

Summary:

Date 13th September to 15th September 2024

Location Lough Erne Yacht Club (LEYC), Gublusk Bay, Co Fermanagh

<https://www.lougherneyc.com/>

Lat: 54.42 N Long: 7.68 W

Rally Plan:

The Drascombe Association will return to LEYC for the first time in a number of years. We will meet up on Friday afternoon and launch from the club slipway. Saturday & then Sunday morning will be spent exploring the lower lough, with Inishmasaint, Tully Castle and Devenish Island possible destinations. The waters of Lower Lough Erne, up to the “Broad Lough”, are sheltered and are suitable for smaller Drascombes.

Lough Erne Yacht Club

LEYC is a marvellous club who have welcomed us on many occasions. There is provision for camping and a few camper vans. Some electric hookups may be available. The campsite is adjacent to the clubhouse where there are showers and a bar. B&B's are also available in the vicinity. The nearest hotel is the Manor House. Any boats arriving early, ie Wednesday or Thursday will be made most welcome at the club.

LEYC have invested in improved pontoons in recent years. It is suggested that we use the “T” shaped pontoon in front of the clubhouse as this offers more shelter. The pontoon further East at the slipway can also be used as an overflow. We are expecting about 16 boats, with about half of these liveaboards, who should be given priority, if needed, on the “T”

Enniskillen Lifeboat Station

Lough Erne was the site for the first ever inshore lifeboat station in the British Isles to be operated by the RNLI. Last year they moved out of the old blue containers at LEYC and into a new purpose built station across the bay. We have been invited to visit the new lifeboat station at Gublusk Bay when they will also carry out life jacket safety checks for Drascombe members. This is scheduled for 5.00pm on Friday afternoon, subject to any operational issues which may arise.

Directions to LEYC

LEYC is on the NE shore of Lower Lough Erne.

From Enniskillen take the A32, signposted for Omagh. One mile past the South West Acute Hospital (SWAH), just after a Circle K petrol station, is a roundabout. Take the first exit, the A47, signposted to Kesh. The entrance to LEYC is on the left approximately 2 miles from this roundabout. The first sign of note to ourselves is for the RNLi Enniskillen Lifeboat Station, immediately after this is the sign for the lane down to LEYC.

There is a gated barrier which may be open. If not, a possibility for boats arriving on Thursday, ring the telephone number displayed at the gate, and as if by magic it should open. LEYC are aware that some crews plan to arrive by road on Thursday.

Catering

Friday night will be self catering as boats will be arriving throughout the afternoon and evening, Saturday will be a “bring your own” BBQ with socialising in the club bar afterwards. LEYC have a large charcoal bbq, and have kindly offered the use of the adjacent marquee. There is a day kitchen available, with some space available in the fridge for bbq meat, milk etc

Sailing on Lough Erne

This rally is suitable for smaller Drascombes. The waters SE of the “broad lough” are very sheltered with lots of islands. There are many public jetties, which are all maintained by Waterways Ireland and are free to use.

Navigation on Lough Erne is very straightforward. There are marker posts throughout with white and red tops and an identifying number. Pass the markers on the white side, red denotes shallow water.

The OSNI 1:25,000 Activity Map is available from NIDirect or map sellers. This has the Navigation posts marked and labelled. The markers are numbered, ie the NW entrance to Gublusk Bay is 52C.

Lough Erne is shown on Navionics but note that not all of the navigation posts are marked.

Haul out will be on Sunday afternoon but in the past sailors from further afield have stayed on for independent cruising after the formal rally

Rally Notes:

- i) The RNLI have opened a new Lifeboat Station across the bay.(See note iii)
- ii) The old station is now used by LEYC for their very successful disabled sailing program.
- iii) Camping and Launching Fees: We are guests of LEYC for the rally and they have asked for a donation of *£15.00 per boat for the entire rally*. As many boats are staying longer I suggest a contribution of £30 per boat with the surplus to be added to club funds or passed on to the local lifeboat, as we did following the rally in Antrim.
- vi) OSNI 1:50,000 sheets 17 & 18 will be useful for shore based crew who may be walking or cycling near the yacht club
- v) Although this Rally is Suitable for Smaller Drascombes it is the skipper's responsibility to decide whether to sail or not, as each crew will have a different level of competence
- vi) As per DA guidelines, each boat must carry third party insurance and submit a rally form with the "rally fee". Please give Peter Leitch, **Lugger Kobe**, the rally fee and forms
- vii) As we sail in many different waters all hulls should be washed after hauling out to minimise the spread of zebra mussels or other invasive species
- viii) Although a VHF radio is not mandatory it will be the primary means of communication while on the water. Channel in use will be advised during daily briefings
- (ix) A What's App group has been set up for the Crom Feeder and Rally. Please contact Pat Jones or David Camlin if you want added to this group

David Camlin
Coaster Delta

August 2024

Feeder Cruises

There are currently two feeder cruises planned. One fleet will travel from the **Shannon Erne Waterway**. This is being organised by Miriam & Jimmy who have set up a dedicated group with a link on the Irish Drascombes "What's App". Please contact them directly for information on their plans.

The Crom Fleet will be led by Pat Jones in his **Coaster, Bridie 2**

Proposed Itinerary for Crom Fleet:

Monday: Meet and launch at Bunn Jetty, overnight at Naan Island, Upper Lough Erne

Tuesday: Naan Island to Enniskillen

Wednesday: Enniskillen to Castle Caldwell

Thursday: Castle Caldwell to Kesh River

Friday: Kesh River to LEYC

Notes

Itinerary as ever will be subject to favourable weather

While this is a liveaboard cruise, overnight stops will be at public jetties / islands and should have space for tents, although this is not confirmed for the Kesh River

Crews will need to lower the masts to pass under bridges until we get clear of the barrage at Enniskillen, but air draft is such that those with a mast crutch extension could bring it to make the passage on the River Erne section easier

Parking for cars and trailers, at your own risk, is available adjacent to Bunn Jetty, Newtownbutler

Location of Bunn Jetty: Lat: 54.17 North Long: 7.41 West