

1989

With the death in 1988 of Patrick Forbes of Moët & Chandon the expected happened and Moët & Chandon informed the Club that they were not sponsoring the Club Track Meeting in 1989. The Champagne Meetings were greatly enjoyed by Patrick and as one of the Company Directors he could indulge his whims and fancies. The Norwood Paragon had put on, with his firm's financial assistance, some of the best racing seen at Herne Hill for years but as a commercial proposition it could not merit the interest of such a company. Very little extra Champagne would be sold on the strength of a Grand Prix of London win. If Patrick was not there to sing our praises at the Board Meetings we would not be considered and there was the rub. Graham Bristow and John Dennis were seeking another sponsor but the prospects looked bleak.

Racing started very quietly. Up in Lancashire Gethin finished in the bunch at the Clayton Velo Spring Classic on the 26<sup>th</sup> February. He was 13<sup>th</sup> in the Kent Valley road race at Carnforth on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and on the 12<sup>th</sup> March he was 5<sup>th</sup> in the Circuit of Ashurst 2.57 behind Ben Luckwell (Manchester Whs).

Down in the South Terry Hulme rode the East Surrey Hardriders finishing in 1.21.29. Stuart Lifford found the going rather hard for early season and took 1.40.57. Terry Hulme and Harry Featherstone joined forces for the Antelope 2up '25' and finished 10<sup>th</sup> in 58.27.

We had three performers in the Croydon & District Hardriders. Jack Platts was our best man in 28<sup>th</sup> place with 1.18.59; Mario Manelfi took 1.19.22 and Stuart Lifford 1.27.00. Another six preferred the Surrey League road races. Ray Puttick came 6<sup>th</sup> in the morning race, Tony van den Dyck was 19<sup>th</sup> and Tony Garner 24<sup>th</sup> but Bob Bell and Pete Owen were unplaced. In the afternoon race Chris Marshall showed his "stirring" qualities demolishing the field before being tailed off near the end. He still finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place.

Gethin Butler came down from Lancashire. He rode the Club '10' on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> March and won it with a 23.19. Graham O'Sullivan was 2<sup>nd</sup> 25.49 and Tony Garner 3<sup>rd</sup> 26.36. Tony Garner won the handicap with 5.30 allowance giving him a 21.21. Gethin and Graham tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 23.19. In the afternoon Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 34<sup>th</sup> Nomads '10' on the Tonbridge course with a 22.25. Pete Danckwardt finished in 24.26 looking particularly fit and bronzed after his training holiday in Majorca.

On Sunday Gethin Butler took part in the Tour of the Marshes. This event went round the Romney Marshes and was a 102 miles race for Professionals and Amateurs. The wind on the coast ensured that the race broke up into small groups. Tony Doyle (Eveready) won the race but Gethin, although somewhat back in about 30<sup>th</sup> place, was 2<sup>nd</sup> Amateur to finish.

Over Easter Gethin was riding the Surrey League 4-day race. Stage 1 was on the 15-mile Northchapel circuit. In near gale force winds Gethin went clear with a small group of riders. They consolidated their lead and then Gethin

attacked drawing away to finish 3.33 clear of the next rider. Stage 2 was on the Lurgeshall circuit and finished by climbing Jays Lane onto Blackdown; a small matter of 2 miles uphill. Gethin rode wisely with the leaders conserving his strength for the last climb. He finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Sunday and Stage 3 was around the Dunsfold circuit which is flat and fast. Gethin finished with the main bunch some 30 seconds down on the winner. The last Stage was on the Chiddingfold circuit that has a number of long dragging hills. At the start of the last lap of 9 two riders were away and had a lead of 1.30 with Gethin stirring things up at the front of the bunch. However to make sure of his position Gethin broke away from the bunch, chased and caught the two leaders crossing the Finish line in 3<sup>rd</sup> place to take the overall win by 4.19. The Paragon had other riders in the support races. Ray Runham finished 7<sup>th</sup> on the Friday although he had to ride over two fallen riders to do it. Chris Marshall started on three days but collected two punctures and only managed a 13<sup>th</sup> place on Saturday morning. Pete Owen and Tony Garner rode and finished three times but without getting into the major prizes.

Jack Platts took 2.6.23 in the Crawley Whs Shoreham and back time trial and was 4<sup>th</sup> on Age Standard. Harry Featherstone took in the Bournemouth Arrow '10' on Good Friday and did a 24.24 in the very windy conditions. On the Sunday he rode the Charlotteville '50' and clocked a respectable 2.6.43. Three more Paragon riders competed in the VTTA (East Anglia) '25'. Gerry Horn did 59.47, Ray Runham 59.59 and Ken Salter 1.1.03.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April Gethin Butler came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Southboro '10' with a 21.51 just 17 seconds slower than the winner Paul Daniels (Poly). Gerry Horn came 19<sup>th</sup> with 23.01; Chris Marshall clocked 23.30 and Ken Salter 23.52. The next morning had a cold easterly wind and driving rain making life very unpleasant for those racing. Harry Featherstone took 1.1.11 to cover 25 miles in the Elite event whilst Chris Marshall took 1.5.18. The winner Martin Pyne (Poly) clocked a 57.21 some 7 minutes slower than his best! Conditions for the Redmon '25' were not much better so Dave Adams was quietly pleased with his 1.6.40. In the afternoon Gethin Butler rode the "Tour of Hankley Common" over 78 miles in the Tilford area of Surrey. By this time the rain had blown over and the sun was shining and in celebration Gethin won in a bunch sprint.

Allison and Gethin Butler took the tandem for the ECRA '10 and they finished 4<sup>th</sup> fastest in 21.30 and best of the 'mixed' pairs. Not content with that Gethin rode the event for single machines and he came 2<sup>nd</sup> to Stapleton (Leo) with a 22.07 to Stapleton's 21.39. Chris Marshall was 11<sup>th</sup> fastest timed in with a 23.48. Ray Runham won the Surrey League 3<sup>rd</sup> category event at Ottershaw. Harry Featherstone rode the Trowbridge '10' taking 4<sup>th</sup> place on Scratch and both the over 40s and over 50s prizes as well. Gerry Horn came 6<sup>th</sup> and Ken Salter 7<sup>th</sup> in the VC Deal '10' with times of 24.08 and 24.16 respectively

On Sunday Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> from a three-man group that had broken clear in the 75-mile Catford Spring road race. Harry Featherstone came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Southampton Whs '25' with a 58.20. The Jum Fox '25' had a cold hard morning but Gavin Sherlock on vacation from Coventry won both scratch and handicap prizes with a 1.3.16. Dave Adams came 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1.9.04 and Jack

Platts 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1.10.05, which will give you some idea of the conditions that morning. Ray Runham came 10<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League road race promoted by the South Western CC

The Norwood Paragon entered a 4-man team in the Southend & County 50 kms Team Time Trial on the 15<sup>th</sup> April. The team was Dillon Adams, Gethin Butler, Chris Marshall and Ray Runham and they were up against professional and semi-professional teams. The Percy Bilton 'Probables' team (professionals) won in 1.6.00. Our lads finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place with 1.16.45. Gerry Horn got a ninth place in the KCA '10' in 25.27.

Gethin Butler won the SCCU '25 with a 58.07 nearly 2 minutes faster than the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed man Chris Gibson (Wandsworth)'s 1.00.02. Dave Adams finished in 1.8.20 and Allison Butler 1.15.24 but she did win the best lady on handicap prize. Other members went to the New Forest for the Bournemouth Jubilee '25'. Harry missed 1<sup>st</sup> place by 1 second with his 59.22 and had to take 2<sup>nd</sup> on Age Standard as well. Jack Platts finished in his best of the season 1.4.43 to take 3<sup>rd</sup> on Age Standard. Terry Hulme also did a season's best of 1.3.08 and the Paragon won the Team race. In the Surrey League races on the Smallfields circuit Chris Marshall was our best-placed rider in 5<sup>th</sup> spot. Ray Puttick came 8<sup>th</sup>, Tony van den Dyck 23<sup>rd</sup>, Bob Bell 31<sup>st</sup>, Pete Owen 32<sup>nd</sup>, Tony Garner 36<sup>th</sup> and Bob Patton 39<sup>th</sup>. Both Garner and Patton punctured but continued to the Finish. One should appreciate that in Surrey League races you score points for your position but you score a minus 1-point for not finishing and minus 3 points for entering in advance and not starting so it pays to keep going. Gerry Horn came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the VTTA (Kent) '25' with a 1.4.02 and 5<sup>th</sup> on Age Standard. Ken Salter was 5<sup>th</sup> on Scratch time with a 1.4.54 and 7<sup>th</sup> on Age Standard.

Ray Runham beat Gerry Horn in the Sydenham Whs '10' with a 22.30 to Gerry's 22.37. Then on the Sunday Harry Featherstone took fastest on Age Standard in the Viking '25' with a 58.39, Chris Marshall, now a veteran did a 1.0.11 and Gerry Horn a 1.1.05. Dave and Dillon Adams took on the South Eastern RC 2-up over 50 kms and recorded 1.23.13. Ian Murray took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Southern Velo 3<sup>rd</sup> category road race at Ellens Green over 54 miles.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> April Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Lancashire RC '10' with a 21.56 just 12 seconds slower than the winner Dave Smith (Manchester Whs). Ray Runham did a 23.45 on a windy afternoon in the Epsom '10' with Andy Murray on 24.22 and John Fisher doing a 27 something. Harry Featherstone continued with his habit of winning two prizes with one ride. In the Hillingdon event he came 2<sup>nd</sup> on scratch with a 58.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> on Age Standard. Jack Platts did the same event and produced a season's best of 1.2.34 and 6<sup>th</sup> on Age Standard. Bank Holiday Monday was Surrey League Handicap Championship day on the Dunsfold Circuit. Tony van den Dyck finished 16<sup>th</sup>, Ray Puttick 17<sup>th</sup>, Tony Garner and Bob Patton equal 19<sup>th</sup> in the main bunch.

Ray Runham and Dave Adams went north of the river for the Highgate 2-day race but while they finished with the bunch on Sunday they were destroyed on

the Monday hilly stage and failed to finish. Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Preston Whs '25' by just 7 seconds in 58.11, George Nowland (Preston) won with 58.04.

Gethin Butler won the Cleveleys '10' in 22.01 on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. In the Club '10' Ian Murray was fastest in 23.20. Dillon Adams came in with a personal best of 24.23, as did Tony Garner with a 25.03. Tony van den Dyck rode his first ever time trial in 25.32 although he has done quite a bit of road racing. Charlie Rodgers made a comeback and surprised the handicapper with a 26.30 to take 1<sup>st</sup> place on handicap from Dillon Adams and Ian Murray. Roger Amer improved to 27.16 and Stuart Lifford to 29.00. In the afternoon Redmon '10' Ian Murray finished with another 23 but Dillon slipped back to a 25.10. Ray Runham made up the team with a 23.43

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Ribble Valley '25' to Dave Smith (Manchester Whs) 55.59 to 56.41 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> man over 2 minutes slower. Harry Featherstone took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Worthing Excelsior '25' and was best on Age Standard. Terry Hulme did a 1.3.11 and Jack Platts a 1.4.12.

Harry Featherstone did a great ride in the VTTA National Championship '10 held on our local Holmwood Course. He finished with a 22.44 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place but he was niggled that he was beaten by Dick Hope (Poly) 22.38 who is 10 years his junior and Don Awcock (Central Sussex) 22.41 who is 15 years his junior! Harry had good support from the Paragon with Terry Hulme on 24.53, Jack Platts 25.30 and John Fisher 27.27. On Age Standard Harry suffered at the hands of the older riders (You can't win with these Vets!) as Don McKellow (Poly) at 64 clocked 23.21 that gave him a plus of 7.24 to Harry's 6.08. Andy Murray clocked a 24.00 in the Catford '10' with Bob Patton doing his season's best of 25.50 as did Kaye Patton with her 27.39. Chris Marshall rode the ECRA '10' in 23.18, as did Allison Butler who did her season's best of 27.16. Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Wigan Whs '10' and again he lost to Dave Smith by 21.31 to 22.12.

Sunday was Moon Trophy day but the handicapper was not kind to the Paragon riders and we had to be content with second Team some 2 minutes slower than the Anerley. It should be noted that Dillon Adams was our fastest rider with a personal best of 1.3.24. Tony Garner also did a personal best of 1.5.45 as did Stuart Lifford with his 1.14.43. Gethin Butler rode his first top class race when he was accepted for the Lincoln Grand Prix but back injuries from a crash in a local mid-week handicap prevented him from staying with leaders on the cobbled hill through the city and he retired.

Gethin Butler has recently ridden the 101 miles Hyde Grand Prix in which he was 18<sup>th</sup> and the Tour of Delyn. He came 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Tour after 112 miles of racing. In both races he was up against professional riders. On the Bank Holiday Monday Ray Runham and Chris Marshall rode the Gravesend 30kms 2up finishing with a 46.09. Dillon and Dave Adams also rode taking 47.45 with some time lost through a diversion from the course.

The Colchester Rovers '25' on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May produced some fast times. Harry Featherstone was given a 55.43 (which he thinks was a 56!) Chris Marshall did 57.35, Terry Hulme 1.1.07 and Jack Platts 1.1.14. Kaye Patton finished with a 1.9. Dillon Adams had more than a bit of bad luck in the Addiscombe '25'. He had borrowed a pair of Ray Runham's special fast wheels and proceeded to hit a large pot-hole at speed. He ruined BOTH very expensive tubulars. Father Dave was pleased with his ride of 1.3.35 as was Charlie Rodgers with a 1.7.09 but John Fisher was struggling for form with a 1.9.19.

On Wednesday Ray Runham and Dave Adams took their tandem to the Leo '10' and managed a 20.09 in spite of having to stop and disentangle a chain! Bob and Kaye Patton rode the Belle Vue '10' resulting in a 24.41 for Bob and 27.20 for Kaye.

The Frank Southall '50' was run on the 29<sup>th</sup> May and proved to be another win for Jeremy Short (Antelope) in 1.57.06. He had two minutes in hand over Chris Gibson (Wandsworth) and 5 minutes over 3<sup>rd</sup> placed man Harry Featherstone's 2.2.16. We did salvage the John Carter Shield for the fastest team with Harry being joined by Terry Hulme's 2.8.03 and Jack Platts 2.9.46. The Handicap went to Ted Boorman (East Grinstead) from Ian Burt (Surrey RCC) and in 3<sup>rd</sup> place Bob Patton. Bob won that prize courtesy of a personal best ride of 2.15.11 less a 20 minutes allowance on handicap. Chris Marshall, who would be expected to be amongst the medals, had the misfortune to puncture as he arrived at the Start line. Not having time to change a tubular he 'borrowed' the Event Secretary's (Graham O'Sullivan) cycle and set off. He then found out that the saddle was about 2 inches too low. However Chris is not one to worry over trifles and he persevered with the discomfort and finished in 2.11.11. Stuart Lifford tried racing 50 miles for the first time and took 2.38.07 to cover the distance.

In the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) event held in conjunction with our race Harry Featherstone made fastest time and fastest on Age Standard. Jack Platts was 3<sup>rd</sup> on Scratch and in conjunction with Terry Hulme our lads won both the Scratch and Age Standard team awards.

Up North Gethin Butler came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Horwich '50' with a 2.00.18. It could not have been a nice day in that area as about a third of the entrants failed to start or finish. Gethin's records show that he rode three local handicap at the end of May on successive Wednesdays he came 4<sup>th</sup> in one, 1<sup>st</sup> in another and was 6<sup>th</sup> in the third.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> June Gethin Butler won the ECRA '10' with a 21.07 just 7 seconds away from his best ever. Chris Marshall put in a personal best of 22.13 to be 7<sup>th</sup> in the race. Bob Patton beat the hour for the first time with a 59.22 in the Reading C C '25'. If nothing else he now had a personal best faster than his wife Kaye. Kaye did her best of the season with a 1.5.01. Ray Runham took Dillon Adams as his tandem partner (Dave has to work on Saturdays) and they rode the Sydenham Whs '10' in the morning and finished with a 21.24. In the afternoon they travelled over to the Hertfordshire Whs '30' and got to

within 23 seconds of Club Record with a 1.1.11. Ray, partnered by Robin Buchan, holds the Record with a 1.0.48.

On Sunday the veterans rode the Southend & County '25'. Harry Featherstone was fastest with a 58.08 followed by Chris Marshall 59.35, Terry Hulme 1.0.23 and Jack Platts 1.1.14. In the Surrey RCC '25' Dave Adams did 1.6.31 and John Fisher 1.9.43. Gethin Butler rode the BCF Surrey Division road race Championships over 110 miles. This consisted of 8 circuits around Ewhurst and Ockley (the flat part) and then 7 circuits round the Hurstwood Peaslake area (where the hills are). Six riders broke away early in the race before Gethin Butler and two others caught them before the hills started. Over the last 7 laps the group was whittled down to three men. Gethin attacked on the long drag up through the Finish and only Hall (Wembley) could stay with him. In a desperate finish Gethin Butler just got the verdict to achieve his best road race victory to date.

Gethin Butler won the SCCU '10' on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June with a 22.11 26 seconds clear of M Woods (Epsom). Pete Dankwardt was 6<sup>th</sup> 23.41 and Dillon Adams 16<sup>th</sup> 24.56. John Fisher came in with a 27.08. The Paragon won the Team race. Bob Patton recorded a 24.22 in the WLCA '10' and Kaye Patton a 1.5.46 in the Chelmer '25' for 7<sup>th</sup> place. At an unknown date Chris Marshall came 6<sup>th</sup> in the Middlesex RC '25' in 58.37.

Next day we promoted the Bletchingley Grand Prix. We inherited this prestigious event when Tony van den Dyck joined us from the Croydon RC. The course was of 10 laps of the Bletchingley circuit and it was one by Matt Stephens (Hemel Hempstead). Stephens broke away with Mick Coyle (VC Etoile) with three laps to go and won comfortably a few seconds in front of Coyle but some 4 minutes in front of Steve Cook (Calleva), Sean Kilroy (Bishops Stortford) and our own Gethin Butler in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

In the South Eastern '25' Pete Danckwardt was placed 5<sup>th</sup> in 59.28 and lead the Paragon to the Team award. Ray Runham was 6<sup>th</sup> and won the Group A prize in 1.0.07. Dillon Adams came 2<sup>nd</sup> in that group with 1.1.46 and Dave Adams also finished in 1.3.48. Chris Marshall came in with a 58.56 in the Archer '25'. Harry Featherstone, Terry Hulme and Jack Platts went up to the Oxford City '50'. Harry managed to break a spoke in his front wheel after 300 yards and retired. The others had better luck with Terry finishing in 2.3.55 and Jack with 2.6.10. Tony Garner finished 16<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League race on the Withyham circuit. Chris Marshall was 4<sup>th</sup> fastest in the KCA veterans '10' but is still too young to win anything on Age Standard.

Pete Danckwardt 23.07 was fastest in the Tuesday evening '10', from Ian Murray 23.15, Tony Garner with a personal best of 24.39 and Mike Clark 24.42. Ray Runham, Dave Adams and Gerry Horn rode the ECCA (Clubs F-P) '10' and recorded 22.20, 22.40 and 23.29 respectively. At Herne Hill on the Wednesday Gethin Butler finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the SCCU Roadmans '25' and Allison Butler won the Ladies Omnium. On the 15<sup>th</sup> Gethin came 6<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League handicap with Tony Garner 8<sup>th</sup> and Tony van den Dyck 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June was a great day for the Paragon with two new Club records. Three riders were down for the ECRA '100', which, once again, had an excellent morning for distance racing. Ian Cammish (Manchester Whs) led through the 50 miles checkpoint in 1.48.22 already 2 minutes clear of Gary Dighton (Team Chiltern) 1.50.34; Shay Giles (Leo) took 1.52.04 and Gethin Butler 1.54.09. Chris Marshall was back on 2.0.28 and Terry Hulme on 2.0.41. It is interesting to note that the fastest 8 riders at 50 miles did not change their placings all the way to the Finish line. At the end Ian Cammish had taken 3.39.11, Dighton 3.44.52, Giles 3.47.51 and Gethin Butler 3.50.18 to take 1 minute from his own Club 100 miles Record. Chris Marshall had passed the Timekeeper in his personal best time by 2 minutes of 4.4.53 for 15<sup>th</sup> place. The two riders and helpers waited with bated breath for Terry. He died a bit in the second half by finished with a 4.9.39. This was a 36-minute improvement and he still didn't get into the Handicap prizes! The three Paragon riders had scooped the Team race by 26 minutes but, even more importantly, had taken another 29.38 from the old Club Team record.

Tony Garner came 8<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League 3<sup>rd</sup> category road race at Barcombe with Henry Gompertz and Ray Puttick unplaced in the bunch. In the afternoon race Ray Runham was 6<sup>th</sup> and Ian Murray 11<sup>th</sup>. Only two Paragons entered the SCCU and Club '50' with Pete Danckwardt completing the course in 2.8.22 for 8<sup>th</sup> place and Dave Adams taking 2.16.37. Harry Featherstone rode the VTTA (Wessex) '50' taking first placed with a 1.56.43 but only collecting 3<sup>rd</sup> on Age Standard.

Ian Murray had a successful foray into Wales – a holiday you understand! He was 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest and 1<sup>st</sup> veteran in the Acme Whs '10 with 24.42. He clocked 1.2.51 in the Hirwaun Whs '25' for 4<sup>th</sup> place, he was 7<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> veteran in the WCA Hilly 12.5 miles in 32.51; was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Pembroke Velo '10 with 23.56 and finished 17<sup>th</sup> in the Speedwell Mountain 52 with a time of 2.29.53.

Harry Featherstone and Terry Hulme went up to the Team Chiltern Mid-week '25' at Oxford hoping for a fast evening but it failed to materialise. Harry finished in 57.31 and Terry 1.0.04.

The Norwood Paragon Track Championships were run off on the 24<sup>th</sup> June at Herne Hill. They began as usual with the 4000m pursuits for the Bert Chapman Cup. Gethin Butler took this with a 5.31 from Bob Bell 5.35 and Bob Patton 5.50. The 500m Sprint for the AEU cup went to Bob Bell from Gethin Butler and Bob Patton was again in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The 500m handicap for the Frank Burton Cup went to Steve Rickwood but no mention has been found of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed riders. The 5-mile event was enlivened by Bob Bell going for the Points and taking the George Colget Cup for his pains but it took the sting out of his sprint and he lost the Scratch to Gethin Butler. Bob Patton was again in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Gethin Butler took the Track Championship by 8 pts to Bob Bell's 7 pts.

In the SECA '10' Chris Marshall came 5<sup>th</sup> 22.52, Pete Danckwardt 8<sup>th</sup> 23.07 and Andy Murray 19<sup>th</sup> 23.09. In one KCA veteran '10' Chris Marshall was 4<sup>th</sup> fastest (22.03) and in another Ian Murray was 7<sup>th</sup> (22.15).

Tony Goodsell (Central Sussex) won the Robin Buchan Silver Salver '25' with a 57.03 that was just 11 seconds too fast for Harry Featherstone. Phil Headen (East Surrey) was 3<sup>rd</sup> in 58.15. The Paragon times were: - Ian Murray 59.23 (14<sup>th</sup>), Pete Danckwardt 59.24 (15<sup>th</sup>), Chris Marshall 1.0.09 (20<sup>th</sup>), Terry Hulme 1.1.09, Dave Adams 1.2.52, Dillon Adams 1.3.50 and John Fisher 1.7.15. The Handicap went to G Newton (Bognor Regis) from Stan Worrell (Addiscombe) and A Smith (Anerley). The Paragon also won the Team race.

Gethin Butler preferred to go road racing and he rode the Redhill CC's Dave Cosson memorial event. This was contested over three circuits in the Sammlfields/Bletchingley area. Four laps of the South Nutfield circuit, five laps of the Smallfields circuit finishing with four laps of the Bletchingley circuit. At the end of 93 miles he was outsprinted by Charlie Nicholson (New Zealand) from the three-man break.

Allison and Gethin Butler rode on the revised Red Barn '10' course and did 27.07 and 22.55 respectively. Dillon and Dave Adams rode the Shaftesbury Middlemarkers '25' where Dillon came 5<sup>th</sup> with a personal best of 1.1.08 and Dave did a 1.3.11. In the 34<sup>th</sup> Nomads '10' Pete Danckwardt had a 22.48 for 8<sup>th</sup> place, Dillon Adams 24.37 and Dave Adams 24.46.

Pete Danckwardt won the Club '10' on the Portsmouth Road with 22.08. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a personal best came Tony Garner 23.47 and in 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Ian Tombleson with a 24.17. Other rides of note were a personal best by Roger Amer of 25.47, new members Mike Clarke 24.37, Kate Haynes 28.04 and Dave Woods 31.18 for their first time trials and Megan Butler reappearing with a 28.23. Roger Amer won the Handicap from Tony Garner and Pete Danckwardt.

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Harry Featherstone won the VTTA National 50 miles Championship with a season's best of 1.56.43, a time that also gave him 3<sup>rd</sup> place on Age Standard. Jack Platts took 2.7.03 for the distance but the hopes of a team victory were dashed when Terry Hulme's front tyre blew out after a couple of miles. Gethin went up to Biggleswade for the Norland '100' hoping to better his club record but an overturned lorry and the resultant attempts to get it upright and out of the road led to the abandonment of the race. This shattered the hopes of quite a number of riders looking for fast 100 miles time. Ian Murray who tripped over to the Kent League event at Yalding and came in 5<sup>th</sup> had a better result. Pete Danckwardt came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the CDCA '25' with a 59.48 behind M Woods (Epsom)'s 58.14. Dillon Adams came in with a 1.3.01 whilst Dad did a 1.5.19. John Fisher completed the course in 1.8.09, Roger Amer 1.14.00 and Stuart Lifford 1.15.24.

On Tuesday evening Gethin Butler did the fastest time of 21.53 at Holmwood then at Herne Hill for the SCCU Wednesday Meeting he came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Omnium helped by a 4<sup>th</sup> in the 'Devil' and a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Points race. Allison Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Ladies Omnium. On the following evening Gethin won the Surrey League handicap.



During the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> July Gethin Butler took part in the Southern Velo Surrey Tour. Barry Clarke (Wembley) won Stage 1 on the Norwood Hill Circuit with Gethin finishing with the 8-man break in 6<sup>th</sup> place. He then finished with the main bunch in the evening criterium at Brockham that was also won by Barrie Clarke. Violent storms had reduced the field to 45 riders for the Sunday's racing. Stage 3 on Sunday morning was a 1.9 miles Hill Climb from Dorking to the top of Ranmore Common. Gethin won this by 1 second from Barrie Clarke. He then took the 60-mile Stage 4 that took in a loop over Coldharbour and Leith Hill. On the last climb a group of four riders broke clear and Gethin won the sprint in Dorking High Street with Clarke 3<sup>rd</sup> and the next group at 1.21 behind. Overall Gethin was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> 39 seconds behind Clarke.

Harry Featherstone took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the ECCA '50' with his fastest time of the season of 1.55.01. Terry Hulme took 2.2.49 and Jack Platts 2.4.41. Ian Murray came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the VTTA (Kent) '25' with a 1.0.29.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July was Inter-Club day against the Addiscombe. Gethin Butler produced the fastest time of 21.17 well clear of 2<sup>nd</sup> placed rider Pete Danckwardt 22.50. Ray Runham was our next rider 23.34, then came Tony Garner 24.05, Ian Tombleson 24.06 and Mike Clarke 24.10 made up the winning Paragon Team. On Handicap Terry Slattery was the clear winner having been given 5 minutes allowance and then coming in with a 25.09. Ian Tombleson with a nett 21.06 came 2<sup>nd</sup> and there were 8 riders in the next 49 seconds. The Paragon won the Team race.

On Wednesday Allison Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> in another Ladies Omnium at the 34<sup>th</sup> Nomads Meeting at Herne Hill whilst Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 15 laps Points race and 5<sup>th</sup> in the 20kms scratch race.

The Addiscombe '10' follows the Inter-Club event on the same course but on Saturday morning. This one Gethin Butler did not win. In fact he came 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Pete Hamilton (Wren Whs) 22.11, Dave Marshall (Weybridge) put in a 22.12 and Gethin a 22.15. In does not get much closer than that. The Paragon did win the Team prize our other times being Pete Danckwradt 23.20 (11<sup>th</sup>), Dillon Adams 25.04, Ian Tombleson 24.12 and John Fisher 27.10.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July Harry Featherstone, on holiday at Swanage, rode the Antelope evening '25'. He was doing a particular good ride having caught his three-minute man (who finished with a 58) when he slid on some diesel spillage at Tricketts Cross ending in an ignominious heap in the gutter. In spite of various cuts, bangs and bruises, not to mention a pain in the groin, he staggered to the Finish where he was recorded as doing a 56.57!

Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> July was SCCU and Goss Green '100' day. This year Gethin Butler did not leave us in a state of suspense but got down to business straight away. After 25 miles he was leading in 59.01 with his nearest challenger, Jon Jennings (Festival) over 4 minutes back in 1.3.37. Chris Marshall was 4<sup>th</sup> in 1.4.43 and Ian Murray 8<sup>th</sup> in 1.5.35. By 50 miles Gethin

had nearly gone through the field as he passed the Timekeeper in 2.3.59. Mike Staines (Surrey RCC) was lying 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2.15.02 with Jennings 1 second slower. Chris had taken 2.18.25 and Ian 2.18.27. Gethin went through 75 miles in 3.05.29 fourteen minutes clear of Jennings (3.19.43) and 17 on Staines (3.22.15). Chris took 3.29.42 and Ian 3.29.45. At the end of 100 miles Gethin had broken the course record with a 4.11.47 ride winning by over 16 minutes. Jennings took 4.28.10 and Staines 4.33.49. Chris Marshall finished in 4.47.02 (7<sup>th</sup>) and Ian Murray 4.47.24 (8<sup>th</sup>) to ensure the Paragon won the Team race and Sid Gray Shield.

In spite of the injuries sustained on the Thursday Harry Featherstone rode the Bec Veterans '25' to make fastest veteran on scratch and fastest on Age Standard with a 58.53 with Terry Hulme on 1.2.29 and Dave Adams on 1.2.55.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> July Harry Featherstone won the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) veterans '25' with a 58.52 and again took the Age Standard prize. Ian Murray was riding and he also beat the hour with a 59.56. Terry Hulme just did not quite make it with a 1.0.21, Jack Platts a 1.2.43 and John Cleeve a 1.12.43. Messrs Featherstone, Murray and Hulme won the Team race for the Paragon. Gethin Butler went to Yorkshire for the RTTC National 100 miles Championship. After a fast start and going through the 25 miles point in 57.42 in 5<sup>th</sup> place and 50 miles in 6<sup>th</sup> with a 1.58.10 he slipped back to 7<sup>th</sup> at the Finish with a 4.5.09. Ian Cammish (Manchester Whs) won with a 3.48.39.

On the 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> July he rode the Wilsma 2-day in the Lyne area. After winning the road race on the Saturday and the Time trial on Sunday morning he was a marked man for Stage 3. Eventually he was 9<sup>th</sup> on General Classification. Terry Hulme finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the New Forest '50' in 2.2.09.

Tuesdays '10' provided some personal best. Gethin Butler shot round in 21.21 followed by Pete Danckwardt in 22.06 and Mike Clarke with a personal best of 23.09. Kate Haynes improved to a 26.38 and Dave Woods to a 29.04. Allison Butler and Jon Jennings went round on a tandem in 21.16.

Ian Tombleson journeys by bus, train and bike to the VC Press '25' at Milton near Didcot and was rewarded for his pains with a personal best time of 1.1.53. Allison Butler came 6<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League handicap promoted by the Hounslow on the Ottershaw circuit and brother Gethin was 10<sup>th</sup>.

The 6<sup>th</sup> of August was RTTC Competition Record day for Ray Runham and Gethin Butler in the Century event on the Great North Road course. With a 3.31.39 they beat the existing record by over 5 minutes and that record had stood for 24 years. The extraordinary thing is that this was Ray's first '100' EVER and the pair had only ridden the tandem they were racing on the day before to get the position right. They tried to ride an evening '10' on another tandem but wrecked the gears within 2 miles of the start – it could stand the strain! In the same event Harry Featherstone also beat his personal best with a 3.57.13 for 10<sup>th</sup> place, which now stands as a VTTA National Record for a 56 year old. About 5 miles from the Finish Harry was caught and dropped for

25 minutes by the Tandem. He couldn't remember the last time he had been caught and dropped by anyone let alone by 25 minutes! Terry Hulme improved by 2 minutes to 4.7.13 and Jack did a 4.22.11, which establishes a new record for the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) Group for a 57 year old.

Tuesday's '10' was the last one for the year on the Red Barn course. Gethin Butler provided fastest time with 22.36; Tony Garner was next with 25.16 and Mike Stooling 3<sup>rd</sup> with 25.35. The Festival ran a mid-week road race on the 9<sup>th</sup> August on the Cutmill circuit. Steve Cook (Calleva) won it and Gethin Butler was 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Paragon 'flyers' went over to Essex for the Southend & County '50' on the 13<sup>th</sup> August and had a good day. Gethin Butler finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place but improved his best '50' time to 1.51.39. Harry Featherstone 'only' did a 1.55.09, Terry Hulme did a season's best of 1.58.11 and Chris Marshall beat 2 hours for the first time with 1.58.32. The other half of the Competition pairing preferred to ride the SCCU road race Championship. Ray Runham was in top form and tore the field apart. He reduced the 60 starters to a group of 12 and then again to a quartet. However in the run in to the line he had to give way to more youthful legs and finished 4<sup>th</sup>. So successful had Ray's efforts been that there were only 16 finishers and Ray's group were the biggest bunch at the end of the race!

The RTTC National 12-hour Championship was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. In the morning it looked like it was going to be a great day for an all-day race. Unfortunately a) it got very hot and b) it became very windy. The two combined decimated the field. Of the 120 entrants and 110 starters only 48 ran out time and apart from the first three the rest of the field completed distances that came from the 1950s.

Chris Marshall and Gethin Butler had been accepted. Apart from the fact that he started but failed to finish we have no information about Chris' ride. Gethin started steadily taking 2.07 for the first 50 miles against Glenn Longlands (Antelope and the eventual winner) 2.01. Longland went through 100 miles in 4.09 to Gethin's 4.21 but after that the heat and wind began to bite. One has to realise that while the area along and to both side of the A1 is pretty flat it is also very open with no shade and little protection from the wind. The Championship then became a race of attrition. Many top riders, including Ian Cammish, gave the day best with the hope that they could do a better distance in another race later in the season. Gethin does not like the heat but he soldiered on. It took him 2.32 to cover the third 50 miles and 2.39 to cover the fourth section of 50 miles. Over the last 100 miles Gethin (No.101 in the race) and Pete Pickers (Antelope) (No.91) passed and repassed each other but they were alone at the back of the field being the last riders to do the full course having been too fast to be turned short. Then when Gethin did reach the Finishing circuit after 221 miles numbers 1 to 30 had already finished their race. So even on the circuit it was a lonely ride. Glenn Longlands covered 272.22 miles and was a worthy Champion. Shay Giles (Leo) was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 258.99 miles and Andy Cook (Chiltern RC) 3<sup>rd</sup> with 256.25 miles. Gethin came 8<sup>th</sup> with 240.92 miles and no mean achievement.

The hard ride in the 12-hour Championship did not appear to dent Gethin Butler's speed as at the next weekend he won the North Hampshire '25' with a 55.32 on a morning when 23 of the 106 prospective competitors decided not to start. Ian Tombleson did and got close to his best with a 1.2.16.

On Sunday Gethin Butler broke the Club 30 mile Record when he came 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Martin Pyne (Poly) in the Leo event. His 1.6.58 took 18 seconds from Rowan Vacher's old record and it was a good ride on yet another hard morning when a third of the entrants failed to start. Harry Featherstone finished in 1.10.35 and Jack Platts in 1.1.4.19 well outside the Team record figures but good enough to win the Team prize that morning. Gethin won an additional £3 for being the fastest rider in the 18-29 age band and Harry also had a win the 50-59 group. . Bob Patton finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League road race at Ripley with Ray Puttick 6<sup>th</sup> and Ian Tombleson 10<sup>th</sup>. In the afternoon race for 2<sup>nd</sup> category riders Ray Runham came 3<sup>rd</sup> with Tony Garner finishing in the main bunch.

Bank Holiday Monday was Old Portlians '25' day and the Paragon picked up another Team win. Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> again this time to John Pritchard (Poly) with a 56.11. Harry Featherstone came 15<sup>th</sup> in 1.0.11 and Dillon Adams made up the winning team with a 1.5.01. Ian Tombleson finished with a 1.5.08, Tony Garner 1.5.10, Dave Adams 1.7.35.

Pete Danckwardt won the Cardiff Ajax '30' in 1.11.06 and he took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Eastbourne Rovers '10' in 23.43. John Fisher also rode and finished in 25.18 to win the fastest veteran on Age Standard. In the Rovers '25' the following day Pete Danckwardt was 2<sup>nd</sup> again with a 1.0.10 and John Fisher did a 1.9.06. Also on file is a VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) '25' with Harry Featherstone winning in 58.43, Terry Hulme 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1.0.17 and Jack Platts 5<sup>th</sup> in 1.2.01 with Harry taking first on Age Standard and Jack 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The Paragon had the Team prize as well but we have no date for this race. Kate Haynes raced 25 miles for the first time in the Essex Roads event and returned to the Timekeeper in 1.8.55. Ian Tombleson rode in the Surrey League 3<sup>rd</sup> category event at Chiddingfold but finished with the main bunch.

Gethin Butler had the exasperating experience of equalling the Club 10 miles record with a personal best ride of 20.43 when he won the Clarence Whs event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Clarence Whs held their road race the next day in the Plaistow area but Gethin Butler could not quite pull off the double. He broke away with Steve Cook (Calleva) and while the two of them pulled away to lead home the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed man by over 2 minutes Gethin could not get round Cook in the sprint. On the same day the Club 12-hour Championship was being run in conjunction with the Poole Whs event. Harry Featherstone was hoping he would not get the same conditions as last year and he was in luck. He got a fine day with a light breeze and with warm but not hot temperatures. Harry was all set for 257 miles when he punctured with 10 minutes to go and had some time riding on a flat tyre before his spare bike reached him. He was

officially credited with 256.14 miles that is a personal best and a new VTTA National Age Group Record. Terry Hulme did 248 miles whilst Jack Platts took it steady all day to finish with 235 miles and to set a new VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) record for a 58 year old.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September Gethin Butler won the Basildon '10' with a 21.02. Harry Featherstone was trying to get the 12-hour ride out of his legs with some speed work and did a 23.14 whilst Chris Marshall, just back from holiday, took 23.30. Next morning Gethin was beaten by Martin Pyne (Poly) with a 54.18 in the ECCA (Clubs I-Z) '25'. Gethin took 56.11 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and Harry took 59.15 for 10<sup>th</sup> place. With Gerry Horn finishing in 1.0.02 the Paragon won the Team race. Also riding were Ray Runham 1.0.36, Jack Platts 1.2.22 and Dave Adams 1.5.54. Although no comments are made regarding the conditions we note from the Result sheets that 45 riders decided not to start! In the SCCU '25' Chris Marshall did 1.1.55 on a windy morning with Kate Haynes on 1.122.49 and John Cleeve 1.15.03.

Gethin Butler was only 12 seconds away from his 25-mile Record in the Redbridge event when he finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, yet again, to Martin Pyne with a 53.20 but did close to within a minute of Pyne's 52.25. Harry Featherstone finished with his best of the year in 56.07, as did Gerry Horn with 56.53. Jack Platts 58.27 and Terry Hulme 59.18 both beat the hour for the first time this season.

The Club 50-mile individual and team Record went in the Viking event on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. On the receipt of the Start list things did not look too good as four of our riders had early starts. Harry Featherstone was No.10, Jack Platts No.13, Chris Marshall No.18 and Gethin Butler No.30. Only Terry Hulme had a 'late' start at No.83. However it was the last counting event for the BBAR and everyone who was anyone was riding and the slowest man accepted had done a 2.0.01. All was not lost as it turned out to be the best morning of the year on the A12. Harry Featherstone was our first finisher first with a 1.53.03 that was a two minutes from his best this season. At the end of the day, though it only got him 35<sup>th</sup> place! Jack Platts who crossed the line in 1.59.45 for an eventual 69<sup>th</sup> place was caught and dropped by Sue Wright (Chelmer) on her way to a 1.55.13. (He was informed that this would be brought to the attention of the Club Committee). Two minutes after Jack finished Chris Marshall came in with a personal best of 1.56.34 (53<sup>rd</sup>) and we all waited for Gethin. When Gethin Butler came in with a 1.46.28 he had broken Robin Buchan's record standing since 1971 of 1.48.44 and it gave the Paragon a new Team Record of 5.36.05. But Terry Hulme had yet to finish! Nearly an hour later Terry produced the goods with a personal best of 1.54.13 (40<sup>th</sup>) and an even better Team record was on the books with a 5.33.44. Not only that the Norwood Paragon won the Team race. Jack Platts, who missed out on the medals, did have the satisfaction of knowing he had set a new VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) record for a 58 year old.

Two cancellations affected timetriallists in September. The North Road '50' and the Mayne Cup both were cancelled due to large scale roadworks. The North Road event affected Gethin Butler and Ray Runham as they were out to beat the 50 miles Competition Record. Mind you things were going wrong

from the outset. Ray and Gethin sent in individual entry forms but in the same envelope. Gethin's was accepted for the Individual event but Ray's was returned! Various long phone calls were made and in the end the pair were included in the Tandem event but Gethin was warned he could not ride in his original space in the individual event should Ray not be able to start the tandem race. All this was to no avail when the Highways Department decided to fill the road with cones and road making machinery. The Mayne Cup suffered the same problem without the entry fiasco but at least some of the rides were able to get a ride on the line at the Surrey League races. Ray Runham finishing 5<sup>th</sup>, Dave Adams 18<sup>th</sup> and Ian Murray was somewhere in the main bunch.

Just before returning to Lancaster University Gethin Butler rode the Southend & County '10'. Unfortunately he punctured after 4 miles and rode the rest of the way on a flat tyre to record a 22.23. Chris Marshall was 9 seconds slower on 23.32 and Tony Garner put in a personal best of 22.59.

Harry Featherstone completed a hat trick of VTTA National Records when he won the VTTA (West) Group '25' for 50 years and over. He did his best ride of the season of 54.17 to establish the Record for a 57 year old. With Terry Hulme improving to 56.13 and Jack Platts to 57.54 the Norwood Paragon are in a strong position to annex the Team Race in addition to the Individual Veterans title. Gethin Butler won the Epsom '25' with a course Record 53.39 beating Pete Hamilton (Wren Whs) by over 2 minutes. Dillon Adams clocked a 1.1.39 and Dave Adams a 1.3.50.

Hopes of further improvements to times for 25 miles in the VTTA National BAR were dashed by strong northwesterly winds over the Essex countryside. Harry Featherstone tried the ECCA '25' with Terry Hulme and they only managed a 57.29 and 1.0.17 respectively. Chris Marshall finished in 1.0.17. Jack Platts preferred the Great North Road and the Verulam '25' but he too was frustrated even though he finished 7<sup>th</sup> fastest and was 3<sup>rd</sup> on Age Standard he recorded a 1.1.07.

Changes of timing and notice affected the last two time trials of the year when only three Paragons rode Len's '10' and only two attempted the Hill Climb. Roger Amer clocked a 29.45, John Fisher 30.05 and Kate Haynes 31.28 but with it the fastest lady prize. In the Hill Climb Bob Patton 4.54 beat Nigel Everett 5.56.

The Results of the Monday Competition at Herne Hill were published in Cycling. Gethin Butler came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Points with 68 points to Russell Williams' 117. Allison Butler came 5<sup>th</sup> and Kaye Patton 10<sup>th</sup> in the Juniors/Ladies Section.

The Results of the BBAR Competition for 1989 were published in Cycling showing that the Norwood Paragon came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Team Competition with an aggregate of 24.304 compared with that of the Manchester Whs 25.849. Individually Gethin Butler was 15<sup>th</sup> (24.769 mph), Harry Featherstone was 23<sup>rd</sup> (24.392 mph), Terry Hulme 38<sup>th</sup> (23.751) and Jack Platts was 105<sup>th</sup>. In the

Veteran's BBAR Harry Featherstone came 2<sup>nd</sup> to John Woodburn (Manchester Whs) with a plus of 6.691 to Woodburns 6.752. Jack Platts came 14<sup>th</sup> on 5.056 and Terry Hulme 15<sup>th</sup> 5.013. The Norwood Paragon won the Team Competition and our three lads were in the winning Group Team for Surrey/Sussex. George Clare won the Freewheel Competition from Keith Butler and Pete Corry. There was a strong southwesterly wind blowing that enabled Pete and Keith to reach 'The Bell' only to see George going sailing past into Godstone. Ian and Jan went one better on the tandem by going completely round the block at Godstone even after breaking for the traffic at the junction at the Tilburtow Hill.

Gethin Butler won the Newman-Godward Cup for the Open Timetrial Championship, the Track Championship and the Road race Championship. Chris Marshall won the Frank Southall Cup for the Club Events Championship.