

1995

The bits of good news for the start of 1995 were that Gethin Butler would be riding in Norwood Paragon colours for this season and, outside of the Cycling World, news filtered through that Chris Marshal had been made "A Fellow of the Royal Society" for his work on Cancer Research.

Gethin Butler marked his return to the Norwood Paragon with a brilliant win in the North Road Hardriders '25' on the 26th February taking 1.0.00 for the distance. What made the ride most remarkable is that Gethin covered the last 6 miles on a flat tyre. Ross Bartlett and Steven Roach came equal 2nd in the Catford 15 miles 2up with an unrecorded time.

On Sunday 5th March five Paragon riders had entered for the East Surrey Hardriders '33'. Conditions were described as nasty with rain and a chill wind to contend with. Steve Roach was our fastest in 1.22.03 followed by Ross Bartlett 1.24.34, Nigel Everett 1.25.08, Jon Jennings 1.28.27 and Allison Butler 1.32.18.

A rising northerly wind and wet roads made life difficult for those in the Sussex CA '25' and contributed to some rather slow times. Pete Danckwardt took 1.1.33, Nigel Everett 1.4.01 and Dave Adams 1.6.34. Dave Featherstone partnered Harry in the Antelope 2up '25' and they came 7th in 56.14.

The first Club event of 1995 was the '10' on Saturday 18th March. With the bitterly cold north wind still blowing times were not as fast as riders wished for. Ross Bartlett was fastest with a time of 24.46. Then came Steve Roach 25.21, Nigel Everett 25.25, Dave Featherstone 26.22, Paul Keyse 26.25, Dave Adams 26.27, Dillon Adams 27.12. This was Paul Keyse first time trial. Harry Featherstone rode the Sotonia '10' at Andover and took 23.16 for the 10 miles.

Gethin Butler won the Porthole Grand Prix around Lake Windemere on the Sunday in 58.16 beating Pete Longbottom by a minute and Stuart Dangerfield by 2.32. Steve Roach and Ross Bartlett rode the Border CA 2up '20' to finish 3rd in 45.52.

Saturday the 25th March saw Paragon riders in action all over the country. Gethin Butler won the Circuit of Ingleborough taking 1.2.21 for the 27 very hilly miles. Harry Featherstone came 8th in the Southboro '10' in 24.11. The following morning Gethin won the Ribble Valley Hilly '35' by 5 minutes with a 1.22.42 just 20 seconds away from the course record. Harry beat the hour for the first time in 1995 with a 59.40 in the Mid Oxon '25' near Oxford. Pete Danckwardt went to Devon for the Heron Hilly '25' and came 4th in 1.6.41. Ross Bartlett and Steve Roach preferred the SCCU Sporting '25' around Cranleigh with Steve getting the better of Ross with a 1.1.36 to Ross's 1.3.54.

On the 1st April Jon Jennings was our sole representative in the Surrey League race at Withyham. Very welcome warm weather greeted the riders but with five climbs to the top of the Ashdown to be covered it did seem to be

overly warm for the riders. As usual on this circuit it turned out to be a race of attrition. However Jon stayed with the leading group to eventually cross the line in 5th place. Pete Danckwardt essayed the ECCA '30' but was not helped by a rising easterly wind. His result was a 1.10.25 for 7th place. Harry Featherstone took in the Bournemouth Jubilee Hilly 42 kms time trial. He took 1.5.31 for the course but took his first Age Standard award for the season by over 5 minutes.

Another cold afternoon for those riding the Kingston Phoenix '10' thus slowing expected times. Harry Featherstone was our fastest in 23.51 (taking the Age Standard award en route), Pete Danckwardt took 23.55, Dave Adams 24.49 and Dave Featherstone 25.41. As often happens at this time of year Sunday was warm and sunny with little hampering wind. Pete Danckwardt responded by reaching the Finish in 56.50. Ross Bartlett was under the hour in 59.37 as was Harry Featherstone in 59.39 to take the Age Standard award. Stan Worrel finished his first race of the year with a 1.0.34; Nigel Everett took 1.1.08 and Dave Adams 1.2.37. Up North Gethin Butler won the Nelson '50' in 2.5.58 by over 15 minutes. The 2nd placed man took 2.21.15. Jon Jennings and Steve Roach rode the Surrey League road race at Ellens Green. After his performance at Withyham Jon found himself a 'marked man' and was unable to escape from the bunch. Eventually a group of 6 riders went away. Jon chased but was caught by 3 others close to home and crossed the line in 10th place. Steve punctured and retired. Allison Butler was the first rider back in the Ringmer 200kms Audax taking 7.18.00 for the distance.

Easter this year was from the 14th to the 17th April and saw Paragon riders competing all over the southern counties. On Good Friday 3 men rode the VC Braintree '10' with Stan Worrel doing a 24.13 for 10th place, Dave Adams a 25.05 and Ray Runham a 25.15. Dave and Harry Featherstone took in the Bournemouth Arrow '10' with Harry being the faster of the two with a 23.30. Dave took 24.45 but did take 1st on Handicap prize. Nigel Everett rode the Crawley to Shoreham Hilly '44' taking 1.58.01 for the distance.

On the Sunday a team went down the A22 for the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) '25' but had a cold miserable morning of it. Dave Adams was our fastest rider in 1.4.26 followed by Ray Runham 1.4.48 and John Yates 1.6.45. Ross Bartlett got his teeth into some longer distances when he opted for the Charlotteville '50'. He took 2.6.48 to get round on this unhelpful morning to take 8th place.

Gethin Butler won the Bolton Clarion '10' in 21.09 and Harry Featherstone took another Age Standard award in the West Kent '10' with a 23.36 on Saturday 2nd April.

Nine Paragon riders were accepted for the SCCU '25' on the 23rd April that was over-subscribed even with 150 places available. Pete Danckwardt came 5th with a 58.10 but Steve Roach was just 7 seconds behind him in 6th place. His 58.17 was a personal best and fully justifying the money spent on a new pair of racing wheels. Stan Worrell was 10th fastest in 59.00 and Ross Bartlett just beat Jon Jennings 1.0.33 to 1.0.34. Allison Butler finished in 1.9.08, Mark

Oliver 1.9.16 and Steve Van Dyck a 1.11.21 in his first race. Gethin Butler won the Preston Whs '25' by over 3 minutes with a 53.19. Harry Featherstone came equal 6th in the Marlboro '25' in 59.49 and took the Age Standard award.

The Club Mixed Tandem Record was broken on the 29th April when Jon Jennings and Allison Butler won the Border CA Tandem '25' in 53.22 by 1.20. This was a personal best and new Record by 41 seconds. Road repairs on the A24 left many riders by the side of the road with punctures in the Epsom '10'. However it did not stop Ross Bartlett who came in with a personal best of 23.09 followed by Dave Featherstone 25.05, Dillon Adams 25.20 and a personal best of 27.26 by Paul Bedford.

Ross Bartlett, Jon Jennings and Steve Roach were competing in the 2nd and 3rd category race at Goodwood on the Sunday. In spite of constantly attacking they failed to break clear of the bunch. Jon was our best finisher in 10th place. Allison Butler came 10th in the 3rd category race.

Gethin Butler won the Barrow Central Whs Hilly '20' in 47.02 by 2.45. Steve Roach came 10th in 56.07. Dave Adams came 5th in the Vetarace Series at Alfold in the morning then teamed up with Harry Featherstone and Ray Runham for the Addiscombe '10' in the afternoon. With temperatures in the 80s Harry Featherstone produced the fastest time of 22.59 and took the Age Standard award as well. Ray Runham finished with 24.39 and that took care of the Team award on Age Standard. Dave Adams came in with 25.35.

We had a team in the ECCA '50' and Ross Bartlett came home with a personal best by over 5 minutes of 2.1.48. This might have been better if he had not broken a spoke in each wheel. John Yates finished in 2.4.59. Stan Worrell unshipped his chain twice before puncturing with 5 miles to go whilst on a personal best ride. Up North it was drizzling but it did not stop Gethin Butler winning the Ferryhill Whs Hilly '38.5'. He was in a class of his own taking 6.30 from the course record and beating the 2nd man by over 7 minutes. His time was 1.39.55 and included time lost through two crashes on the wet roads.

On Monday 8th May Harry Featherstone came 2nd in the VTTA (Home Counties) Championship '10' at Marlow. He covered the course in 22.52. Ray Runham did a 24.06 and Dave Adams 24.35. In the Surrey League Handicap Championships over 70 miles around the Henfold Hill circuit Paul Green was up with the action early on but paid for efforts later on when the faster back group reached the front of the race. Ray Puttick and Trevor Kimber were also dropped when the fast men arrived but Ray kept going to record a finish position. Jon Jennings started in the penultimate group and when the inevitable junction with the front groups occurred he attacked with two other. On the last lap he was reeled in by the bunch but still had enough to come 7th in the sprint.

Gethin Butler won the Team Rapide evening '12' in 28.48 breaking course record by 2.30 minutes. More cold and wet conditions were suffered in the

Catford '10' when Steve Roach came 7th with 23.33 and Ross Bartlett took 25.45. Gethin Butler was persuaded by Ben Elliot (VC Raphael) to try tandem trike racing. In their first attempt they rode the Northampton & District '25' just missing competition record by 20 seconds when recording 53.33 in the wet and the wind. The following morning they tried again in the Norland Combine '30'. This time they got their act together taking 1.3.29 to cover the 30 miles. This broke the Tricycle Competition Record by 2.10 and they won the Tandem event outright. It is a matter of discussion if a tandem trike had ever beaten all the 'normal' tandems in an event before.

In the Addiscombe '25' on the 14th May Pete Danckwardt was 4th with 57.23. Stan Worrell took 59.11 for 12th place, Ross Bartlett 59.58, Dave Adams 1.4.02, Dave Featherstone 1.4.44, Allison Butler 1.5.47 (and 2nd lady prize) and Paul Bedford 1.6.56. Nigel Everett rode the Redmon Hilly '73' and was not best pleased when a diversion extended it to 75.5. He took 3.31.15 for the distance. Harry Featherstone came 2nd in the Sotonia '25' in 58.37. Steve Roach and Chris Marshall finished with the main bunch in the Surrey League race over 70 miles on the Norwood Hill Circuit.

The first Evening '10' was held on the 16th May but had wet and windy condition. Ross Bartlett was fastest on the night with 23.50, Paul Keyse did 24.23 and a new junior, Justin Greeley did a 24.29 in his first race. Neil Hood rode all the way back from the turn on a flat but still managed a 25.21 whilst Allison followed the lads in with a 25.30. In the Surrey League Handicap at South Nutfield Steve Roach came 10th.

Ross Bartlett recorded a 23.55 in the CC Bexley '10'. Pete Danckwart finished in the top ten in the London Fire Brigade '10' with a 22.37 whilst Harry Featherstone finished in 22.57. Paul Bedford came in with a personal best of 27.22. Gethin Butler rode a time trial around Congleton covering the 39 kms in 50.22 winning by 1.20.

On Sunday 21st May Gethin Butler rode and won the Thameside Invitation '25' by beating Pete Longbottom (Manchester Whs) by just 2 seconds in 53.15. Steve Roach and Chris Marshall went to Horsmonden for the Kent League 77 miles road race. They finished the race but missed the vital split being placed 20th and 23rd on the line. Pete Danckwardt put a '54' on his entry forms in a sparkling ride in the Crawley Whs '25'. He finished second fastest in 54.59. Stan Worrell was 16th in 57.36 and Harry Featherstone 17th in 57.42. These three took the team race from the GS Stella. Harry won the veterans Age Standard race with John Yates in 2nd place (Scratch time unrecorded). This pair took the Veterans Team on Age Standard. Ross Bartlett finished in 59.38 and Mark Oliver a 1.7.09.

In the Monday Competition at Herne Hill Bob Patton came 7th in a 45-man field in the 15kms scratch race and then 9th from the 45 that started the Devil-take-the-hindmost.

The 23rd May was our Crystal Palace promotion evening and this year it was blessed with almost perfect weather with over 100 riders. Craig Sellen won

the Under 16s race. His brother Gavin won the Senior race from Steve Gowar (South Western) with the rest nowhere. Steve Roach finished with the remnants of the bunch. Jon Jennings and Allison Butler produced their personal best of 21.07 in the Evening '10' whilst Rowan Vacher started his season with a 24.05 riding a fixed wheel.

Harry Featherstone came 5th in the VTTA (Wessex) '10' on the 27th May. His 21.50 also took the Age Standard award.

The Frank Southall '50' was held on the 28th May with 12 Paragonians amongst the 120 riders. The weather was overcast with some showers and most people caught at least one. The south-west wind made it a hard slog down to Southwater but a very fast return leg with riders touching 40 mph in places. Colin Smith (Old Portlians) won with a 1.55.47. Pete Danckwardt came 2nd with a 1.58.44; Stan Worrell 3rd with a 2.1.30 and Harry Featherstone 7th in 2.3.38. These three won the Team race for the Paragon. Jon Jennings recorded a 2.5.16, Ross Bartlett 2.5.46, Neil Hood 2.7.17, Nigel Everett 2.7.21, Mark Oliver 2.16.47, Allison Butler 2.18.11 (1st lady prize), Bob Patton 2.19.17 and Paul Bedford, who had the honour of being first man off, 2.22.42 for his first ever '50'. Gethin Butler won the Central Lancs Sporting '18.8' during the week in 42.16. Then he rode the RTTC event on a 27.4 mile circuit near Nottingham finishing 3rd in 1.1.36. His last race before the National Championship '25' was the North Lancs '25' that he won in 53.03.

Stan Worrell equalled his personal best '10' in the Tuesday evening '10' when he recorded 22.43. Neil Hood was happy with his 22.55; Rowan Vacher did 23.45 and Allison Butler 25.22. Harry Featherstone went up to Milton Keynes for the North Bucks '25' but was not impressed with racing in the rush hour on a newly surfaced road. He was relieved to finish in 58.18 in one piece. Pete Danckwardt rode the Crawley Whs Club '10' stopping the watch on 21.46. In the South Eastern '25' Stan Worrell was 10th in 59.27 and Steve Vandyke did 1.11.00.

In the National Championship '25' on the 4th June Gethin Butler finished in 4th place. He was just 13 seconds away from a bronze medal in 53.55 but was actually placed 5th. This was quite a step up from his 14th place last year.

Pete Danckwardt recorded fastest time in the Evening '10' with a 22.13 followed by Neil Hood, on his brand new "Hotta" carbon fibre bike, 22.49. Ross Bartlett turned in a 23.40 and Steve Vandyke 27.09.

June 11th was SCCU '50' day and Pete Danckwardt put in a superb ride for 3rd place in 1.55.06 behind K Bexley (Tooting)'s 1.53.42. Stan Worrell came 7th with a 1.58.43 and Steve Roach came in with a 2.2.13 to ensure the Paragon won the Team race. Ross Bartlett was one place behind Steve with a 2.3.04 whilst Mark Oliver finished in 2.18.25 for his first attempt at the distance. With this result the SCCU BAR looked very healthy with 4 Paragon riders in the top 10. Pete Danckwardt was leading; Stan Worrell was 3rd, Steve Roach 4th and Ross Bartlett 9th. Rowan Vacher rode the Eagle '25' and in his first ride at the distance this year did 1.0.00 exactly. Harry Featherstone rode the Salisbury

'10' and got within 11 seconds of the National Age Record with a 21.46. He was 15th on scratch time but there were no Age Standard awards to go for!

Neil Hood produced the fastest time in the Evening '10' with a 23.00. Steve Roach followed with a 23.22, Ross Bartlett 23.42, Pete Danckwardt 23.55 (with a front wheel shedding spokes), Justin Greeley 24.15 and Dave Adams 25.26.

The Maldon & District 55 kms time trial, part of the RTTC Sporting Course series was held on the 17th June. The course was on the back roads of Essex and had wet and windy conditions for the riders. Gethin Butler travelled down to ride and won by about 1.45 with a 1.15.28. Harry Featherstone rode the Essex & Suffolk Border '50' on the same Saturday afternoon with identical conditions. Harry took 1.58.14 and won the fastest on Age Standard prize.

The Robin Buchan Salver '25' was held the next day on the Crawley Horsham course. Gethin Butler was in scintillating form beating his own event record with a 51.43 on a day when most riders found the going tough. Tim Stevens (Team 2000) was nearest to Gethin with a 52.05 whilst the rest were back in the 56's. Pete Hamilton (Wren Whs) was 3rd, Mike Marchant (GS Stella) 4th and Shame Faulkner (Lewes Wanderers) 5th. With Stan Worrell finishing with a 57.23 for 7th place and Neil Hood 57.41 in 11th the Paragon won the Team race. Harry Featherstone came 12th but did take the fastest on Age Standard award. Rowan Vacher was on a 59.12, Steve Roach 59.18, Ross Bartlett 59.20 and our new junior Justin Greeley a 1.0.57 for his very first 25-mile time trial! Mark Oliver came next on 1.1.24, Bob Patton 1.2.43, Dave Adams 1.3.18, Dave Featherstone 1.3.58 and a personal best by Steve Vandyke by 4 minutes of 1.5.52.

Pete Danckwardt and the tandem pair of Allison Butler and Jon Jennings went north to the Hertfordshire Whs '30' but with an unrelenting wind that increased rather than decreased very fast times were out of the question. Pete came 8th in the solo event with a 1.8.16 whilst the tandem pair were not happy with their 1.7.32.

For once the Tuesday evening '10' had a good night. Neil Hood was again the fastest in 22.26 beating Ross Bartlett in spite of a personal best ride from Ross of 22.54. Rowan Vacher came in with a 23.14 and Allison Butler did her fastest of the season with 24.51.

During the following week Pete Danckwardt rode two local evening '25's recording a 55.16 and 54.41. With this form it is no surprise to learn that he won the Worthing Excelsior '10' in 22.49, albeit by just 1 second.

Gethin Butler rode the RTTC National Championship '50' on the 24th June. It was a hard day of showers but also cold, bright and windy. Richard Prebble won in 1.46.15 with Gethin taking 3rd place and his first Championship Medal with a 1.47.25. Nearer home Pete Danckwardt came 4th in the Surrey RCC '25' in 56.31. Harry Featherstone recorded a 58.39 in the Oxford City '25' and took the Age Standard award. There was a strong wind blowing allowing

Harry to reach the 14 miles point in 28 minutes. The return was not so good as he took 30 minutes for those 11 miles! We also had a team in the Sussex '100'. Ross Bartlett made light of the conditions and course around Hailsham to record a personal best of 4.27.36. Jon Jennings came in with a 4.38.54 and Allison finished strongly for a 4.50.14 and the ladies prize.

In the Evening '10' Neil Hood was again just the fastest from Stan Worrell's 23.23. Steve Roach came in with 24.04, Rowan Vacher 25.27, Allison Butler 26.31 and Ross Bartlett still suffering the effect on the Sussex '100' took 27.50. Steve Roach made a last minute decision to ride the CDCA '10' on the 1st July and it proved to be a wise move as he won it in 23.42.

Gethin Butler rode the Bramley Whs '50', which was billed as a re-match of the National Championship, but in the end was no-contest. Gethin rocketed around the course in 1.40.58 to take 4.17 from his own Club Record. He beat Ian Cammish by 1.01 and the rest of the field by over 6 minutes. The Paragon had a team in the Clarendon 4-up Team Time Trial over 60 kms of rolling Surrey and Sussex lanes. After a blistering start when the first 10 miles were covered at 28 mph Stan Worrell collected a slow puncture in his front tyre. This is not a good thing to have on this twisting course and he was dropped leaving Steve Roach, Neil Hood and Ross Bartlett to fend for themselves. They finished in 1.30.56 for 15th fastest team. Another team ventured to Essex for the Becontree Whs '25' with Pete Danckwardt showing the others how it was done with a 55.28 for 3rd place. Justin Greeley managed a 1.1.36 after breaking a spoke in one wheel, borrowing another and promptly breaking a spoke in that one before finally using someone else's Disc Wheel. He is a big strong lad! Nigel Everett came in with a 1.1.49 whilst Mark Oliver notched up a 1.2.56. Steve Vandyke continued to show improvement with a 1.5.08.

On the 3rd July Bert Hardy died. He was one of the most famous press photographers in the world and, until a few years ago, was a member of the Norwood Paragon. His name first appears in the Club events for 1934. Although never a great racing cyclist his interest in the sport never waned. He began cycling when he started work as a courier collecting films for developing and it was from here that he started to develop and print for himself. He was one of the first to use a Leica 35 mm camera and he came out to races and photographed the riders with it. Many of his shots are in the Club Archives and the families of those around at the time also have copies of his work. Soon after his photos were being published in 'Cycling' and later 'The Bicycle' magazines. Bert really made his name when he went to work for the famous 'Picture Post' launched in 1938. During the War he took pictures of the Blitz and various major conflicts through to the Korean War. (The famous photograph of St Pauls Cathedral standing proud of the surrounding smoke and flames is his work. Most of Bert's work was in black and white and he carried this on through the advertising work he did after the War. His biography written in 1985 (Bert Hardy – My Life) has a section about his life in the Norwood Paragon and has photographs of Ken Joys successful attack on the London – Brighton and back Record. Channel 4 produced a film in which

the people he photographed were contacted and interviewed. After he retired he took a smallholding near Oxted where he died. He was 82.

Bob Patton was stirring up riders at the Monday Competition. In the 'Devil' he was 4th and came 3rd in the Points race. The Tuesday '10' had a very good evening with Neil Hood getting the better of a recovered Ross Bartlett with a 22.31 to Ross's 23.07. Rowan Vacher did 23.40 and 'new boy' Kelvin Morrison (son of Alex) a 26.30. On Saturday only 2 Paragon riders attempted the Addiscombe '10' in sultry conditions. Steve Roach managed a 23.10 whilst Dave Adams wilted a bit in the heat to do 24.36.

Three men rode the Brighton Excelsior '25' on the 9th July Dave Adams being the fastest with 1.2.37. Mark Oliver was hot on his heels with a 1.2.40 and Ray Runham clocked a 1.3.37. Gethin Butler rode the Norland Combine '100' with BBAR aspirations in mind and won the event with a 3.45.45 some 7.30 in front of the second fastest man. Three other Paragon riders went to the Belle Vue '50' near Oxford hoping for some fast times and, contrary to their usual luck, did the business. Steve Roach finished first and took 1.45 from his best in recording a 1.58.36. Stan Worrell went through 25 miles in about 58.00 and hung on at night on 30 mph to cross the line with a personal best by 4½ minutes of 1.53.19 for an eventual 5th place. Pete Danckwardt was still to come and he produced his second best '50' ever to collect 3rd place with a 1.51.15. These three gentlemen also secured the Team race for the Paragon from a number of more fancied Clubs.

The Annual grudge match against the Addiscombe was run on the 11th July and as per usual the Paragon riders rose to the occasion although the winning margin was closed to 2.50 from last years 10 minutes or so. Pete Danckwardt was the event winner with 22.36; Stan Worrell came 2nd 22.54, Steve Roach 4th in 23.01, Ross Bartlett 6th in 23.34, Neil Hood 7th 23.35 and Justin Greeley a personal best of 23.55 for 10th place and our 6th counter. Our Team time was 2.19.25, the Addiscombe's added up to 2.22.15. Other rides recorded by the Paragon were by Harry Featherstone 24.12, Mark Oliver a personal best of 24.14, Dave Adams 24.31, Graham O'Sullivan 25.32, Kelvin Morrison 26.04 and Marilyn Butler 30.39.

Pete Danckwardt decided to give the longer distances a try as he is leading the SCCU BAR so he went over to Essex for the ECRA '100'. The weather put pay to any ultra-fast times but Pete came 6th in 3.59.24, which kept him within 9 minutes of the winner. Jon Jennings and Allison Butler rode the accompanying Tandem event and with a 4.1.20 won the event outright, took best mixed tandem award and broke the Club Mixed Tandem record. Those riding closer to home took in the Bec '25'. Ross Bartlett finished in 1.1.24, Neil Hood punctured with a mile and a half to go but Stan Worrell kept the flag flying with a 57.35 for 5th place. Harry preferred the New Forest and came 5th in the Southampton Whs event with a 58.02. Justin Greeley made the Croydon Team for the London Youth Games winning the road race on the Crystal Palace circuit and helping the Croydon team to a silver medal.#

There were only 3 takers for the evening '10' on the 18th July but Pete Danckwardt managed to get in front of Neil Hood with a 22.46 to Neil 22.54. Ross Bartlett finished in 24.05. Harry Featherstone and Rowan Vacher rode the South Eastern '10' on the 22nd July. Harry duly won the event on Age Standard with a 22.39 and Rowan chipped in with a long 23 but they missed the Team award by 3 seconds!

Stan Worrell and Ross Bartlett went over to Essex on the 23rd July to see if they preferred the roads there to those around Oxford. Stan thought it was a bit hard but if you are doing a 53.00 for the first 25 miles it does not usually come easy. However he persevered and reached the Timekeeper in 1.52.42 for a 37 seconds improvement. Ross Bartlett also found it hard going but he too clipped time from his best ever. Ross clocked a 2.1.07- a 41 second improvement. It was nearly Ross's last ride for as he was slowing down a trailer broke loose from its car and veered towards him. Fortunately Ross saw it coming and dived over the hedge sustaining a few scrapes and scratches whilst the trailer did considerable damage to the, supposedly, towing car. Harry Featherstone went to Oxford for the SW London Combine '50'. Unfortunately he was given an early start and had to endure the cold mist. His 1.55.50 also missed out on the Age Standard award that went to a rider starting an hour behind Harry in the comparative warmth. Jon Jennings and Allison Butler took 3rd place in the North Bucks Tandem '50' with a 1.56.21 and took the Mixed Tandem award as well. Pete Danckwardt went to Devon to visit relatives and took in the Somer Valley '25' on the way. He met problems not usually associated with the Horsham by-pass viz a herd of cows crossing the road and a horsebox pulling out necessitating an emergency stop. Pete was not best pleased to learn that his 55.50 was only 2nd fastest by 6 seconds! Gethin Butler won the Welsh event around Brecon as part of the RTTC series. His 1.13.07 for the hilly 52 kms left his nearest rival some 3.48 behind.

Tuesday 25th July was the Club Track Championships and we were blessed with a pleasant evening and a field of 16 riders -the best for some years. The 4000m pursuit for the Bert Chapman Cup was run off over 9 laps resulting in a win for Stan Worrell in a good time of 5.45 (4000m is 8¾ laps). Neil Hood came 2nd and Bob Patton was 3rd. The non-counting 500m Handicap for the Frank Burton Cup went to Kelvin Morrison (20m) from Ross Bartlett (Scr) and Chris Kennard (10m). The 500m sprint for the AEU Cup was a close run affair with Ross Bartlett getting home 1st from Jon Jennings and Mark Oliver. The 5-mile being two races in one was great to watch with Pete Owen, Mark Kench and Bob Patton going for the Points and the George Colget Cup whilst other kept their powder dry for the last sprint for the Ravensbourne Cup. Jon Jennings did this well holding off Bob Patton and Mark Oliver down the home straight. Others performing on the night were Nigel Everett, Dave Woods, Kaye Patton, Ray Runham and Steve Vandyke. All this racing gave Jon Jennings the Track Championship with 5 points. With Stan Worrell, Ross Bartlett and Bob Patton equal 2nd with 3 points. Allison Butler preferred the 10 miles time trial and recorded a 26.18.

Harry Featherstone trekked down to Harrietsham for the Southboro '10' where he recorded a 22.40 for 8th place. Gethin Butler won another round of the RTTC Sporting course series completing the 48 kms event in Oxfordshire in 1.5.18. He won by 47 seconds after stopping for a wheel change following a puncture. Allison Butler rode the Ladies event finishing 5th in 41.45.

The SCCU '100' had six Paragon entries but Pete Danckwardt and Jon Jennings had to cry off through injuries. This was particularly galling for Pete as he was leading the SCCU BAR. However with the usual Paragon long distance support teams in operation the others finished the race. Ross Bartlett rode a steady race finishing with a personal best of 4.17.34 for 7th place, Stan Worrell rode the first 65 miles very well then started to get cramp but ploughed on to finish with a 4.26.38. Mark Oliver put in a great first attempt at 100 miles with a 4.39.40 but Steve Roach suffered from back pains toward the end of the race and struggled in with a 4.51.24.

In the Monday Competition Bob Patton came 12th in the Hare and Hounds chase and 7th in the 5 miles Scratch whilst Kelvin Morrison had his baptism of fire finishing in the bunch in both of these races. Pete Danckwardt recorded fastest time in the Evening '10' of 21.48, Neil Hood came 2nd in 22.27 and Rowan Vahcer did a long (unrecorded) 23.00. Allison turned up on the Tandem with mother Marilyn and they took 23.43 for the distance. This is now recognised as the Ladies record.

Steve Vandyke rode the VC Deal '25' and found that Kent courses are not noted for their flatness taking 1.7.02 for 12th place. Harry Featherstone went to Oxford again for the Westerly '10' and with his 4.7.24 he took the Age Standard award with a plus of 98 minutes! Stan Worrell did a 1.55.48 in the Southend & County Whs '50'. Gethin Butler won the Pennine '50' in 1.46.21. Ross Bartlett had aspirations for the BBAR and had entered the Sussex CA 12-hour event. On a hot and windy day he rode steadily and sensibly to run out time with an excellent first effort of 246 miles. With his other rides this would give him an average of over 22 mph and a RTTC Certificate.

Stan Worrell and Pete Danckwardt had another close encounter in the Evening '10'. Stan was up at Clarkes Green but faded just a little enabling Pete to edge home by 7 seconds. Times were 21.58 to 22.05 and a personal best for Stan Worrell. Rowan Vacher came 3rd in 23.10, Steve Vandyke a personal best of 24.57 and Pete Owen 25.18.

Pete Danckwardt was our fastest rider in the Finsbury Park '25' with a 56.22. Harry Featherstone took 56.54 to take the Age Standard award whilst Stan Worrell did a 1.0.18 being not a very happy man after puncturing his disc wheel just before the start.

Gethin Butler rode the North Mids 12-hour event in South Yorkshire on an unusually pleasant day he powered away to an unbeatable 286.75 miles that was 9 miles better than his nearest rival. Pete Danckwardt came 4th in the 29th Whs '25' with a 56.00. Dave Adams recorded a 1.3.17. Pete Danckwardt recorded his best ride on the Holmwood course with a 21.21 in the Evening

'10' with Stan Worrell taking 22.07. In the CDCA '10' on the 19th August Pete Danckwardt recorded a 22.02.

Pete Danckwardt attempts to break the Club '30' record suffered another disappointment on the 20th August when he got to within 7 seconds with a 1.6.26 in the Leo event. Steve Vandyke improved yet again in the Eastbourne Rovers '25' with 1.4.11. Harry Featherstone came 14th in the Middlesex RC '50' with a 1.53.58 but only came 2nd on Age Standard.

In the last evening '10' Pete Danckwardt did his fastest ever on the Holmwood course with a 21.08 whilst Stan Worrell did his personal best of 21.29 to round of a season of good evening racing. Gavin Sherlock was reported as alive and well in the Coventry area with a 2nd place in a local '10 of 23.05. He followed this with rides of 22.22, 22.18 and 22.34 before finishing off with a personal best of 21.54. Steve Watkins rode the Old Portlians '25' and on standard equipment – no tri bars or aero helmets, he recorded a 1.1.16. Right at the end of the season Bob Patton earned promotion to the A category at Herne Hill but with no more races to prove his worth.

In the Bec '10' on the 27th August Pete Danckwardt came 3rd in 22.05 and Harry Featherstone was 7th in 22.32.

Next morning in the Essex Roads '25' Stan Worrell was our fastest with 57.31, Harry Featherstone took 57.39 and won the veterans Age Standard prize. Pete Danckwardt did a puzzling 59.30 and the Paragon missed the Team race by 20 seconds. Allison Butler did a 1.7.55 in the Ladies event.

During August we lost one of our best Clubmen when John Mcnee died from cancer. A firm supporter of all things to do with the Paragon his was "Open House" to all Paragon riders and many a weary body recovered with tea and cakes at the Mcnee establishment(s) in Reigate. John came from Glasgow and met and married Ethel in New Zealand. They travelled back to England and set up home in South London. John joined the Paragon and was a keen short distance man. He was a typical Scot. Generous to his friends, always one of the first to volunteer but you had to screw his club subs from him! He also led many of us from the beaten track by introducing us around Christmas and the New Year to obscure, but tasty, Single Malts with bitter chasers. An excellent conversationalist with a love of classical music he could also cook a mean dish of porridge in the Scottish manner as those who partook of it on riding and walking weekends can testify. By trade he was a master plasterer and the only one permanently employed by Mansells to do all their fancy and highly skilled work. John was an all-round man and he is still remembered with affection.

Steve Roach successfully defended his Off-road title with Marcus Brueton in 2nd place and Neil Hood 3rd. Keith Butler won the Free-wheel championship.

Gethin Butler won the Club Open Time Trial Championship and Pete Danckwardt the Short Distance BAR. Allison Butler took both the Ladies BAR

and the Ladies Road Race Championsip. Justin Greeley was Junior time Trial Champion.

In addition Gethin Butler won the RTTC British Best All-rounder competition with an average speed of 27.148 mph. Harry Featherstone came 58th with 23.734 mph and Ross Bartlett 99th with 22.838 mph. This gave the Norwood Paragon a 3rd place in the Team Competition.