

Tyneside Loipers – fact sheet

Tyneside Loipers actively promotes all forms of Nordic skiing and has an enthusiastic membership mainly covering Tyneside, Northumberland and Durham. Presently we are about 55 members interested in cross-country and track skiing, mountain touring, roller skiing, and telemarking. The club is affiliated to the governing body for our sport, Snowsport England.

Several members are keen telemarkers and a few of us ski at the Weardale Ski Club (Swinhope Moor) or Yad Moss near Alston (Carlisle Ski Club) or the Allenheads Ski Club when there is enough snow. There are also downhill and telemark skiing opportunities in Scotland (particularly Cairngorm area).

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. Recommendations for local skiing venues can be found on the website.

For the last several years we have also managed to do a number of foreign trips per year – cross country track skiing in Norway, hut to hut touring (Norway or Sweden), telemark and alpine skiing in the Alps and occasional wilderness ski touring (lodge-based) in Canada and other places.

We try to arrange at least one weekend in Scotland each year and generally we stick to popular club venues (eg. the hostels at Glen Feshie or Braemar). Local skiing in the Pennines tends 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 (less good for telemarking on piste). We also have some roller skis and boots for club use.

Roller skiing is becoming increasingly popular. Currently three club members are qualified as roller ski instructors and are keen to introduce members to roller skiing. Suitable venues are Town Moor in Newcastle and Hetton Country Park, near Durham. Skiing on tarmac with short skis (with a roller at fore and aft) can be good fun and great for improving cross-country ski technique and fitness.

In addition to skiing, we also have a few social gatherings and a regular monthly pub meets through the year, plus occasional events in the summer, including mountain biking and walking.

Do join us! Find out more on our website www.TynesideLoipers.org.uk and download the membership form (via the link at the bottom of the Home page).

Alan Mitcham

Membership Secretary

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