstone was 3rd from Scratch. Judging by the rather slow times it was a hard morning.

The next week-end 23rd/24th September Gethin Butler went road racing. On the Saturday afternoon race at Ewhurst he came 2nd. This meant that he had accumulated enough points to be upgraded to 1st category. To celebrate this on the Sunday at Lyne he broke away from the main pack with three other riders. Nearer the Finish he dropped those three and crossed the line 20 seconds clear of the second man. In the earlier race for 3rd category riders Bob Patton, Pete Owen, Tony Garner and Chris Marshall all finished with the main bunch. Harry Featherstone went to Essex for the Viking '50' and although he put in a 1.54.48 for his fastest of the year he did not beat Gethin Butler's 1.53.98 so he will not keep the Arthur Sharp Plaque.

The Paragon had four riders in the Southend & County '10' on the 1st October. Gethin Butler came 3rd with his best ever time of 21.00. Chris Marshall missed his by 2 seconds with a 22.37, Steve Rickwood returned a 25.22 and Allison Butler 26.57. Then on the Sunday Gethin Butler won the Epsom '25' in 55.59 beating Tim Stevens (34th Nomads) by 47 seconds. Harry Featherstone came 6th in 58.45 but took first place on Age Standard and Chris Marshall was 10th on a 1.0.07. This was enough to give the Paragon the Team race.

The Hill Climb on Ranmore Common was won by Gethin Butler in 3.50 from Dillon Adams, 4.36, and Mike Stouling 4.57. Ray Runham and Dave Adams decided on a change of scenery so went down to the Poole Whs '25'. Ray finished in 1.0.46 (10th) and Dave did a personal best of 1.4.13.

On the 16th October a team rode the ECCA (Clubs G-N) '25'. Chris Marshall was the fastest in 58.27, Ray Runham got down to a 59.00 but Dave Adams improved with a personal best of 1.2.30. Len's '10' was almost a complete washout with only 14 of the riders listed actually starting. Pete Owen swam round in 28.54 and Stuart Lifford took 31.07. Keith and Marilyn Butler went round on their tandem and took 28.56. After the pair had finished Marilyn tapped Keith on the back and said, "Do you want these?" and handed him the rear handlebars!

Allison Butler was selected by the Southern Centre of Excellence to ride the "Duo Normand". This is the end of season frolic at Marigny near St Lo. It consists of a whole day devoted to 2up racing on a 60 kms loop. Contestants range from pairs of business partners and tourists through to top Professionals each with their own section and Prize List. Allison was paired with Claire Newman (Crabwood) and they finished 7th fastest in the Ladies section.

The Colchester Rovers ran the Inter-Club Map reading this year and they had a bit of a problem in that 2 of the maps did not have all the control points marked. It was not noted until Graham O'Sullivan came in well in front of his expected time. As another competitor had the same problem it was decided to scrap the team competition. In the end P Fenton (Colchester) did 1.10.33 for fastest time. John Togher (Century) 1.12.42 came 2nd and Keith Butler 1.12.45 (fastest veteran) came 3rd. Bob Patton took 1.19.47, Allison Butler 1.24.17 (fastest lady), John McNee 2.8.26 and Vin Callanan 2.22.22. Vin also won a jar of raspberry jam as "Lanterne Rouge". Steve Rickwood did a 1.3 in the Sotonia '25 for 9th place and Chris Marshall came 9th on a wet morning for the Essex Roads '25' with a 57.09.

With results and cheque from the Surrey League it was noted that 18 Paragon riders had entered League races during the season. Ray Puttick was the most successful with 81 points; Allison Butler had 77 and Gethin Butler 69.

Gethin Butler is the 1988 Road race Champion and the Open Time Trial Champion. Chris Marshall won the Club Events Championship.

Nationally Harry Featherstone came 4th in the Veterans BAR with a plus of 5.864. In the RTTC BBAR Gethin Butler came 20th with an average speed of 24.389 mph. Harry Featherstone was 35th with 23.662 mph and Chris Marshall 106th with 22.403 mph. The Norwood Paragon were 5th in the Team Competition.

