

THE DRASCOMBE ASSOCIATION

2024 Strangford Rally

Friday 16st August – Sunday 18th August

Location

The event will be held at East Down Yacht Club, Moymore, Killyleagh, Co Down. EDYC is located on the Western shore of Strangford Lough opposite Island Taggart. It is approached along a concreted single-track lane through a farm. The lane entrance is on the right, about 0.4 miles from the football club north of Killyleagh on the A22 road to Comber. We will mark the entrance to the lane with a Drascombe sign.



There are some passing places and speed ramps on the lane, so caution, especially for cars towing boat trailers is recommended. There is a card-operated gate at the end of the lane, which we will have opened for visitors. EDYC does not own the lane but has a right of way over it. To maintain good relations with our neighbours please drive considerately in the lane and approaches to the clubhouse. There is a members' caravan site at the club so when driving through the area, please be aware that small children may be playing.

Facilities at EDYC

Camping sites will be available on request. There are hot showers, washing and toilet facilities in the clubhouse. A limited number of caravan parking sites may be available. These are on grass pitches and do not have 'hook-up' services. Advance booking is essential, so let us know by email. The slipway can be used for launching and recovery at all states of the tide, unless it is exceptionally low. The pontoon is accessible at all points of the tide, and boats may be rafted on the pontoon, including sleep-boards. Some boats may have to use nearby moorings.

The agreed club charge per night is £20/person for camping and use of the slip and club facilities. This year the club's card reader in the bar can be used to pay, which should avoid having to carry sterling.

It is an EDYC requirement that children under 12 years of age, and all non-swimmers, must wear personal buoyancy when using the pontoon and its approaches. It is a Drascombe Association requirement that all boat owners have a current insurance policy, at the required level of £3m in respect of third party liability claims with an authorized UK/EU insurer. Please refer to the DA Rally Booking Form.

Help (and advice) will be on hand from David Walker and other Drascombe owners on Friday evening and Saturday morning for launching.

Sailing on Strangford

Strangford Lough is a shallow sea lough with an abundance of islands and wildlife. It is ideal for Drascombe sailing. The relevant chart in the Admiralty Leisure series is SC 2156. At low tide most of the area north of the EDYC slipway dries out. It is generally accessible from half tide. South of the slipway is navigable for Drascombes at all states of the tide, but local knowledge suggests keeping to the centre channel. The South channel from EDYC to the open Lough is marked by two poles at the entrance. A third pole to the West marks rocks. In the Lough there are a number of tidal rocks and pladdies, some of which, in the main sailing areas, are marked by poles.

There is a very strong tidal flow, up to 8 knots in the channel to the Irish Sea, known as the Narrows. If you do not wish to go with the tide it is best to navigate this area at slack water only. A car ferry operates between Portaferry and Strangford town.

Some islands are privately owned, the National Trust owns some, and others are reserved for wildlife. Wildlife reservations are important as our event is taking place during the main breeding season. The islands Gibb's, Salt, Green, The Launches, Ballyhenry, Horse, Taggart and Darragh belong to the National Trust and can be visited. Much of the Strangford Lough seabed is mud and requires a suitable anchor. Areas of the mud are very soft at low tide, and walking on it is inadvisable.

Approximate Tidal predictions for the weekend are as follows:

Friday 16th August

05:00 Low Tide
11:00 High Tide
17:00 Low tide

Saturday 17th August

06:00 low Tide
12:00 High Tide
18:00 Low tide

Sunday 18th August

07:00 Low Tide
13:00 High Tide
19:00 Low tide

Sailing Programme

The sailing programme will be dependent upon tides and wind direction each day.

Friday 16th August: Arrival, launching and informal sailing.

On Saturday and Sunday we intend to begin each morning with a briefing at approximately 10.00am on the decking outside the clubhouse, when the plans for the day will be outlined. Options sailing North up the Lough and stopping at some suitable island for lunch, or South past Killyleagh towards the Quoile Barrier, or further South towards Audley's Castle.

Social Programme

An informal welcome awaits for those arriving on Friday evening. Saturday evening there will be barbeque in the garden close to the clubhouse. Bring your own meat. Salads and dressings will be available, with a charge of £5/€5 to cover this and charcoal. If you bring your own meat, it can be stored in the clubhouse fridge or it can be purchased in Killyleagh.

In true Drascombe spirit, the emphasis for this event is relaxed enjoyment. Please do not feel under any pressure to sail if you are not happy with the weather or itinerary. Crew without boats are welcome. We will fit you in. The decision to sail rests with individual skippers.



We are aware that with the ever-changing nature of boat ownership, there are sailors with Drascombe boats who may never have attended such an event before. You will be most welcome to join fellow sailors of all degrees of expertise (and none).

Please complete a Rally Application Form.

Contacts:

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