**Chair’s Report October 2021**

It is hard to believe another year has passed. The club has continued in good health despite various Covid restrictions. We have had several outdoor meets including roller skiing and at last we have been able to restart indoor pub meets (last week’s meet at The Badger was enjoyable and very well attended).

**Skiing**

Most members of Tyneside Loipers managed to get out skiing in January and February when we had some excellent local snow. Charlie Fisher, and his family and friends, took to the 200km of prepared x country ski trails in his area of Germany and conditions were so favourable that he has finally acquired a ‘waxing iron’ to prepare his skis!

Lockdown restrictions meant that skiing from home was the only thing available. Members skied in good conditions in Hexhamshire, Tyneside and other areas of Northumberland, as well as County Durham, Derbyshire and even the USA. One lucky member living in Scotland made use of good ski touring conditions that went on well into April but most us were frustrated and disappointed to find that the Scottish hills were out of bounds. There is lots more, including photos, on the *News* pages on [www.tynesideloipers.org.uk](http://www.tynesideloipers.org.uk)

**Rollerskiing and Summer Activities**

I am pleased to report that a core group of rollerskiers is developing within the club. Mike Hall and Alan Mitcham have taken part in rollerski coaching at Leeds and Lancaster and are passing on their skills to other members at sessions on the Town Moor and Hetton Country Park.

Tim and Penny and Alan took part in a Telemark coaching session on snow at the Chill Factore in Manchester.

There have been well attended walks and cycle rides in Northumberland and a fabulous BBQ at John and Sue Dark’s. Many thanks to those who organised these events! Again, reports and photos are on the Loipers website.

**Future events**

We are looking forward to a good range of events starting with a regular monthly session of rollerskiing at the Country Park at Hetton and Newcastle Town Moor

Various Norway club trips are planned, including to Dalseter as part of the ‘GB Nordic’ season. Some of us will also be Telemark skiing in Val D’Isere and hut touring in the Vanoise, in the French Alps.

As usual we hope that club members will offer to lead and take part in cycle rides, walks and social get-togethers which continue to make this such a successful club.

**Club T shirts and Gilets**

Thanks to the dedication of committee members, especially Mike Hall, David Thomas and Alan Mitcham, a range of T shirts and Gilets sporting the club’s name and logo are now available and can soon be viewed on the website ([www.tynesideloipers.org.uk](http://www.tynesideloipers.org.uk)). They are excellent quality and very good looking. Don’t forget to order yours!

**First Aid Training and support for coaching**

The club is committed to help promote safety and it supports coaches and members who wish to take part in training. Rollerski instructors, Allie Wilson and Alan Mitcham, have been given support with registration fees and First Aid training.

**In conclusion**, I am hoping this winter will see us enjoying a full range of skiing. Fingers crossed for another good dump of snow in Northumberland hills or wherever you are. Keep safe and enjoy the outdoors!

Neil Waters

Chair of Tyneside Loipers