

IVCA-Dick O Brien Leisure League 2016 Round 8 - 7th August 100 in 4.

The 8rd round of Dick O Brien Leisure League commenced at the new start point of Clonee with sign on commencing at 8:30 for a 9:00 start. The weather forecast was for showers and unseasonal winds with temperatures of 14 degrees, overcast with intermittent sun shine.



A total of 10 riders signed on, all were IVCA members. Before setting out on the route the group were issued with a route map (prepared by Jimmy Murphy) which was to be stamped at the tea stop in Devlin and returned on completion of the spin.



The group were advised that the route was marked with yellow direction arrows and reminded of the safety rules. It was agreed to keep the group together for the duration of the cycle. The ten riders set out in the direction of Bracetown and Ratoath at a steady pace however the wind factor was noticeable from the beginning and would add to the challenge ahead.

As the miles clocked up the group worked together with everyone taking a turn on the front. The winds seemed to be coming from all directions and at times the cross winds proved challenging. As usual the banter was good and everyone was in good spirits, in no time we were making our way through Kenstown, Navan, Athboy and on to the planned tea stop in Delvin.

The preplanning provided dividends with a good selection of brown bread sandwiches and as much tea and coffee as required. As there is no Touring Secretary it proved a topic of conversation and no better place to have the discussion than with committed cyclists. As a result we may have a volunteer from within the group if everyone does a share of the organising. With a bright future ahead and lots of smiley faces the traditional group photo was taken.



As we departed from the tea stop we headed the direction of Killucan, Balivor and on to Summerhill for a refresh stop and a bit of a chat. Commencing the final leg of the spin the group stayed together as planned. However, it was evident that some riders were eager to expel some of their stored energy and as we passed Donboyne the pace went up with a gallop to the finish. Eight riders completed the challenge and submitted their signed route map for the record.

Thanks to Jimmy Murphy who with dedication marked the route the previous week with yours truly as chauffeur.

Tony Pearson.