

2017 IVCA Dick O'Brien Leisure League Round 1 East Kildare Tour Report



The morning of Sunday 15th January turned out pleasantly milder than expected following a few very wintry days, as bikes and riders were assembling in the car park of Wheelworx. Following a brief welcome and a few safety notes, a total of 18 IVCA members signed on and set out on the 1st round of the Dick O'Brien Leisure league, taking on the now familiar route of the East Kildare Tour. It was great to see a large contingent of racing members joining in to swell the ranks and make it a very enjoyable tour.

The tour headed off in the direction of Newcastle, Lyons Estate, Ardclough, Straffan and in to Sallins. Riding into a stiff headwind, it was good to see a nice rotation within the group with most taking a turn on the front. From Sallins we turned off the main road and made good progress via the Prosperous road to Clane, where a pre-planned tea stop and a good chat was enjoyed by all.

Following the break, we said farewell to the racing group who departed in the direction of Barberstown, while the tour group with a very welcome tailwind, headed off past Clongowes Wood, through Rathcoffey, Maynooth, Celbridge and back to finish in Wheelworx car park. The distance was approximately 75km and two leisure league points were awarded to all who took part.

Thankfully, there were no incidents to report, apart from a series of rear wheel punctures suffered by the very unfortunate Patrick Troy. Fair play to Tony Pearson who came to the rescue following the 3rd puncture with the kind offer of his spare tyre, which Tony always carries with him in his saddlebag.



Many thanks to all who helped out, taking turns on the front and stopping to marshal junctions, making the tour an enjoyable and sociable event.

Leisure League Round 2: Sunday 12th February at 10.00am, North Dublin Tour departing from Airside, Swords, Co Dublin (more details to follow).

Jimmy Murphy