

Round 3 IVCA Dick O'Brien Leisure League -11th March 2018

IVCA-Dick O'Brien Leisure League 2018 Round 3 - 11th March 50 in 4.

The 3rd Round of the Dick O'Brien Leisure League was rescheduled from the 4th to the 11th March due to exceptional weather conditions.



The prospects of a good turnout was good due a change in weather conditions and prior notification to all members. Sign on commenced at 8:40 for a 9:00 start.



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A total of 19 riders signed on which included two new touring members Denis and Brian Haverty who were welcomed by all. Before setting out the group were issued with a route map, reminded of the safety rules, and to be mindful of road conditions as all snow may not be cleared from the roads.



The group remembered Gay Farnan (left), our touring director who passed away last March and were mindful of how he always welcomed members and encouraged involvement through his quite leadership style.

A number of members noted that every time they take their bike out they think of Gay and he is always in their thoughts.

With this in mind the group set out in the direction of Dunboyne and on towards Summerhill at a steady pace with some rotation on the front allowing the weaker riders to sit on the back.

On the approach to Summerhill the group turned right and proceeded passed the church and commenced the gradual climb to the Trim roundabout with experienced rider Mick Byrne setting a steady pace keeping the group together. As we approached Knightsbrook, a few riders peeled off in the direction of Trim for an alternative route.

Jimmy Murphy and Brian Kane rotated to the front and led the group as it made its way from Knightsbrook to Mayne and turned back in the direction of Summerhill. As we approached Summerhill the group stayed together unlike last year when we had a competitive sprint finish. The group stopped in Summerhill for a well-earned tea break at the cycle-friendly



Londis Store. This gave riders a chance to reflect on the tour and meet other known cyclists who frequent the store. Thanks to Pat Murphy who noticed a rider who dropped off the back and paced them to be reunited at the tea stop. After some banter and photos the group divided in two with the fast group setting out first which included our two new touring members with seasoned riders Jimmy Murphy and Brian Kane.

As we ascended the climbs out of Summerhill there was silence as each rider concentrated on the task in hand. The group continued in the direction of Kilcock and Maynooth with Evelyn Doyle ensuring the group stayed together and in particular looking after Pat Troy on the back.

As we approached Clonee we noticed Jimmy Murphy and Brian Kane riding back up the road to join the group and ride to the finish for the second time. Everyone was in good spirits and a good day was had by all with no mechanicals or punctures.

The total distance of the tour was recorded as 80.9K.

A note of thanks to all who participated and in particular the IVCA race members who supported the tour.

On a point of information

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The next tour is the Liam Horner Memorial scheduled for the 8th April at 10:00am starting in Clonee. (kindly check the IVCA web site closer to the day to confirm details)

Tony Pearson.

