



Skiffie Fest – 9th-11th August 2024

Skiffie Fest is back for another year at Delamont Country Park, Killyleagh! We're delighted to have had lots of interest in the event from local and overseas clubs. The racing will take place over three days. The event will begin in the evening on Friday 9th, followed by the usual full schedule on Saturday and Sunday.

As well as a full weekend of racing, there will be water sports, land-based activities and musical entertainment on Saturday and Sunday. Some of these are bookable in advance, others are book on the day activities. We will also have local food and drinks vendors on site on both days. Keep an eye on our social media pages for more information on all this as we get closer to the event.

For those of you who haven't been to Skiffie Fest before, here's a link to the promo video to give you a taste of what to expect:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvHVp4kZSkM>

Getting there

Skiffie Fest takes place at Delamont Country Park, 90 Downpatrick Road, Killyleagh, BT30 9TZ.

Delamont is approximately 40 mins drive from Belfast, 5 mins drive from Killyleagh and 10 mins drive from Downpatrick, both of which are on local bus routes (<https://www.translink.co.uk>).

Stenaline ferries run from Cairnryan to Belfast and P&O ferries run from Cairnryan to Larne. Stenaline have offered us a discount of 15%. If you wish to book go to www.stenaline.co.uk/event/club-login and enter:

Name:

Surname:

Event number: CL78TF

There is also the option of flying in to either Belfast City Airport or Belfast International Airport.

The map below shows the location of the race village within Delamont – it is down at the shoreline below the Strangford Stone.



Local Accommodation

Accommodation in the Newry, Mourne and Down area can be found on the Visit Mourne website via this link <https://www.visitmournemountains.co.uk/accommodation>.

Accommodation in the North Down and Ards area can be found on the Visit Ards and North Down website via this link <https://www.visitardsandnorthdown.com/accommodation>.

There are a few campsites relatively near to Delamont. The closest is Delamont Camping and Caravanning Club campsite, situated at the entrance to the park -

<https://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/campsites/uk/northern-ireland/co-down/delamont-country-park-camping-and-caravanning-club-site/>

As a council run event, the preference is for those visiting to avail of local accommodation in order to support the local economy. However, should your club find it difficult to find anywhere suitable, Delamont have kindly agreed that the walled garden and adjacent hard standing area on site can be used by a limited number of people to camp or park up

campervans for the duration of the event. Facilities will be limited but will include portaloos and access to The Heron's Nest (includes a large seating area and electric sockets).

The Course

Skiffie Fest is a multi-lane event with individual turning buoys for each of the 14 lanes. The course is unchanged from previous years – see attached map for full details of the course, including seal haul out locations that should be avoided at all times. Apart from the U17 races, all age groups will compete over 2km with a turn at the halfway point. U17 racers will compete over 1km, starting at the turn line and racing back to the start/finish line.

Race categories

- U17 male, female and mixed
 - U19 male, female and mixed
 - U40 male, female and mixed
 - 40+ male, female and mixed
 - 50+ male, female and mixed
 - 60+ male, female and mixed
 - 280+ male, female and mixed (male and female depending on number of entries)
 - Open male, female and mixed
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- Mixed crews must have at least two female rowers.
 - The age of all four rowers in each crew must be within the age category of the race they are rowing in.
 - Coxes must be over the age of 16.
 - Clubs may enter more than one boat per club as space allows. 'First boat' entries will take priority over 'second boat' entries and any 'second boat' entries will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Race schedule

A finalised race schedule will be sent out once entries have been collated. Due to high demand, heats will be required for some races. We have capacity for up to ten sets of heats over the course of the weekend. For those races without heats, preference will be given to local clubs with any remaining slots going to overseas clubs on a first come, first served basis. Heats and finals for each category will be held on the same day.

- Friday – racing from 16:00-20:00 - U17 male/female, U19 male/female and 60+ male/female, over 280 male/female categories
- Saturday – racing from around 09:30, heats in the morning, finals in the afternoon
- Sunday – racing from around 0930, heats in the morning, finals in the afternoon

Entries

Please complete the online form per race category at:

www.skiffiefest.com

At this stage it is enough to register your entry.

We will contact you closer the time about arrangements to pay for boat entries once race entries and categories are confirmed.

The closing date for entries and payments will be Sunday 21st July.

Fees

There will be a fee per boat, per race category. For adult races this is £20, for junior races £10.

Insurance Details

Skiffie Fest is a council funded event with its own insurance. However, the event also requires clubs to hold individual insurance. Please send a copy of your club's insurance to mcbridegillian@hotmail.com for our records.