

Course Notes and Race Rules

Date:	Saturday 9 th September
Course:	Carsethorn to Dumfries Caul.
Pre-race brief:	10:00 hrs, Steamboat Inn, Carsethorn. Hot Soup.
Start time:	Noon BST (+ or – 0.30) HW Dumfries 1445
Start:	Shotgun blast, Garden of the Steamboat Inn.
Finish:	At the finishing pontoon at the Caul, Dumfries.
Entry fee:	£15 per boat.
Classes:	Unrestricted sailing dinghy race.

Description:

The Nithraid is a Dangerous Race with a beach-launch start over the full navigable length of the river Nith. The distance is some 10 miles depending on the course taken and, with the tide assisting, will take 1.30 – 2.30 hours depending on the wind. The race is timed to take advantage of the incoming spring tide arriving at Dumfries at HW.

The Nithraid, as well as being a challenging race, is a creative and festive celebration of the river Nith in the life of the town. We are keen for the Nithraid to remain a regular racing fixture on the national calendar. Please tell everyone you know who may be interested in taking part to contact the organisers.

Course Notes and Race Rules.

Rules. Normal RYA rules of racing will apply plus some specific to the Nithraid. The organisers will take all reasonable safety precautions and rescue boats will be in attendance but entrants will undertake the race entirely at their own risk.

The start. Race organisers will show crews where boats will be left, ready rigged, on the beach between the slipways and the old pier. After a pre-race briefing at the Steamboat Inn, the start will be given on the beach outside the Steamboat Inn. Crews will make their way along the beach to their craft, launch and race by their chosen route to the finish in the centre of Dumfries.

Propulsion. Nithraid is intended as a sailing race but any human means to assist the motion of boats provided by the crew is permissible, e.g. rowing, paddling, swimming, dragging, carrying, poling, punting, pushing, kedging, lassoing etc. No form of motor may be used and no assistance from non-crew is allowed except in emergency.

To Win. Each competing boat will carry a small item of cargo, allotted at the briefing, to convey up the River Nith. The first sailing vessel to deposit its cargo in a basket on the finishing raft will be declared the winner.

The mast and sails of sailing vessels must be raised at the finish of the race.

All hats must be doffed to the Salty Cow.

Course times will be taken and a finishing order will be published.

All boats must deposit their cargoes to finish the race.

Assistance. Boats in difficulty may be helped by anyone, especially by other competing boats, and may continue racing under their own power from the place where they were helped.

Duty of Care: Because of the hazardous nature of the estuary, a duty of care will operate during the race between Carsethorn and Glencaple pier, after which it is discretionary. Competing boats are bound to offer assistance to fellow racers if they appear to need it, if asked and/or if no safety boat is in attendance. Both may continue racing afterwards. The overall concern is safety and the object is for all boats to finish.

Channels:

The first section of the race, from Carsethorn to Glencaple offers more than one possible route, (please see map.) Up to date information on the channels will be given at the briefing. Please take note of the following warning.

Warning:

Sandbanks between channels are hard sand but they cover very quickly on a rising tide and the currents are very strong. Crews dragging their boats over sandbanks must never leave them for any reason. Channel edges are steep and cliff-like in places and once covered pose a risk to someone walking as they cover. The inshore edge of the inner channel can be muddy. Buoyancy aids or life jackets must be worn.

Bridges:

There are three bridges to negotiate in the last mile of the race, in upstream order:

Kirkpatrick McMillan cycle/pedestrian bridge. Clearance 14ft.

St Michael's Street bridge. 20ft. in the south-western arch,

Suspension Bridge. 16ft.

Clearances are given for High Water but may vary by up to 2 ft. depending on the fresh water level of the river.

Gunter-rigged dinghies such as Mirrors can pass under the bridges by dipping the gunter but skippers must make their own decision about which bridge strategy they use. Race organisers' information is for guidance only. Other dinghies, even toppers, have to lower their masts or capsize.

Road crew and Lift out:

Each boat will require a road crew to help launch boats at the start and bring trailers from Carsethorn to Dumfries. Boats will be lifted out in Dumfries at the Mill Green

Hazard reminder:

The greatest hazard on a rising tide is that crews wander onto the sandbanks looking for a channel, get separated from their boats and from each other. The banks cover extremely quickly so, for the safety of the crews, stay attached to your boats at all times.

Organisers: The event is organised by The Stove, the Dumfries independent artists' collective, and The Port Of Dumfries Development Group who will be pleased to answer any queries regarding all aspects of the race.

Contact:

Website - <http://www.thestove.org/nithraid/>

The Stove, 100 High Street, Dumfries, DG1 2BJ

Nithraid Race Organiser, Mark Zygadlo – mark@nithraid.co.uk

Nithraid is supported by:

The Holywood Trust, The Barfil Trust, The People's Project, Loreburne Community Council, McDermid Supply Co Ltd, Dumfries Timber Co, Monaghan's Jewellery, Farries Kirn and McVean. We are grateful to the Carsethorn Community Development Group for their support and assistance, Steamboat Inn Carsethorn, Port of Dumfries Development Group, Arbigland Astate, Dumfries Radio Unit, Dumfries and Galloway Council and all sponsors and supporters. The Stove Network is supported by Creative Scotland's Lottery fund.

We wish all participants the very best of luck and the event fair weather and a following wind.

See you on the river!

The Nithraid Team