Carnival atmosphere as cyclists take to the roads

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A show of pedal power from around 4,000 cyclists is expected to have raised a record amount for charity.

Riders in the Norwich 100 last year collected £85,000 for the British Heart Foundation – but organisers say this year’s total could hit six figures.

Cathedral Close became a sea of lycra and carbon fibre on Saturday morning as cyclists set off to complete 25, 50 or 100 mile routes around the county’s roads.

Ride manager David Murray said the event had gone well, and despite the lack of sunshine for long periods the day had enjoyed a “carnival atmosphere”.

He said: “We pretty well reached the 4,000 mark for the number of riders, and we think we may have raised a record amount of money.

“We are reasonably confident that this year we might break the mighty £100,000 for the British Heart Foundation.”

Thousands of serious club riders, enthusiastic amateurs and first-timers saddled up to hit the road at dawn, with the first 100-mile finishers back in Norwich in around four and three-quarter hours, ready to enjoy the live music and beer tents in Cathedral Close.

They followed a course that took them through Coltishall to Mundesley and along the coast to Sheringham and Wells-next-the-Sea before looping back to Norwich through Thursford and Reepham.

Mr Murray, whose company organises rides all around the UK, said the enthusiasm for the ride made the Norwich 100 a special event.

“We have many riders coming back for their fifth, sixth or seventh year running, and a lot of them are looking to better their personal best times.

“We’re always very happy to come to Norwich because the Cathedral very generously extends the use of the close to use. It has a very nice atmosphere, and it’s almost like a village green, so it makes for a very good day.”

The composer Benjamin Britten was a pupil at Gresham’s School, Holt.

An indecent exposure at country park

Police are investigating after a man indecently exposed himself to a woman at Whittingham Broad on the eastern outskirts of Norwich.

Officers from the Wymondham Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) are appealing for witnesses to the indecent exposure which took place between 7.30pm and 8pm on Tuesday, May 21.

The victim, a woman in her 40s, was passing the flint barn near Whittingham Broad when she was approached by a man who exposed himself while shouting at her.

The man is described as white, with greasy black hair.

He was wearing a red lumberjack shirt.

Anyone with information should call PC Andrew Barkway from the Wymondham SNT on 101.

Airs by Purcell, Arne and Handel came first. The familiar words and tunes seemed refreshed in deft versions by Britten.

His prowess as a pianist was on display in Schubert’s On the Bridge, just as The Questioner was well chosen to reveal Pears’ distinctive style.

Though he did not try to mimic it, Hobbs knew how to echo it while still retaining his own vocal characteristics.

In Winter Words, a sequence of eight poems by Thomas Hardy, he caught the moving drama of brief episodes that showed the power of music to transform life’s sorrows.

The tensions created by the impassioned outburst of the last song dissolved by a final group of four arrangements of traditional English songs.

They were still perfectly recognisable, but somehow always intriguingly different, with interest repeatedly switching from voice to piano and back again in the most entertaining way.

Christopher Smith