

1997

Alan Gordon died on the 24<sup>th</sup> February after a long illness. He was a contemporary of Frank Southall and Stan Butler. He started his career by winning the Kentish Whs Novices and promptly joining the Norwood Paragon – a decision he never regretted. He raced at all distances on sole and tandem and while a top class club rider and excellent team man never managed to win any big events. He was widely known and respected as a Timekeeper a job he took to in 1937 and that ultimately led to being a Track Timekeeper at the 1948 Olympics. He held the watch at many track and road events as well as numerous National Record attempts. Not the least was the Lands End to John O'Groats record ride by Eileen Sheridan under the managership of Frank Southall and Stan Butler. Locally he was (in)famous for his time trial handicapping. Alan studied time trialling in depth and had an index of handwritten cards with all the times of all the racing men in the London South area (and many others from outside). To win a Handicap set by Alan Gordon was an achievement but it did mean one had ridden an excellent race well above expectations. To win a second handicap in a season was almost unheard of and the individual who managed a hat-trick never won another from Alan in his racing career!

To us he was also the man who originated the Champagne Meetings sponsored by Moët & Chandon. In a time when cycle racing was in a trough with falling crowds and fewer races this was an outstanding achievement. Alan was our delegate to the Road Records Association, a President of the Norwood Paragon, President of the SCCU and a member of the Pedal Club. For many years he was a cycling correspondent for the Exchange Telegraph Sports news agency. He was one of those men without whom our sport of cycling would cease to exist.

Steve Roach came 10<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League Easter 3-day race and Simon Richardson was 12<sup>th</sup>. The following week Simon turned the tables and finished in front of Steve in the League race at Withyham. Simon stayed with the leaders to come 4<sup>th</sup> whilst Steve had some trouble on the long hills but fought back to cross the line in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

The following morning in the Redmon'25' Steve Roach continued his good work with a 57.42 for 5<sup>th</sup> place leading home Stan Worrell (7<sup>th</sup>) 58.08 and Pete Danckwardt (11<sup>th</sup>) 58.28 to take the Team race. Harry Featherstone came 12<sup>th</sup> with 58.42; Paul Keyse did 1.0.28, Justin Greeley 1.1.07 and Dave Adams 1.7.46. Paul Keyse also came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Harp '25' with a 1.1.58. James Green managed a 1.3.23 on the Quendon course used by the Easterly for their '25'. Ross Bartlett came in with a 2.9.08 in the Charlotteville '50'. Gethin Butler won the Nelson Whs '50' in a course record 1.58.52 being the first man ever to get under two hours on this course. Gavin Sherlock came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Newmarket Hilly '23' in 53.13 and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Severn RC Hardriders '27' with a 1.5.02. He has won his local Club '5' in 10.46 but a 2 minutes late start in his 1.6.21 put him out of contention for the Midland C&AC 'Hilly 26'.

Dillon Adams came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Surrey League race on the Norwood Hill circuit. He chased two breakaways with two others riders but although he failed to catch the leaders had enough in hand at the Finish to take the sprint. The rest of the Paragon had an easy time in the bunch and finished in the middle and unplaced. They were Simon Richardson, Jon Jennings, Ross Bartlett, Kelvin Morrison and Steve Watkins. Harry Featherstone won the Age Standard in the Bournemouth Jubilee '10' with his 22.25.

The second Team race in two weeks came our way in the East Grinstead Tri Club '25'. Stan Worrell led in the team with a 58.03 for 6<sup>th</sup> place, Harry Featherstone was 9<sup>th</sup> in 59.31 (and the Age Standard award) then Pete Danckwardt came in with a 1.0.43 to clinch the Team. Justin Greeley with a 1.0.01 and Ross Bartlett 1.4.25 completed the Paragon contingent.

A cold northerly wind slowed the riders in the SCCU '25' on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. This did not stop Steve Roach from a fine 5<sup>th</sup> place with 59.38. The others were Stan Worrell 1.1.21, Justin Greeley 1.1.36 (15 seconds late start), Pete Danckwardt 1.1.42, Ross Bartlett 1.3.19, Nigel Everett 1.4.46, Dillon Adams 1.5.23 and Steve Watkins 1.8.23. After this Steve Roach went down to Goodwood where he broke away with one companion in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Category 55 miles race. He failed to beat his opponent and had to be content with 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Simon Richardson came in at the front of the bunch for 4<sup>th</sup> place whilst Jon Jennings, Allison Butler and Kelvin Morrison were close up but unplaced.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April and on a cold and misty morning Justin Greeley recorded a 22.00 in the Sydenham Whs '10' whilst Pete Danckwardt was a mite slower on 22.58. In the afternoon Dillon Adams was our best man in the Epsom '10' with 23.37 leading home Pete Danckwardt 24.30 and Ross Bartlett 25.06 but they missed the Team award by just 10 seconds. Harry Featherstone attempted to ride the VTTA (Home Counties) '25' on the A1. Pouring rain and a diesel spillage meant the organisers had and did find an alternative course. Then misleading instructions as to whether the race was to start on time or later some riders were packing their bikes away whilst others were getting theirs prepared. Eventually all worked out even though Harry reached the Start timekeeper with only seconds to spare. He took 57.37 for the 25 miles.

Paul Keyse rode the Shaftesbury Middlemarkers '25' and collected 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize with a 59.25. With exactly the same time Steven Roach finished the Maldon & District '25' as part of the Sporting Courses series to take the Handicap prize in his section. Ross Bartlett took 1.2.09 and took the 2<sup>nd</sup> handicap award in his particular section. Dillon Adams enlivened the Surrey League race at Barcombe breaking away with one other rider. They held their advantage to the line but Dillon was beaten in the sprint. Dillon's 2<sup>nd</sup> spot led in Jon Jennings in 9<sup>th</sup> place, Steve Watkins 15<sup>th</sup> and Ray Puttick 26<sup>th</sup>. Allison Butler rode the 4<sup>th</sup> category and Ladies race at Lyne over 42 miles. After some spirited riding Allison came 5<sup>th</sup> in the final sprint and was 1<sup>st</sup> lady.

Harry Featherstone took 2<sup>nd</sup> place on scratch time and won the Age Standard award in the VTTA '10' on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May with a 23.08. He then went to Marlow for the Hillingdon '25' where he was one of only four riders with times under

the hour due to the inclement weather. His 59.00 took 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 1<sup>st</sup> on Age Standard. Pete Danckwardt came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Hampshire RC '10' with a 21.57 on the Fontwell course. Justin Greeley came 7<sup>th</sup> in the Cleveland Whs '10' with a 22.54 in spite of torrential rain and strong headwinds for the first 5 miles. He had another 7<sup>th</sup> place in identical conditions in the Weardale Hilly '16.5' finishing in 40.37.

In the Surrey League "World Championship" Handicap on the Henfold Hill circuit Ray Puttick was our best finisher with a 12<sup>th</sup> place in front of Paul Green (17<sup>th</sup>) Alison Butler (22<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> lady), Marcus Brueton (23<sup>rd</sup> in his first road race), Ross Barlett 42<sup>nd</sup>, Jon Jennings 51<sup>st</sup>, Dillon Adams 60<sup>th</sup> and Steve Roach 66<sup>th</sup>. IN the Universities Championship 25 miles time trial Justin Greeley set a personal best of 56.09 but we do not have a record of his placing. Harry Featherstone came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the VTTA (Wessex) '25' with a 1.1.34. Dillon Adams came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Morden '10' in 23.39 whilst Ross Barlett was also in the top 10 with his 24.29. In the Addiscombe '25' Stan Worrell was our fastest man in 58.59. Pete Danckwardt came next, 59.07, and then Harry Featherstone 1.0.32 (to take the veterans award) and Ross Bartlett 1.1.23.

The first evening '10' of the season on the 13<sup>th</sup> May had only two riders with Pete Danckwardt stopping the watch on 22.58 whilst Jon McKaig, after a two year lay-off, came in with a 25.53. On the Saturday Jon improved this time to 25.22 in the London Fire Brigade '10'. Harry Featherstone took another pair of veteran's awards (scratch and age) with his 21.43 in the Andover '10'. Justin Greeley was 6<sup>th</sup> in the Northumberland & Durham CA '10' with a 22.40.

Yet another pair of award went Harry Featherstone's way by way of his 56.31 in the High Wycombe '25'. Justin Greeley took on the Tyneside Vagabonds mountain time trial over 44 miles in the Elsdon area. In spite of poor visibility and wet roads he came 6<sup>th</sup> with a 2.11.05. Five more Paragons took on the Redmon Hilly '73'. Steve Roach was in the top 10 with his 3.12.06 followed by Dillon Adams 3.34.19, Jon Jennings 3.36.21, Nigel Everett 3.39.46 and Ross Bartlett 3.40.12. Stan Worrell came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Rother Valley '25' with a 1.0.27 in spite of having course changed at the last moment to a two lap circuit event. Allison Butler won the Surrey League ladies race at Lyne over 36 miles. At South Nutfield for the Surrey League Handicap our riders were placed 11<sup>th</sup> Jon Jennings, 14<sup>th</sup> Steve Roach, 15<sup>th</sup> Marcus Brueton, 17<sup>th</sup> Kelvin Morrison and 19<sup>th</sup> Dillon Adams. Allison Butler was 1<sup>st</sup> lady on 26<sup>th</sup> place, Steve Watkins came 28<sup>th</sup>, new member Tim Bartell was 41<sup>st</sup> and Ross Bartlett 47<sup>th</sup>.

The Frank Southall '50' was run on the 26<sup>th</sup> May over 2 laps of the Crawley 25 miles course. On a cool day with a rising wind it was not an easy day for time trialling. Les Palmer (Leo) made light of the conditions to win in 1.55.43 from Kevan James (Sydenham) 1.58.18 and Steve Willis (Eastbourne Rovers) 1.58.37. Of Paragon riders Pete Danckwardt was our best man in 8<sup>th</sup> place with 2.2.32, Dillon Adams was 9<sup>th</sup> and Group prizewinner with a 2.2.47, Justin Greeley 10<sup>th</sup> in 2.2.55, James Green 2.7.07, Ross Bartlett 2.10.18, Paul Keyse 2.14.33 and Roger Amer 2.35.03. With the benefit of riders in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>

and 10<sup>th</sup> places the Paragon took the John Cater Team Shield. Harry Featherstone (who had won the Age Standard award in the Middlesex '10' on the Saturday with a 23.21) decided not to start the '50'. On his arrival at the Start he found he had stripped part of the tread from his rear tyre and had no time to effect any replacement.

Over the weekend of the 31<sup>st</sup> May/1<sup>st</sup> June the wind played havoc with those who had BBAR aspirations. Justin Greeley managed a 58.09 in the Hull City RC '25' that earned him 11<sup>th</sup> place and Ross Barlett came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Post Office Divisional Championships with a 1.1.02.

In the evening '10' on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June Stan Worrell all but caught his minute man Pete Danckwardt with a 23.31 to Pete's 24.20. Steve Roach was 7<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League Handicap on the Norwood Hill Circuit; Ray Puttick was 13<sup>th</sup>, Jon Jennings 15<sup>th</sup>, Allison Butler 17<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> lady and Geoff Duck finished his first race of the year in 51<sup>st</sup> position. Justin Greeley came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Middridge '30' with a 1.10.10.

Harry Featherstone went to the Oxford City '50' and while pleased with his 1.59.46 in the prevailing conditions was a little put out to lose the veteran's Age Standard award by 2 seconds! Justin Greeley came 7<sup>th</sup> in the Tyne RC '25' with a 59.47. Nearer home Pete Danckwardt was our best finisher in the South Eastern '25' with a 1.0.11. The Surrey Divisional Road Race Championships had a hard fight with the wind that was not helped by being ridden on the hilly Cutmill circuit. Steve Roach was our best finisher in 13<sup>th</sup> place and Kelvin Morrison came 21<sup>st</sup>.

Stan Worrell made fastest time in the Evening '10' beating Gary Adcock. Gary has been about the world for a year or so and was pleased with his 24.32 as it included time off the machine replacing a derailed chain. Steve Roach was our best rider in the Surrey League Handicap after starting from the scratch group some 9 minutes behind the leaders. Steve was 13<sup>th</sup>, Kelvin Morrison 19<sup>th</sup>, Simon Richardson 35<sup>th</sup>, F Glazebrook 37<sup>th</sup> and Tim Bartell 44<sup>th</sup>.

Coming south Justin Greeley entered the Salisbury '10' and found himself starting one minute in front of Sean Yates. He held the great man off for 5 miles but could not hold him on the return. Yates finished in 19.15 to win whilst Justin had the pleasure of a personal best of 21.11. Harry Featherstone won the veterans Age Standard award in this event with a 22.02.

The SCCU held their '50' on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Pete Danckwardt asked for an early start and clocked a 1.56.55 that was the fastest of the morning for over an hour before being pushed back to 7<sup>th</sup> place at the end of the day. Stan Worrell came in with 2.0.42 for 11<sup>th</sup>. Justin Greeley was feeling the effects of his hardwork the previous evening coming in with a 2.2.37. In the Becontree Whs '25' Harry Featherstone reached the 15 miles mark in 31 minutes but the headwind return took him 25 minutes. Even so a 56.02 was not a bad ride on the day. Tim Bartell rode the Unity Middlemarkers '25' recording a personal best of 58.25.

Gary Adcock showed he was returning to form by making fastest time in the evening '10' with a 23.46 in front of Tim Bartell's 24.01 and Pete Danckwardt's 25.19. Harry Featherstone was fastest on Age Standard in the Thanet '10' with a 22.38.

Stan Worrell finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey RCC '25' in 58.43. He was rather annoyed having to start as No.22 instead of his usual seeded '0'. It certainly got him worked up as he wreaked his revenge by catching his 2-minute man! Jon McKaig managed a 3.30 late start so was reasonably pleased with a 1.9.46. Harry Featherstone rode the East Sussex '50' collecting fastest veteran on Age Standard and the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) prize with his 2.2.44. Gethin Butler won the Elmet '50' in 1.44.19 taking 5.07 out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed man.

The evening '10' went to Stan Worrell with a 22.40, Gary Adcock came in with 23.50 and Brian Dalton 33.15 after some delays with various mechanical problems. In the CDCA '10 on Saturday morning Steve Roach was our fastest rider in 22.16 followed by Dillon Adams 22.38, Ross Bartlett 23.17 and Tim Bartell 24.01.

This year the RTTC National 50 miles Championship was held on the Crawley course. Originally the Paragon had been asked to promote the race but due to interference by the London South Committee especially over our ideas for a truly Championship style course we withdrew. Our Committee consensus was that as the Paragon has been promoting 50-mile time trials for 50 years and attending as riders and helpers in countless National Championships it was reasonable to assume that we knew something about the problems. In the end we said to the London South – if you want to promote the Championship then you as a Committee can do it yourselves leave us out of the equation.

It was a pity really as Gethin Butler came down from Preston to take the silver medal with a 1.45.52 behind Sean Yates who took 1.43.33 for the distance. Justin Greeley revelled in the tough conditions with a personal best of 1.55.52 that left him on top of the leader board before the fancied riders started to finish. We had no third man. None of our other racing men wanted to face the timekeeper and back Gethin and Justin when a Team medal could have been ours for the asking. On this day Steve Roach did a 2.3.26 in the Maldon '50' and Ross Bartlett a 2.11.30.

The evening '10' had six takers with Stan Worrell returning with the fastest time of 22.44 whilst Gary Adcock and Pete Danckwardt tied on 23.21.

After his personal best in the National '50' Justin Greeley achieved another in the Feltham '25' at Marlow with a 55.12 for 6<sup>th</sup> place. Stan Worrell clocked a 55.50 in the Becontree '25'. Harry Featherstone came 6<sup>th</sup> in the Whitewebbs '25' on the A1. The next morning he was riding the VTTA (Surrey/Sussex) '25' and took the Age Standard with a 59.35. Jon McKaig recorded a 1.5.13 and Roger Amer a 1.8.46. In the Surrey League race on the Henfold Hill

circuit Paul Green and Ray Puttick were equal 9<sup>th</sup> whilst Jon Jennings, Simon Richardson and Steve Watkins were unplaced in the bunch. Gethin Butler won the Pennine '50' with a course record 1.45.30.

The following day Paul Green scored in the Monday Competition at Herne Hill with a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 'B' Devil and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 'B' Points race.

Pete Danckwardt finished the Bec '10' on a 22.13 and the next day he recorded a season's best of 55.14 in the Oxford City '25'. Gethin put the final touches to his preparation for the National 24-hour Championship with a win in the Shropshire CRA '100'. His time of 3.53.58 was done on the same roads as the 24-hour will use. . Harry Featherstone was in the top 10 of the Norland '100' with a 4.11.30 ride.

The evening '10' went to Pete Danckwardt with a 22.59. Stan Worrell was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 23.44 and Gary Adcock 3<sup>rd</sup> in 23.56.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> July Gethin Butler came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the RTTC National, 100 miles Championship. Kevin Dawson won in 3.29.03 and Sean Yates came 2<sup>nd</sup> in 3.30.49. Gethin did 3.35.09 that included riding some 7 miles before getting a spare wheel after a puncture. Harry Featherstone came 5<sup>th</sup> in the North Bucks '50' in 1.56.45 and, by way of a change (!) took the veteran's Age Standard award.

In the South Eastern "Lew Smith" '10' Harry Featherstone came 5<sup>th</sup> with 22.33 and won the Age Standard award. Pete Danckwardt was our fastest man in the De Laune '25' with 57.12. Stan Worrell came next in 58.13, Paul Keyse 1.3.09. Justin Greeley punctured after 5 miles. Pete Danckwardt finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Bognor Regis '10 in 21.58.

The evening '10' went to Pete Danckwardt with 22.21 from Stan Worrell 22.53 and Gary Adcock 23.29. In the Thursday League Handicap Kelvin Morrison was 13<sup>th</sup> and Simon Richardson 19<sup>th</sup>.

A Club Record that had stood for 50 years was broken in the RTTC National 24-hour Championship run over the week-end of the 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> July. Gethin Butler tried to do the impossible by riding the event on low profile machines eventually finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 472.545 miles. Backing him on this trip was Steve Roach (whose longest race before this was a 100 miles time trial in 1995), Ross Bartlett and Jon Jennings. All three finished in various states of disrepair. Steve covered 403.711 miles with leg problems that put him out of action for many weeks afterwards. Ross Bartlett did 390.527 miles and Jon Jennings 368.463 miles on extremely limited training. To round off a hard and tiring weekend it was with some elation that we learnt that we had won the Team Championship. Not only that but with 1266.783 miles it beat our old record by some 83 miles!

The rest of the Club had to get on with racing on their own that weekend. So much so that Justin Greeley had to take all his food and drink with him for his first attempt at 100 miles in the SCCU event. It says much for his mental and

physical fitness that he completed the distance in 4.22.32 for 6<sup>th</sup> place. Harry Featherstone went off to Oxford for the Belle Vue '50' finishing with a 1.55. Simon Richardson won the Surrey League race at Kirdford time trialling to a lone victory after 63 miles of racing and earning enough points to be upgraded to 2<sup>nd</sup> category. Kelvin Morrison finished in 17<sup>th</sup> place.

Showing that the 100 miles at the week-end affected him not a jot Justin Greeley produced the best ride on the night to win the evening '10' by just 1 second from Pete Danckwardt 22.27 to 22.28. Stan Worrell came 3<sup>rd</sup> in 23.14. Simon Richardson came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the bunch sprint at the end of the League Handicap race on the Newchapel circuit. Justin Greeley also rode to finish in 13<sup>th</sup> place.

The Addiscombe promoted their JB Smith Memorial road race on the Bletchingley circuit and Simon Richardson showed he was worthy of his upgrading by finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in this very hard prestigious event. Kelvin Morrison and Paul Green lost contact with the front group but were not disgraced with their 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> places. Justin Greeley finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Brighton Excelsior '25' with a 57.47. Pete Danckwardt went down to Hampshire for the Hampshire RC '30' and came 6<sup>th</sup> in 1.8.49. Harry Featherstone took another Age Standard award in the Clarence Whs '25' with a 54.43. Stan Wqorrell also rode finishing with a 54.36 but both men were well down the finishing order.

Oliver Penny riding in Norwood Paragon colours rather than his normal Swiss Club kit came 8<sup>th</sup> in the National Road Race Championship in Wales.

Stan Worrell won the evening '10' in 23.08 from Tim Bartell 24.05 and Jon Mckaig 25.16.

Ross Bartlett was still feeling the effects of his 24 hours of racing in the Hainault '25' finishing in 1.2.40. Justin Greeley and Harry Featherstone went up the A1 for the Letchworth Velo '25' but had to ride the 'Wrong' way. South instead of north as there were road works on the fast course. Nevertheless Justin came in with 55.41 and Harry 57.15. Down south of the river Pete Danckwardt finished the 29<sup>th</sup> Whs event in 56.45 and Dave Adams came home with a 1.3.05. Over on the Kirdford circuit in the League race for Elite, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> category riders the racing was rather fierce. The 75 miles were ridden as if it were a 30 miles handicap. Eventually the front group was whittled down to seven riders with Simon Richardson being the only 2<sup>nd</sup> category rider left. Not surprisingly he crossed the line in 7<sup>th</sup> place. Kelvin Morrison hung onto the remnants of the bunch to be placed 16<sup>th</sup>.

Justin Greeley produced the fastest time in the evening '10' with 21.23 from Pete Danckwardt 21.37, Stan Worrell 21.46, and a personal best of 22.47 from Gary Adcock.

Pete Danckwardt broke the Club 30 miles Record on the 17<sup>th</sup> August with a 1.5.52 ride in the Leo event near Chelmsford to take 27 seconds from the old record. Such was the speed of the morning this only gave him 11<sup>th</sup> place.

Down in Sussex for the Eastbourne Rovers '25' near Maresfield Stan Worrell took 7<sup>th</sup> place with 58.15, Steve Watkins clocked a 59.46 and Ross Bartlett a 1.0.48. Harry Featherstone took in the Middlesex RC '50' at Didcot but was a little disappointed with 'only' a 1.55.39. Gethin Butler won the RTTC National 12 hours Championship covering 286.230 miles in the time.

With the shortening nights Monday Competition came to a close at Herne Hill. In the finals series of events Paul Green came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 'Devil' and had a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Hare and Hounds and another 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 20kms scratch race. Overall Paul was our best finisher with 41 points. Bob Patton scored 38 and Kelvin Morrison 34.

Our team of Justin Greeley, Jon Jennings and Simon Richardson successfully finished the Surrey League Revolutions 5-day noted as the longest and hardest stage race on the BCF Calendar. Justin Greeley had the best performance when he came 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1 lap time trial at Goodwood Motor Circuit. Simon Richardson came 19<sup>th</sup> overall and was the best placed 2<sup>nd</sup> category rider. Justin Greeley was 33<sup>rd</sup> and Jon Jennings 36<sup>th</sup>.

The last evening '10' saw Pete Danckwardt et al in flying form. Pete won with a 21.49, Stan Worrell did 22.38 and Justin Greeley came 3<sup>rd</sup> in 22.52. Even the slowest of the six riders, Jon McKaig, put up a personal best of 24.04. The evening '10' points competition was, therefore, won by Stan Worrell with 101 points to Pete Danckwardt's 99.5.

As usual on Bank Holiday weekend the sun beat a hasty retreat and the wind and rain came out to play. All thoughts of ultra fast times were put into abeyance. Harry Featherstone and Justin Greeley went to Didcot for the South West London Combine '50' and they struggled hard for their 2.2.00 and 1.59.44 respectively. Gethin Butler won the Ellesmere Port '25' with a 52.31 and a 2 minutes beating of his nearest rival.

On the Monday a trio of Paragon riders went across the river for the Essex Roads '25'. Beforehand they were bemoaning their early start numbers but after Pete Danckwardt had finished in 53.54, Justin Greeley had put up a personal best of 54.25 and Stan Worrell had clocked a 54.53 the heavens opened. All the later starters had to fight the rising wind that came with the heavy rain whilst our lads were home and dry!

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August and Justin Greeley came 7<sup>th</sup> in the Rodney '10' with a 21.38. Pete Danckwardt did 22.30 and Ross Bartlett 23.35.

On the Sunday Justin came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Bec '25' with 57.12, Pete Danckwardt covered the distance in 58.37 and Stan Worrell clocked 1.0.13 to ensure we had the Team prize. Gary Adcock came in with a 1.0.40, Dave Adams a 1.1.55 and Ross Bartlett 1.2.28.

Stan Worrell and Pete Danckwardt rode the ECCA Scratch Championship '25' finishing with 55.57 and 56.07 respectively. In the Surrey League 3<sup>rd</sup> category event at Rusper Steve Watkins took off after two riders who had escaped from



the bunch and while he failed to catch them he held off the field to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place 11 seconds down on the winner. Jon Jennings took 7<sup>th</sup> and Kelvin Morrison 12<sup>th</sup>. Justin Greeley rode the Poole 12-hour event and in his first attempt at the distance covered 248.663 miles. He rode extremely steadily and intelligently to finish 11<sup>th</sup>.

Gethin Butler came south to ride the Les Ingman 88 miles road race on the Bletchingley circuit. On this demanding course Gethin broke away with four other riders eventually finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Simon Richardson also finished but we are unaware of his position. Justin Greeley showed no signs of wear and tear after his 12-hour ride as he put up a personal best of 4.9.23 in the North Mids & Herts '100' based on a course on the A1 at Tempsford. Stan Worrel came 8<sup>th</sup> in the ECCA '35' with a 55.07 whilst Pete Danckwardt was one place behind with his 55.21.

In the Crawley Whs '10' Pete Danckwardt won with a 22.38. Justin Greeley took 24.09 but had a 2.09 late start!

The Open '25' for the Robin Buchan Salver on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September proved to be a win for Phil Watkins (Wedmbley) in 54.44. Justin Greeley came 2<sup>nd</sup> in 55.51 and Mike Porter was 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 57.04. The Team race went to the Paragon as backing Justin were Steve Watkins with 57.41 and Pete Danckwardt 59.09. Also riding, as this was the Mayne Cup '25' as well, were Tim Bartell 1.0.06, Gary Adcock 1.1.10, Ross Bartlett 1.2.05, Dave Adams 1.3.28, Paul Green, in his first time trial, 1.4.18 and Jon McKaig 1.4.31. The Mayne Cup and Man of the Day award went to Steve Watkins. His 57.41 was subject to 5.30 deduction giving him a nett 52.11. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Paul Green (54.18) and Jon McKaig (54.31) came 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Redbridge '25' Stan Worrell finished in 55.07 and Harry Featherstone took 55.30.

In the Surrey League Championship road race for 3<sup>rd</sup> category riders at Hellingly Justin Lomas went clear on his own gaining a maximum lead of 1.10 but he was gradually reeled in being caught with 11 miles to go. Kelvin Morrison finished 20<sup>th</sup>, Justin came 25<sup>th</sup> and Ray Puttick was 46<sup>th</sup>. In the 77 miles race for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> category riders Simon Richardson was making his last appearance before returning to Bangor University. Unfortunately he missed the 7-man break but came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the bunch sprint to take 9<sup>th</sup> place.

Justin Greeley had mixed luck when he entered the London St Christopher's '10'. His entry went astray arriving too late but the organisers put him on the reserve list. Fortunately someone failed to turn up so Justin got his ride. He covered the 10 miles in 20.51 but would have been even faster if he had not punctured with half a mile to go!

In the Surrey League road race Steve Watkins missed the break but tried to get across on his own. He was caught 11 miles from the finish but still managed to get a 12<sup>th</sup> place. Ross Bartlett recorded a 1.16.10 in the Lea Valley '30'.

Steve Watkins came 6<sup>th</sup> in the Surrey League 3<sup>rd</sup> category race on the Cutmill circuit. Paul Green came 11<sup>th</sup> and Ray Puttick came 25<sup>th</sup>. The Biah tells us that Ray Puttick was to be upgraded to 2<sup>nd</sup> category for the 1998 season but we have no records of his successes. Justin Greeley came 9<sup>th</sup> in the Epsom '25' with 56.21 and Stan Worrell was 12<sup>th</sup> in 57.42.

Right at the end of the season Justin Lomas won his first road race. In the Surrey League race on the Ashdown circuit he attacked with Steve Watkins on the first of seven laps. Steve succumbed to the pressure and dropped back as another riders came up to Justin. Justin and his companion built up an unassailable lead of 3 minutes before Justin outsprinted his opponent at the Finish. Steve Watkins had recovered from his earlier efforts and took the 3<sup>rd</sup> place money. Ray Puttick came in with the remnants of the bunch. Paul Green was having a lovely day as on two occasions he unshipped his chain and had to fight his way back to the bunch. However it says much for his character that he did so and indeed he won the best 4<sup>th</sup> category riders award.

In the RTTC BBAR Gethin Butler came 2<sup>nd</sup> to Kevin Dawson (GS Strada) with 26.836 mph to Kevin's 27.920mph. Justin Greeley came 93<sup>rd</sup> with 23.558 mph. He also won the Club Open Time Trial Championship. Justin Greeley took the Club Events Championship and Simon Richardson the Club Massed Start Championship. Allison Butler won the Ladies Road Race Championship and Marcus Brueton took the Off-road Championship.