

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2024: COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS

There were a lot of comments, so they have been organised under some general headings for each question.

Question 10: What would make the most difference to you in getting more from your club?

Answered = 159

Skipped = 164

MORE GUIDED TOURS
More club tours, more training events, more social events
more guided tours
more guided tour options
More and varied tour programme particularly guide lead
Cheaper professional-led tours! More snow in Scotland...
MORE MEMBER-LED TOURS
More member- led tours
More member to member tours
Non guided tours
more member led tours
Have more Member lead tours and less Guide tours. Eagle tours need to be more affordable and less exclusive.
More member led tours to give more choices
More non-guided ski touring meets
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOURING PROGRAMME
More European ski tours. They seem to sell out very quickly.
More weekend / long weekend club tours in the alps. More young club member meets.
Official meets following on from each other in similar areas
A more extensive touring programme, including more options for young(er) members.
I would love to see more club-led tours on the calendar, especially during the main touring months like March and April, instead of predominantly professionally guided tours. It would also be beneficial to organise tours in the same or nearby locations, allowing members to participate in consecutive tours with minimal travel in between. At present, it's quite difficult to link two tours without significant travel between them. Additionally, during peak touring weeks, the club could consider scheduling more tours with overlapping dates. This would provide members with more opportunities to participate, as the club tours tend to fill up quickly. Lastly, I've noticed that there are fewer meets outside the winter season. I believe members would greatly appreciate weekend gatherings in places like Wales or Scotland, where they could practice skills such as navigation, scrambling, or climbing. This would provide valuable learning and social opportunities beyond the winter months.
I find the forms for applying for meets very frustrating- as it need re-submitting every time. I put all the information on my profile - is it possible to automatically add the details?
More tours on Nordic equipment
Section for tours for people looking to use ski touring capability to access challenging lines rather than hut to hut.
More interesting tours at E3S3 standard. The number of more challenging tours has decreased in recent years?
Even more tours.
More tours with younger people. Or some way of fining out if a tour is filled a with people of a very different age group and fitness and sociability level.
Easier to book onto club tours - they fill up before they're posted on the web (it feels like).
Senior tours avoiding the usual risks/bad snow, ie able to turn back.

Type of tours available and membership demographics, although I completely understand the reasons why this is difficult to achieve
One or two ski tours or off-piste trips for old guys (75 plus). I realise that members need to be especially realistic about their capacity (skill and fitness)- but I guess their could be demand given general aging of population
Many of the club events seem to be for more capable skiers than myself so more events for intermediaries please.
Not managed to go on a club meet for a long time, mix of lack of money as was saving for a house then covid, then lack of time due to starting a young family, all of above is reason for stating neither satisfied or unsatisfied as I have not been on any trips in recent years. Now I would probably like to see more beginner oriented trips to meet clubs members and get back into touring and rebuild confidence so probably beginner or intermediate level day touring or hur touring, more in that area would be good, a mix of guide led and members led
Possibly more variety in club tours - guide led tend to be the same each year, and somewhat the same case for member led.
I feel that the range of professionally led tours has become narrower, with less choice. Having experienced professionally guided tours with commercial organisations, I prefer Eagles-led tours as I tend to find fellow tourers more like-minded - i.e. competent in the mountains, understanding risks, and able to work as a team.
Wider choice of Alpine or Scandinavian tours
Having cheaper tours or a more clear grant system available to young people. Having more young-person specific events.
More tour options for the elderly, decrepit, dodderly
More touring opportunities
wider range of tours
More tours and meets to choose from.
Methods for finding a place on trip at shorter notice?
MORE SCOTTISH MEETS
Open Scottish meets
More member meets
Scottish meets
I would like to attend more Scottish meet ups.
Varied scottish trips
More snow in Scotland and more free time to ski
MORE SOCIAL/REGIONAL EVENTS
More events in south west England
Perhaps getting together with other members in my locality socially?
Local networking
Availability of UK club meets and events near me.
As I'm a newer member to the club, I can't say too much as I haven't been in it long enough to discover how it currently runs. Maybe more North of England gatherings? I've noticed there are often some in Scotland and London, as I am Sheffield I wouldn't tend to go to either of these as they're too far away for a quick trip. Saying this, the AGM is in the Peaks this year so maybe there are more central things that happen I just haven't been to yet!
More southern outdoors activities with members. For example orienteering meets or similar in addition to the lovely monthly London pub meet.
Me having more time and more regular and local social events - West Midlands and Shropshire... I seem to spend my life travelling to social events which is not sustainable and impacts on my time available to grow an outdoor community where I live.
I would attend a social/training meet if closer. Ideally Bristol is good for SW. Midlands and Wales.
More activities in Scotland
Regional activity
Talks lectures outside London - in the Lakes.
More events, training meets etc in the south of the UK

Possibly an event in London
More social meets.
Local meets eg Pub etc
Re-instate the Lakes meetings
The evening meets at Wilfs in Staveley were great but now unnecessary because of the webinars, sad not to have a get together though.
More club organised events. There aren't enough and it's hard to get a place on them. Also more training run by guides perhaps
The occasional social activity nearer home (UK South Coast), as a means of building a more local network.
A spread of social events in cities across the UK, personally Glasgow or Edinburgh. Low cost tours/trips i.e planned to be as cheap as possible
Maintaining social activities - I am an 80 year old social member.
More events as they seem to sell out. More off-season events including mountaineering, especially in Scotland. More social media, trip reports that are really detailed (in addition to the brief yearbook entries). More webinar events to provide trip report presentations. Potentially a "pecha kucha" style event where presenters have a five minute slot and their slides move automatically every few seconds.
More events in North of England
MORE MEMBER-TO-MEMBER ENGAGEMENT
I've been with the club a year, and have gained a tremendous amount. It has allowed me to get a huge amount of quality skiing. I've also done an avalanche level 2 course so I have gained knowledge. I will take advantage of any opportunities to meet other members. i think the club achieves it goals and I look forward to supporting the club in any way so that it can continue to do this.
Knowing more people to tour with
I think the club has moved away from member to member activities which is a shame
If I lived nearer to people I know in the club - not something the club can arrange !!!
IMPROVING TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT
Better support for older members/ late starters new to ski touring
As an overseas member , it would be good if I could lead tours, but I understand the insurance liability issues. Also, I think more could be made available to enhance and maintain tour leadership skills .
More training in planning and doing tours, mountaineering courses
More training options online.
Maybe more training on nav and mountaineering generally
Localised/regional training possibly. Always disappointing if you can't get on a training course but then you just need to book quickly
More training opportunities . Possibly first aid
Increase in training events and resources, including contributing towards the cost of these
I think that the club benefits from training courses to enable members organise their own ski tours more comfortably and safely
As now in my late 70s and sadly less active, it is crucial to support the younger members in training so they can enjoy the mountains safely.
INSURANCE
More info or better access to insurance for ski touring.
Insurance valid for people with no UK address
I'm very happy with the services that the club provides, and have benefitted immensely from the club tours and member to member meetings that have come about as a result of being a member. I'm not sure the mountaineering Scotland tie up does a lot for me personally. I usually end up buying insurance through either AAC or BMC anyway. I keep hearing verbally about the push to train new leaders, but am not sure about the best way to improve my skills to begin to explore this avenue.

Cancel Mountaineering Scotland and reuse that money for something that adds value to members. I don't think Mountaineering Scotland membership is particularly worthwhile.
MORE/BETTER COMMUNICATIONS
More social media posts
Better social media - less reliance on WhatsApp!
I keep forgetting my password, so making it easier to log in to the members section would help. I know this is "user error" on my part, but just thought I would let you know, that maybe that could be improved?
An updated website, a more amenable weeknight for London drinks, more E1 tours!
I need to use whatsapp and Facebook groups more
Whilst the WhatsApp groups have been very useful a lot of useful info gets lost in the general "chaff". I know there are changes afoot so this should improve.
Yearbook reports would benefit from being edited more for what learning was generated from the tour rather than just a list of what was done. I also find that a lot of the tours especially with the use of guides, limits attendance due to affordability. This is severely limiting what I can get out of the club. More member to member tours should be encouraged.
CONCERNS ABOUT THE CLUB
It has become too specialised
I found the club to be clique, and trying to get accepted on to a member led trip was difficult. But if you can't get in a trip and meet people what is the point of being a member. Have stopped looking at member led trips and apply to guide led trips which is not what I joined for.
More welcoming to new members
Hi - I've never been on a trip. I tried to book one a couple of years ago but was told I needed a reference. Can't get a reference unless I go on a trip, apparently, so it's a bit of a catch 22 situation. If you have any suggestions please let me know.
NEW IDEAS
More funding for young skiers - I note the subsidised 'Intro to Touring' courses, perhaps we could run more?
A kit for sale/swap shop would be great
More resources for younger members / developmental awards, especially to subsidise sustainable travel to meets/tours.
Having a proper decarbonisation roadmap in place and the conviction to follow it
More members contributing in small "packets" to aid in the cohesion of the club and improving the understanding of volunteering
Something more specific for newbies to integrate them into the club. When I first joined I felt, a bit lost (and still do), as to where I fit in and how the club can be a benefit to me.
Better visibility of the demographics of who is signing up for tours in advance.
End to the exclusion of non UK residents as your leaders (due to the club's liability insurance)
More time to ski! And/or updating the booking system for club tours - some fill up very quickly which benefits those with fewer demands on their time. Perhaps there could be an 'applications by' deadline with participants selected by experience / lottery / etc thereafter.
ALL GOOD
Can't think of anything in particular
I think we're doing great - big thanks to all the current committee members!
Nothing - it's great as it is
I think it works very well given it is entirely volunteer-led. People put in a lot of their time and the service works very well because of this genuine enthusiasm and interest to make the club work for ski-tourers.
Very satisfied with how things are now
It already gives me what I personally need. If I had more time I might be able to be more involved but not at present.
Not a lot.
Nothing. I'm no longer active as a skier or mountaineer but I value my involvement in the Leader Development Programme and as a mentor

I retired from ski mountaineering about 10 years ago. I am glad to keep up to date with the success of the club as I was a member from the 1980s and on the Committee for a long time.

PERSONAL

Being 50 years younger and getting my full eyesight back!

Keep up the good work 😊😊😊

Me having more time to become involved in more activities. It's not the club's fault, it's mine. Overcommitted.

Being 20 years younger !

More time

Better knees!

Being twenty years younger.....

I am limited by the health of my wife and my location (N'orn |Ireland) on the perimeter of the UK

I have had family commitments that meant I have not participated much recently. I am hoping with an older family I will now get back into the clubs activities

I could participate more.

Difficult to say as my involvement has been decreasing in the last few years.

Current offering looks good, I've only been a member for 7-8 months so have still to make use of the club through a full season

I need to get more involved with my ski touring. I've not got going through one reason and another. I am more of an onlooker at the moment.

Having time to go ski touring now that I have 3 young children!

My own fitness! Foot surgery in 2016 and awaiting knee replacement have not helped.

Being young again so I could do more touring! Nothing wrong with the tours available.

Finding a cure for Parkinson

Not being so old. Used it more when younger.

Me making the time to attend meets

Rejuvenation

For me to get off my arse and start joining in again....been lots of life events!

Note I live in Australia hence why most club activities are unimportant simply because of distance

I wish I had more time and better skills to fully benefit

Being located in the UK :-)

I imagine that many old bears like me maintain their membership just to keep in touch with skimo which may have been a major interest in their life.

Better health and fitness!

I have not actually managed on a tour yet so no experience to answer

Looking forward to retirement next year!

Being younger !

Living in the uk

Having been a very active member of the club for many years I have been fortunate to partake in the full menu of club activities.

I've decided to get involved with the club to get more back

I live in France and use ESC as a way to do things with UK friends.

Having more time myself, and/ or more money - not really anything the club does, but I'm busy otherwise and can't afford lots of foreign trips.

Getting on my first tour and attending the AGM.

Nothing yet, hopefully this year I'll get more involved and make better use of all the Club as to offer

More time off work and no children.

Unfortunately over the last four years I have not had the opportunity to make much use of the club services due to Covid and a couple of medical items that needed addressed before I could ski to my normal level. I have planned to participate in several club events in 2025. So my questionnaire responses relate to the future and very little to the last 3 or 4 years.

Retirement! In other words, more time!

48 hour days!
A pill to knock 30 years off my age! More seriously: my skiing/mountaineering activity in last 3 years has been restricted by knee problems, but following replacement surgery, I am hoping to get back into it at least to the extent permitted by advancing age.
New member so haven't found out yet.
That I have more time!
Living in England rather than Guernsey
I need to get more active and more consistent snow in Scotland would help also
Wry new member. Interested in how to get involved and with teenage children (who have done some Alpine). Also might be able to facilitate some touring in Yorkshire Dales on rare occasions that conditions allow.

Question 15: Do you have any comments on the official ESC touring programme, such as on the range of trips and destinations or on the timing and manner of its presentation to the membership?

Answered = 133

Skipped = 190

MORE MEMBER-LED TOURS NEEDED

I think it's very good, although the scarcity of member-led tours in the coming season is concerning

I would like to congratulate the Eagles team for such a great programme and how well organised the website and booking process is. More member ski tours are always welcome.

Important to maintain 50:50 balance on the Tour programme between guided and unguided tours

It would be nice to have more member led trips

I prefer all member to member trips and fewer guided trips.

More member led tours would be good. They fill up too fast now, it is a race to get on them! I applied to a tour with places left and was told it was full after.

More member to member tours

More member-led Seniors trips please. (The Guided ones tend to be VERY expensive).

Most of the tours on the website are guide organised (and therefore quite expensive). I would like more member led tours... with time and experience I would be interested in becoming more involved.

Not enough member-led hut to hut Alpine tours

Program is good but could, from my perspective, be improved with more member led tours in europe

Slightly concerned about the ever-increasing number of guided trips, and possibly less adventurous trips

The club touring programme is superb. My feeling is that over the 6 years I have been a member that the proportion of guided tours has increased vs those that are member led. I would like to see a larger range of hut to hut tours and more adventurous tours but I recognise that the club is member led and I need to complete my own leader training and lead my own tours.

Would be nice to have more member-led tours

MORE VARIETY NEEDED IN THE TOUR PROGRAMME

I've noticed a tendency for certain locations to be repeated year after year, while other great spots are either rarely included or completely absent from the calendar, for example, the Spaghetti Tour and the Saas Fee region (non-guided). Additionally, I would love to see more energetic and challenging tours, particularly those with ski-mountaineering objectives.

It is great to see new guides with new ideas coming on board (nothing wrong with the old ones but good to keep things fresh). I am very keen to get involved in the more adventurous / far-flung trips, and hopefully to organise some someday as a tour leader.

It would be good to have different trips from guides, some are good at this but some just run the same trips each year. So more variety please. Perhaps longer or combinable trips in far away destinations to reduce travel.
It's getting a bit samey... but I love that Norway is becoming better known as a destination.
Have loved seeing more countries added to the tours list, Austria would be amazing.
I'm keen to go on an Iceland tour but none on this year's programme
Overall, very good. A bit more variety might be good (particularly from guides). Also need to encourage more member-led tours (seems to have been a dip in this for next year).
Repetition of the same tours each year. Greater variety required. Offer M2M tours not on site so not aware of them. Some tours full immediately restricting access
See comments above about range of professionally led tours becoming narrower.
See previous comment on similarity year to year.
There is a tendency towards repetitive trips to same destinations (especially for guide-led ones), sometimes in same season. Though this probably reflects popularity/demand, the club (if it is to remain a club) needs to avoid becoming a business offering guided ski-trips (cf SCGB)
Keen on more off-piste but not touring, only some skinning to access good descents.
More freeride/off piste would suit me, but I appreciate this is not what the club is about. Would love to organise a motorhome or b&b powder chaser roadtrip.
TYPE OF TRIP - MORE EASIER TRIPS
As a middle-aged mediocre skier, it can feel like the tour programme is a bit 'higher, further, faster' than I would ideally like. I fully appreciate that this would suit the keener members but I do wonder if the programme fully represents the interests and ambitions of all members?
Could possibly do with more at S1 level, including tours.
Good range of trips, maybe a few more 'relaxed tours'
More easier trips please.
More tours for S2 level would be appreciated
Same as previous comment - most tours are aimed at more capable skiers than myself.
TYPE OF TRIP - MORE EXPEDITIONS/REMOTE TRIPS
I think there is a great range of tours suited for all. I have not seen many expeditions, but I guess that is very depending on the suitable tour leaders making the effort and commitment in organising these.
We need to work on our expeditions, I tried this year and just didn't have the interest of a high enough caliber.
Happy with timing and presentation of tours. Remain interested in remote trips off the beaten track but am conflicted about low carbon implications of remote travel.
I think it has become a bit similar each year. I would like to do more adventurous trips but realise I don't have the time to personally organise them due to work - also not in the hills enough. This may change. My partner organised a great member to member trip last year. I would like to do a leader training week when I retire! I like going to different places off the beaten track, enjoyed ski race last year. 2 week trips to unusual places are appealing. More USA/ Canada trips?!
There are a limited number of more adventurous trips organised and they are always heavily oversubscribed so it is clear there is demand but limited supply.
TYPE OF TRIP - OTHER COMMENTS
More likely to take occasional days touring in Alps privately while children at ski school but could be interested in ESC if it looked more family friendly and made friends there quickly. I have four very keen children (15-10 yo) and a wife that doesn't ski at all so opportunities limited (and cost and time).
Would be interested in provision for the spouse of a member to join a tour/ take part in an option that includes lift-served off-piste alongside touring
Would like to see more guided trips

As noted above, I think it's got 'worse' over the last 3 years with less alpine touring trips, less E3S3 trips and so forth.
Difficult question because leaders are volunteers. In an ideal world, I would look for trips with higher effort rating and more female members.
One or two more geared to over 75s?
It's great, thank you! I would generally be interested in more younger eagles trips. It would be lovely to find young women like myself to go off adventuring with (late 20s and 30s).
More options for shorter trips (e.g. long weekends) would make it more accessible to me.
Seems to be fewer tours in the spring and late spring, which a few years ago was the peak touring season. Spring in the last few years has been very good so not sure why most esc tours are Jan, Feb and Mar when Apr is generally good, safer avvy conditions, longer days and better weather. I'm guessing that people think the recent weather patterns dictate better snow in mid winter, however this is not what I have experienced in the European Alps.
ACCESSIBILITY OF CLUB TOURS (THEY FILL UP TOO EARLY, ETC)
I find that many tours that I'd be interested in are already full by the time (usually October/November) I'm able to commit.
many tours on the programme are full before the programme is published
Needs more they book up too fast.
No. It works well (but if you miss publication day, it can be a bit fraught!)
Only that it's stressful trying to get on a touring programme trip
Over many years, I have found a reasonable number of interesting tours and opportunities, too often they fill quickly, suggesting that more are needed. More Scottish meets would be good, I have managed a number of those.
Range is good, I would like to see more.
Seems as if many are already full before programme releases?
The presentation, grading etc of the tours is great. I have the impression though that they fill up quickly or that there are already some preregistrations at the time when the tours are published. May be more tours being organised would be desirable.
The programme is great but trips get booked up so early it is hard to get on them. It can feel like it is primarily catering to people who don't have full-time jobs or responsibilities.
When the ESC programme comes out, tours that appeal to me often clash with trips that I have already booked with other people or other commitments. I might have been on more club tours over the last few years if there had been a bigger range of tours or an earlier release of the programme.
I like the variety of tours. It can be that sometimes tricky for some people getting on the trips they want as they are almost full from the off. But there is such a range of options, that this shouldn't put people off. And as you meet others with similar interests, it is good to arrange member to member tours anyway.
Its hard to get on trips when you a) don't already know people and b) have a very uncertain schedule that is hard to commit 6months ahead
I haven't had a chance to participate in the past 3 years (unbelievably frustrating) but am planning to attend hut to hut tours in the next few years.
Need more as I believe its over subscribed. Doesn't seem much incentive to be a leader .. I lead for aac but at least get all expenses paid for trip .. accommodation, food, flights etc ... would be handy to have what's app groups for each area of Alps where members can connect for tours bit like cc do with climbing eg there is a calpe what's up group
Scottish meets fill up very quickly despite the variability of snow cover. Perhaps more?
As stated previously these generally sell out quick and so you end up doing your own thing outside of the club.
TIMING OF THE PROGRAMME BEING PUBLISHED
Would really appreciate the tour programme being published earlier in the year.

The tour program seems to come out later than some of the commercial programs which is not ideal for planning. But compliments to the committee for all their good work
The release of the 2025 programme was slightly later than in previous years. I'm fine with this. As per discussion with Nick D, it would be very helpful for tour organisers, whether professional or member led, to have a week to upload tour details before the program goes live to the membership.
Timing has been the main issue for me in not being able to access events, mainly due to the short season coinciding with my work, but the presentation and description of events is difficult for a newcomer to understand and select the right level. I'm a fairly experienced off piste skier with touring experience, but it is not clear how this translates to your tours and courses. The descriptions used are fairly opaque- 'fit' can mean anything from running a quick 5 km to ultra-marathon ready...
Timing works well. Costs are a limiting factor for me and therefore information regarding this is important on making the decision to join or not
No, there is a good range of options. Perhaps providing some initial details (dates/locations etc) in advance of applications opening would allow for more consideration and less rushing to apply.
More notice of exactly when they will be posted on the website - they fill before I know they are up.
Seems to be wide-ranging. They can fill up very quickly but that is either because they appeal and is a sign of success or that they are pre-selected.
If the trips could be confirmed earlier it might be nice... I like to get organised.
DIFFICULTIES FOR NEW MEMBERS
Ease of getting initial references to take part in first tours. Guided tours are easiest way at present but significantly more expensive. Tends to be a barrier to new members.
Would like to see meets more accessible to those who don't have a history with the club
The range and the organisation is brilliant but as a new member who's not been on my first tour, summer meet-ups where I can meet some members before committing to going on a trip would be great. Nothing big just a pint or a barbecue or something for new members to get advice on getting on their first trip with the club and for leaders to get to know them
CLIMATE CARE ISSUES
It would be good to have more low carbon tours
I am always very impressed with the range of training/coaching and tours on offer each year . Maintaining a good mix of guided and member led is healthy , diverse géography , perhaps more emphasis on areas accessible by train or public transport that don't require flying .
The club should be even stricter on flying. Not flying should be mandatory to the Alps and trips like Norway should be the maximum flying distance for club trips.
Where possible tours should start in UK to enable green travel options such as travelling by rail together and discourage nearest airport options
Looks good but travel by train must always but an option not a requirement. Especially for those working and on limited means.
Many tours involve unnecessary travel to distant places, involving a large carbon footprint.
OTHER COMMENTS
I think the club needs to use guides for open touring and leave members to member to member arrangements - for liability reasons and competence of volunteer leaders
It would be helpful for there to be more upfront information about costs of trips.
Continue to support younger new members in training and touring
I continue to use a commercial provider for trips as this was more practical/convenient when working. Now retired I am hoping to access Club events in the UK /alps in future years.

I have to add to the above that I am a mountain guide who provides this trips for the club rather than participating as a member. I don't if you want to ask specific questions at a later time to those who provide the trips and courses?
I haven't been on a club tour, I use the lab for info on self led tours
I just wish I had more time and money!
It's pleasing to see more tours for seniors and youngsters. Some folk are teachers, so some option over Christmas, Half term and Easter would be great too.
see question 10
still not managed on 1st tour
unfortunately I have not tried to get on trips either because timing didnt work or because snow conditions in Scotland were poor
Yes. Why have you 'demoted' the member to member tours on the website. They used to be quite prominent and now they are hard to find. I have organised successful M2M tours and I expect it will be harder for people to find. Also you removed the grant associated with M2M tour. All this is just one step towards a guided club - which is of zero interest to me
Add nation and envy
ALL GOOD
All good
All good
Generally very satisfied.
Good choice
Good range of tours from introductory (gentle intro with Andy T) to full on and scary
Good selection.
Great range of tours and events on offer. Easily accessed on the website. Like the early timing to allow advance planning.
I am so grateful for members stepping forward to lead trips - I find those offered by professionals are out with my budget
I am very happy with how it is working currently. Obviously, more younger members acting as leaders would be excellent.
I appreciate the 'Seniors' programme which is where I am heading
I like the range you can't find it anywhere else.
I think it is good mix of guided and member lead
I think it's fantastic and I just want more!
I think the touring programme is good. I couldn't tour between 2020 and 2023 but intend to next year. I like the balance between the alps and trips further afield. Grateful for the people who put them together
It looks excellent. I just don't use it very much but that is for other reasons
It looks good. I would just be looking at developing my off-piste and basic touring skills.
It looks pretty good to me, but as per answer to previous question I unfortunately can't do everything I'd like to do!
It represents a good balance between guided, member -led and instructional tours
It's great 👍
It's impressive. Pity it fills up so fast!
It's very good. I have chosen in recent years to ski with a small core group who are not Eagles
It's a fantastic programme.
It's all good
It's excellent. Keep them coming.
No
No

early listing of official tours on website helps plan my winter programme. Need to commit late summer to most weeks to align with wife/family winter skiing etc
Excellent opportunities for current ski mountaineers
For info, my reply to Q13 about always being able to have a place on a tour is because they are my trips. This is another way of saying is that one of the good points about the programme is that it lets people like we arrange our ideal trip.
It's really great! Very good balance between most types of activity that I'm interested in. Thank you.
I've been able to go on the trips I wished to go on.
No, good to see more interest in E Europe. Would be keen to join at some point.
Nope, our club is great!
To my knowledge it is fine
Very good range, but could always do with more to allow more capacity and timing choice.
Very impressive list of tours - thank you!
Very well balanced.
Works well.

Question 21: If you have thought about leading tours but haven't made the step forward, what sort of issues or barriers do you think are stopping you from doing so?

Answered = 121

Skipped = 202

LACK OF EXPERIENCE
I'd like to do a few more tours first. Young family life and a health issue has prevented me from doing many tours lately but I hope to pick it up again in the next few years.
I'm not experienced enough
Lack of experience
Lack of experience
Lack of experience - particularly snow conditions, navigation and group dynamics.
Lack of experience (technical and soft) and familiarity with a particular area
Lack of experience and safety / first aid qualifications.
Not enough experience
Not enough experience
Not experienced enough to lead others
Experience
Experience and group (gender) dynamics during tours that I would say are a barrier to gaining experience on tours
Experience mainly
Experience of member-led tours as a member
Experience ski touring
I am relatively inexperienced in ski touring but would be keen to develop towards leading.
I don't feel I have the touring experience. Lack of understanding of what it would involve. Lack of confidence in my ability to do so.
I don't have enough experience. And whilst I am still very active in the hills unlikely to move into leadership role.
I need a lot more experience
I need more training
I need to complete my leader training
I'd just like a few more years under my belt
Lack of knowledge of potential tour areas - a bit of knowledge transfer would be helpful. There are member who know loads but not sure how to tap into that rich seam

Lack of references and experience. I probably need one to two years more with more training courses
Lack of time and money for experience in the Alps, I feel experienced enough in a Scottish setting
Lack of time, and experience. Would feel far happier to be a joint Leader
Lack of touring experience
I haven't considered it yet as I am new to touring and would need to get a lot more experience under my belt first. Would need to get competent with route planning and snow reading (which bits are safe to ski on off piste vs crevasse or fall line if an avalanche happens). Need to improve my knowledge of snow layers and what they mean, and be confident in how to use a transceiver if there were an avalanche, how to use GPS beacons, and more confidence with rope work.
I'm looking to gain more experience in navigation, route planning, and skiing techniques. However, I would be happy to assist in organising the tour and handling the administrative tasks leading up to the start of the tour.
Inertia in getting the formal training needed to do it. Unsure if I am suitable. Unsure of the time and route needed to follow to get the training.
Limited skills/expertise
My own skiing
Need more mountaineering experience. Would like to get this on tour, rather than on bespoke training courses.
Own family commitments, wouldn't feel comfortable in Alps, personal fitness, lack of rope skills (v rusty), ability to have time to attend training when offered / location of training
LACK OF TIME
I have lead m2m and related tours. The major barrier for me is time restrictions
Currently time as I am already committed to the summer and winter mountain leader schemes.
Full time work ie lack of time
Time
time
Time
Time
Time - I have a young family so will be a few years until I have time. But that gives me time to gain experience on tours
Time and energy
Time to train
time, current fitness, care obligations conflicting winter interests
Time, I'm still working
Time, Working two jobs i cannot afford the time to become a tour leader.
Waiting for retirement
General lack of experience and specific training of leading groups in the mountains.
Getting the time to fill out the application!
I am too busy atm...I work full time and am a carer in my spare time
Language limitations for alps tours. Caring responsibilities mean commitment can be an issue.
Family commitments, time, the few time I have has to be just skiing (1 week a year max) tour
Free time. The right destination.
health, fitness, and spare time and energy
-I have not quite done enough with the club to meet the guidelines for potential leaders (but will have done soon). -Work is very busy and I am hesitant about over-committing myself.
no longer in touch with sufficient potential "senior" tourers
Not being able to commit enough time to ski touring to be confident in my ability to lead a tour.
Not enough time due to work & other commitments. Would do if retire/ semi retire. Have done member to member with partner
Preparation time
AGE
Age
Age

Age
Age
Age
Don't really feel competent and getting less competent at 74. Missed the boat
I'm probably a bit old to start training to be a leader!
I'm too old!
my age
My age
My age 70 +
My age and potential medical issue.
My age!
Probably too old now!
Too old and injured.
I don't think I've got enough experience. I also think I might be too old (61??)
NEED TO GO ON TWO CLUB TOURS
Lack of involvement in club tours as a participant so unsure of the entire role and responsibilities.
I am considering the leadership programme, but have not been on two member led tours yet (2nd one will be this year). I think the pre-requisites are good as it is important to see how others lead tours, and learn more how the club works. I don't think there are particular barriers.
I am quite new to the club so don't meet all of the requirements. I also will not have much extra time over the next year or two.
I haven't been on any Eagles tours.
I haven't managed to attend enough club meets yet
I was told that I had to go on more member led tours before considering leader training. However, most of the member led tours have a relatively high effort level, and I would look to lead slower tours aimed at older members,
Need to go on one more member led tour.
The requirement to attend two of the official club trips - the guided trips are often prohibitively expensive and I prefer the member-led
Haven't been on enough member-led tours
THE PROCESS IS COMPLICATED
The process feels very long and complex to me.
The process, starting with the website info is off putting and bureaucratic. It reads like someone swallowed the old government investors in people jargon. I'm highly experienced (leading and ski touring in the Himalaya, Greenland, Tromso etc) and live (part-time) and work in Chamonix running medic courses on skis (Wilderness Medical Training) and have considered leading Eagles trips as I anticipate having more "free" time but the hoop jumping I'd have to do puts me off.
I've heard it is very difficult and selective process
lack of time and not sure how to get into the system respectively what are the prerequisites. Also nobody encouraged me to do it.
Personal issues (childcare). Lack of experience/skills. Compared to e.g. AAC, becoming an Eagles leader is quite demanding.
The process for becoming a leader for the club is way too long and complicated.
ALREADY A LEADER OR JOINING THE LDP
I am taking part on the LDP this year
I have submitted my application
I'm on the PTL next intake
I'm currently signed up to the leader programme - I'll lead one once I've completed it.
Already lead tours occasionally
I led tours for 50 years
I have planned and lead tours in the past but am rather too old to do it in the future

DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF LEADING TOURS
Have seen too many instances of group members wanting a free week of guiding but not wanting to get involved.
I would happily organise a tour but would hope that participants wouldn't want to be lead. I just wouldn't want the responsibility or the sort of leadership that seems to be prevalent in esc tours. Being a fit, fast, efficient, juvenile 57 year old I'd probably rather tour with younger (or fast) members but I think the process is pretty blind when selecting tour members. And that would concern me.
It looks like hard work!
No
Not applicable
Controlling people who are unknown entities to me on the mountain
Don't think I'm the best personality for leading a tour, too introverted.
Likelihood of facing age discrimination / risk of backseat driving by older members (as distinct from group decision making)
NOT UK BASED
Attending UK based leader training (I'm not UK based)
Currently a suisse resident , course not available to me
Not British, don't live in the UK :(
Overseas members are not permitted to be tour leaders on account of the club insurance situation
Time! I'm not uk resident, which I understand causes issues with the insurance
New member (as of September 2024), and also live abroad for the time being (which I think is a limiting factor).
COST
Expense of training
Confidence, cost, incentive (its a lot of work since no financial incentive with eagles may as well just do it informally with eagles and others who are friends...indeed I do .. took group to Norway last year and again this year.
OTHER COMMENTS
A lot of my skiing is done with people not in the ESC. I'm wary about getting too bound up with the club.
I think I could lead a very basic tour here in Yorkshire Dales at short notice if we had a good fall of snow, but would be short notice and no real qualifications apart from reasonable experience alpine/off piste
N/A
I am also a member of the ASC. If I was going to lead a tour, would probably do it through that club as everyone knows each other, and easier to get references on the tour participants.
I have no formal qualifications - but lots of experience
Previously it's been a lack of time, less of an issue now. But not been ski touring since 2019 due to Covid and other commitments in the last few years
I have no idea what it involves - I see the odd training program but not a sequenced list of steps to follow and time frames

Question 22: What actions could the club take to encourage more women to become tour leaders?

Answered = 95

Skipped = 228

HAVE MORE WOMEN-ONLY TRIPS
1. Include a women only touring week in the programme. I did one with Isabel Santoir years ago and it was very good. 2. Make individual approaches to potential tour leaders and lapsed tour leaders
A female leader could act as an Ambassador for the role and maybe host a webinar dedicated to the PTL scheme and what they have done since.
A women only tor leader development programme perhaps?

A women only week where participants can take turns in leading and getting feedback
Create fun adventurous trips for women which would create more confidence and community, which could get more interest into leading trips in the future.
Difficult to say. May be through a women only tour. Then the usual dominance by men in planning, decision taking on the day etc won't be there and the female participants will feel more freely to express their opinion.
Experienced female mentoring? Female UIAGM female only tours
Female only tours and courses
Having a women's meet does encourage those who attend to realise a strong identity with other women in the activity of touring and to gain confidence in more aspects of how the activity can be run and organised. The women I have come across on my courses have all been fairly out going and up for the adventure, though usually there is only one or two if lucky in a group of 6. Though one multi-day tour had 3:3! Not sure that many of them showed an interest in leading a tour...
I'm a man, but I'd suggest women only training or promotion/webinars from women leaders
Maybe women only course? But somewhere cheap to keep costs down, advertising, mentoring
More training courses aimed at women
More women only tours?
Not really for me to say, but maybe a woman-led, women-only programme?
Not specific, but generally working to bring more people in and lower the barrier to entry helps achieve this if you already have good female participation. Simply trying to bring in more female leaders without laying the groundwork of having a strong and active female membership generally only yields very short term gains (e.g. you could get a lot of female leaders trained very easily, but then end up with very few of them actually leading for longer than a tour or two). For this reason, I'd suggest women only tours lead by experienced female leaders would be a good option to get visibility of women in those positions and start the ball rolling for future years.
Organise women-only trainings and tours, where they get to take the lead and practice the required skills to become a tour leader under supervision of a mentor and with constructive input.
Promote female lead tours
Possibly women only tours. With female guide (Tania) to lead them
Provide women only training and promote
Some more courses for youngsters and women.
Spread the training over 2-3 years? Women-only training?
Train them with women instructors
Training course led by experienced women leaders?
Women lead events
Women only funded courses?
women only leader courses
Women only pre-leader training to build confidence?
Women only tours. When I did this on one occasion it was well subscribed. I think possibly a women only week that whilst not an actual training included group leadership skills.
Women only training. Training grants for women.
Women only training/touring groups.
women only trips. we have had these in the past but they seem to have disappeared recently
Women's leadership program?
Women-only training or tours but I appreciate the barriers to that
MORE ACTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FEMALE LEADERS
Actively recruit for the Leader Development Programme
Ask more women to lead tours
Ask specific people if they are interested in doing this giving direct encouragement to those that may be suitable
-Current leaders could identify and encourage potential applicants during tours / meets. -Try to encourage more women members generally e.g. through targeted advertising (not online ads but having a club presence at events where there may be potential members, articles in magazines etc - to raise the club profile amongst established skiers)

Identify women, particularly in their 30s who have climbing/mountaineering experience and would appreciate a couple of long term mentors. Maybe over 3-5 years.
Inclusivity and active training events to encourage
May be a mentoring programme, thinking about myself, go on a tour and work along side an experienced tour leader.
Mentorship
Role models
Role models, training specific, financial as above (same as with male),
Run stories about women in the club who do this role already, and advertise in locations where women ski.
Training?
Try and identify potential leaders and encourage them to act as 'support' leaders. Perhaps ask one of the female guides to run a taster session/training for leaders. Emphasise that leaders can select their tour members.
Try to collect feedback from current tour leaders and identify potential females
ENCOURAGE MORE WOMEN TO JOIN THE CLUB
Encouragement of women from the grass roots, to increase overall ratio of women in club, concentrating on attracting young members in particular.
Encouraging more women to join the club (at all age/ability levels) would mean that there is a greater pool of women to become leaders and be role models for others.
Expansion of female membership in general.
Increase the number of female members. Perhaps by investing further in youth and development. Spotlight role models for female leaders. Target development awards at female members who have an aspiration to lead.
Introduce more women to touring?
It starts by increasing the number of women who want to join the club in the first place - films about the Eagles designed to reach new audiences eg at outdoor film festivals could help that. Plus striving for a 50:50 gender split on the committee.
Not really my field! Maybe a better gender balance in general would mean more women who might choose to volunteer?
Start by encouraging more females to apply to become members. The leaders will follow.
USE MORE FEMALE GUIDES
I am not a fan of "women only" things as we need to encourage equality and diversity in broader terms, for all genders. Having said that, it is about having diverse representation of all gender leaders giving talks, doing training courses etc. that might encourage others to see its not only for men. :) There are lot of women guides out there, maybe also the club could try to work more with women guides to bring more diversity to professionally led programme and training courses.
Ask IFMGA women guides what they think, what the barriers were for them and how they overcame them.
More women guide led trips and training, reflection on the impact the male dominated dynamic has on women, especially less experienced and older (and action such as calling out some behaviours!).
More women guides
Selecting more female leaders for externally guided events. Provide good role models.
PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES
Give them higher subsidies and grants? It would be interesting to know ratio of M/F Leaders -vs- the overall membership M/F ratio
Prioritise them for Training courses/funding
Promote this as a club priority for 2025/6. Engage with Ski Club GB and others to do this. Offer bursary support.
Subsidise their training and expenses.
Subsidised training for women, have women-only training courses.
MORE VISIBILITY OF WOMEN IN THE CLUB
More women officers on the board, in control, a female figurehead.
The club needs to have equal women at the organisational level to encourage women at all levels. If all the committee is men (or 90%), then this immediately sets a less welcoming feeling no matter how nice the people are.

Have more women represented and visible at all levels within the club e.g. more female guides, more photos in the yearbook/on the website/in the newsletter of women, more committee members etc. What about a women members whatsapp group as the chatter often seems to get dominated by the blokes?

More visibility for women in the club. Perhaps more women led tours to increase confidence. All dependent on women's focus groups and surveys.

Visibility via websites / newsletters, of the female guides and tour leaders and organisers and committee members.

More women-focused communications; maybe a pro-active women's committee and campaign; possibly some women-only development initiatives

Would defer to ESC Womens focus groups but more visibility for women and women leaders within the club.

Social media? But in the end the women have to step forward and volunteer

Have women leaders as mentors, offer refresher courses for existing leaders.

Get existing women leaders to write articles

GENDER-RELATED ISSUES

Focus on tour organisers, not leaders. In general women seem to me to be better at research, organising, communication. Maybe they feel they have to work harder in what has been a largely male dominated past time. Maybe get some going by being a joint leader / organiser.

For me personally, an evening (preferably online or at a meet) working through the minimum skill levels objectively may help. A lot of studies show that women wait till a higher level of competency before putting themselves forward. So being shown the details of what is required would both help with confidence and also highlight areas of training.

I think the club is very inclusive and I respect all members and genders

I would suggest gathering feedback from tour leaders on participants who show potential to become future tour leaders, both women and men. Some individuals naturally take initiative, while others may need a bit of encouragement and support to step into a leadership role. Could the club highlight the achievements of current female tour leaders to inspire others? Could the club introduce mentorship programs where experienced female leaders guide and support aspiring female tour leaders?

No idea, but I'd maybe question the assumption that more women should be leading tours. If they want to, that's fine. But if they don't want to, I'm not sure that's actually a problem?

Reduce the macho element implied in some of the member led tours.

Suggest buddying up, 2 women who get on. This has worked well in the workplace with leadership roles. I like the idea of women only training BUT some women can be very competitive with other women, need to make sure it would be a supportive happy group

Supportive and encouraging environment. Awareness for members of different leadership styles between men and women (eg lead or collaborate) and awareness of need to look at competence not gender.

That is SUCH a good question, but I'm not sure that I've got an answer. Being female (and being the one looking after the kids) gave me a gender skill gap that I'm unlikely to close now. I have found women teachers and guides and groups supportive in a sometimes intimidating alpha male environment. If all courses/tours came with a childcare creche how fab would that be (I'm not serious!)

This is a difficult one. I don't have the confidence to be a solo leader but I would have confidence if it was two of us (and a bit of training). Leadership implies responsibility on an individual. Is there another way of encouraging partnership working or buddy leaders?

Well it's a big issue the male dominated arena of ski touring. Maybe more women specific tours and training or just somehow make trips more appealing to women. For example I was knackered and went for an afternoon to a spa in Italy the men did not and they were knackered the next day and I was not. Similarity in Bulgaria shitty weather so I went to the spa on offer the men did not and I don't think gained much from the outing but it's an ego thing and men do not want to feel they are pulling out of an activity. I'm not sure how this may translate to a trip and I don't want to generalise and say women need spas! Men don't. But maybe some other activity options for a rest day and maybe a policy of a better mix of gender on trips as I'm normally the only women or if I'm with a women she is either a beginner or really super competitive. I don't really know how to answer this one but these are my impressions. Maybe more female guides? Again I don't actually care I like male guides and male company but others may prefer female company.

I cynically want to say address the misogyny, but may be ask women why they don't become tour leaders and try to remove the barriers. I wouldnt call male or female tour leaders from an insurance and liability. Organisers might be better?

As a man, I may not be best palced to answer this.

Better if this question is answered by a woman

don't know

Don't know

Dunno - ask them?

I'm keen to hear what women think about this. We could also look at focus meetings to discuss in more detail with women (ideally involving a mix of women who have led tours and some who haven't yet but might be interested).

N/A

No idea

Question 26: What issues discourage you from taking any of the [climate care] actions listed in Q25 above?

Answered = 186

Skipped = 137

TIME & COST CONCERNS
Access to reliable efficient alternatives
Additional time and cost for rail travel from the North of England to the Alps.
Additional time and cost required to travel by train from Scotland, includes train journey time and poor connections.
Am from Highlands of Scotland
Amount of time I can take off work
As I am retired, journey time is now less important for me, though that (and relative costs) might cause me to consider flying to more remote destinations (e.g. Norway, SE Europe)
As I live in France mostly I drive, so the questions are not very relevant. For destinations further afield, Georgia or Norway. The train is not feasible with my time constraints.
Climate change is always a factor but timing, convenience and cost (in that order) also play a role.
Complex journeys to remote areas in Europe, also travelling alone with too much luggage.
Cost - rail tickets are considerably more expensive than flights, typically.
Cost Uncertainty of baggage restrictions onEurostar Brexit fallout
Cost , many carbon crédit schemes discredited
Cost and additional time required when limited in both budget and time. Working out multiple train timetables on different websites is also a challenge. Often lack of viable options for the journey required.
Cost and associated costs of rail travel
Cost and availability.
cost and convenience
Cost and convenience
Cost and convenience
cost and length of time I plan to go on a trip in advance of the trip. I'm not going to book a train last minute, as it's too costly. Anyway now I usually book trips well in advance so take the train as it's generally nicer.
Cost and limited annual leave allowance.
Cost and time
Cost and time
Cost and time
Cost and time

Cost and time
cost and time.
Cost and time. Don't have enough of either
Cost of rail travel
Cost of train travel and time taken to travel by train as I am self-employed - extra holiday taken means less money earnt.
Cost of train travel in Europe
Cost of train travel. Need for my own car at destination.
Cost of train vs air travel Difficulty of booking train vs air travel Have had issues with ice axes on Eurostar
Cost, time and the perceived difficulties of train travel. Scepticism about carbon credits.
Cost, time taken for travel other than by air, relatively insignificant impact of my changes vs major government programmes and heavy industry.
Cost, time, convenient, practical
Cost, travel time and availability of tickets.
Cost, UK trains expensive and lack of mobility once in the Alps i.e need a car to get between locations for snow conditions etc
Difficulty of train travel to continental Europe from Scotland.
Difficulty/impossibility of reaching destination by train.
Duration/logistics/costs
Extra cost and time of travelling by train.
Extra time required to plan around trips. Cost
Family reasons; Adds 2 extra days to a trip.
Flying often cheaper. Bite the bullet and go on the train- it is a more relaxed experience
For me, ultimately comes down to budgets and costs as I'm young, working in London.
For members living in the Republic of Ireland, air travel is often the only practical option. While reducing travel is one way to lessen our environmental impact, other factors like diet and lifestyle choices also play a significant role.
Free time
Having enough annual leave to enable the extra travel time by train....and not then spending that time skiing rather than on a train...
High cost and elapsed time required to travel from Scotland to the Alps by train.
I appreciate that for many of the people joining my tours it is a one week holiday that they are taking away from work and that they will fly as there main form of travel and then use public transport. If people are working they are much less likely to afford the time to travel by train or be planning 2 trips back to back. Some more these days however are figuring in the planning by train which seems to work best for folk who live in the south of England.
I generally only do 1 ski trip abroad per year and time is of the essence.
I have the advantage of not living too far from the French alps, but the disadvantage that there is essentially no public transport. Looking at some itineraries it is practically impossible to do the whole trip by train. My comment is also reflected in the answers to Q27. Some practically have no choice then to fly.
I live in NE Scotland and train/drive options become unrealistic when you look at the awful train times, costs and ability to book in advance. There are also issues with luggage security and limited (usually none in the UK) trollies to help with luggage. Great idealisum but sadly unrealistic.
I live in Scotland so travelling by train would add a couple of days to each trip. I work so time away has to be managed carefully.
I love remotely in Scotland. To travel by train would be impractical and very expensive.
I mostly go to Norway and from Scotland almost impossible to do by train.
If you are of working age and only have a set amount of annual leave, there is insufficient available time to travel by train or combine multiple trips (as much as you'd like to).
It can be complicated making multiple linked train bookings. I use an Interrail ticket.) I usually miss the 1st evening meal if I travel by train.

it is the extra time needed for train travel etc which is difficult to reconcile with my caring duties. I still work full time. It is a persons life footprint that is important. Not their holiday footprint as that is only a snapshot.
It's hard to argue with cheap flight costs if you are on a tight budget and limited holidays. Much easier to take trains when not on limited holidays (ie retired).
Lack of available time required for train travel to Europe from Edinburgh. Additional cost. Poor timetabling. (Although I liked the recent idea of tours meeting at St Pancras Intl instead of the destination.)
Lack of practical alternative to flying unless have unlimited time and budget. Norway is a problem but the new ferry may help.
Lack of suitable rail / ferry options from the North of England
Last two years travelled by train to Chamonix from Glasgow. It's a 28 hour journey and includes night in London on way out and sleeper on way back. In 2023 we managed it all the way but travelling with ski bags with number of connections and delays made it exhausting and we were targeted by pickpockets on Paris metro. In 2024 we had a private taxi from Geneva. It took about 30 hours to plan and organise with so many elements to the journey. Cost same as flying. In 2025 we have bought flights as couldn't get to Aosta by train easily/ in time to get to our accommodation. Journey time outbound would be 30-32 hours. But we plan to travel to Arolla by train in 2025.
Limited free time
Living in Aberdeen makes it twice the duration for train travel to the Alps than from e.g. London.
Living in North of Scotland
Living in Scotland combined with limited holiday allowance
Living in Scotland more sustainable forms of transport are not really feasible time wise or money wise. Having a young family, looking to buy family home, would not be affordable or time/cost effective to take train to alpine club trip. But I do believe we should mainly organize trips to location with good rail air connections so need to hire cars etc in Europe is minimized and end location should always be accessible by train, so those who can travel by train from south of England and from nearest airport can get to touring locations easily. So
Living in Scotland the added cost/time is a major barrier to reducing flying
Living in Scotland, ergo multiple train trips lugging lots of luggage and skis
living in Singapore I have to fly to Europe but try to minimise local flights. coming for the season I have a lot of luggage and train travel is difficult if not impossible. I usually rent a car for local movement
Living in the North East of Scotland limits rail travel options to the continent as they become increasingly expensive and generally would require an overnight stop/sleeper train. It's a shame, but flying is simply a lot more affordable.
Living in the north of Scotland
Mostly the length of time needed to travel to the Alps by train. (specialy Austria) But then I cycle or train anywhere in the UK and once in mainland europe
Mostly the unreliability of rail travel in the UK.
No issues discourage me other than myself! I have done back to back tours in the past to reduce flights. I have looked at train travel and the difficulty has been the additional time (and therefore annual leave) required, rather than expense
No time- would do if retired/ had more holiday!
Poor rail connections from north of Scotland
Practical time considerations of doing so from Edinburgh. Exorbitant relative cost of UK train travel.
Practicalities, time and distance. I am beginning to think that I need to do more than count my carbon footprint. I need to lobby Govt and support organisations that take companies to court particularly oil companies.
Practicality
Price followed by time
Price of train travel, accessibility of remote areas
Q3 - doesn't quite make sense. I certainly avoid connecting flights but that is a different point to using train travel to from airport. Issue with train is convenience (bits at each end), overall time & booking complexity.

Rail costs particularly Eurostar are very high which is such a shame. Limited annual leave is something I have to take into account when booking sustainable travel, same for back-to-back ski trips. I can't afford for my ice axe and gear to be taken off me in customs for the Eurostar. I've seen your work to keep this accessible to us, so thank you and keep this going! Also, bad experience with coach travel has put me off that for a long time unfortunately. I think promoting sustainable travel is essential and great, but do not make trips inaccessible to those who have less money and less time flexibility. It might be the one flight I do per year, and make other lifestyle choices to counteract this like being vegan and cycling.

Shortage of time and the difficulty of getting to certain locations within the time available

Some destinations difficult by rail or car. Too risky and/or expensive if stages of travel are cancelled/delayed.

Some places such as NW England or Scotland have greater barriers to train travel compared to much better connected cities (ie London, SE)

The cost and the extra time

The cost of train travel. It has worked for me on ski trips (but I have found the cost for summer bike touring trips prohibitive at times!)

The European train system is actually country based, not well suited for travelling to many ski resorts from North Germany.

The extra logistics of travelling by train from the north of UK. It is much easier if you are in London. Travelling with ski equipment is much more challenging. Also, it is sometimes difficult when faced with a long and tricky journey and a flight is not particularly expensive.

The length of journey involved from north Scotland- and the cost of the options if you miss out on cheaper tickets.

The practicalities of reaching Scandanavia by rail make it an unrealistic option.

Time

Time

Time

Time

Time

Time - I have a small number of holiday days at work and would prefer to spend these on holiday rather than travelling.

Time - working full time with limited annual leave means that I don't want spend additional time travelling via slower means. Additional lifestyle factors allows me to fit occasional flying into my overall carbon emissions.

Time and cost / reliability of rail travel

Time and cost of travel options.

Time and money - a lot of the more environmentally sensitive options are, sadly, less efficient and/ or more expensive. I do also think that while it's important that the club considers environmental impact, it's not necessarily something you need to make a main effort compared to other aspects of the club's activities.

Time away from work and family means fights over trains. Much more difficult to Alps from Scotland on train or car than from South.

Time cost is the greatest limiting factor for me.

Time is an issue when taking the train. Slightly shorter itineraries might allow easier travel to and from a destination within a week rather than having to take days off either side of the week.

Time limits due to work, rail strikes, cost, easier to just book a flight, takes more than a day to get to destination

Time mainly - usually takes a bit longer (esp. from north of London) thus additional day(s) leave from work.

Time off from work being limited, has an impact on what is practical.

time off work has prevented me choosing to travel by train because it takes longer.

Time off work is fixed, which takes most options off the table when travelling from Scotland to the Alps even if money were no object - and the fact is that not flying would cost much more than twice as much as flying. Most of the affirmative actions listed would be great for people who are retired or self-employed or who lives in London. For everyone else, they're pretty exclusionary. I think carbon offsetting including carbon credits is mostly a scam and that avoidance of emissions is considerably preferable to offsetting them.

Time pressure

Time pressure and not enough holidays sometimes. It is a difficult topic as young professionals try juggling often very busy work schedules and often times taking multiple weeks off is not feasible or possible.
Time required to travel to some remote areas of Europe e.g northern Norway makes none flying options very difficult!
Time spent travelling
Time, ease of understanding the actual value in carbon this actually is...rather than the hype
Time, cost and habit
Time, cost, practicality.
Time, Money, Availability
Time. Living in Scotland I would need an extra day to get to the Alps by train.
Train from uk very expensive
Train is more suitable for those living in the south east (for Europe trips) than for those living further north
Train is stupidly expensive. Flying should be the most expensive form of travel- it's the cheapest!
Train journeys too long/complex especially travelling from the North of England
Train timetables published late cf cheap flights. Carrying luggage on the train and difficulty leaving it when I'm on my own. Length of journey tends to be longer by train.
Train to the Alps isn't as practical from Scotland as eg London!
Travel not easy from Scotland + expensive. I find the physical requirement of lugging bags around quite difficult now I'm older. But have only flown occasionally to the Alps in the last 5 years.
Travelling by air is generally quite a lot quicker and cheaper.
Uncertainty of booking train travel compared with certainty of booking flights or planning car travel six months in advance
Whilst I have done it, I can say it is generally more complex and stressful especially if travelling alone with luggage. Cost is also significantly more.
Whilst the train is clearly the most environmentally friendly option it takes longer, costs more and is susceptible to strikes in the UK and France. I always use public transport in Switzerland because it works
Where I live flying is the only realistic option to go anywhere!
Have used train but as unreliable in Europe as UK. Will think very hard before doing all the journey by train again.
Logistics of trains do not always work, however i now always drive in a shared car when trains are not possible. (Also biased as I really enjoy the trains aside from climate reasons!)
Some destinations you just can't get to easily on train. I live in alps and I would always drive to a club trip
CONCERNS ABOUT CARBON CREDIT/OFFSET SCHEMES
Carbon credits and many other actions are just to ease the conscience. I try to make meaningful changes to reduce my C footprint. This means much less or 0 skiing abroad
Carbon credits are a cop out. Train and shared car should be the norm and a requirement for trips. Trips that require flying to should be reduced / criticised e.g. Norway
Carbon credits are unclearly marketed and explained. It's not entire transparent and it's not easy to be sure they actually do what they are supposed to do.
Carbon credits feel a bit like a papal indulgence. Train travel planning is a bit higher stress when you want to link several cheap tickets across the UK and Europe. Different ticket release dates make it a drawn out task.
Do carbon credits really mitigate emissions?
Dont like travelling by car. Too far from london for train travel. Not convinced by carbon offsets
Don't understand carbon credits
Greenwash/Irrelevance
I am not sure how beneficial it would be to donate to a charity - I just need to stay out of the plane!
I am very sceptical about carbon credits, so do my best to minimise the carbon emissions I generate in the first place.

I strongly disagree with the concept of 'carbon offsets'. The causes that are supported by the 'better' schemes are very worthy and worth supporting irrespective of travel. It is not much of an exaggeration to suggest Offsets are simply an excuse that lets rich travellers think it does no harm for them to generate carbon as long as they pay.

I think carbon credits are really 'greenwash'. We try to offset our air travel-related emissions by pursuing measures that are easier to achieve - at home, what we buy and what and how we drive.

Not convinced that purchasing carbon credits is a good solution. As with many charities, too much money syphoned off in expenses.

Skepticism of many carbon credit schemes. Impossible not to ski to good locations without flying. Not prepared to give up ski touring

The carbon credits currently used by the club do not provide 'permanent carbon removal' and hence aren't compatible with 'net zero'

The offsetting - I'd love to be convinced about it, more information would be great.

AGE

Age

Age and cost

Connections with luggage as an older person.

EUROSTAR - ICE AXES

A recent problem with ice axes on Eurostar through Brussels. I have been in touch with the Club about this and they are (hopefully!) in discussions with Eurostar.

Reputation of Eurostar with problems handling ice axes and other equipment. Practicality of reaching some destinations - in the past, I have taken the train to Austria, which was easy.

Taking technical mountaineering equipment on Eurostar French trains stopping the sleeper from Paris

WIDER ISSUES ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE & ROLE OF THE CLUB

Climate change is a fact and has been clear for many many years/ centuries/Aeons. The man made CO2 alleged contribution is unquantifiably minimal

I do many other things reducing my impact on the planet. I dont expect the club to focus on climat change. We are a Ski club. I dont feel guilty about my carbon foot print.

I do not maintain an interest in climate politics

I make my own decisions and choices and don't want to be dictated to by club. It seems totally absurd. If you that worried about your impact on environment then don't go skiing..pretending to mitigate your actions by donating a small amount to a cc charity not going to make a difference to environment. Having worked for 3 large environmental charities I am also deeply skeptical about the value they make anyways. I will make my own contribution in my own way and do not take kindly to being told.

I think climate care is virtue signalling. The real issues are political

I think ESC is right to flag and discuss this issue but personal choice and mitigation/proportionality is important

I usually drive out to the Alps for a whole month, and combine 1 or 2 ESC tours with a family downhill skiing week/fortnight, taking my family's skiing equipment with me. As such, train travel doesn't provide a practicable alternative option.

I will still fly to join tours outside Europe but in recent years have used trains or shared cars to reach destinations in Europe.

I work in the airline industry, some of the clubs agenda on the environment is misguided and also conflicting with my employment. If the agenda continues against airlines I will have to consider my membership.

If we were serious about the issue we should all stop taking any foreign holidays

I've made a personal decision to limit my flying not only because of CC. It's a ski club, the CC is a vastly complex issue of which we have limited understanding and I feel a softer approach to being more responsible in general is the way to go. I mean your entire outfitting for ski touring is plastics based, all manufactured in the far east but we only drive the low carbon travel mantra. Softly softly, focus on being a ski touring club.

Live close to tour location, car travel only or most logical travel means.

Nannying' by the ESC is becoming intrusive

None. No-one should be flying anywhere anymore to/within Europe.

The actions of individuals or the club as a whole, will not make a significant difference. Therefore whilst I think that carbon efficient travel should be encouraged, I believe that some of the pressure and narrative from club members does not aid the situation and alienates members. Especially those who cannot afford the time off to spend two days travelling rather than one. This narrative seems to be pushing the club to be more elitist.
The club is tiny, its overall impact is unmeasurably small. There's a lot of "personal greenwashing" in pretending to go green while enjoying an energy intensive sport (think of all that expensive kit).
The fact that most club tours still utilise mechanical uplift to save time & effort. Ski resorts are a huge blight on the landscape.
The inconvenience of lugging full touring kit, skis etc around by train with multiple changes (e.g. across Paris). Not feeling safe doing very long car journeys (falling asleep at the wheel) Not being fully convinced yet that carbon credits etc make a real difference
The quantum of change required means that taking a train is barely scratching the surface. Not to mention sustainable aviation fuel is a thing. We need industrials and scale investment in carbon reduction and capture into the trillions. I work with C-suite clients and see how they simply do not care about sustainability and by their own admission only pay lip service for marketing purposes. This makes me realise that there's nothing I can do about it and it needs to come from governments.
Use air travel only when essential. EG - to stay within 90/180 day constraint AND only doing a single week tour. Have not considered ESC carbon credits - would welcome more info.
OTHER POINTS
I have not been ot skiing these past three years.
I live in Geneva, so I normally drive.
I live in ski mountains, most of my skiing is local. I'm not too fussed about my occasional flight to ski elsewhere.
I live in the alps
I've not been on the trips in order to do this. I have driven to the alps on a number of occasions!
None of the actions applied
Too much to discuss here..

Question 29: Looking to the future, are there any other priorities that you think the Club should focus on in the future?

Answered = 70

Skipped = 253

INCREASING DIVERSITY WITHIN THE CLUB
Increasing the membership of younger participants and making it more attractive for them
EDI
Increasing the young membership of the club. Increasing the membership of the club to British citizens living near the Alps.
Engaging the youth and looking less at "big resort" areas to help promote smaller resorts that are giving up lifts but will need to rely on ski tourers to survive.
Try and encourage more women to take an active part in the club.
Focusing on youth and diversity (which includes women) will be important to the longevity of the club, as always.
Young members
More female board members sounds a good idea to me.
More diversity in membership and committee composition
More diverse membership (background, ethnicity, sex)
(as above) Encouraging young ski tourers.
Encourage young people participation with good diversity
Development of further club leaders and adventurous tour leaders. Development of young members

Reducing the average age of membership. There's good ongoing work with attracting a younger membership but should remain a very high priority.

We are predominantly male and white. It is astonishing that the proportion of women members hasn't really changed since our formation 100 years ago. It would also be good to widen out participation in ski touring to more people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. The club should prioritise diversity more. In the past, diversity has largely mean focusing more on youth. That is important but so is gender and race as well.

Attracting younger skiers to touring and encouraging a progression to leadership of tours through mentoring.

Youth

I would suggest broadening the definition of "Youth" to include greater engagement and participation from the 20-50 age group, which currently seems underrepresented in the club.

SUPPORTING NEW MEMBERS & NEW SKI TOURERS

Helping newcomers gain referee access

Develop a touring pathway from absolute novice to expedition to help members visualise how they can progress and improve. Engage more actively with other ski clubs to promote touring as an alternative to lift-served skiing.

Accessibility of ski-touring to more participants, i.e. reducing cost and time barriers to entry.

Development of younger members in skills, club involvement, and leadership.

Perhaps to help new members can actually get a space on a tour, or have some method to help with last minute spaces as it is hard for me to commit 6 months ahead

Ensure that guidance on tours for inexperienced members is by competent qualified guides and instructors

New member induction and guidance / support for members to develop the experience and skills to be safe and effective participants in member led tours.

TOURING PROGRAMME

More emphasis on off-piste and offer a truly member led organisation in contrast to SCGB

Keep member to member tours and do not get boring!

Member led tours, encourage adventurous trips

I think it is really important to maintain the adventurous / expeditionary aspect of the club, and there should be a definite target for e.g. one expedition every year / other year. Even if most people don't go on these trips, the fact that they occur is really important for the character of the club. It is good to be in an environment where that sort of thing is happening.

Continue to focus on providing a well balanced tour programme that has something which appeals to all member of the club.

As I advance in years, perhaps more trips aimed at older ski tourers.

Focus on member-led tours and development of skills for leading and participating in them

member led touring

It would be good to have means of feedback to the club from volunteers who organise meets. A report of how it went, and how it might be improved. This would show that volunteers are valued and supported. It would encourage new volunteers to step forward.

I feel that meet reports in the yearbook are not enough on their own.

More opportunities to enjoy skiing

COMMUNICATIONS, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage members to write kit reviews, plus provide a forum, format and guidance on what to include and how to present it.

(Volunteer willing/ able) promote the sustainable focus and approach of the club on social media to show to a broader audience what is possible.

Website improvement: improving the tour application form (allowing to reuse it or register at several tours with one form - otherwise it's a tedious copy-paste job).

Expeditions, maybe a social media channel dedicated to this..., where people can form groups who can undertake these

I am a little worried about inclusivity, as I do not use any social media platforms. If all activity is reflected in the website then there is no issue, however if some events are only broadcast on facebook say then I would have no knowledge of the events.

I'm keen to hear what other members think about this as I develop my own thoughts re the next 3 yr strategy!

ENGAGE WITH THE WIDER SKI TOURING COMMUNITY

Engaging with the wider ski touring community to contribute to the sport's development in the UK. e.g. engaging with MS and their ski touring committees, working with landowners to ensure that ski touring can sustainably happen in the mountains, outreach to universities/less specialised ski/mountaineering clubs to provide guidance on safely ski touring (and reach possible future members)

Developing local social cells in the uk to encourage a more enduring and sustainable community.

Partnerships with other clubs. I suspect that the overlap between members with an interest in ski touring and those with an interest in mountaineering is a circle!

CLIMATE/LOW CARBON TRAVEL

Providing information/predictions on the most favourable areas and months for ski touring, as climate change really begins to bite. This could be tied in to ease of access by train etc.

Not really maybe the low carbon travel

Alternative activities due to increasing lack of snow.

Based on my own experience of traveling by train, share how to do it as it's not easy. Seat61 helps but there are so many other issues. A detailed guide of options for each stage e.g. if travelling from Scotland, go on Iner to kings cross and stay at premier inn on street beside kings cross. Use black Friday to buy discount french train pass, etc.

Stop the focus on climate change. I will leave the club if this is continued to be forced down my throat. Probably by older members no longer even touring ! We are all able to make our own choices and decisions.

Advise members of areas with little or poor snow cover currently or historically.

Having a proper decarbonisation roadmap in place and the conviction to follow it (going straight to carbon credits is putting the cart before the horse)

TRAINING & SKILLS

Fitness - we all need it for touring so webinars etc helping members train and get fit for touring

developments in crease rescue. new petal rope. up to date equipment reviews

Making it easier to be a tour leader. Keep membership fees down and spend money on safety/training rather than yearbooks.

Keep highlighting the importance of safety. Develop ski touring techniques, such as uphill turn efficiency, transition efficiency, skiing down in bad weather / conditions. There's very little talk of these techniques and when you're at 4000m in a whiteout, it's far more important than what form of transport you took to the Alps.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT/UK EVENTS

Members engaging with other members through face-to-face social events such as lectures/slide shows. These have rather fizzled out except in the Peak District in recent years - the problem is probably finding volunteers to organise them.

CLUB MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Maintain our position as a member led club

Succession planning within committee

Do we focus enough on the skiing? Are other things crowding it out?

THINGS ARE OKAY

Your current emphasis seems appropriate to me.

It is a good list already, it is better to keep a good focus on few areas and not try to solve everything ! Perhaps ensuring sustainable active membership to ensure club longevity!

These look good to me

Keep up the great work.

No
No
No - it's a great list and is quite big enough already!
No I don't think so
I think the club is well run and we should be very thankful to all the volunteers.
No

Question 30: Do you have any other comments or suggestions for improving any aspect of the club?

Answered = 82

Skipped = 241

CLIMATE/LOW CARBON TRAVEL
Also climate initiatives should not just focus on travel . There is the entire aspect of sustainability of equipment and ré-use of ski gear !
With respect to carbon offsetting, I think itq really important to contribute to schemes and charities with genuine environmental impact. I am sceptical that a lot of carbon credits are greenwashing. Have a cheap week for potential leaders to learn and also find out where you are as far as how much more you need to do to develop skills.
Could try making the start of the tour at train stations in UK.
Carbon credits and offsetting do not reduce the carbon emissions of the journey. They are way those who can afford to do so assuage their guilt.
The ESC is a ski touring club not a climate change lobby group. Of course climate change is important and we should all take it into account (I have basically stopped long-haul flying), but where the two objectives conflict the ESC's job is to promote ski touring.
With regards to reducing club impact on climate change, as a alternative or perhaps along side carbon credits the club could organize volunteer weeks with various climate charities, such as a week where members can plant trees for Trees For Life charity, or take part in other climate action work with John Muir trust or other charities, day events or whole weeks organized by club in conjunction with a charity, I personally would feel better volunteering and making a positive difference with a local or national charity on behalf of the club rather than paying money in carbon credits, I personally find such actions more empowering, paying money in carbon credit just feels like rich western people paying a small amount to enjoy there privileged lifestyle guilt free.
I would like to see an annual carbon footprint value for the whole club. Representing all the activities and travel undertaken by club members in attending any club event, including committee meetings. With this we can see on a year by year basis the progress the club is making towards carbon neutral or other measures such as net zero.
I fear that, as a club, we may be focusing too much on low carbon travel. We need to be careful that, as we try to take positive and responsible steps to mitigate the impact climate change, we don't disadvantage and alienate members who, for often legitimate reasons, can't make low carbon travel choices. I personally made a low carbon train journey from the north of Scotland to the Alps last season - it ended up being much more expensive and time consuming and if independently analysed, it probably didn't have a significantly lower carbon footprint.
Have you considered contacting the Alpine club they have accommodation in London central, perhaps it could be hired out for cheap to members who want to get the train to the alps but a layover in central London is very expensive. Could be good for both clubs?
Members should not be forced to use trains to travel to tours - this is very exclusionary to those living far from London and/or with limited holiday available, i.e. the non-retired or family-bound (I've looked into this multiple times and the timetables/costs have never worked - although I liked the idea of meeting at St Pancras Intl for tour start). Furthermore, members may be making sufficient environmentally-positive impacts elsewhere in their lives that a single return flight is justifiable. The club should continue to encourage and assist with low carbon initiatives or reduction, but should not enforce it.
Same as above stop preaching to me about climate change

Generally an amazing club. Think we really have an obligation for future members to develop a truly low-carbon touring program.

As the cost of carbon credits is low I would use some of the club funds in that direction rather than 'paying' people to lead tours.

I really enjoy the yearbook but could understand if funds were diverted to a better cause. In an increasingly digital era with environmental pressures I would be happy to research future tours on the website and remember my tours by saving digital versions of the tour reports. I would like to 'car share' for environmental reasons and wonder if a car sharing facility could be added to the website? Sharing of green travel experience might assist others? There have been a few pieces on train travel but not much on the practicalities of electric vehicle journeys to the Alps?

Provide, negotiate or subsidise personal ski touring equipment Storage in the Alps (e.g. in Chamonix, Innsbruck etc). If this was available it would make low carbon travel (by train etc) far more attractive, by removing the need to lug touring kit back and forward to the UK.

DIVERSITY

There used to be more women in prominent roles in the club... I don't think that there has been an ethos of sisterhood among the women in the club and so opportunities to support each other and to develop and grow female leaders and female competence has not been nurtured, either by the club or by the women in the club. The social links in the club are tentative enough without fragmenting them more by focussing on female only events... but perhaps it would be worth a try. For both initial training and refresher courses?

Really good to see club leadership engaging with younger members - hope this continues and continues to bear fruit!

Please drop the diversity stuff, it is off-putting for many and will lead to incessant arguments. I like the ESC because it is a club for skiing enthusiasts and not a pulpit for strange modern politics

More women-only tours and training events might help female members develop the confidence to become tour leaders. Initially these would need to be guide-led given the sparsity of female leaders.

There may be older members (such as myself) who are no longer able to participate in ski mountaineering/touring but continue to ski both on and off piste and are interested in following the activities of the more physically able members of the club. The Yearbook is much appreciated. Perhaps there could be some place for this group.

Try to attract the younger age groups to the club. I attended a meet a few years ago with several younger (30s) members and it was quite refreshing to see the change in group dynamic: far more enthusiasm, willingness to go a bit further, make the most of the day.

A much lighter atmosphere compared with the normal staid, reserved ambience that surrounds trips but got far more done.

TOURING PROGRAMME

Strengthening the touring program to highlight the club goals, especially focusing the guides tours on these objectives listed on questions 27 rather than simply looking like adventure holiday listings.

I know a lot of people who go "resort skiing" and have never tried or ski touring or even heard of the eagles. I don't know how, but our sustainable sport needs greater resonance with (especially) younger audiences.

Do not organise, support or promote trips that involve conflict with wildlife. For instance, trips where a weapon is required to protect members from polar bears should not be supported. There is enough quality skiing in Europe to mean trips that could result in the death of an endangered species are unnecessary and morally unjustifiable.

It would be good to have some trips that are family friendly. By this, based at a resort with resort skiing available where people can join as couples and groups can go out for day tours and kids/partners can be in ski school/skiing resort/relaxing etc. It is something I may be open to organising over the next few years.

I would suggest at least one intro weekend and intro week in Scotland and the alps respectively are held per year as a minimum to ensure that getting started in the club is frictionless and welcoming.

more club meets in the alps. there is scope for at least 3 or 4 on the programme

I think having something alternative in addition to referees would be beneficial. For example, something like an aspirants meet for members whose skills put them out of scope for an introductory week but who are new members of the club, acknowledging that this is perhaps a small number of people.

I think it a shame that member-member tours have been 'relegated' out of the main touring section in the website. Rather than moving them out, make it clearer that these are not led by ESC leaders or guides would be fairer to everyone, offer more tours and enable the 'average' member to engage further in leading. If the tour leader training option is made more open, e.g. publisize what the leaders have passed at (e.g. what is sylibus) would be good for everyone.

I tend to ski with people I know or who are qualified. A number of experiences on club events (and I'd stress that I haven't attended that many so this is just my opinion) have led me to feel that some people leading activities in the Alps aren't proficient enough as skiers or leaders. I have enjoyed the Argentier meets but feel that there's not enough management of who leads which parties on which tours. Joining a tour with people you don't know is fraught and I'd hope that the club looks to finding processes to manage this a little more actively rather continue as we do.

As a prospective leader I would be more likely to take on a tour that had been completed in previous years that has been tried and tested rather than something completely new. I am not sure if resources from previous organisers could be shared in this way.

COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

Archiving common questions / responses from WhatsApp group. I appreciate the move to 'Discourse' is part of this.

Love the webinars and being able to communicate with others. Be wary of the club being taken over by professionals and semi professionals

The member to member advice via WhatsApp has been really enjoyable as well as educational even if it sometimes becomes super specialised. Volunteers are hard to find in every walk in life, don't know how you grow that aspect.....

Be interesting to see how the new Discourse forum improves and encourages conversation.

The WhatsApp groups have been really useful for obtaining real time information from members who are either already in the Alps or have event experience of specific areas. Promoting targeted groups and subjects would make these forums more valuable as a reference tool as the Year Book already is for research in where people have been. Finally, keep up the good work and thanks to all the committee and volunteers for all the hard work....it's appreciated!

Additionally, I've noticed that Instagram posts tend to feature mostly photos from guided tours. It would be great to see more balanced representation, with photos from all types of tours shared on social media.

I've always liked the idea of a high-quality photo-journal in addition to the year book. Maybe published every 5 years - the very best photos, stories and articles from club members. Proper coffee-table stuff. It would be a great club promotion tool as well.

Create a "Selected Bibliography" page on the Website (see my recent suggestion about this on the Discourse channel).

RUNNING/DEVELOPING THE CLUB

The club seems to be going from strength to strength. I am generally very happy with the way things are being run.

Whilst the ability to identify member location has improved it would be good to further develop informal member to member contact at a local level.

Continue to build on the strengths of the club: a strong sense of community; a focus on helping people develop their ski touring skills; adapting to changing circumstances; being innovative.

Club is very well run but dependant of a few members doing alot of work. When a new member applies consider whether, at the on boarding point, members are asked about their skills to see how they maybe able to contribute to the club, even in a very small way

No (need for change)

Just be careful we don't try and fix something that ain't broken, or improve something that is already excellent and risk spoiling it! Thanks again to all involved.

No- I have been a relatively inactive member limited to a handful of ski tours stretched over more than 30 years- so my views are equally limited. Given that I think it is a wonderful club with a great and broad programme of activities

No (need for change)

We need to be careful of becoming too corporate: eg layers of management, diversity initiatives, appearance of a large bureaucracy to members. After all, we are just a skiing club!

Over all great club. Well run. Wish I could support or participate more but find myself increasingly drifting away as having children is the great sacrifice.

I feel indebted to the committee and office bearers for dealing with an ever increasing load as the club increases in size and the management burden increases, exacerbated by the demands of dealing with multi communication channels through social media.

I think its incredible that such a large active club can continue to function entirely with volunteers, but my experience elsewhere suggests that things can fall apart remarkably quickly!

It's a ski touring club, concentrate on ski touring.

Great club. I am much less active than I used to be, but hope to continue skiing for a few more years. Many thanks to all on the committee for your hard work.

It's a great club - try not to change too much!

The club is impressively run and office beaters are to be commended.

There is a perception, bit like SCGB, that we are becoming a travel agency. This should be resisted!

See earlier comments

No (need for change)

It's a great club - well done

You committee members and especially member tour leaders (not guides, it's their job), give yourselves a pat on the back. You run a great, unique club. Thanks.

Overall I think it is a great club and we are all super lucky to have it. My suggestion would be to improve/highlight the opportunities for more 'committing' ski mountaineering, e.g. a meet or tour aimed at climbing something unusual with a testing descent. That might help members interested in that sort of thing to get to know each other.

No. I have watched with admiration over the last 20 years as the ski club has developed into an extremely well run club. This view is based on my substantial experience of administration in a number of mountaineering clubs in the UK. Keep up the good work!

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT/JOINING THE CLUB

Encouraging more social interaction between club members. More local meetings.

It's starting to feel a bit cliquey!

A valuable aspect of the club is the contacts made with other members, with whom you may be able to arrange private independent trips (i.e. not official club tours, nor even "member-to-member" tours). My extensive involvement with the club's administration over the past 20 years has also been a valuable part of this. A large amount of my skiing, especially in recent years, has been in privately-aranged trips with small groups of friends, almost all of whom I originally met through the club. In some cases, these trips have subsequently been written up in the Yearbook. Meeting members at social events, on weekend meets (or even at committee meetings!) remains a very valuable part of this. The conversations and interactions on these occasions can help you identify people you would like to go touring with (and for that matter, identify those you would NOT want to go touring with!)

A lot of tourers outside the club see us as elitist/snobish, I've not experienced that but many have that perception, not sure what can be done about it or if it matters. Perhaps females in public facing roles will help.

More emphasis on summer weekends/short breaks in N.Wales & Scotland for scrambling and easy climbing.

Re-introduce a summer weekend meet programme (UK based), to allow members to meet up outside the ski season and develop friendships and assess potential ski partners for future trips.

Have only joined recently but very impressed with engagement, such as this questionnaire. I prefer personal choice re C offsetting etc and think a huge risk of greenwashing in corporate schemes. Online courses would suit me well. I would love to go on club tours/courses etc but like many am busy at home. Proportionally more families have experience of Alpine skiing and maybe more regional meets/events/training would attract people into touring. I think that with some advance notice I could get a reasonable number of people together for a course in Yorkshire Dales, for example (and provide venue) either for training or skiing. It would be good to know how many people would be needed and at what cost to fund a two day course covering all the basics, but understand this is difficult when dealing with volunteer instructors who would probably be doing it in their free time

I think it would be helpful to give thought to how new members can best get involved with the club. At times it's felt a bit cliquey and 'closed' although in fairness some people have been super helpful. Possibly covid hasn't helped. Perhaps an article along the lines of '5 things for new members to consider' - going on a guide or instructor led tour/course; going to the AGM; trying to meet with local members... Obtaining two 'Eagles references' has felt like a mountain to climb although my partner and I are optimistic about finally skiing with the club in 2025. Overall the club appears exceedingly well run and very impressive.

See 29. The potential barrier to participation is quite high financially and in other respects. If the club could help with perhaps loanable equipment and taster trips for younger people new to the sport that would be good.

It's a friendly and supportive club.

OTHER COMMENTS

I enjoy being part of the club and the inspiration to get out and ski tour. I look forward to getting out next year and in years to come.

I only joined about a year ago (by the way, one slight glitch in your survey: no 1-2 years option for length of membership!), but have been on two weekends in Scotland - really helpful refresher in Cairgorms, and a nice Mar Lodge weekend with no skiing whatsoever but a few walking Munros! I would love to do more, and some of the further afield tours look fantastic, but I'm just constrained by my own circumstances really. I do enjoy the discussion and think it's helpful that there's a for sale group - though now I need to get into Discourse. Anyway, thank you to everyone who volunteers to help run the club - as a fairly passive member, I still really appreciate the effort that evidently goes into it.

No, as per previous answers, I would like to get more active in the club in order to contribute further but currently I am time limited.

Provide a copy of the surveys we fill in

With regard to this survey, there is no box in the qualifications list for IFMGA guide. I have no idea how many IFMGA guides are members, but the club should probably know and how this qualification affects the answers given.

Recognise split boarding as viable alternative to skiing

I think the suggestion that the club should become a ski equipment provider is a non starter.

The Eagles is a wonderful organisation that has allowed me to experience the mountains in a way that I think would have been impossible without it.

The ESC serves a useful purpose beyond time on the hill. It is good that social membership is available for older and in a time members.

Public liability insurance is important but is already operative to those who are members of clubs affiliated to BMC.

It is unreasonable to force duplicated payment of insurance premiums on those spread covered.

No suggestions other than those covered in the questionnaire. I have not been involved so much directly with the club's activities but do ski tour annually with other ESC members. My time is limited because of other sporting activities (running, cycling, hill walking, climbing), work and family commitments. Sorry!

Difficult to comment further as I haven't actually managed my first club tour yet.