

Tyneside Loipers

Tyneside Loipers exists to promote all forms of Nordic skiing and has a small but enthusiastic membership covering Tyneside, Northumberland and Durham. Presently we are about 35 members interested in cross-country and track skiing, mountain touring, roller skiing, and telemarking. The club is affiliated to the ESC.

Several members are keen telemarkers and a few of us regularly go across to Yad Moss, near Alston (run by Carlisle Ski Club) in the winter months. There are also downhill and telemark skiing opportunities in Scotland (particularly Cairngorm area). (Yad Moss is recommended for the keen downhill/telemark skiers; TL members are entitled to reduced rates at £5 per day.)

Local skiing has been disappointing over the last few years – but previous winters have given excellent ski touring up on the border ridge, in the Cheviots around Alwinton and in the Kielder forest, and members have also enjoyed occasional sorties into the Durham hills and around Simonside.

We try to arrange 3 or 4 weekends in Scotland each year but, with our small membership, we generally stick to popular club venues (eg. Glen Feshie hostel and the Ardeonaig Outdoor Centre). Other weekends tend to be arranged at short notice. The winter programme is decided at the AGM in October each year.

The club has a few pairs of metal-edged touring skis and some good quality touring boots (good for XC and mountain touring, but not so good for telemarking on piste). We also have some roller skis and boots for club use.

TL members are offered a 10% discount at the main mountain equipment shops in Newcastle. At least two of the Newcastle shops regularly offer a 20% reduction on clothes and equipment to TL members during their discount week in November.

The club newsletter comes out about 4 times a year. There are also a few social gatherings and a regular monthly pub meeting during the ski season, plus occasional events in the summer, including mountain biking and walking.

Alan Mitcham

Membership Secretary