

Ireland 30/50 celebration event - Wexford August 25 to 27

The 50th anniversary grand fleet celebration will be held in Wexford Harbour on the weekend after next. John and Darina have developed the event with the support of the harbormaster and the local IWAI branch so that we will have a lot of fun. This is a good event to come to if you have not been a regular participant - the boating will be inshore in sheltered water, and is planned to include an exploration of the Slaney river (using motors)

Below is a draft Schedule for the weekend.

| Day | Time | Activity |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Friday Evening / Saturday Morning | | Launching |
| Saturday 26/8 | Morning / Afternoon | Day sail in the harbour (The Raven / Rosslare Fort) with picnic |
| | Afternoon (time TBD) | Parade of Sail |
| | 18:15 | Welcome Reception and Address |
| | 18:45 | Talk on Wexford Harbour in the Clubhouse by Brian Coulter |
| | 19:45 | BBQ and Bar in the Clubhouse |
| Sunday 27/8 | 09:30 | Early departure upriver to Enniscorthy. Picnic on the way back, at either Killurin or Edermine. |
| | PM | Recovery of boats at WHBTC or at Ferrybank Slip (tide dependant). |

The Wexford Estuary and Slaney River are tidal, and on the weekend of the Rally, high tides are relatively early in the day (see below)

| Date | Morning High | Afternoon High | Morning Low | Afternoon Low |
|----------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Fri 25/8 | 09:59 | 22:22 | 03:35 | 16:43 |
| Sat 26/8 | 10:27 | 22:48 | 04:54 | 17:00 |
| Sun 27/8 | 10:46 | 23:06 | 05:05 | 17:09 |

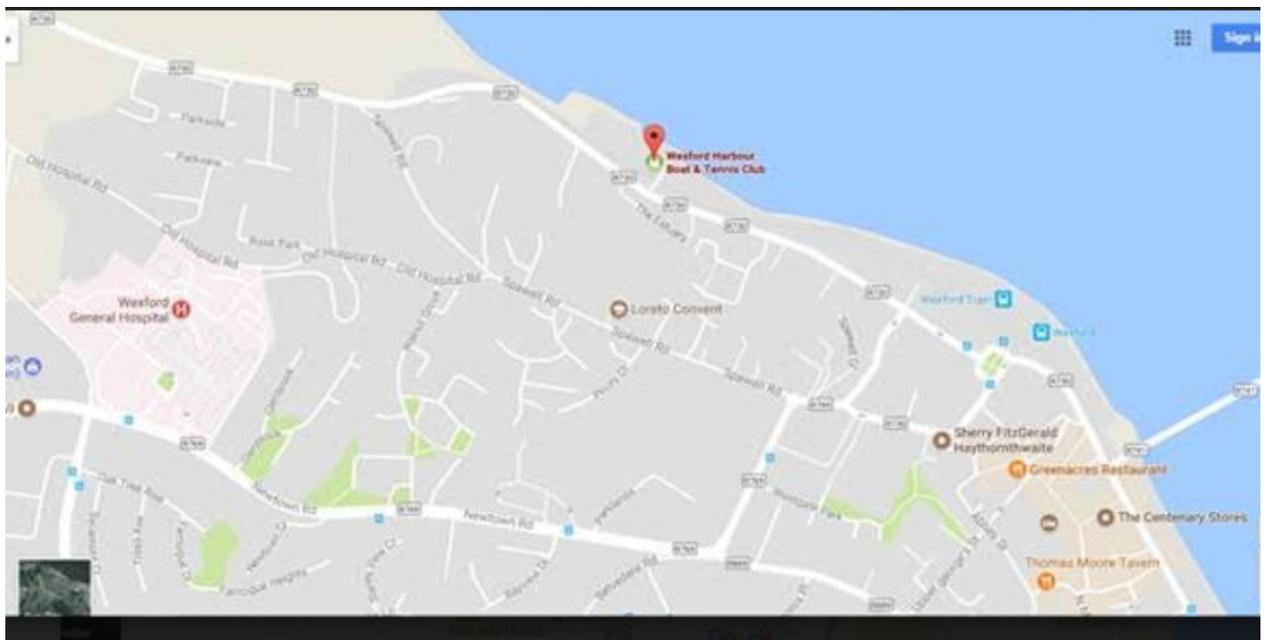
This will necessitate prompt departure from the boat club each day, especially on Sunday for those hoping to get all the way up to Enniscorthy, as it is only accessible for an hour either side of high tide (fortunately high tide at Enniscorthy is approximately one hour after that at Wexford Harbour).

Getting to the WHBTC:

Wexford Boat and Tennis Club
Redmond Rd,
Stonybatter,

Wexford Town,
Eircode Y35 Y236
Website whbtc.ie
Club Phone Number (053) 914 7504

See Maps and detail below:





The club can be accessed easily from the N11, by turning onto the R730 at Ferrycarrig bridge. It should be noted that while it is easy to get to the club via this route, the junction is quite dangerous when travelling away from the club, especially for those towing a boat and wishing to turn right to travel north on the N11, as the N11 is a very busy high-speed road. Those wishing to leave via the N11 would be safer heading up to the R769 via Wexford Hospital, to access the N11 via a roundabout.

There is a steep “humpback” bridge crossing the railway line at the entrance to the club.

The Wexford Town train station and intercity bus stop are at Redmond square, which is walking distance from the club.

Accommodation

There is an area beyond the Tennis courts which is often used for camping, although the ground is somewhat rough. Note that this area has no vehicular access – it will be necessary to carry tents / supplies from the clubhouse area (see detail above). We hope to provide a trolley for same. Campers / Motorhomes can park in the adjacent car park, with a number of electrical hook-ups available. Cards will be provided for 24-hour access to the clubhouse toilets and showers.

There is a public caravan and camping site on the opposite side of the river at Ferrybank (adjoins the Ferrybank Swimming Pool) – see <http://wexfordswimmingpool.ie/wexford-caravan-park-home/>

There are three main hotels nearby, vis:

“The Talbot”, on the Quays, (<http://www.talbotwexford.ie/>)

“The Clayton-Whites Hotel” (closest to the Club) (<https://www.claytonwhiteshotel.com/>)

“The Ferrycarrig Hotel”, located on the estuary a short drive from the Club. (<http://www.ferrycarrighotel.ie/>)

There are other hotel chains and accommodations located off the Rosslare Road / N11 roundabouts on the outskirts of the town.

There are also a number of B&B's and Airb&b's in Wexford. If you are Googling availability you may prefer to specify proximity to Redmond Road / Train Station.

Arrival / Launching

Camping / Motorhome / Clubhouse / Launching facilities will be available from Friday evening. Launching / retrieval is possible at the clubhouse (by slipway or crane) for about two hours either side of high tide. Outside these hours it is possible to launch / retrieve at the public slipway at Ferrybank, on the other side of the river below the Wexford Bridge. Transport to and fro can be arranged.

Land based activities:

For those participants arriving early or staying on after the rally (or non-sailing participants !)

Wexford Town has a heritage trail around its Medieval streets, emphasising it's Viking legacy, historic churches and modernist opera house.

The long Main Street has many individual (non – chain) owned interesting shops and boutiques.

The Wexford Wildfowl reserve and visitor centre (free entry but note accessed by a 2km very narrow lane) is close to the Town on the coast road on the north side of the estuary. There is a free tour on the Friday at 3pm (check [076 100 2664](tel:0761002664) to confirm).

Within a short drive of the Wexford Boat Club are:

Johnstown Castle Gardens and Agricultural Museum (parking fee)

National Heritage Park near Ferricarrig (entry fee)

Curracloe Beach. - One if Ireland's great beaches which doubled for the Normandy D-Day landing beaches in the Film Saving Private Ryan.

The 'Hook Lighthouse Drive' through historic Norman Wexford and the low-lying Hook peninsula (Half day).

The National Heritage week will be under way across the country, and a number of attractions, houses and gardens will be open around Wexford and the surrounding counties. (Check the Heritage Council website – www.heritagecouncil.ie)

Other websites of interest:

<http://www.visitwexford.ie/> Wexford Tourism website.

<http://www.slaney.iwai.ie/> Website of the Slaney Branch of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland – Information on the Slaney Navigation (river guide, maps, waypoints), together with history and wildlife of the river.

Sailing Information.

As mentioned above, Wexford Harbour / Estuary and the Slaney River are tidal, and there are many sandbanks and shallow areas, and, weather permitting, the area provides interesting and fun sailing. Several WHBTC members with local knowledge will be on hand, and as will cover boats if required for that pull off a sandbank. The most up-to-date chart of the harbour, with satellite image, is available at the website “Wexford Harbour Info” – (<http://www.wexfordharbour.info>), courtesy of Brian and Fergal Coulter. The site also carries a wealth of interactive information on the local and maritime history of Wexford harbour, and real-time information on the tides and weather.

Finally:

Finally, could I ask you all to complete the attached rally entry form, and to return it to us at jtdisc110@eircom.net, as soon as possible. Don't worry about the rally fee – we will collect at registration time.