



# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Scans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

January 1990

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Next Branch Meeting

Monday 8th January 8.30p.m.

Scans Bar

Agenda:     A.G.M. Report  
              S.B.R. Committee  
              Forum Programme  
              A.O.B.

## Tales of a Traveller

We welcome Mr. Pat Lawless our Limerick Voyager back to Athlone on Friday 19th January in The Jolly Mariner at 8.30 p.m. Circumnavigation: The Voyage, Shipwreck and Survival.

This evening can be highly recommended by those of us who had the pleasure of attending Pats slide show on his transatlantic trip.

## A.G.M. Report

The attendance due to extreme fog conditions was smaller than usual. The Chairman Mr. Damien Delaney gave a detailed report outlining the Branch activities.

- Quayside Development:     Presently awaiting manpower availability through FAS.
- Ballykeeran                 :     Westmeath Co.Council in discussion re land acquisition.
- Portrunny                   :     O.P.W. Survey pending re jetty north of existing jetty.
- Portlick                     :     Development of old harbour being considered.
- Lanesboro-Tarmon           :     Proposed dredging by O.P.W. winter 1990
- Shannon Forum              :     Anxiety regarding water levels and need for minimum legislation committment of 123' O.D.
- Election of Officers
  - Chairman           Declan Walsh
  - Vice "             Damien Delaney
  - Secretary         John Dingle
  - Treasurer         Sean Fitzsimons
  - Hon. Auditor     Reg Redmond
  - Pollution officer Archdeacon Cave.
- Aerial Committee         :     Declan Walsh, Clodagh Dixon, Rosemary Furlong  
                                  Archdeacon Cave.
- Shannon Boat Rally Committee: To be elected at next Branch Meeting

Incoming Chairman Declan Walsh on behalf of Athlone Branch thanked Damien Delaney for his work at Branch level and wished him every success in his term of office as forthcoming National President of I.W.A.I.

Council News from our Delegates

A meeting of I.W.A.I. National Council took place in Mullingar on 24th November and the following items were included on the agenda.

- 1) Sportex 90 will be held in R.D.S. on 5-8 April and the I.W.A.I. will participate. A.G.M. will be held on Friday 6th April.
- 2) O.P.W. A meeting between I.W.A.I. and O.P.W. was held in November and the following information was obtained:-
  - a) Breach will be completed before Christmas. Some further examinations to be made and canal will be open by 1st March. Naas Branch will hold a re-opening Rally.
  - b) Weeds complaints were made about Lecarrow Canal and Barrow.
  - c) Low Levels on Shannon - complaints made about same O.P.W. say E.S.B. control Loughs Ree and Derg!
  - d) Rooskey a jetty is to be built upstream of bridge.
  - e) River Suck this will be navigable for 7 miles sometime in 1990 and the last 4 miles to Ballinasloe will follow later.
  - f) A new Waterway Bill will be introduced soon giving O.P.W. powers re B + B, Suck, L.Oughter and new bye-laws.
- 3) E.S.B. wires as reported previously E.S.B. have offered to pay for warning signs, but now O.P.W. have refused to erect them!
- 4) Watling St. Lock-gate factory is closing at end of 89 - its task completed.

POLLUTION PARTICLES

The following is a quotation from the submission of Athlone AnTaisce to the Shannon Forum "3. Lough Derg is dying fast. In the upper reaches the bottom is deep in sludge and lifeless. To help redress this problem there must be an urgent and co-ordinated campaign against slurry pollution of the upper lakes, especially Sheelin and the Inny. Other pollutants to be identified and the law invoked".

As one who fished Sheelin regularly in its hayday in the 60's I would support anyone who endeavours to stop the pollution of Sheelin, but it is surely stretching it a bit far to blame the condition of Derg on the rape of Sheelin. In the first place the main sources of pollution in Sheelin are two rivers both flowing into the north end of the lake. In flood conditions while readings for phosphate in the northern portion of the lake were 40 parts per 1,000,000 readings taken in the outflow at the bridge of Finea showed 1/1,000,000. Sheelin is in fact an enormous settling tank and retains a very large portion of its pollution. The above figures suggest that what comes in in one year may take 40 years to clear. A sobering thought. Secondly Sheelin itself is not lifeless, and after Sheelin the Inny river passes through Lough Kinale, Lough Derravaragha and Lough Ree, none of which could be described as lifeless even if showing signs of pollution. So it would seem unlikely that Sheelin and the Inny are major factors in the state of Derg. The real causes of the deterioration of Derg need to be identified and appropriate action taken. Would it be appropriate to make the Tourist Board the prosecuting authority, as every sort of pollution has a direct affect on some aspect of tourism.

Marmalade

- 1 tin of Marmalade pulp (Mamade)
- 1 lemon
- 1 grapefruit
- 1 Orange
- 1½ pounds sugar (as well as that required on tin)

Cut up lemon, grapefruit and orange and boil with pips (tied in muslin bag) for about ½ hour until soft. Make up tin as directed adding extra fruit and sugar. Boil until setting point is reached.



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Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

February 1990

Next Branch Meeting  
Monday 5th February  
8.30 pm Seans Bar

Agenda: New Bridge Development  
Rally Meeting Report  
Walkabout, Well?  
A.O.B.

## January Branch Meeting Report

The Branch plans to support the Royal Canal Rally as the itinerary for Athlone's Whit Weekend Rally. Further details to be decided.

The question of provision of a jetty north of the new bridge is being pursued with the Westmeath and Roscommon County Councils.

A meeting with I.B.R.O. I.Y.A. and Bord Failte prior to the next Shannon Forum to discuss water level policy.

A Walkabout by Branch members has been arranged for this SATURDAY 3rd February at Seans 11.00hrs, All Welcome.

---oOo---

Athlone Branch Presents  
Our Waterways  
Through the Lens of Walter Borner  
an evening of  
Photographic Excellence  
on Saturday 10th February 8.30 p.m.  
in The Shamrock Lodge Hotel

---oOo---

## The Harry Rice Cup Competition

This competition to the memory of Harry Rice is held annually to promote the love of our Inland Waterways.

The I.W.A.I. Harry Rice Cup originally was won by Harry himself in India for, no less, a horse race and bears the following inscription

Presented by H.H. The Maharaja Scindia  
won by  
Major H.J. Rice's  
"Insomnia"

I.W.A.I. Previous Winners were:-

1960	Duddley Colley	1973	Sean Craig	1978	Suki Webb
1966	Alan Furlong	1974	Maeve Gallagher	1979	Alison Marcuse
1972	Christopher Craig	1976	Deidre Martin	1980	Renata Dwan

Cont.....

Previous winners Harry Rice Cup:-

- 1981 Lorraine Smyth
- 1982 Niamh Herraghty
- 1983 Donal Heraghty
- 1984 Aoife Hanley
- 1985 Aoife Hanley
- 1986 Donal Heraghty
- 1987 Roseleen Miller
- 1988 Rory and Jane Walsh

Join that illustrious band by submitting your entry of an essay/ships log or painting depicting a "Trip on our Inland Waterways" There is an adult and junior (U16) category.

Entries by February 28th to Mrs Rosemary Furlong, Coosan Point, Athlone.

-----oOo-----

Thanks Pat

The recent slide show by Pat Lawless put things into context. Rounding Parkers Point seems now more like a biro. The well attended gathering enjoyed sharing again in the exploits of an exceptional man. Thank you Pat, we were honoured and wish you every success in what we are sure will be many future exploits.

-----oOo-----

Shannon Boat Rally News

Things are up and running for what is now the 30th Annual Shannon Boat Rally. Under the Bernard Delaney Flagship with Denis Skehan Chairman and Deberagh Walsh as Secretary the fleet is in sure hands. The outline itinerary as follows:-

- Sat 28th July Rooskey
- Sun/Mon Drumsna
- Tue Carrick/Leitrim
- Wed/Thur Lough Key
- Fri Cootehall
- Sat 4th Aug Carrick

A welcome regulation change will now allow committee boats to participate in competition. This is a good decision, not without risk, but will allow a greater freedom in sharing work load and enable good folk to have a go and rightly so.

-----oOo-----

In Memoriam George P. Speirs

George, the Barrowman, Rugby enthusiast and life long friend of our Waterways. In the typical tradition of bargees the river played a major role in his life.

Son of a Scot, farmed in Athy and from the Barrow to the Shannon came 95B, the Green Barge.

Associated with Athy Branch I.W.A.I. during the seventies he organised an Athy Rally at which I remember participating in a scuba diving display in all of three feet of water.

In latter years he pursued his landscape designing and at his harbour at Terryglass he provided a safe haven for many the traveller.

Special memories of a good friend who introduced me to his niece, my lovely wife.

To Rusty and The Speirs Family our deepest sympathy.

D & G W

Branch Membership

Subscriptions now due for 1990

£10.00

To: Hon.Treasurer Mr Sean Fitzsimons  
Seans Bar  
Main Street,  
Athlone.

We take this opportunity to apologise for some inaccuracies in the Aerial Mailing list. These failures are due to ongoing incompetence and breakdown in communications totally within our control and which we can guarantee will probably never be entirely resolved. However with your continued complaints we will strive for perfection. Feel reassured that errors and omissions are random rather than selective.

Treasurer and Editor.

FOR SALE

24' MOTOR SAILING YAWL

Volvo 25 HP Inboard Motor

4 Berth/Galley/ Sea Toilet

Perfect Condition - full inventory

Plus Dinghy and 4 wheeled Trailer

£12,000

Ring (0902) 81354

Kate Farrelly

On behalf of the Branch we take this opportunity to extend our sincere sympathy to the Delaney and Farrelly families on the recent death of Bridies Mother.

Pollution Particles

Have you ever longed for a pond in your garden for fish or fauna or even both. With the advent of fibre-glass and plastic it is no longer difficult to make your pond, provided you have the energy, but you will soon have stinking pollution unless you take appropriate action.

There is a water beetle that will help to keep the water clear, but your fish will eat them, or, alternatively, if you keep no fish the beetles may well eat your lilies. Ideally, you need some form of aeration, either a waterfall or a fountain which enables the water to absorb oxygen.

Top quality water in the natural state contains approximately 10 parts of oxygen per million by weight and this is what is known as a saturated solution. If the oxygen content falls below 70% trout will not like it. At below 50% they will die. Pike and perch do not need quite as high levels as trout and salmon, while roach and breams can tolerate even lower levels, and at the bottom of the scale are tench; carp and eels which can actually survive in water at only 5% of saturation. But if the concentration falls below 20% all species will leave if they can escape.

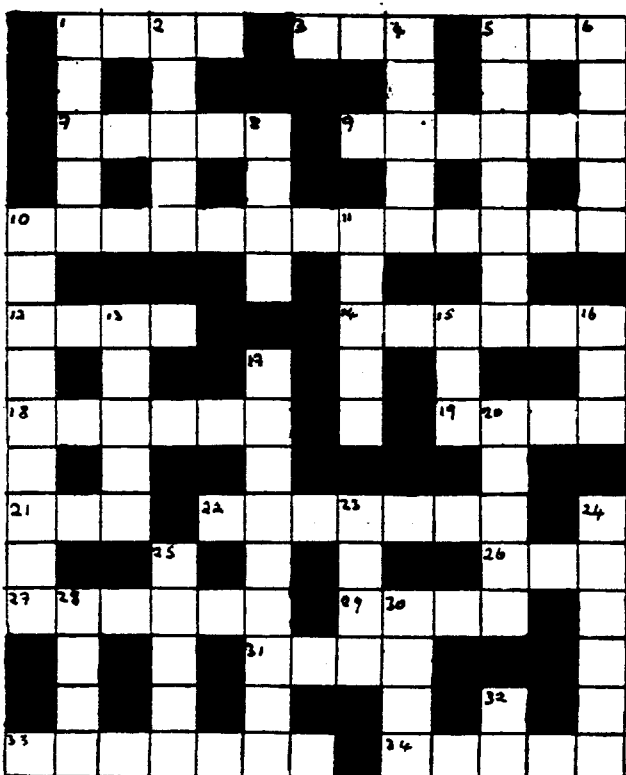
---oOo---

White Scones

8 oz selfraising flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
pinch of salt  
2 oz caster sugar (1 oz if a less sweet scone required)  
2 oz margarine  
6-8 tablespoons milk

Mix all ingredients thoroughly. Turn out onto a lightly floured board and roll out  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick. Cut into required shapes and bake for 12-15 minutes at 425°.

---oOo---

**ACROSS**

1. GO THIS WAY YOUNG MAN (4)
3. SOUL SAVER (3)
5. CURVED BONE OF A VESSEL (3)
7. DIRECTION OF A U.S. COLONEL (5)
9. THAT WHICH FOLLOWS (6)
10. A CROSSING PLACE ON THE RIVER (13)
12. WAY UNDER A BRIDGE (4)
14. ERA DUD TO DIRECT (6)
18. A FLASHER (6)
19. SHIP'S HAIRCUT (6)
21. NOT FORWARD (3)
22. WAY TO GO AFLOAT (7)
28. TO SHELTER A SLIPPERY FISH (3)
27. DOWN, DOWN (6)
29. HAIL (4)
31. NOT AFTER (4)
33. NEW RATE FOR PREVAILING CONDITIONS (7)
34. SAILS' UPRIGHTS (5)

**DOWN**

1. CRANK OF WHEEL OR AXLE (5)
2. HOOPER (5)
4. TO DRIVE A COW (5)
5. ALTERED COURSE AT A MARK (7)
6. LEAKS COLLECT HERE (5)
8. A HEADLAND TO CATCH A BUOY (4)
10. THE CORRECT ASTRAL TABLE AFLOAT (9)
11. TO PUSH AGGRESSIVELY (5)
13. NECESSARY READING FOR NAVIGATION (5)
15. A SHORT MEDICAL PERSON (3)
16. TO FIGHT WITH OARS (3)
17. A SHIP LYING AT TUS TOWN (4)
20. A FRIEND ON THE RIVER (5)
23. SPRUCE (4)
24. DOES SHE 'AVE TO PULL (6)
26. GOOD FUN (5)
29. CUTTING SIDE (4)
30. DRIVER (4)
32. A SHIP (2)



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March 1990

Next Branch Meeting  
Monday 5th March 1990  
8.30 p.m. Seans Bar

Agenda: Correspondance  
Council Report  
A.G.M. Motions  
A.O.B.

## February Branch Meeting Report:

The following matters are being pursued with the relevant authorities:-

- 1) The provision of ladders and extra life buoys on the new jetty at Hudson Bay.
- 2) a, The details of proposals of Roscommon County Council re. their plans for development and provision of toilet facilities at Hudson Bay.  
b, Permission for the Branch to remove ivy and overgrowth at Pinnacle Rock.
- 3) Progress on land acquisition at Ballykeeran for provision of jetty.

Regarding Ballykeeran we are grateful to Shannon Navigation for the recent provision of navigation marks into Ballykeeran Lough.

---oOo---

## Date for your Diary

Ruth Heard Film Show  
Friday March 16th 1990  
in  
The Jolly Mariner, 8.30 p.m.

We again extend a warm welcome to Ruth whose programme will feature:-

1. The River Thames  
Hampton Court to Oxford
2. Clips from the Past  
Featuring the Royal Canal Long Level Rally

## Shannon Flooding and Forum Reports

Within the space of a few short months we have gone from one of the driest seasons to one of the wettest on record.

We, notwithstanding our rigorous defence of maintaining adequate navigation summer levels, sympathise and appreciate the great hardship being experienced presently by both land and house holders due to the extensive flooding south of Athlone.

Our position is and must be one of constructive participation in the Shannon Forum. To this end we must support all reasonable proposals to assist in a fair overall assessment of the flood problem.

### - Shannon Forum February Meeting:

A lengthy debate took place regarding the navigation levels during the 1989 season.

The I.W.A.I. submitted a report outlining the difficulties experienced to navigation. The basis of this submission was to highlight the non effect of reduction of marginal summer navigation levels on the subsequent flooding. This can best be assessed with reference to attached graph. Note the September level is low summer level as for July and August

The following are some points of interest -

1. The I.F.A. sought a reduction of levels in the Athlone/Meelick section during the 1989 summer season.

The authorities agreed to reduce this level by 3'' on a trial basis. It should be noted here that the original request by the I.F.A. was for a reduction far in excess of 3''

The reason for this request initially was to assist in control of Autumn flooding.

The reason for the request subsequently was to assist better land management during the Summer?

When asked to substantiate a basis for this requirement there was none forthcoming.

2. The E.S.B. stated that in fact the low level experienced had nothing whatever to do with river management. It was totally as a result of the climate. They further stated that this 3'' reduction (7'2" - 6'11") would be replaced by 4mm of rain or the equivalent of an afternoons rain. The O.P.W. stated that similar control would only be achieved once in several years.

3. James O'Connor of I.B.R.O., stated that they would accept a similar reduction on a trial basis to allow further investigation. This agreement to be subject to review and without committment.

4. The I.W.A.I. outlined the difficulties in maintaining sectional low levels without affecting overall levels, particularly in extended dry periods. The normal summer level in itself being almost 3 feet below bank levels.

5. The O.P.W. referring to the overall water level control suggested the formation of a team of qualified people to advise and co-ordinate.



## - Emergency Forum Meeting

In view of the disaster situation with flooding an emergency meeting was called on Friday 16th February. The meeting invited and was attended by political representatives of the areas affected.

The following proposals were adopted:-

1. The area affected be designated as an area of extreme severe handicap within the context of E.E.C. assessment.
2. That immediate representation be made to allocate funding to relieve hardship.
3. That funding be allocated to improve and raise access roads to assist lower lying holdings.
4. That Teagasc evaluate immediately the extent and likely loss as a result of the flooding.
5. That the government be requested to proceed with further study and consideration of both Rydell and O.P.W. reports on the Shannon Flooding.
6. That the E.E.C. be requested to fund such a proposed study.

---oOo---

Thanks Walter

And Ruth and SwissAir. A grand evening, many thanks. Time and memories reawakened? Did the rest of you know that our hosts met initially at the Swissair launch of their Irish flights? - There you are now.

---oOo---

Answers to Last Months Crossword

Across: 1.West 3. S.O.S. 5. Rib 7. North 9. Sequel 10.Shannon Bridge  
12.arch 14.rudder 18.beacon 19.crew 21.aft 22.channel 26. lee  
27. deeper 29. ahoy 31. ante 33. weather 34. masts

Down: 1. winch 2.siren 4.steer 5.rounded 6.bilge 8.hook 10.starboard  
11.barge 13.chart 15.Doc 16. row 17.anchorage 20.rally  
23.neat 24.heaves 25.sport 28.edge 30.helm 32.S.S.

---oOo---

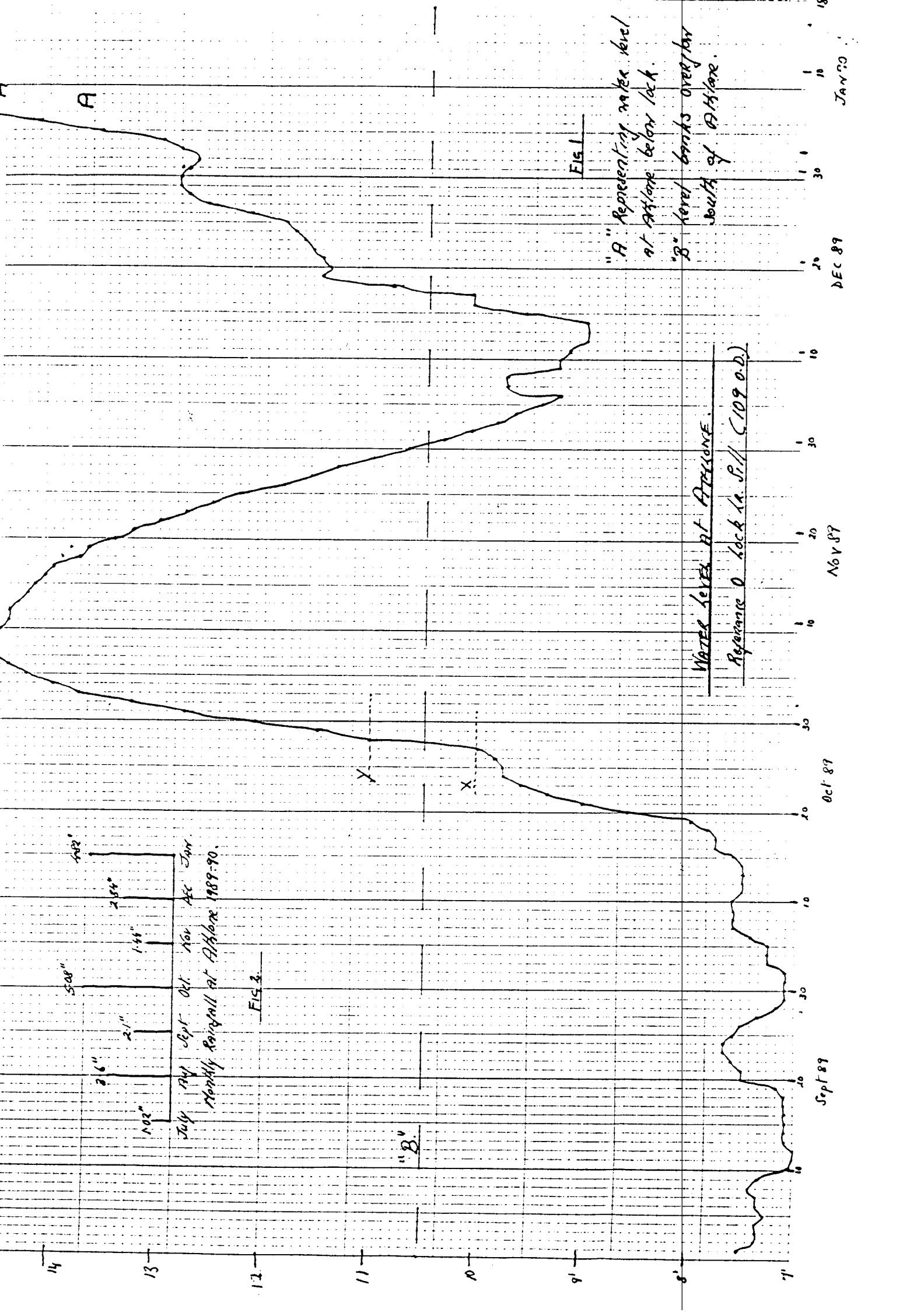
Pollution Particles

We are thinking of a garden pool. If you made it deep enough and were careful about what grew in it, it would be possible to keep it clear and pollution free, because green plants in the growing process release, on balance, more oxygen than they consume. But for practical purposes and if you want to keep fish, it is safer to have some system of aeration. It is an interesting fact that although one often sees fish tanks in shops and hotels etc., with bubbles streaming up from the bottom, it isnt the air passing through the water - pretty though it may look that does the trick. It is the rippling of the surface that enables the water to absorb oxygen. One expects fast flowing water tumbling over rocks and shallows to be clear and pure, and so it generally is, but it is the wind blowing across the surface that is the life of large sheets of water, like our mid-land lakes. Indeed on various occasions a good windy night has saved Sheelin from what looked like certain disaster. The wind, of course, helps to prevent temperature stratification, but it also renews the oxygen content of the water.

"Its and ill wind that blows no good". The present floods should help to reduce the pollution in the Shannon, if only by dillution.

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Subs Due Subs Due Subs Due Subs Due Subs Due Subs Due Subs Due Subs Due



July 1889  
 Monthly Rainfall at Atlixone 1889-90.

FIG. 3.

FIG. 1

"A" Representing water level  
 at Atlixone below lock.

"B" level banks overflows  
 south of Atlixone.

WATER LEVEL AT ATLIXONE.  
 Reference 0 Lock La Pilla (109 O.D.)

Sept 89  
 Oct 89  
 Nov 89  
 Dec 89  
 Jan 90

14  
 13  
 12  
 11  
 10  
 9  
 8  
 7

10  
 20  
 30  
 40  
 50



# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

April 1990

Branch Meeting  
Monday 2nd April  
8.30p.m.  
Seans Bar

## Grand Canal Reopens

Mr. Brendan Daly, T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Finance re-opened the restored section of the Ticknevin - Ballycommon level on the 9th of March.

When the breach occurred in January 1989 it left a scarred landscape displacing 100,000 cubic metres of bank and releasing 30 million gallons of water. Apart from restoring the breached section a two mile section adjoining it had also been reconstructed.

The Minister paid tribute to the O.P.W. Engineering Staff, their advisors, the people who worked on the restoration and their suppliers. They had jointly carried out a very large yet sensitive civil engineering project on time - as O.P.W. had promised.

A job well done - congratulations.

## Date for your Diary

Gearoid O'Brien  
President of Old Athlone Society  
extends a warm welcome to the I.W.A.I. to  
11th N.W. English Memorial/Lecture

Ruth Delaney  
on

The Work of the Shannon Commissioners  
Wednesday 25th April at 8.30 p.m.  
Royal Hotel Athlone.

## Branch News

### Athlone River Warden

Plans in hand by the local authority to have the River Warden operational for Easter. It is envisaged to provide supervised berthage at the New Jetty with patrols also at the quays.

### Sewage Treatment Plant

The plant specification are now going to tender.

## Thanks Ruth

Spectacular Thames, a grand night with footage from the archives. As Ruth said a fitting tribute to Douglas Heards foresight. Thank you both.

By the way Rory and Jane Walsh won the Harry Rice Cup, again! Pleased? delighted, and presented by Cynthia as well.

Thanks to Bridie for the afters and Dermot Sloane and the Jolly Mariner for the hospitality.

## Pollution Particles

What happens in any body of water - bowl, tank, pond, river or lake - containing ordinary aquatic life? In the normal life cycle everything eventually dies and decomposes. This is a natural process and has been going on since life began, and it is the means by which what has been living and growing in the water is re-cycled and becomes the raw material of the next lot of growth. What actually happens is that as the material becomes dead it is attacked by bacteria which devour it or break it down from its complex organic form, into simple inorganic substances. This is decomposition. The bacteria which bring about this decomposition require oxygen in order to operate, and this they absorb from the oxygen in solution in the water where all this is going on. The amount of oxygen required by the bacteria to accomplish the decomposition of any material which may be presently in the water can be measured, and without going into details the figure arrived at is known as the biochemical oxygen demand, or B.O.D., for short.

Apart from chemically pure water in the laboratory, this is happening in all water, and in good clean water, like what you might drink with your lunch, the B.O.D., would (hopefully) be one part per million.

## Quarterly Report from our National Council Delegates

Meeting of Council held in Mullingar on 2nd March 1990

- 1) Sportex Fair Scheduled for Dublin in April has been cancelled due to lack of demand.
- 2) A very important letter was received from Leitrim Co. Council asking for I.W.A.I.'s views before they implement the compulsory pump-out of boat toilets under the Water Pollution Act. There would be a charge for this service and fines for non-compliance.  
The executive are to examine the matter and will report back to Council after getting further details. This has major implications for all boat-owners and hire fleets.
- 3) Canal Breach The Grand Canal will have been officially re-opened on schedule before this report appears in print.
- 4) Shannon-Erne Link is still hanging fire. On the one hand all necessary surveys and environmental assessments have been completed and E.S.B. International (the project managers) are ready to start this year. However, final funding is not yet in place (particularly from E.C.) and the go-ahead is still awaited. Projected cost has escalated and the cost-benefit analysis is looking shakier.
- 5) Shannon Forum Athlone Chairman Declan Walsh who is I.W.A.I. Rep. on the Forum, gave a very detailed report on recent meetings, most of which was given at great length in last month's Aerial.
- 6) Council and National Accounts were approved for presentation to A.G.M. in Dublin on 6th April (all members welcome)
- 7) R.C.A.G. Chairman Eddie Slane gave details of the Bicentenary Royal Canal Rally to be held at end of May. Athlone participation was promised.
- 8) A slide presentation on the new Kilrush Marina will be given to Council at the next meeting on 11th May.



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May 1990.

Mr. President,

We take this opportunity to extend our best wishes and support to our Branch Vice Chairman Mr. Damien Delaney on his election to the position of President of The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland.

This is for the Athlone Branch a great honour and for Damien a great commitment. We have no doubt that he will do justice to the job. Damien is not afraid of work and will be both keen and able to meet the many forthcoming challenges.

Following in the scenario of the Peter Hanna Policy of good working relationship with the relevant authorities augers well for our association and its beliefs.

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Branch Meeting  
Monday 7th May.  
8.30 Seans Bar.

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Whit Rally.

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The Athlone Branch Whit Rally takes to the Royal Canal.  
Details enclosed, do come and share in this great achievement.

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Pollution Particles.

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One of the problems in relation to pollution is exemplified by what happens to phosphate, a chemical which is required in many forms of aquatic plants for growth. If the phosphate is plentiful it makes for a heavy weed growth in the lake, but readings for phosphate content taken in summer and autumn may show negligible amounts, and then, lo and behold by January or February the readings are away up. This is not necessarily because there has been a big release of pig slurry, or a spillage of wash up liquid - both of which are high in phosphate content, but because the weed growth has been broken down by the normal process of biological decomposition and the phosphate returned to the water. In the process of growth and decomposition phosphate is not consumed, rather it is temporarily absorbed, so the reduction of the phosphate content is a difficult and long term project.

I.W.A.I. National A. G .M.  
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Report from our delegates;

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in Dublin on 6th April. Total attendance was about 60.

The outgoing President, Peter Hanna, gave a review of the progress that had been made during his term of office, mentioning Canal improvements including Naas, Barrow and new hirers. On the Shannon, he spoke about R. Suck / Ballinasloe, Forum, sewage and Bord na Mona. He called for action "now" on the Shannon Erne Link and concluded by thankink all the voluntary workers in the association who had achieved so much over the years.

For Athlone members the hightlight of the meeting was the election of Damien Delaney as the new National President of I.W.A.I. - a well deserved honour for our popular and hard working former Chairman.

Elections resulted as follows :-

- President : Damien Delaney.
- Vice-President : Des Leydon.
- Secretary: Peadar Canavan.
- Treasurer: Alan Waterhouse.

Members of Council.

Elected for 2 years,  
Peter Hanna, Sam Herraghty, Ian Bath, Noel Murphy,  
Frank Blake, Brian Brisbane.

Remaining for 1 more year,  
Ruth Heard, Sean Fitzsimons, Mary Gallagher,  
Reggie Redmond, Brian Hatfield, Joyce Waterhouse.

Plus Chairman and Secretaries of all Branches.

Branches made their Annual Reports to the meeting and these will be reproduced in the next National Newsletter. The Athlone report presented by Chairman Declan Walsh was a model of concise and accurate statements. -

The meeting also heard a statement from R.C.A.G. Chairman Eddie Slane on progress of the Royal Canal.

Other matters discussed were bottle -banks along the waterways and condition and access of towpaths, and levels near Tullamore.

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For Sale :

-----  
Johnson 4 h.p. outboard moter , good condition, £ 180-  
0902-74192.  
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11th N.W. English Memorial Lecture:

The Old Athlone Society and Ruth Heard presented a most interesting evening on The Works of the Shannon Commissioners. A wealth of material from that bygone era on the politics and engineering feats that have stood us in good stead.

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## Whit Rally

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This year the Athlone Branch Rally will participate in

The Royal Canal Bi-Centenary Rally.

under the flag of

The Royal Canal Amenity Group & The Office of Public Works.

Detail of the rally are outlined.

Please note the following;

1. Entry forms will be accepted for about another week so please return now.
2. There may be restriction on the number of boats through the Killucan flight, participating small boats can be launched at McNeads Bridge. Please indicate on your entry form if you wish to go up the Killucan Flight.

### Athlone Itinerary.

Whilst we encourage all to join the Rally for the full week if this is desired weekend ralliers to join the fleet at McNeads Bridge on Friday evening or early Saturday.

### Rally Schedule Summary.

Sun. 27th May.

Rally starts at Maynooth with the official opening of the re-constructed harbour and slipway. Boats launch from 11 a.m. Assemble 1p.m. for civic reception at 1.30. Boats then proceed to Blancherstown for reception and overnight. Milage 10.5 1 Lock.

Mon. 28th May.

Blanchardstown to Maynooth ( overnight ). Lunchstop Leixlip. Evening festivities. Milage 10.5 1 Lock.

Tues 2' th May. Maynooth to Kilcock ( overnight ) Reception at O'Keefes, the Harbour Jazz Festival.

Wed. 30th May.

Kilcock to Enfield ( overnight ) Irishnight in the Bridge House. Milage 8 Locks 2.

Thur. 31st May.

Enfield to Thomastown. ( overnight )

Fri. 1st June

Thomastown up the Killucan Flight to McNeads Bridge (overnight ) Barbecue at Lynch's Bar. Milage 3.2 Locks 8.

Sat 2nd June.

Additional boats launch at Thomastown and go up the Killucan Flight, or launch at McNeads Bridge. All boats to Morans Bridge Mullingar ( overnight ) for 6p.m. and function. Milage 10.5 & 7.

Sun. 3rd June.

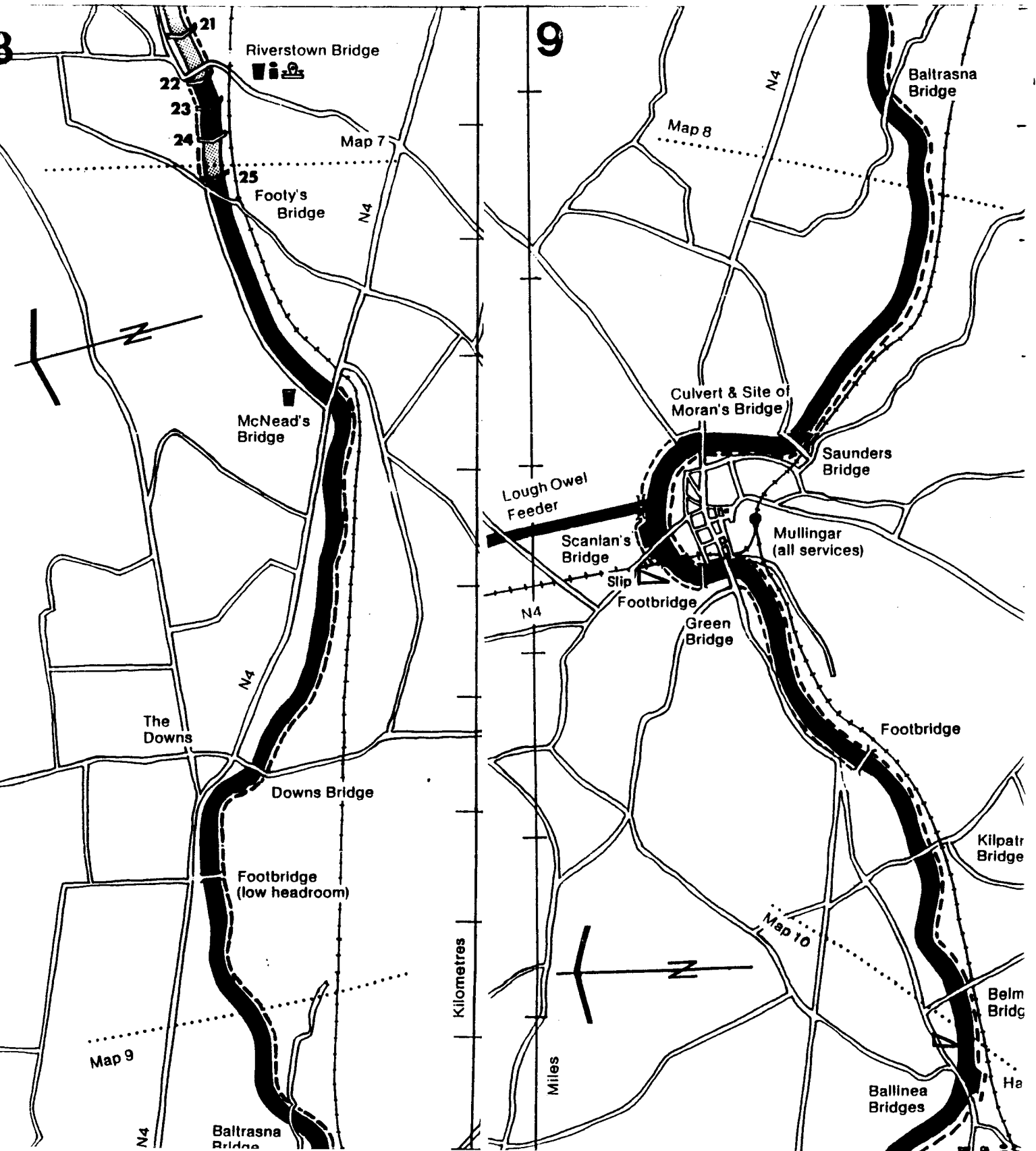
Return to Riverstown ( overnight ) Rally ends. Get together Cunninghams in the evening. Small baats can be taken out at the 22nd Lock ii necessary.

Mon 4th June.

To Thomastown. Boats out at slipway.

The aim of the rally is to re-establish Navigation of the Royal, from the 12th Lock Blanchardstown to Morans Bridge Mullingar and to mark the completion of the harbour and slipway at Maynooth. It is not intended to be a reopening to navigation Rally. The distance involved is 55 miles with 16 Locks, and the rally will overnight at Branch centres en route, arrangements are being made for Publicity events and evening entertainment. A function will take place at Morans Bridge, to highlight the completion of restoration from Co. Dublin to Mullingar.

The rally will be limited to boats with a maximum draught of three feet. Owners wishing to take part will have to register as numbers will be limited to approximately forty boats. Registration forms enclosed and all other information will be available from Charlie Hayden, tele 01- 343467 or Arnie Poole tele 01-960343.







# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

July 1990

## Shannon Navigation Bill 1990

This Bill is currently before the Dail. The enabling legislation will allow the Commissioners to

1. Make Bye Laws in relation to the Shannon Navigation
2. Transfer to them the Ballinamore & Ballyconnell navigation.

The latter is welcome, a further step towards the Shannon Erne Link.

The former, well: time will tell.

## A Question of Faith

The gut reaction is of course "whatever it is we are agin it". Nobody, except that is the bureaucrat, wants restrictive legislation. The mighty Shannon has until now run free of name and number.

The Association met with Mr. Brendan Daly, T.D. Minister of State, Department of Finance with responsibility for the Office of Public Works.

Our main areas of concern were section 3 as follows:-

3(1) The Commissioners may make bye-laws for the care, conservation, management, control and maintenance and the regulation of the use of the Shannon navigation and in relation to the restoration, repair, improvement, extension and development thereof and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, in relation to any one or more of the following matters:

(g) The prohibition of the **USE**, save under and in accordance with a licence in that behalf granted by the Commissioners and containing such (if any) conditions as they consider necessary or expedient, of the Shannon navigation or any part of it.

(l) The fixing, altering, changing and recovery of fees, tolls and charges in respect of -

(1) the use by boats of the navigation channel or the facilities or installations of the Shannon Navigation, whether for the purpose of their passage through the navigation or for the purposes of their being anchored, moored, tied up or laid up or any other purpose.

(m) The establishment and maintenance by the Commissioners of a register in which entries containing specific information will be required to be made annually or at other specified times, on application in that behalf by their owners, in respect of boats or specified classes of boats using the Shannon Navigation, the payment of fees by the owners of boats concerned in respect of the entries and the prohibition of the use of the Shannon Navigation by boats required to be, but not, registered in the register.

Cont....

Briefly this requires craft to be registered with a registration fee and the advent of charges for the use of navigation facilities.

Clarifying the thinking behind the act the Minister stated that:

- (i) Registration will be required to control abuse by identification of boats harbour hogging. Only "cabin cruisers" will be required to register, i.e. lake boats, sailing dingies etc., excluded.

The registration may be annual or on a five year cycle. Fee of £15.00 likely.

- (ii) The Commissioners are required by the Department of Finance to return an income initially of some £60,000 p.a.

The lock fee will rise to a £1.00 returning an estimated £50,000. The remainder through registration and berthage charges?

The berthage charge is envisaged as only for winter mooring, i.e. on public quays and jetties. It does not refer to private facilities or craft at anchorage.

We have been promised an input at the bye-law stage as provided at the introduction of the Canal Bye-Laws.

Here is where the faith bit comes in:

The development of our waterways has never looked so positive as now. The proposed development of the Shannon, Suck, Grand and Barrowline. The restoration of the Royal and the pending Shannon-Erne Link.

The price? there will no doubt be two schools of thought.

Dialogue or apposition

We have opted for dialogue.

Time will tell if our faith is honoured.

R.C.A.G. - C.P.W.

Take a Bow

The reopening to navigation of the Royal Canal from Blanchstown to Mullingar at Whit marked a very special milestone in Irish Inland Waterways history.

This is the finest example of what can be achieved by human endeavour fired by the maxim that nothing is impossible.

A man called Bath, the Royal Canal Amenity Group and an interested Department.

Its easy to write a few lines. Reopening a canal, well thats a different matter.

Well done.

There are times, for a number of reasons be they political, personal or otherwise, that it is important for all good men to come to the aid of the party. Mullingar was such an occasion was it not?

---oOo---

Royal Report

Almost dusk, arriving at McNeads Bridge, scorched earth policy? Ah! no, chip pan burnt the pub three weeks prior. Didn't really know what these Royal people were like. Fitz wasn't there to break the ice. No matter, we ventured on and within no time we had pitched and were warming our backsides at the bonfire amid verses from quite a way back and tales of the trip from Dublin.

The fleet grew on Saturday morning as off we set westward towards the town of Mullingar. Weather so so but not unpleasant. Seven boats had come all the way from Blanchardstown and by Mullingar had grown to almost thirty. A mixed fleet of cruisers, open boats and a paddle boat built by the local V.E.C. students, especially for the occasion.

It was evident that the passage of boats through the canal was something new or not seen for many a long day. The train driver tooted, the farmer knew, the bridges manned by young and old. Then the Mullingar Town Band and Majorettes. I wonder where the Hark is now.

The navigation presented no problems, the odd fertiliser bag and some weed in the cutting east of Mullingar. The civic reception was held fittingly at the Dublin Bridge, now a culvert some four feet wide with four feet headroom. Tributes were paid and rightly so. At the evening reception in the Bridge Club final restoration was promised, by 1991 to the Liffey and possibly within five years to the Shannon.

The ball is rolling it will not stop now. Ole.

--oOo--

Branch News

As you are aware the summer 3 day berthage is in operation. It is expected that all members will honour this requirement. During June the river moorings have been refurbished to facilitate you.

Next Aerial and Branch Meeting come September.

--oOo--

Shannon Forum

The I.W.A.I. at the June meeting expressed dissatisfaction at both the composition of the delegation and the agenda for the recent meeting with Brendan Daly, Minister of State with responsibility for the Shannon.

The deputation consisted of P.J. Coghill Co.Co., Forum Chairman, Adrian Leddy Secretary of Forum (I.F.A.) Jimmy Joyce Co.Co., Forum Vice Chairman and Pat Monaghan (I.F.A.)

The Agenda as shown was to say the least very much a farming package.

James O'Connor of I.B.R.O. supported our views and expressed dissatisfaction that whilst the agenda was available the May meeting was not made aware of its content.

Norman Black of Board Failte requested that the waterways users should be represented on future delegations.

Alan Shaw of the E.S.B. expressed dissatisfaction of the report on the meeting and requested that for the next meeting a detailed report should be circulated. The next meeting will be held in Carrick on Shannon on the 18th Sept.

Submission from the River Shannon Forum to Mr. Brendan Daly, T.D., Minister of State, Department of Finance for meeting on 9th May, 1990.

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1. Optimum management of lake storage capacity and control of water levels to minimise flooding of land. All sluice gates and locks must operate efficiently.
2. An Engineers study should be undertaken to assess the flood storage/control potential of Lough Allen and Lough Ree.
3. Further investigation of the Summer Relief Scheme must be undertaken if any progress is to be made on implementing a solution to the Shannon Flooding Problem. In order to do this stage 1 needs to be updated before stage 2 investigation is carried out.
4. That a study be done on the effects of siltation in the Meelick-Banagher stretch on the extent and duration of Summer Flash Flooding and to estimate the effects of removal of silt deposits on the abatement of Summer Flash Flooding.
5. That the Government be asked to assign responsibility and the necessary finance for the maintenance of the main stem of the River Shannon as a drainage channel to a competent agency.
6. The Forum should investigate the possibility of funding from the EEC Structural Fund.
7. Control of Effluent Discharges.

An Taisce Meeting

On Monday 23th May a public meeting was held in the Jolly Mariner to high light the need for a concerted approach for the River Shannon.

The meeting was chaired by Michael Gill and attended by Mrs Mary Harney, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment and Representatives of commercial, farming, angling and boating interests.

It was evident that great concern is felt for the serious deterioration of water quality and the need for an Authority with teeth to redress this situation. Mrs Harney promised to investigate and evaluate the situation and report on her decision as soon as possible.

---oOo---

Quarterly Report from our National Council Delegates

Meeting of Council held in Mullingar on 11th May, 1990.  
Our President Damien Deianey in the chair:-

- 1) Pump-out Toilets There was a lengthy discussion on this matter and many differing views were expressed. Matters raised included standardisation of fittings, sewage treatment facilities in towns and control of other sources of pollution. It was decided that I.W.A.I. did not really have sufficient information on all aspects of this issue and that a committee might be formed to investigate.
- 2) E.S.B. Wires some progress has been made. In a letter received from E.S.B. they indicate that they have accepted our argument about the ambiguity of quoting clearances based on "Normal Summer Levels". In future there will be an Air Draught available of 11 metres above High Water Levels (plus safety clearance). This will involve raising a number of crossings, which they hope to do this year.
- 3) Shannon Forum Decian Walsh reported that a seminar had been held at which An Taisce and Irish Wildlife made a presentation on the Callows. A submission has been made to the Minister on the 1961 so-called "Summer Relief Scheme" by a sub-committee of the Forum consisting entirely of farmers. As a result of a discussion on this issue it was decided to put the views of I.W.A.I. in writing to the forum. An Taisce propose to call a Public Meeting to discuss setting up a Shannon Authority
- 4) Shannon Navigation Bill This is expected to be law soon. Amongst other things it gives C.P.W. power to establish a register of boats. Our views on all possible new bye-laws will be made known to C.P.W. and we would hope to be consulted.
- 5) Co-options: Marie Hyland and Eddie Slane (R.C.A.G.) were co-opted to Council.
- 6) Trophy Slaney Branch announced a new Trophy in memory of the late Cecil Miller.
- 7) Next Meeting 14th September 1990

--oOo--

Pollution Particles

When I first started writing these snippets on pollution, it was the Editor who selected the title, and an apt one it is, as, basically pollution is made up of a whole lot of little bits. Of course we have our Sellasfields and our Ringaskiddy's but they are really the product and not the underlying cause. The underlying cause is man, too many of us, and the big polluters are the results of efforts to supply the needs of man in modern western civilisation.

The North American Indian saw himself as a part of God's creation, as an equal partner in the ecology in which man, animals and plants had equal rights, and not, as the Bible seems to suggest, that creation was for man's pleasure and exploitation.

Pleasure and Exploitation - You are looking forward to a holiday on the Shannon; may it give you untold pleasure; have a marvelous time, but please don't exploit it. A cruiser is a potential polluter in so many ways. Is your engine in top class condition or is it pumping out black smoke? What are your bilges like? There really shouldn't be any oil leaks - you wouldn't put up with it in your car - and when you do have to pump your bilges use bilgex or some similar product, so that any oil will be quickly dispersed. When taking on fuel make sure none is spilt. There should be a special protection on the nozzle. Open sea loos will soon be a thing of the past. Holding tanks etc., will cost money and take up valuable space. Dont complain, get on with it and install the best. The sink is a necessary evil in more senses than one, but cut the effluent to a minimum e.g., use tea-bags and put them in the bin. You dont throw potatoe peelings and the like out the back door at home, tins bottles or even cigarette butts either, so dont do it on the river. Of course it is handy and you will never see them again, but others will, and they are of the Pollution Particles which are slowly but surely destroying this unbelievably complex and beautiful world in which we live.

--oOo--

Shannon Boat Rally

Countdown now on.

Get your entry in to:

The Hon. Secretary  
Debbie Walsh  
92, Belgard Heights,  
Tallaght,  
Dublin 24.



# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

September 1990

Hello

Branch Meeting  
Monday 3rd September, 1990  
Seans Bar at 8.30 p.m.

Remember

End of Season Rally and Dance  
W/E 29th 30th September

Branch Rally Dance Jolly Mariner  
Friday 28th

Rallies:  
Shannonbridge and Lecarrow

more details next issue.

## Shannon Rally 1990

The Shannon Rally this year returned to its normal size with a fine entry of 64 and was also blessed with fine weather. Indeed a wet and windy Sunday at the assembly point in Rooskey was about the only bad day experienced and even there the Wine and Cheese (which went a bomb) and the Coffee Morning (Black and Strong!) were both held in the open. These get-togethers got the rallyists off to a good start and Drumsna and then Carrick were the scenes of a string of competitions and social events. The 'Iron Lung' crew had come as Vikings, while Derek McCann had the 'Lady of Dublin' dressed up as a Police Launch complete with Coppers! The Carnival Night/ Fancy Dress in Carrick was something else. But behind all the fun and games the various competitions were taking place, boating standards were improved and the newcomers were learning rapidly. From there up to Lough Key and a busy two days doing land and water sports, sailing races, quiz and talent contests. Coothall was the scene of the Bring and Buy Auction in aid of R.N.L.I. which once again raised £500. Sean Fitz ended up with a hoarse and dry throat!

The prize giving and results on Saturday produced a triumph for small boats as the winners of the Shannon Rally Trophy were Richard and Ann Murphy of Dublin in 'Kri-Kri' a 26' Freeman. This was only their 2nd Rally. Amongst the results of interest to Athlone members was 1st in Sailing Class by Fiona Furey and Michael Lynch still on their honeymoon in 'Aloma', the win of I.W.A.I. President Damien Delaney in the Boderg Cup Sailing

race, Sam Herraghty's 1st place in mooring competition and Rosemary Furlong's win in the Fishing competition.

At the closing dinner, Chairman Denis Skehan spoke out against the proposed registration of boats and the increases in charges on the river. Commodore Bernard Delaney in his speech emphasized the real benefits to boat owners in participating on the Rally - greater experience and above all an awareness of safety requirements.

The rally was a great success and enjoyed by all, even if some of the arrangements did seem to be put together in haste at the last moment. One final comment is this - Ramsey Henderson in 'Eleanora' came all the way up from Lough Derg. His yacht draws 4'6" and he hit the bottom on numerous occasions between Lanesboro and L. Key. Surely this is something that the Shannon Forum might lend its collective mind to instead of attempting to interfere with the natural environment at Clonmacnoise.

### SHANNON RALLY 1990 RESULTS

<u>Premier Award</u>	Richard Murphy	Kri-Kri	570 marks
2nd overall	Donal O Siochain	Iron Lady	535
3rd "	Michael Miller	Duiske	524
4th "	Sam Herraghty	Dunross	513
4th " Joint	Les Saunders	41 M	513
6th "	Derek McCann	Lady of Dublin	512
<u>Inspection of Boats</u>	1. Linda Garland	Samantha II	
	2. Fred Rountree	Leamore	
	Open Class - Hans Smits rucan		
<u>Man Overboard</u>	1. Tom murphy	Corbiere	
	2. Fiona Furey	Aloma	
<u>Time Reliability</u>	1. Kri-Kri		
	2. Lady of Dublin		
<u>Mooring</u>	1. Dunross		
	2. Gillaroo II		
<u>Navigation</u>	1. Iron Lady		
	2. Kri-Kri		
<u>Rescue of Cruiser</u>	Up to 25'	1. Leamore	
		2. Robbie Garland (Razz)	
	over 25'	1. Kri-kri	
		2. Denis morfett (Lady G)	
<u>1st Mate</u>	1. Rosaleen Miller (Duiske)		
	2. Jonathan Fildes (Dutch maid)		
<u>Ladies Boat handling</u>	:	Linda Garland	
<u>Boat by Canal</u>	:	Duiske	
<u>Safety Award</u>	:	Michael O'Riordan (Snowbird)	
<u>Boderg Cup (Sailing)</u>	:	Damien Delaney (Philos)	
<u>Bacardi Cup</u>	"	Gillaroo II	
<u>L. Ree Cup</u>	"	Gillaroo II	
<u>Dinghy Sailing</u>	:	Richard Little and Michael Miller	
<u>Fishing Trophy</u>	:	Rosemary Furling (Francesca)	
<u>Class Winners</u>	:	<u>CRUISERS</u>	1. Iron Lady
			2. Duiske
		<u>BARGES</u>	41 M
		<u>SAILING</u>	Aloma
		<u>OPEN BOATS</u>	Razz



Slaney Branch Strawberry Fair Rally Both June - 1st July

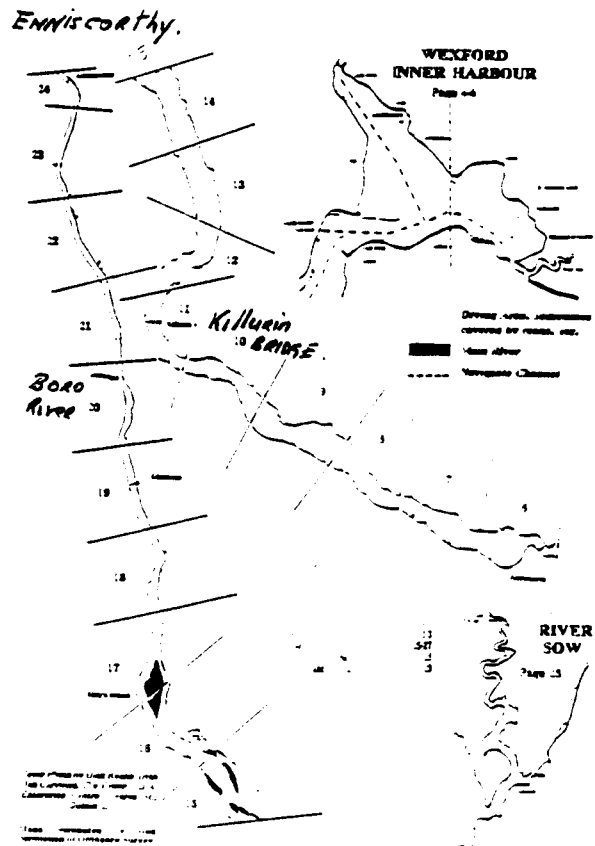
On the Saturday boats launched at Wexford Harbour Boat Club, where visitors are always welcomed, some by their coming, others by their going. The fleet equipped with Cecil Millers Slaney Guide and under the watchful eye of Commodore David Killeen set off on the eleven mile trip to Enniscorthy. Some fifteen craft participating with representatives from Athlone, Dublin and Shannon Harbour branches. First stop at Killurin Bridge for coffee. A kind estuary with tidal variation of 6 feet at Wexford to 2 feet at Enniscorthy.

The journey in sunshine provided the eye with rolling pasture and good woodland. The overnight stop was at Enniscorthy, with ideal camping facilities at the southern end of the towns river park. At the northern end the travellers were there in force for the Strawberry Fair their accomodation caravans, as opposed to our tents. There was no feuding. This was the night of the Ireland/Italy match where we were guests at the local I.F.A. centre. Athlone branch members kept watching their backs.

Sunday was competition time with President Damien taking the honours for line throwing with Alan Waterhouse trotting away with the horseshoes. Anchors away despite weed for a picnic up the Boro River, access only by dinghy. Dr.Livingstone stuff!

The weekend culminated in prize giving at Wexford Boat Club with the Leydon Waterhouse crew taking the superb Cecil Miller trophy.

Our thanks to Slaney Branch for a weekend well worth while, Cecil would have been very pleased.



## CORRIB RALLY 7th - 9th July 1990

This was our 2nd Corrib Rally, the 1st the inaugural rally some thirteen years ago. Then it rained and rained this time it was a sizzler.

On Friday boats launched at Lisloghry, the fleet travelled leaving Ashford to starboard for overnight at Golden Bay. Tents pitched then some to Cong for porter.

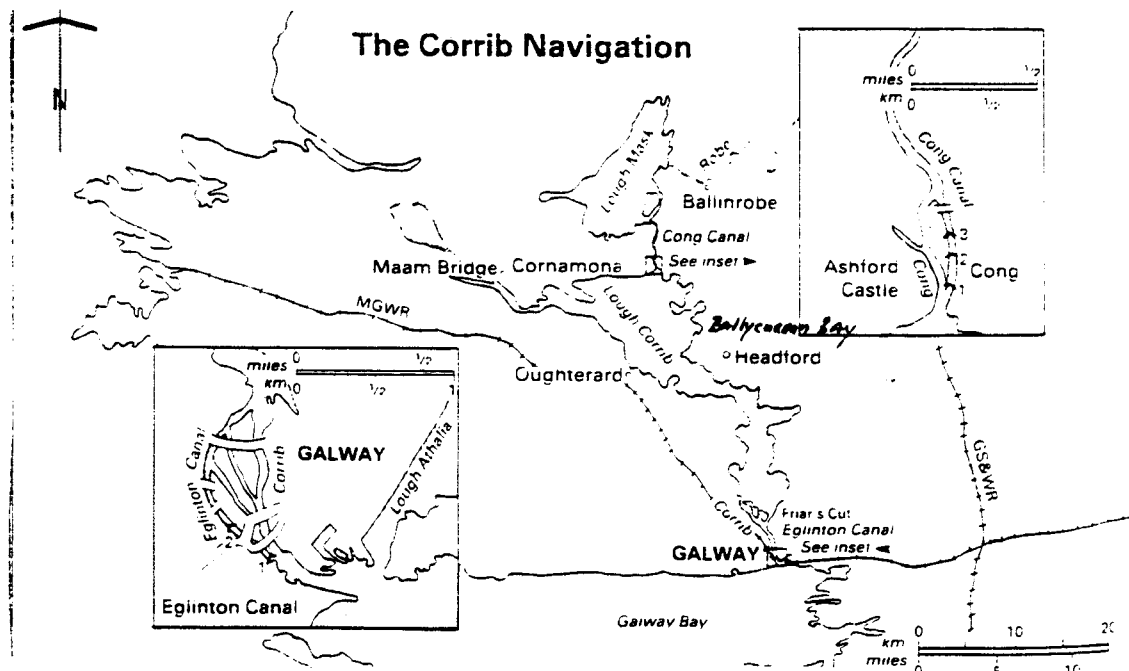
Saturday, fleet away for lunch time stop at Ballycurrin Bay. Weather hot but fresh with the larger craft giving welcome shelter to the open boats.

Overnight at that most famous of islands Inchagill now enhanced with an I.W.A.I. jetty. B-B-Q and sing song with great crack and curried ribs and burgers and Heineken and porter. Mood lighting and drink cooling by a friendly generator.

Sunday Economical Service followed by place settings for a party of hoteliers being feasted on the island. If only the wind got up we would have gorged ourselves. Away after swims to picnic stop at Doonus. Sunday night stopover at Cornamona with a walk to town. The question of Monday being a workday didn't even arise. A return visit to Inchagill for Monday lunch. You've heard of spare ribs, have you ever had missing ribs!

Boats out at Lisloghry. A couple of things. The clarity of the water on Corrib is how all our waterways should look. The hospitality of the Corrib and the work put into the weekend is fantastic.

If you have not done a Corrib Rally, you should.



FOR SALE

27' Cabin Cruiser : Clinker Built :  
 4 Berth : Perkins Diesel  
 Cabin in need of some repair.

Tel: 0902 75993



# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

October 1990

## END OF SEASON BRANCH RALLY DANCE

Friday 28th September

Jolly Mariner Marina

9 p.m.

Live Music - Set Dinner Spots

Book now with Sean and Bridie ..... Tickets £10.00

Rally Shannohoridge

A choice

Lough Ree

### Branch News

Congratulations to Westmeath County Council who have acquired forshore at Wineport for public access.

The area which is just north of Portaneena will be developed as a swimming area with plans to incorporate a public slipway, well done.

Next Branch Meeting

Monday 1st October

Seans Bar 8.30 p.m.

### Water Levels

The levels on Lough Ree are presently at 122 O.D.

The agreement between the E.S.B. and the boating interest of 123' O.D. to mid August and 122' O.D. to end of September has been maintained

Boat owners are advised to exercise caution to avoid damage when negotiating areas known to be critical and are encouraged to notify your branches of difficulties.

This reduction in level will effect in some areas the navigation level of 4'6" by 1'

We have been advised that a further reduction of levels, subject to climatic conditions, may occur after September, however, it is not envisaged to go as low as 121' O.D.

There is now, with substantial boat traffic expected to end of September, a strong case for a review of reduction dates.

Quarterly Report from our National Council Delegates

Meeting of Council - Mullingar 14th September 1990  
Damien Delaney in the Chair.

- 1) Meeting with O.P.W. re Grand Canal was held, but delegates still have many complaints re levels. There is a suggestion that the Canal might be closed for a while during the winter for repairs of leaks.
- 2) Shannon Forum Declan Walsh reported again on an on-going basis.
  - a) Athlone to Meelick level is to be held at same minimum as last year
  - b) O.P.W. say that level of L.Ree is E.S.B. responsibility
  - c) The Minister has ruled out a full drainage scheme for the Shannon.  
- So what else is new?- Well, there was a reminder at the meeting that the Shannon Forum has functions other than flooding and perhaps they should be reminded of that.
- 3) Shannon - Erne Link £30 million funding has been approved and E.S.B. International (as the contractors) have advertised for tenders for the 1st contract (at L.Scur). There is a 3 year target for completion. Enniskillen here we come!
- 4) Clonfert We have been asked for advice on a proposed jetty south of Shannonridge to facilitate visits to this historic site.
- 5) Other items Discussed or reported on were:
  - Pump-out toilets;
  - Shannon Guide on a computerised data base;
  - Ulster Canal and the Boat Show (6th - 10th March 1991) at Point Depot, Dublin.
- 6) Next meeting 23rd November 1990

John Weaving Memorial

On Sunday 16th September Mr Damien Delaney President of I.W.A.I. performed the unveiling of the John Weaving Memorial Bust at Terryglass.

This tribute by the I.W.A.I. will remind us all of the important role played not alone by John, but by all those people who in their own way have protected and nurtured this great waterway.

The siting in the green area alongside Terryglass Harbour provides a beautiful setting for this magnificent memorial.

Our thanks to Lough Derg Branch for their work on behalf of the Association and to all who assisted financially, in particular the Irish Boat Rental Association.

Next Month ; Forum Update / Suck Navigation  
Aerial

Stolen

7' Red Hard Chine Fiberglass dinghy  
Taken from Lough Ree Yacht Club early August  
Any information to Aerial please.



# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

November 1990

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

OF

ATHLONE BRANCH

ON

FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER 8.30 pm

IN

THE JOLLY MARINER ATHLONE.

Branch News.

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Joint discussions are in progress at present with Westmeath County Council and the various local interested parties regarding the official opening of Athlone Castle next June.

Quayside.

It is envisaged that the next phase of the Quayside development will be completed by this date with the Docks Quay becoming a one way traffic system for south bound traffic.

Hodson

Pillar

-----  
A work - in by Branch Members took place at Hodson's Pillar during September. The ivy was removed from the pillar itself and the surrounding area was selectively pruned to highlight its features. The pillar will require some remedial work to protect the cap and base from further deterioration.

-----  
Branch Meeting    Monday 5th    Nov.    8.30 pm    Sean's    Bar.

-  
Shannon Forum.

September Meeting Report.  
+-----

This was the first meeting since the circulation of the report on the meeting with Mr. Brendan Daly, T.D. Minister of State, Dept. of Finance.

The Secretary was in receipt of our correspondence of 13th Sept. outlining our position that

1. There was no agreement to lower levels south of Athlone other than the three inches, as previously decided.
2. There was no agreement to lower Lough Ree, to a minimum navigation level ie 121' over datum. Agreement was to maintain the level at 123' until mid August and to 122' to the end of September.
3. The appointment of an agency with responsibility for the maintenance of the River Shannon as a drainage channel is at variance with the Forums aspiration of a Shannon Authority which does not seem to have been on the agenda, despite previous agreement.

All of these points were substantiated by Declan Walsh I.W.A.I. representative as being in direct conflict with decisions taken at previous Forum meetings. This view was fully supported by James O'Connor of I.B.R.A.

The IWAI position was further supported by Alan Shaw of the E.S.B. who endorsed the 1978 agreement between the E.S.B. and the Waterway Users as that outlined in ( 2 ) above.

The Secretary Adrian Leddy stated that the intention was to lower levels only where possible and when it would not effect navigation. This interpretation was not acceptable to either IWAI or IBRA who regarded the 1978 agreement as the official position. Alan Shaw informed the meeting that this was also the criteria as used by the ESB.

The meeting agreed that both the composition and agenda of all future delegations would be decided by the Forum prior to such meetings.

The position as regards Towns and types of treatment plants in operation at present was discussed. It was agreed to do a base line study of this and to have available for the November meeting.

After the meeting the members were brought on a tour of the Aquahatch Salmon Fisheries on Lough Allen.

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Notice to Navigators.

Shannon.

Albert Lock will be closed for essential repairs from 5th Nov. to 11th Dec.

Grand.

Navigation will again be closed this winter to allow further remedial work.

Discussions at the request of the Office of Public Works is in progress as to the type of marking system to be operated on the Ballinamore & Ballyconnell. The choice of adopting the Erne or the Shannon system. The Athlone Branch on the basis of safety factor supports the Erne system. The final decision will remain to be seen.

Pollution Particles.

Well its all behind us and what a season its been for boating and the great outside in general. On the pollution front it seems to have been a good year in general. None of the massive fish kills of previous years and on Lough Ree no mysterious foam.

There was a lot of dead perch in April and May but maybe this is a normal facet of post spawning, and the direction of the wind may have brought them to my shore. Fly life seemed to be at a minimum again this year, but we would need a scientist to decide this was good or bad, for while pollution kills some sort of fly, it encourages others.

The quality of the water seemed better than usual, with very little bloom apart from a few days during the hot weather in July which cleared very quickly, leaving excellent quality all through August. But then came Sunday 10th September and an unbelievable thick green bloom lasting more than a week. The main cause of bloom is phosphate and the main source of phosphate is agriculture in origin. The farmers lobby on the Shannon Forum is very vocal in regard to water levels on the river. Would they be as interested and vocal with regard to the eutrofication of the water, which if unchecked will turn our beloved river from a salmonid to a cyprinid state.

Water quality should always be top priority in any debate relative to the river. Economically it is the key element many times more important than anything that could be achieved by tricking with levels.

Remember.

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Get out your pens , paints and memories and submit your entries for our annual Harry Rice competition

Theme  
Our Inland Waterways.

Essay, log or painting.  
Senior & u15 groups.

Sweet Parsnip Cake.

When making a carrot cake I thought why not a parsnip cake as well ?

Set the oven to moderate, Gas Mark 4 or 350 oF/ 180 oC  
5 fl oz sunflower or corn oil.  
5 oz light brown sugar  
3 eggs size 3  
1 oz flaked almonds, optional , for top of cake.  
6 oz parsnip, peeled and grated  
6 oz selfraising wholemeal flour  
½ level teaspoon of baking powder, and all spice.  
¼ level teaspoon of salt.

Place the oil, sugar, eggs, lemon rind, almonds and grated parsnip in a large mixing bowl and beat together until all the ingrediants are well mixed.  
Sift together the flour, baking powder, all spice and salt, and stir into the mixture.

Turn into the prepared tin ( base lined and graesee ) and bake for one hour or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

When cool cover top with lemon butter icing.

Having heard the rumours about great goings - on by the O.P.W. up the Suck, Sheila & I decided that ourselves and Crannagh would just have to find out at first-hand. So an expedition was organised and naturally when Ruth Heard learned of this I was also commissioned to record all sorts of information for the next edition of the Shannon Guide.

There are ( as yet ) no navigation markers at the entrance, but don't let that put you off, for the river is wide, deep and (except where marked ) free of hazards. The countryside for the first few miles is rather flat and featureless, but after about 1½ miles we met the infamous Bord na Mona railway bridge. This is without doubt the lowest fixed bridge on the navigation. Crannagh has an air-draught of 7'10" and we had only 4'5" clearance - remember this was in mid - September during the dry spell, ( c 7' 9" Lr sill Athlone Lock, Ed. ) - so if your boat has a flying-bridge or the river in flood - take care !

After another mile or so of interesting scenery we came to Creggan Ford. This has been dredged on the southern bank and is now clearly marked. This was followed by a wide pleasant straight of several miles, where I could relax and admire the improving scenery - depth was anything from 3 to 5 metres. Shortly after the end of this straight we arrived at Correen Ford (about which more anon ) and we tied up for the night very snugly to a little " island " which has a dry walk to the shore ( in summer).

Correen Ford is an area which is very popular with fishermen, for the reason that a small tarred road runs down to it and it is provided with a little turning area and a picnic table and benches. It was here that we had arranged to meet Norman and Rosemary Furlong and friend Fred, who were arriving the following morning.

Correen Ford was a narrow, rocky section of rapids which has now been cleaned out by O.P.W. - indeed the dragline was still on the site. The narrow goes almost completely around "our" little island before we again gained deep, wide water.

So with our crew aboard we pressed on to see how near Ballinasloe could we get ! A few more miles ( and dozens of fishermen ) further on, we got our answer - one more red barrell, a bend, rocks right across the river and a big yellow sign announcing " End of Navigation ".

We found good turning space between the red barrell and the yellow sign. So, how near to Ballinasloe did we get ? Well, we did see a spire and a tower over the trees ! Roughly about 2½ miles away. O.P.W. have confirmed that they have plans to build a lock near Cullighmore which would give a sufficient height of water to navigate to within a short stroll of the town.

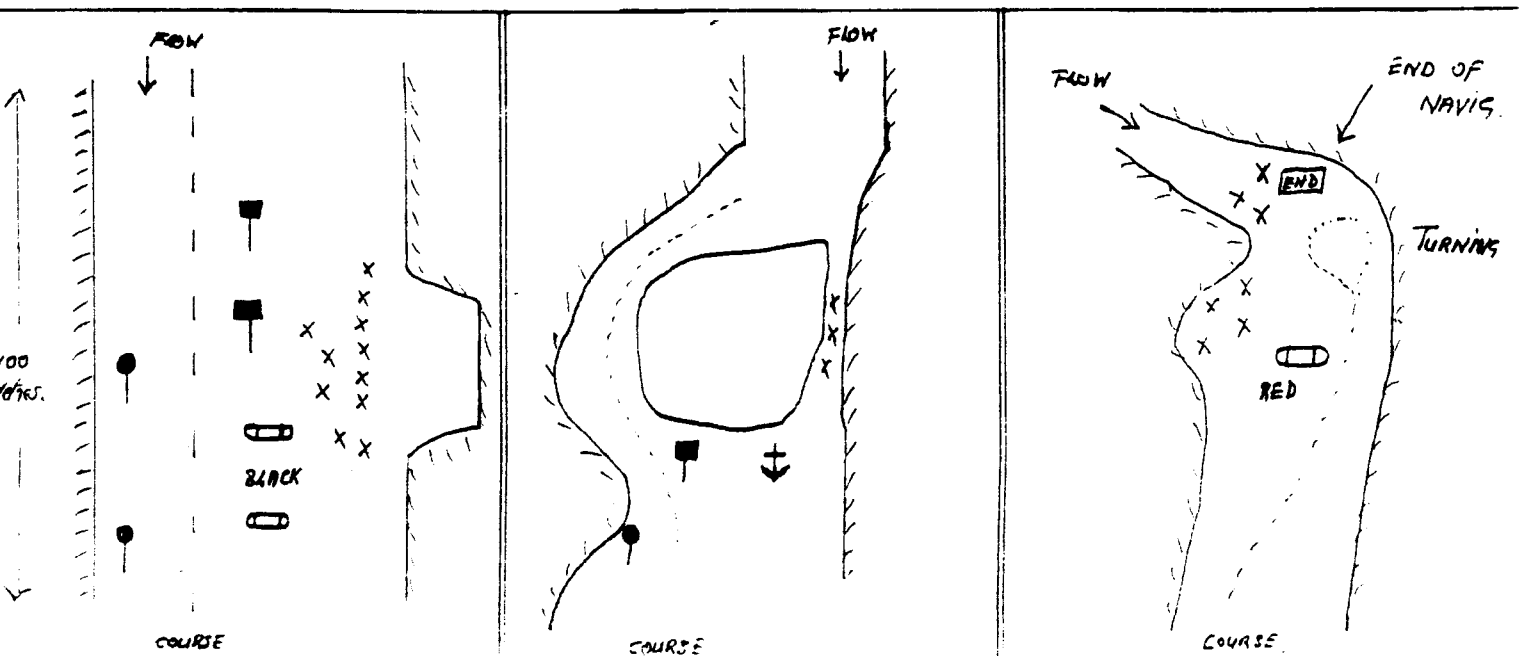
We all turned back to go downstream full of hope and of admiration for O.P.W. The destruction of the Ballinasloe Line of the Grand Canal has at last been avenged !

Total travelling time for the return journey : about 3 hours.

Creggan Ford.

Correen Ford.

Cullighmore Ford.







# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

December 1990

Notice to Membership.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ATHLONE BRANCH

FRI. 7th DECEMBER

8.30 pm

in

THE JOLLY MARINER MARINA

ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.

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Agenda : Reports

Election of Officers.

Election of sub-committees,

a) Rally.

b) Aerial.

A.O.B.

Cheese & Wine.

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Report from Council Meeting 23rd Nov.National Canals and Waterways Study.

The IWAI on request from O.P.W. have made submissions on the waterways nationally for consideration by Brady Shipman & Martin's in their forthcoming survey.

The submission proposes development on the following,

The Grand Canal & River Barrow.	The Ulster Canal.
The River Slaney and Canals of South Wexford.	.
The Shannon Navigation.	The Erne Navigation.
Lough Corrib and the River Corrib.	The Boyne Navigation.

Ballinamore & Ballyconnell.

The official commencement of restoration work launched by An Taoiseac C.J. Haughey and Peter Brook, Northern Ireland Secretary last Monday 26th Nov. The financial commitment of 29.4m when broken down reads, N.I. Fund 2.4m, International Fund 5.5m, European Fund 15m, Irish Gov. 4m, & E.S.B. 2.5m.

Lough Allen.

Survey in progress to open to navigation.

Kilbeggan Branch Line

Fás Scheme in progress to restore the Kilbeggan Harbour buildings.

New Jersey Canal Society.

Visiting members coming to the Grand c 17th May - 1st June next year.

Shannon Guide Charts.

A decision to allow Maptech to computerise IWAI charts has been agreed. This is likely to mean that future guides will be in book form to be associated with relevant charts.

Portumna New Harbour.

O.P.W. have advised that the harbour has to be vacated by 30th Nov. until 25th Jan. to facilitate essential work.