

Lough Rinn Rowing Course Project

Brendan McKenna



THE LOUGH RINN Project's vision is to create a world-class facility that will serve both as a centre of excellence for the development of water sports, and allow public access to recreational sports. The objective is to create a facility that will be utilised by both local communities and national organisations, where residents, visitors and athletes will

benefit from a unique, shared space and enjoy all water activities including Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Fishing and leisure boat activities.

This was a very technical, complex project with many engineering challenges such as poor lake bed conditions and with all heavy, civil/marine engineering works

■ Rowing Regatta 2016 at Lough Rinn having to be carried out on water. We were fortunate to have engaged Jennings O'Donovan & Partners, Consulting Engineers who drafted Design/Build Tender Documents and supervised this Project. Fortune also favoured us with our Design/Build Contractor, Dean Public Works Ltd from Irvinestown, Co Fermanagh who are experienced Civil/Marine



■ (Far left) Lough Rinn's multi-functional building for campers, rowing, kayaking and canoeing

■ (Left) The Official Opening of the Rowing and Canoeing Course in Oct. 2014. Pictured with rowing crew are: Frank Curran (CEO Leitrim CO Council), Michael Ring, TD (Minister of State for Tourism and Sport) & Paddy O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach, Leitrim CO Council).

Design/Build Contractors. They engaged a Specialist Contractor from Hungary namely Polaritas who operates worldwide at installing 'Albano Rowing/Canoe Courses'. This company installed the course for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games at Dorney Lake in London, and it was also engaged to install the Rowing Course in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Project Works included:

- Refurbishment of Amenity Block Building with extension to cater for campsite and for sports enthusiasts. The building is multi-functional, and is designed to serve all people visiting the

recreational Amenity Site.

- The Rowing Course, known as '8-Lane Albano' Rowing Course and Anchorage, is multi-functional and adjustable to meet rowing standards as specified by FISA (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron). It is also adjustable to meet requirements of International Canoe Federation Canoe Sprint Competition Rules.

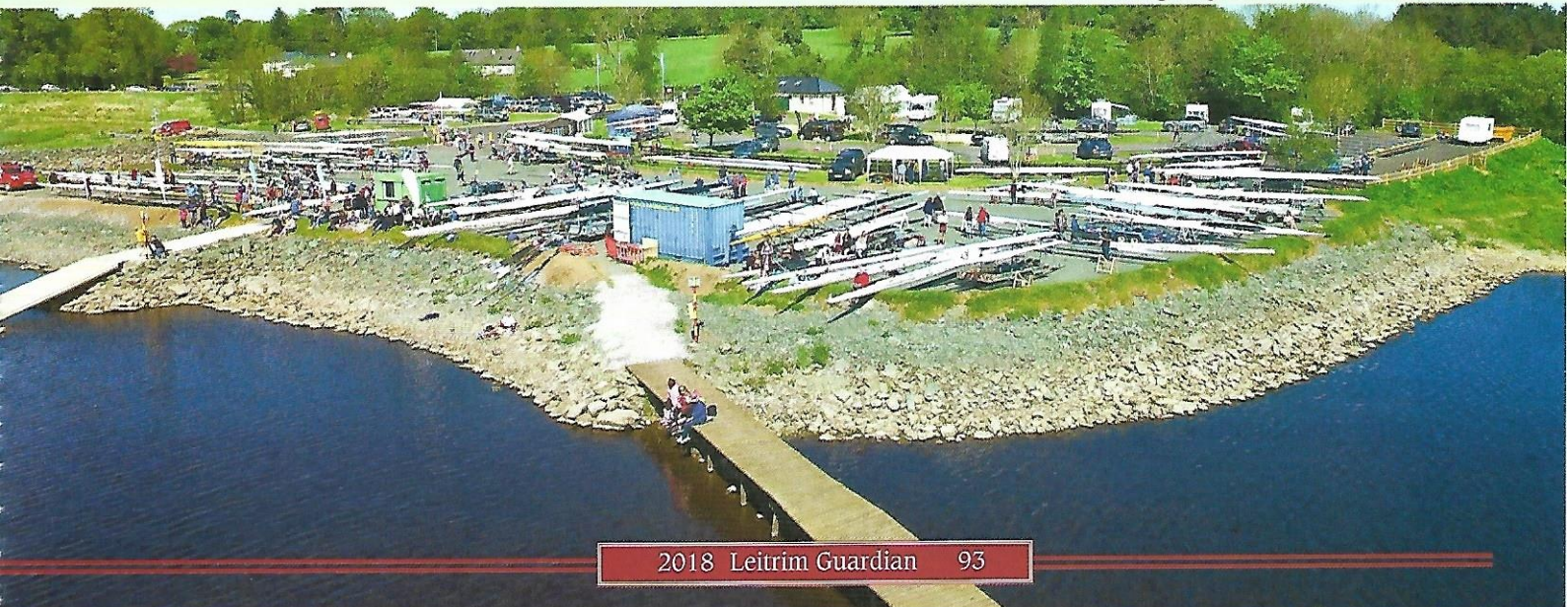
- Trailer Park
- Launch pontoons
- Slipway
- Start Bridge and Finish Pontoon

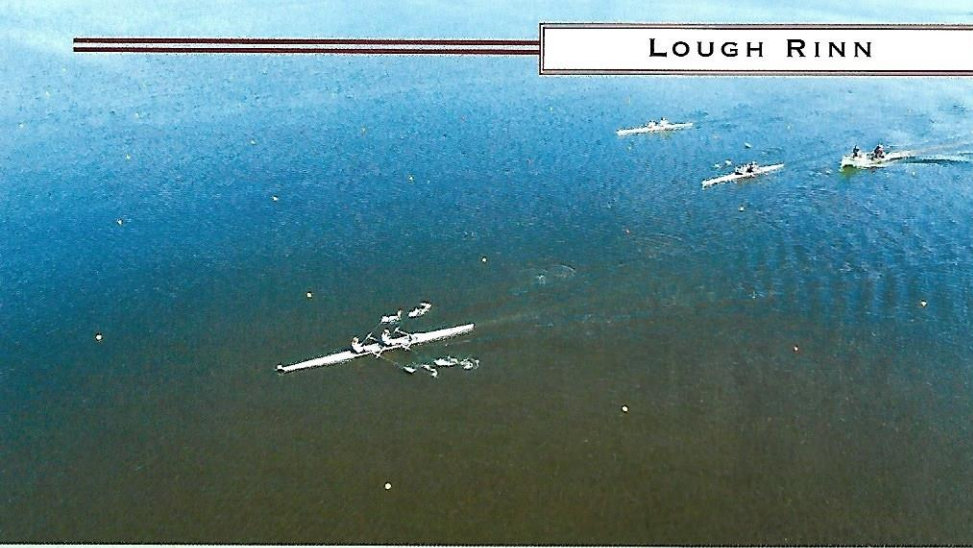
Lough Rinn is a lake which covers

1.75 square kilometres (3.8km x 0.45km approx.). The Course has eight rowing lanes. It is 2000m long with each lane 13.5m wide, all anchored to the bed of the lake. To meet Canoeing standards, the Course can be adjusted to nine lanes with each lane 9m in width by 1000m in length. All the longitudinal and cross-wires thread 1.5m underneath the top surface water level of the lake where red and yellow buoys are placed to demark the Rowing/Canoe Lanes.

The Rowing Course is 2000m (2km) in length and has buoys placed at 5m centres for the first 100m, followed by yellow buoys placed at 10m centres from

■ Rowing Regatta 2016 at Lough Rinn





■ Rowing crews competing on Lough Rinn during Regatta 2016

Ch. 110m to Ch. 1740m. The final 250m of course has red buoys at 10m centres. All cross-wires and longitudinal wires are made from stainless steel.

The Launch pontoons/Start Bridge came from France and is state-of-the-art. The piles used to hold the Start Bridge came from Italy.

The Connaught Branch of Rowing Ireland held their 2017 National Regatta at Lough Rinn on Saturday 13th May 2017. It was a great success with up to 1800 rowers from forty affiliated clubs located around the island of Ireland. It's a testament to the attraction that the Lough Rinn Facility has become that 517 crews competed in the 107 races held on the day. This was double the size of the inaugural Lough Rinn Annual Rowing Regatta held in 2016. Canoe Ireland held the National Canoe Sprint Championships on Lough Rinn in 2014 and 2015, and are programmed to hold the 2017 National Canoe Sprint Championship there this October. Many different clubs, colleges and groups are also using the facility for training purposes. The National team took part in an Easter training camp this year at Lough Rinn.

The Course should attract all

National Rowing/Canoe Clubs.

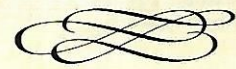
This will increase visitor numbers to the area and help regenerate the local economy.

Further development of the Rowing Course is taking place in 2017 with a Design/Build Contract awarded to Deane Public Works Ltd for the supply and installation of a Start Bridge and Finish Pontoon. This further development and enhancement of the Course, should attract International teams for training, and the goal is to have International competitions on this Rowing/Canoe Course in the future.

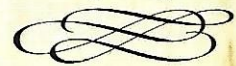
This Project cost €1.2 million and was funded by Failte Ireland, the Sports Capital Division of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Leitrim County Council.

Brendan Mc Kenna is a Chartered Engineer with Leitrim Co Council. He had responsibility for the development of the state-of-the-art Rowing and Water Facility at Lough Rinn, near Mohill. Built at a cost so far, of €1.2m the 2km, eight lane, adjustable rowing course and its other amenities have become very popular with the growing number of Water Sports enthusiasts throughout Ireland. Further development of the Facility/Project is ongoing.

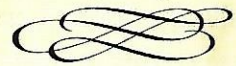
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