

David Camlin, Coaster *Delta*

Background

The Drascombe Association will be having a rally in May 2019 in the lower reaches of the River Shannon and in the Fergus, an area located in the Shannon Estuary. Proposed itinerary is described on the Drascombe Ireland website under [Shannon Sweet and Salt](#)

The plan is to meet at Killaloe on Thursday 16th May, then pass through the Ardnacrusha Lock, the deepest lock in Ireland, on Friday 17th May and on to Limerick and the Fergus.

Overview of the Feeder Cruise

The River Shannon is the longest river in the British Isles. Myself and a number of skippers plan to launch on Upper Lough Erne, traverse the Shannon – Erne Waterway (Ballinamore & Ballyconnell Canal as was) and travel downstream from Leitrim to Killaloe, a distance of approximately 140 Nm.

The trip will involve motoring (or sculling or rowing if you are keen) in the canal sections, sailing on the loughs, and a mixture of both while on the River Shannon. While this is planned as a live aboard cruise, there should be no problem finding wild camp sites for those in open boats, sleeping in tents.

It is estimated the feeder cruise will take 8 days for those completing the whole journey, but there are numerous places on the route for those crews who want to join part way, ie local boats from Lough Ree or Lough Derg or visitors from further afield with time or travel constraints.

The Navigation Authority is Waterways Ireland, a cross border body based at Enniskillen in Northern Ireland, and I have included some information from them about the Shannon Erne Waterway & the River Shannon.

Boats with motors below 10HP do not have to register, and other than lock or bridge fees there are no slipway, mooring or berthing charges levied by Waterways Ireland.

Suggested Itinerary

Stage 1 Bunn Jetty to Leitrim

The Shannon – Erne Waterway is 35 Nm long and has 16 locks and dates from 1860. A number of small lakes were joined by canal sections. The start is on the Woodford River, and is about 3 miles from Bunn Jetty. The locks are electro-hydraulic and are operated by a lock card, which also gives access to showers etc. There are some peaceful anchorages in the lakes and campers can pitch tents at the locks.

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Estimated Distance | 35 Nm |
| Estimated Duration | 2 days |
| Locks | 16 |
| Bridges | 20 |

Stage 1 (a) Leitrim – Lough Allen – Leitrim

The River Shannon flows into Lough Allen from the Cuilcagh Mountains. From Leitrim to the north shore of Lough Allen, via the Lough Allen Canal is approximately 14 miles. This is a possible addition for those who want to “tick” off the whole river, or possibly launch at Cormongan and miss the SEW. There has been some talk of sudden gusts coming from the mountains around Lough Allen, but to my knowledge this has not been a problem on any DA Rally held there.

| | |
|---------|---|
| Locks | 3 |
| Bridges | 4 |

Stage 2 Leitrim to Roosky

Leitrim to Roosky on the River Shannon is approx 15 Nm with a short canal section at the Jamestown lock and then sailing the length of Lough Bodergh and Lough Bofin. Carrick-on-Shannon will be a good place to get fresh provisions.

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Estimated Distance | 15 Nm |
| Estimated Duration | 1 day |
| Lock | 1 |
| Bridges | 4 |

Stage 3 Roosky to Le Carrow

Leaving Roosky lock we motor to Lough Forbes and on to the North end of Lough Ree, with a possible detour via the Camlin River, at the end of the Royal Canal. After negotiating the bridge at Lanesborough we sail to Le Carrow, a small harbour on the Western shore of Lough Ree. Rindoon Village, dating from the 13th century is on the Western shore of Lough Ree.

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Estimated Distance | 20 Nm |
| Estimated Duration | 1 day |
| Locks | 2 |
| Bridges | 4 |

Stage 4 Le Carrow to Shannonbridge

We sail the second half of Lough Ree and then start the motors at Athlone for the 13 mile stretch in the river to Shannonbridge passing close to the Clonmacnoise Abbey, founded on the 6th century.

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Estimated Distance | 22 Nm |
| Estimated Duration | 1 day |
| Locks | 1 |
| Bridges | 3 |

Stage 5 Shannonbridge to Portumna

Shannonbridge to Portumna, at the north end of Lough Derg, is a 24 mile slog by outboard, however once past the swing bridge we can keep the masts up until we reach Killaloe

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Estimated Distance | 24 Nm |
| Estimated Duration | 1 day |
| Locks | 1 |
| Bridges | 4 |

Stage 6 Lough Derg to Killaloe

Lough Derg is about 20 miles long and has been the scene of many successful DA Rallies. Holy Island is worth a visit for a late lunch if time and weather permit.

Killaloe is at the southern end of Lough Derg, where we meet the other Sweet & Salt crews

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Estimated Distance | 20 Nm |
| Estimated Duration | 1 day |
| Locks | 0 |
| Bridges | 0 |

Logistics

The initial fleet will launch at Bunn Jetty near Crom Estate in Co Fermanagh. This is a public slip with no charges. Cars & Trailers will be left at [Doohat House](#), within walking distance of the slipway.

Proposed launch date from Bunn Jetty is Wednesday 8th May, after mustering on Tuesday. Parking is available should any crew wish to arrive during the previous week-end.

Bunn Jetty is about 100 miles by road from either the Belfast or Dublin ferries.

Arrangements for the return to Doohat to pick up the trailers at the end of the journey may be possible with crews from Northern Ireland returning after the Sweet & Salt Rally, by public transport, or by taxi.

Notes

- a) All boats should be able to lower their masts for Stage 1 from Lough Erne to Leitrim. Bridges on the Shannon can be raised but life would simpler if we don't have to work to the Waterways Ireland Timetable. Timetable for bridge opening from Waterways Ireland, Appendix (i)
- b) Cars and trailers left at Doohat House are at your own risk. Parking for those joining later in the cruise will be skipper's responsibility but the DA members in the area may be able to advise.
- c) There will be some accommodation available at Doohat House before we set off if required, but please bring your sleeping bags. I would prefer to prioritise this for those traveling a long distance, ie from GB or Europe.
- d) The Waterways Ireland guide to the Shannon Erne Waterway can be found here: [Shannon Erne Waterway](#)
- e) The Waterways Ireland guide to the River Shannon can be found here: [River Shannon](#)
- f) I can send anyone a copy of the Waterways Ireland "Voyages-Visits-2018" guide.
- g) Charts of the Shannon are included in Navionics. See their web app if you want to get an idea of the route [Navionics Web App](#), There is also a guide designed for the motor cruiser hire market available from Waterways Ireland priced at 15 Euro. See Appendix (iii) for a sample. I understand Garmin also cover the River Shannon.
- h) Smart cards are available from various retailers, in either 10 units priced at 6.35 euro or 20 units price 12.70. Each lock passage on the SEW is 1 unit, and the River Shannon 2 units
- i) It is mandatory to wear a life jacket / buoyancy aid in the waters of the Irish Republic.
- j) I suggest having fixed bow and stern lines of at least 10m for use when passing through locks.
- k) This is a feeder cruise for the DA Rally, but members of the DCA, or independent sailors are very welcome to join us.

Appendix (iii) DA Rally Guidelines

For further information on navigating and boat queries contact the Inspectorate:

Inspector of Navigation

Waterways Ireland
The Docks, Athlone,
Co Westmeath
Tel no +353 (0)90 649 4232

Waterways Ireland is responsible for the management, maintenance, restoration and development of the inland navigations principally for recreational purposes.

The waterways under the remit of the Body are the Barrow Navigation, the Erne System, the Grand Canal, the Lower Bann Navigation, the Royal Canal, the Shannon-Erne Waterway and the Shannon Navigation.

**Waterways
Ireland**

2 Sligo Road, Enniskillen,
Co Fermanagh, BT74 7JY
Tel: +44 (0)28 6632 3004

Email: info@waterwaysireland.org
Website: www.waterwaysireland.org

If requested this brochure can be made available in accessible format.



Shannon Navigation

Opening Times of
Locks and Bridges



Opening Times of Locks & Bridges

LOCKS AND BRIDGES

| Period | Weekdays | Sundays |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mar 14 – Apr 3 | 09.00 – 18.30 | 10.30 – 16.00 |
| Apr 4 – Sep 25 | 09.00 – 20.30 | 09.00 – 18.00 |
| Sep 26 – Nov 1 | 09.00 – 19.30 | 10.00 – 16.00 |
| Nov 2 – Mar 13 | 09.00 – 12.30 | 10.00 – 12.30 |
| LUNCH BREAK | 13.00 – 14.00 | |

PORTUMNA BRIDGE

Period: Mar 14 – Apr 3

| Weekdays | Sundays |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 09.45 11.00 12.30 | 11.00 12.30 |
| 14.30 16.30 17.30 | 14.30 16.00 |

Period: Apr 4 – Sep 25

| Weekdays | Sundays |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 09.45 11.00 12.30 | 11.00 12.30 |
| 15.00 17.30 19.30 | 15.00 17.30 |

Period: Sep 26 – Nov 1

| Weekdays | Sundays |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 09.45 11.00 12.30 | 11.00 12.30 |
| 15.00 17.00 18.30 | 14.30 16.00 |

Period: Nov 2 – Mar 13

| Weekdays | Sundays |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 09.45 11.00 12.00 | 11.00 12.00 |



Charging

The Shannon Navigation Bye-laws, 1992 state that passage of a vessel or boat through a lock or a lifting bridge on the Shannon Navigation is subject to a charge.

For 2018 season, payment will be accepted by cash or smart card.

Check www.waterwaysireland.org for further information.

Contact Details for Locks & Bridges

Battlebridge, Drumleague & Drumshanbo

Locks (Lough Allen Canal)

Tel no +353 (0)71 964 1552

Clarendon Lock, Knockvicar

Richard Koziol

Tel no +353 (0)71 966 7011

Albert Lock, Jamestown Canal

Eunan Treacy

Tel no +353 (0)71 963 7715

Roskey Lock

Tel no +353 (0)71 963 8018

Tarmonbarry and Clondra Harbour Locks

Liam Cox

Tel no +353 (0)43 332 6117

Mob no +353 (0)87 922 2020

Athlone Lock

Tim Connolly

Tel no +353 (0)90 649 2026

Pollboy Lock, Ballinasloe

David Coyne

Tel no +353 (0)90 964 4938

Victoria Lock, Meelick

Stephen McGarry

Tel no +353 (0)57 915 1359

Portumna Bridge

Tom McGarry

Tel no +353 (0)90 974 1011

Sarsfield Lock, Limerick

Mob no +353 (0)87 797 2998

Check www.waterwaysireland.org or marine notice for scheduled passage during boating season





Navigational Guide to the Shannon and Erne Waterways

- Guides to the Shannon, Erne and Shannon-Erne Waterway
- Schematic drawings of harbours and jetties
- Instructions for operation of locks
- Navigation tips



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Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
GPS: 53.4761N, 7.3552W



Locaboat (IBRA)
Restaurant/Bar
10 minutes walk
Fee €10 per night
(+€5 for electricity)

IBRA

Private marina berth

GLASSON VILLAGE
2km

Icons: house, car, bus, train, etc.

COOSAN POINT

Private Lough Ree Yacht Club

Swim Area - Keep Clear

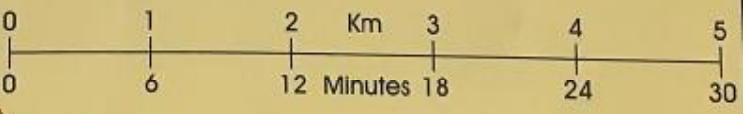
THE LOUGH REE

Beautiful Cooson Point Lake View
Location: Paddy B&B, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Mains & Cakes

The Lough Ree Inn is situated in Cooson Point, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, on the shore of the lake. It is a great place for a quiet retreat or a day of relaxation. The Lough Ree Inn is a great place for a quiet retreat or a day of relaxation. The Lough Ree Inn is a great place for a quiet retreat or a day of relaxation.

HODSON BAY

Boats at anchor



For details of
Athlone, see
page 10



Navigational Guide to the Shannon and Erne Waterways

The navigation system runs from Belleek in the North to Limerick in the South, covering some 400km of navigable waterway. Taking in the lakes of Lower and Upper Lough Erne, the waterway passes into the Ballyconnell/Ballinamore Canal, re-opened in 1994 as the Shannon-Erne Waterway to connect the Erne to the Shannon.

From here, the mighty Shannon can be navigated south to Limerick, taking in the large lakes of Lough Ree and Lough Derg. A small detour adds Lough Key and Lough Allen, as well as numerous small tributaries and bays.

This guide is intended for use by novices and experienced boaters alike, giving details of places to visit and services available at harbours and jetties. Navigation is simple and no depth information is given apart from "deep" and "shallow". Navigation markers, buoys and barrels are shown, along with photographs of the most confusing parts to navigate.





Appendix 2 to Rally Organisation Handbook

Attendees Guidance

We organise rallies for the enjoyment of members, to meet, to sail in company, to gain experience in the company of others and gain the maximum from owning a Drascombe.

This sheet is primarily to give members, particularly for the first time an indication of what their own responsibilities should be when they come to a rally.

The organiser will provide the “framework” for the rally but to gain the most both socially and in sailing experience the members coming along will “make” the event.

The organiser will provide basic information about the event and organise welcoming and daily briefings, however do not expect all information you may need from the organiser.

Responsibilities

- As Skipper of your own boat you are free to question, take advice or even blindly follow but your basic responsibility is that you make your own decisions for your boat and crew. If you need help or advice, you are welcome, indeed encouraged to ask, this is not a loss of face, indeed most of the longer served members will willingly offer assistance if requested.
- You should have charts for the area.
- You should have your own passage plan for each day's activities.
- If you decide to go your own way or deviate from the rally plan tell the organiser in advance
- Submit your application form in good time.

Boat preparation

- Your boat should be sound with rigging in good condition.
- Your engine will work and has been appropriately serviced, you have sufficient fuel including a spare in a can and you have and can use if needed the basic spares of spark plug(s), shear pins and pull cords.
- Your equipment includes at least two sound mooring warps of reasonable length and a minimum of two clean fenders (it is a regular activity to raft up with others).
- You have a means of communication, preferably a waterproof VHF radio, but an air horn or other means of attracting attention is essential as a minimum, including flares (in date and you know how to use them).
- You must ensure that risk
- When moving your boat to or from freshwater bodies, avoid the risk of spreading invasive species by applying the “Check, Clean and Dry principle – check clothes and equipment for organisms, clean and wash all equipment and dry equipment and clothing before entering a vulnerable water body See <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/>

Crew preparation

- Your crew have sufficient suitable warm and waterproof clothing (including spare/additional items),
- They are equipped recently checked life jackets (or buoyancy aids),
- You have adequate food and drink,

- You have a basic first aid kit. Do not forget any routine medications which may be needed by you or your crew (including checking need to have food regularly).
- You have briefed your crew on the daily plan and your own passage plan.
- Provide for continuous guardianship of under 18s or vulnerable persons in your care

Your trailer

- Ensure the basic frame is sound
- The wheel rims and tyres are in good condition and the latter are correctly inflated.
- Brakes if fitted are functioning
- And all lights are working.
- Correctly load the trailer and ensure you have the correct nose weight.

After the event

If you really thought that this was a great success, tell the organiser, and you can also tell the world by sending a short commentary to the webmaster for inclusion in the Rally Gallery. (See DA Website Home Page) You can also write an article for DAN. If you felt there were lessons to be learned and improvements needed – please tell the rally organiser and the Events Co-ordinator.

In conclusion

Much of the detail behind the above will vary with the type and location of any given rally, there are also many sources of information on equipping small boats, what is important is that you have thought about the key areas above and can take appropriate decisions on expected/anticipated conditions in preparing your boat and crew.

And don't forget to keep your trailer in good condition. Jeremy Churchouse used to remind everybody that with a Drascombe you own the finest trailer sailing boat, therefore your trailer is as important as your boat, often for many of us your boat will spend more time and cover more miles on its trailer than on the water.

Please ask – we are all still learning and will be happy to discuss anything which relates to using our boats safely and the maximising of the enjoyment of them.

Appendix 3 to Rally Guidelines

| DRASCOMBE RALLY APPLICATION FORM | |
|---|--------------------|
| Event: | |
| Skipper's name (Block Letters): | |
| Address: | |
|  | |
| Tel No: | Mobile: |
| Email address: | |
| Additional crew will comprise: () Adults: (please provide names if possible) | Under 18 years |
| | Guardian: |
| We shall arrive (day/time): and depart: | |
| By Land /Boat * & require parking for () Cars and () Trailers | |
| Boat: Type: | Name: Hull colour: |
| VHF Radio carried: Yes / No * My accommodation is: | |
| Contact in case of emergency: Name | |
| Mobile: | Relationship |
| Declaration: I am a member of the Drascombe Association and have read and accept the Association rules. My boat is insured to cover me and those who use her with my permission, for not less than £3 million in respect of third party liability claims with an authorised UK/EU insurer. I accept that though events may be organised by, or within the Association. It is the sole responsibility of the skipper to decide whether to take part in all or any part of an event, taking into consideration that conditions may not be suitable for all craft &/or my fitness and experience and that of the crew. I agree that boat and contact details may be distributed to other participants and, if and as required, other authorities. I enclose: Completed application (this form) Rally Registration/admin fee (£5, unless otherwise stated in the DA rally programme) | |
| *Owners / Skipper's signature: _____ Date: _____ | |
| Please complete & return your form in good time. If having registered, you do not intend to come, please inform the organiser * please delete as appropriate | |