



LA-LA Rally Thursday 9th – Saturday 11th July 2026

Welcome to the CRF LA-LA Rally 2026...

Itinerary

Briefing Wednesday 8th July

The briefing for the Rally will be 19:30 at Conwy Yacht Club, 43 Station Road, Deganwy, LL31 9DF.

During the briefing you will be handed your quiz sheets which are to be completed during the Rally and handed in on the Saturday Evening. You will also be handed your boat tickets for the meal at the Royal Welsh Yacht Club. Look after these carefully as you will have to present them on the night. No ticket, no meal.

Overall Plan for the Rally

The plan for the Rally, is to depart Thursday morning, leaving Conwy River making our way to the Strait. Pick up a mooring or anchor till HW Slack followed by a transit through the Straits then onto Caernarfon. BBQ Friday (dependent on weather) with a return to Conwy Saturday in time for prizegiving.

Thursday 9th July

Thursday evening is our planned arrival in Caernarfon. Depart Conwy River 07:30-08:00 from Conwy River and make our way to the Strait. On arrival to vicinity of Menai Bridge, pick up a mooring or anchor till HW Slack. We will aim to transit the Swellies at High Water Slack and carry the current through to Caernarfon. Transit the Swellies which will take about 30 mins. The gate at Victoria Dock opens 15:05 and will shut at 20:42 which gives us plenty of time to get there.

The formula is HW Liverpool minus 2 hours, so HW is 17:40 -2 =15:40 at Menai Bridge

Refer to the Berthing at Victoria Dock notes below for further details on Victoria Dock.

On Thursday evening, we will be hosted by the Royal Welsh Yacht Club with a hot buffet, which has traditionally been a highlight of the rally, and you will need your tickets.

Friday 10th July

This day is traditionally taken up by a beach BBQ at Abermenai Point but is dependent on the weather of course.

This year the tides are later than last year, so the plan is to have a leisurely afternoon on the beach before returning to Caernarfon in the evening.

Leave Caernarfon at 08:30.

Sail to a suitable beach depending on the weather. Traditionally we have sailed to Abermenai but given the early start we could be more ambitious. Pilots Cove or Pen y Parc or even Porth Dinllaen.

Fun and frivolity to be had with beach games, meat or fish, beer or wine... There will be a bottle of wine for the winner of the Boules competition.

The gate at Caernarfon is due to shut at 21:58. The current will be against us, so we need to allow plenty of time to get there. I suggest starting back at 19:30.

Return to the Royal Welsh Yacht Club for a casual evening or find a food venue of your choice.

We will have a fun music quiz hosted by our very own Yvonne Gregory starting at 21:00 in the Royal Welsh Yacht Club. Rally Participants and Royal Welsh Members are both welcome to join in.

Those socializing on board are asked to respect all other marina users by not being too raucous and keep noise to a minimum with a reasonable finishing time....

Saturday 11th July

The final day of the rally sees a relatively early start.

The gate will close at 10:29.

Leave Caernarfon at 10:00

We will transit the Swellies just before LW Slack which is at 13:00. Aiming to arrive back in Conwy at approximately 18:00 on a rising tide.

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The Prizegiving will be 20:00 at the Conwy Golf Club. For the LaLa Rally there will be a Seamanship Trophy, a Spirit of the LaLa Trophy, and a Cobblers Trophy. Plus, a bottle of wine for the Quiz winner.

The Swellies

The Swellies have a reputation, but with the correct navigation it is safe. It is important to follow the channel carefully, rather than just following the boat in front, so please read the guidance from the Caernarfon Harbour Trust:

<https://www.caernarfonharbour.org.uk/passage-through-the-swellies/>

Taking special note of the 'Narrow Channels' rule. Further sources of information:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/~cmi/boat/swelly/swelly.html>

<http://www.traethbychanharbour.co.uk/navigate-the-swellies.html>

Berthing at Victoria Dock

We have a lot of boats to cram into Victoria Dock, so we will need to be extremely well organised on arrival. The dock master will have a berthing plan and it is strongly recommended that you follow the instructions closely. He has provided the following information:

ALL VESSELS WILL BE RAFTED TOGETHER AND WITH THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF VESSELS IT CAN ONLY WORK IF THE DOCKMASTERS INSTRUCTIONS / SUGGESTIONS ARE FOLLOWED, AS SET OUT BELOW.

- When you arrive, you should **take up position abeam or South of the entrance and stem the tide to remain on station** there is no need to announce your arrival. Note that **VHF 80 is a duplex channel**, and you will therefore only hear the dock master, not other boats.
- Please do **not drop too far South** of the entrance as it will take time to motor against the tide
- With the numbers we are expecting, it may take up to an hour to get everyone in. **Please be patient.** It will not matter in which order vessels arrive on station, so the first to arrive could be left outside for some time.
- There is a **main berthing plan**. This can be adjusted as we proceed but he will be mainly following the primary plan.
- Generally, the **larger vessels will be in first** and then the smaller vessels will be rafted in an orderly fashion.
- It is important that as there could be 5-6 vessels in each raft that the first vessel alongside the pontoon lays **parallel to the Pontoon**.

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- Then all other rafted vessels must be tied-up **in parallel** to the first vessel on the pontoon and so-on, if the berthing operation needs to be halted to get the vessels tied up correctly then it will create a concertina effect on the vessels still outside waiting to be called in.
- Generally, tie-up will be **Starboard side to** for all vessels, but please have a few fenders and lines on the Port side if berthing instructions have to change at short notice, or weather conditions dictate otherwise.
- **Fenders** for berthing against the dock should be at the waterline, but for rafting should be at the rubbing strake or widest part of the boat. It is good form to stagger your fenders to cover both eventualities instead of having to rush at the last minute.
- All **lines should be set ready**: Bow, stern, springs and importantly shorelines. **Shorelines must be run** from vessels 2, 3, 4 etc. in any raft.
- The **eye of a warp or a bowline** must be used on the pontoon cleats so that the rafting vessels have room on the cleats for their shorelines.
- Please **do not fill-up the cleats** with the remainder of your warps, the excess warp should be back on board.
- Crews of the first vessels alongside should look to **assist with berthing any other vessel**, which includes persons ashore assisting with running shorelines.
- All **barbecues are prohibited on vessels and pontoons**, including George Foreman grills.

Tides times for the LaLa Rally

	Thurs, 9 th July	Fri, 10 th July	Sat, 11 th July
Liverpool (Gladstone Dock)	LT 00:20 – 2.8m	LW 01:30 – 2.8m	LT 02:50 – 2.7m
	HT 06:10 – 8.0m	HT 07:30 – 8.0m	HT 08:40 – 8.1m
	LT 13:00 – 2.6m	LT 14:10 – 2.6m	LT 15:30 – 2.4m
	HT 18:50 – 7.7m	HT 20:10 – 7.9m	HT 21:10 – 8.2m
Conwy	LT 00:20 – 2.4m	LT 01:30 – 2.4m	LT 02:40 – 2.3m
	HT 06:10 – 6.8m	HT 07:20 – 6.8m	HT 08:30 – 6.9m
	LT 12:50 – 2.1m	LT 14:00 – 2.2m	LT 15:10 – 2.0m
	HT 19:00 – 6.5m	HT 20:10 – 6.6m	HT 21:10 – 6.9m
Caernarfon	HT 05:10 – 4.5m	LT 00:20 – 1.7m	LT 01:30 – 1.6m
	LT 11:50 – 1.4m	HT 06:20 – 4.5m	HT 07:30 – 4.5m
	HT 17:50 – 4.2m	LT 13:00 – 1.4m	LT 14:00 – 1.3m
	-	HT 19:00 – 4.3m	HT 20:10 – 4.5m

Victoria Dock Gate times

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Date	High Water	Height	Gate Lowered	Gate Raised	High Water	Height	Gate Lowered	Gate Raised
Thurs 9 th July	05:00	4.5m	07:30	08:05	17:48	4.2m	15:05	20:42
Fri 10 th July	06:11	4.4m	07:30	09:11	19:00	4.3m	16:13	21:58
Sat 11 th July	07:25	4.5m	07:30	10:29	20:07	4.5m	17:13	22:00

Communications

The VHF channel for the Rally will be **VHF Ch 72**.

REMEMBER, ALTHOUGH CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN IN THE PLANNING OF THIS EVENT, YOU ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NAVIGATION AND SAFETY OF YOUR VESSEL AT ALL TIMES.

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