**27th Wayfarer International Rally.**

**Arriving Friday 9 June, Departing Sunday 18 June.**

**Sailing Saturday 10 to Saturday 17 June 2023**

**East Down Yacht Club look forward to welcoming you to our club.**

**Application forms from John Miller at jmillermarine@gmail.com**

**Introduction**

East Down Yacht Club https://edyc.co.uk/ is situated on a 9-acre site on the western shore of Strangford Lough in County Down, Northern Ireland. The Club is 1 mile north of Killyleagh and a 45-minute, 20 mile drive south of Belfast. The facilities include a clubhouse, car parking, a boat-park, caravan and camping park, pontoon and slipway.

The Club is at the end of a private lane and there is no permanent signposting. Please see the Club Location as it will prove useful in locating the laneway. Lat and long 54.41285, -5.65349 What3Words ///travel.spreading.sprays

Support services and amenities are available in Killyleagh one mile to the south and a mini market at Balloo five miles to the north. Killyleagh has a picturesque 13th century Killyleagh Castle – one of Ireland's oldest inhabited castles.

The upstairs function room and well stocked bar encourages a relaxed comfortable atmosphere. There is also a small kitchen and a downstairs function room which can seat approximately 70 people. The barbecue and picnic areas provide additional space for hospitality (weather permitting).

The club has 23 Wayfarers from Mk1s to Mk4s some sailed regularly and others more occasionally. The club also has 23 Leisure 17s, 10 Hunter Impalas and a range of other cruising and racing boats. The club has approx. 240 memberships of which 90 are single and 60 are family.

**Getting to EDYC.**

The main ferry ports in Ireland are Larne, Belfast, Dublin, Rosslare and Cork.

We would expect visitors from Ireland, GB and Continental Europe to bring their boats.

We will be asking club members and visitors to host transatlantic visitors on their boats.

I will continue to see if I can get reduced rates for the ferry crossing and if successful, I will post the info on the EDYC web site in the events section.

Transatlantic visitors will probably arrive in Dublin or Belfast International Airports. There are coaches from both airports to Belfast and we should be able to arrange to pick you up from the Dublin coach at Sprucefield or Belfast or Belfast Airport. We can discuss that individually, closer to the time. If you are traveling to Ireland you may wish to leave your boat at EDYC before or after the event or indeed take your boat to explore other areas such as the Shannon or Erne systems.

Whilst a car might be useful for those visiting from North America you will not get much benefit from a car the week of the sailing and I am sure there will be seats available in the cars of the other attendees if we are going off site for a dinner, shopping etc. If you are staying off site in an AirBnB or other accommodation a car would be necessary as there is not a frequent public transport service in the area.

**Access to the Club – Warning**

Access to the club is down a tree lined single track laneway with a few passing places with overhanging branches.

If you have a high top camper or are carrying a mast on the roof be extremely careful. One of our members unfortunately caught his wayfarer mast around a tree whilst pulling over to let someone past. A new mast was required.

**Sailing**

Strangford Lough is a marvellous tidal playground for Wayfarers just large enough for interesting day sailing and small enough to never be too far from home.

With the Covid lockdown and the Staycations in 2021 we organized a week of group sailing for EDYC Club members with small boats.

The account of this week is in the Winter 2021 UKWA magazine. We would plan to follow a similar programme for the International Rally.

If you missed the article, it can be found at https://edyc.co.uk/2022/01/18/2021-wayfarer-cruising-week-report-edyc/

I am afraid I cannot promise the weather we got that week, of record-breaking temperatures. This past week the week of the event next year has been around 15 to 19 degrees max and 9 to 11 degrees min and with mixed weather conditions typical of June weather on Strangford. Over the past month we have a couple of our club races cancelled because of high winds.

Many of our sailing trips on Strangford are governed by the tides (flow, HW, LW) and the wind direction and strength.

Possible sailing venues for the week.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Day  | Destination | LW EDYC (Same as Quoile) | HW EDYC (same as Quoile) | Narrows North Flow begins |
| Fri 9 June – Arrival Set up Camp at EDYC |
| Sat 10 June | Castle Ward | 13:06 | 19:23 | 13:58 |
| Sun 11 June | Ballyhornan | 14:09 | 20:28 | 15:03 |
| Mon 12 June | Greyabbey Out | 15:12 | 21:32 |  |
| Tue 13 June | Greyabbey In | 16:10 | 22:29 |  |
| Wed 14 June | Quoile | 17:05 | 23:22 |  |
| Thur 15 June | Whiterock | 17:55 | 11:34 |  |
| Fri 16 June | Ardkeen | 18:40 | 12:24 |  |
| Sat 17 June | Racing? Regatta? | 19:22 | 13:11 |  |
| Sun 18 June – Departure Break Camp and depart. |  |  |

The above table uses.

Tidal Diamond B – North going flow in the Strangford Narrows begins 3.5 hours before HW Belfast. (3 hours from my experience several weeks ago.)

The Quoile secondary “port” is 1:55 hours after Belfast. The Tides at East Down Yacht Club are similar to those for the Quoile. HW at Strangford village is 90 minutes after Killard Point only 4 miles away along the Narrows.

Whilst we can predict the tides none of us can predict the wind and weather so the above suggestions my change.

The decision to go sailing on any particular day will be the sole responsibility of the helm and they should ensure that they are sailing within their capability and properly equipped.

All boats should have reefing main and genoa as conditions can change dramatically within a short period of time.

An anchor and line for holding the boats when we go ashore would also be important. A small outboard would also be useful if you have one. The boats will be taken out of the water each evening after sailing using the club slip.

You may also wish to come prepared to camp on the 12 June when the boats will dry out overnight near Greyabbey at the north of Strangford.

All boats must provide evidence of insurance of at least £3m.

The application forms can be requested from John Miller at jmillermarine@gmail.com.

All applications and payment should be received by 30 March 2023. Applications received after that date may not secure a place at the rally.

The clubs have three safety boats available and we can make a decision daily on their use during the week, based on the experience of those sailing and the conditions. As stated earlier all boats should be in seaworthy conditions and have the ability to reef.

**Accommodation.**

The club has room for tents and campervans. The tents will mainly be camped around the childrens play area 54.413887, -5.646654 and the campervans may be in this area also or may be on some of the concrete closer to the club house 54.414476, -5.644877. The exact locations will depend on numbers staying on or off site and whether in tents or campervans. There are no marked pitches. Whilst I have not measured it out, we probably have room for about 15 tents and 10 Campervans.

The club is a relatively rural area and if you are planning to stay off site you may want to secure accommodation through the likes of AirBnB sooner rather than later to get something relatively close to the club.

https://www.ballooinns.com/balloo-house/where-to-stay-near-balloo-house

**Cost**

The costs are as follows.

£40 per person for Rally Participation.

£15 per night per tent or campervan.

A welcome and farewell meal together and possibly a midweek meal depending on interest. Location and price still to be determined. To assist with the planning of this I have asked for a deposit of £20 which should cover an on site BBQ or the deposit for an offsite dinner which may cost up to an additional £10. (Charges in pounds sterling)

Possible options are onsite provided by a local caterer or offsite at one of the following depending on numbers attending and interest. Local hostelries have the ability to take up to 60 people.

https://www.dufferinarms.co.uk/ Max 50 people – currently £20 and up

Smugglers Table Killyleagh. https://www.facebook.com/TheSmugglersTableRestaurantKillyleagh/

 – a smaller venue.

https://www.ballooinns.com/balloo-house (Max 50 or 60 people – currently £25 and up – Hot or Cold Buffet Sunday to Thursday Managers Vanessa or Robbie)

https://www.dafteddys.co.uk/ (Lloyd Max 15 to 20 people)

On Site BBQ from a local caterer.

**Evening Programme**

We will have the club to ourselves most of the week including the upstairs bar.

Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon are club racing and the club will be busier at these times. The Strangford Lough regatta programme is usually put together around March so there may be club racing or a regatta on the Saturday’s of the Rally.

The bar and outside seating area will be available to meet together. If you have an instrument why not bring it along or other ideas for evening entertainment feel free to contribute. We are still planning activities and they will be of an informal nature.

**Communication**

If you have a marine radio bring it with you. We use Channel 37 or M1 for club communication. A waterproof bag for your phone would also be useful.

As many of us will not know each other if you are happy to forward a passport type photo, your name, club and boat number we would put together a list of attendees to help us get to know each other.

We would also plan to put a Whatsapp Group together for those attending.

**Non Sailing Activities.**

Should you chose not to sail on some of the days or if conditions are unsuitable there a number of other options in the area.

https://discovernorthernireland.com/ gives an overview for tourists visiting Northern Ireland.

Close by is Delamont Country Park and Tyrella beach.

https://www.newrymournedown.org/delamont-country-park

https://discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/tyrella-beach-p676011

There are cycle routes around Strangford Lough.

https://www.sustrans.org.uk/find-other-routes/strangford-lough-cycle-trail

In the winter a group of EDYC members meet up to walk the Mourne Mountains.

https://walkni.com/mourne-mountains-destination/

There are also a number of National Trust Properties around the Lough.

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/northern-ireland

If you are staying longer you may wish to travel South or West.

https://www.ireland.com/en-gb/features/press-the-green-button/

**Maps and Charts.**

I would recommend purchasing the Strangford Lough Water Resistant Activity Map in advance of your visit. https://www.amazon.co.uk/Strangford-Lough-Irish-Activity-Map/dp/190530627X

A chart of Strangford Lough is also available. https://www.bookharbour.com/admiralty-chart-2156-strangford-lough?gclid=CjwKCAjw46CVBhB1EiwAgy6M4vTqz-JKIESgTsqO2gHjoJ5J2ZNXVKY1\_s9dlj3v5KRgkSdGUs-KLhoCRW0QAvD\_BwE

Purchasing a chart is probably not necessary and one hangs on the wall in the club house which you can refer to. Having said that I have one.

If you would like an application form or further details send me an e-mail at jmillermarine@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and even more to sailing with you next year.

Best Regards from

John and Rosemary Miller and our friends at East Down Yacht Club.