

IVCA – North Dublin Tour 2020

After having been postponed due to recent storms, the February tour was held on 1st March for the 2020 North Dublin Tour.

Like the 2019 tour last year, once again, it was a cold, bright morning when the group assembled at Euro Cycles, Airside Retail Park, Swords for the 2020 North Dublin Tour. Only 5 riders in total signed on for the tour.

When it was deemed that all participants had arrived, the usual briefing was carried out by yours truly, during which, one of the founding fathers of the leisure league, Gay Farnham, was remembered. A note on observing the rules of the road, and looking out for one's fellow riders, should they get into difficulty was made. Also, a cautionary note on taking care in cross winds was given to the group.

Following the briefing the group of five set off from its starting point and made its way through the Airside Retail Parks roads to the junction with the old Belfast road.

As a precaution, it was decided not to take the route by the side of the airport to avoid winds. Instead a detour was taken through a housing estate, which lead the group back onto the original route after the airport perimeter.

The group headed towards St. Margaret's and more sheltered roads. The tour then headed North West on R122, then turned south onto the R121 towards and through Wards Cross roundabout. The tour then turned right towards Hollystown and followed this road for a few kilometres, after which it turned left at the TOP oil garage and headed south towards the Bracetown Business Park. The tour then headed over the M3 motorway via roundabouts until it reached the old Summerhill road. The tour was now in Co. Meath. This was followed for a couple of kilometres and the tour then veered right and headed towards Batterstown at which a well-deserved coffee stop was had by all riders.

Following the break, the riders remounted and the tour headed south east along the R154, then north along the R155 heading in the direction of Ratoath. Having negotiated the intricate streets of Ratoath, and some slightly heavy traffic, the tour headed towards Curragha. The tour then headed south east towards Ashbourne but took a sharp left and headed north on the Ballymadun Road. The tour then headed east on scenic country roads towards Ballyboughal. At this point two riders in the group, Jimmy Murphy and Mick Byrne upped the pace and headed back to base at Airside as they had a prior appointment. The remaining three riders took a leisurely pace to complete the course.

A quick jaunt on the now traffic busy old Belfast Road led the tour back to its starting point in Airside Retail Park.

In all a total of 80KM was cycled and all agreed it was a successful days cycling. A big thank you to all who participated and especially to Evelyn Doyle and Sean Prender who had cycled the route with myself a couple of weeks earlier to ensure its suitability. Two league points were awarded to all participant members for this tour.

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The next tour in the Leisure League will be the 50 in 4 tour from Clonee on March 08th.

Brendan Johnston.