



Edinburgh Ski Touring Club

Newsletter: Autumn/Winter 09-10

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New member enquiries or change of address, or if you require contact details – contact Caroline
membership@estc.org.uk

Not a committee member

Contents (full details inside)

Date	Event	Organiser
Wed 28 Oct	Slide Night at Brent's	Keith
Tue 3 Nov	First Tuesday – Meal and Pub	Brent
Wed 11 Nov	Opening Party at Clare's	Clare
Sat 14 - Sun 15 Nov	First Aid Course, West Lothian	Martin
Fri 20 –Sun 22 Nov	Gourmet Weekend, Glassie	David
Tue 1 Dec	First Tuesday – Meal and Pub	Clare
Fri 4 -Sun 6 Dec	Galloway Outdoor Centre, Loch Ken	Pam
Mon 7 Dec	Indoor Skiing at Snowzone, Braehead	Caroline
Thurs 10 Dec	Christmas Party at Keith & Tiana's	Keith
(26)28 Dec – 4 Jan	New Year – Czech Republic	Keith
2010		
Tue 12 Jan	<i>Second</i> Tuesday – Meal and Pub	Chris
Thurs 21 Jan	Burns Supper, St Columba's by the Castle	Guy/David
Fri 22- Sun 24 Jan	Culdees Hostel, Loch Tay: skiing, walking etc	Chantal
Sun 24 - Sun 31 Jan	Telemark Week, Valmorel, France	David
Tue 2 Feb	First Tuesday - Meal and Pub	Keith
Fri 5 - Sun 7 Feb	Slochd Mhor Hostel: skiing, walking etc	Caroline
Fri 19 - Sun 21 Feb	Loch Ossian Hostel: skiing, walking, trainspotting!	Keith
Tue 2 March	First Tuesday - Meal and Pub	TBC
Fri 5 - Mon 8 March	Ardgour House Long Weekend: skiing, walking etc	Clare
Fri 12 - Sun 14 Mar	Ski Instruction Weekend, Mill Cottage	Guy
Fri 19 - Mon 29 Mar	Norway Ski Touring Holiday	Keith
Fri 2 - Mon 5 April	Easter at Morvich Hostel, Kintail: Skiing, walking etc	Ross
Tue 6 April	First Tuesday - Meal and Pub	TBC
Fri 16 – Mon 19 April	Mile House, Kincaig	Brent
Fri 30 April – Mon 3 May	Naismith Hut - Elphin	James

First Tuesday Meal + Pub Meal then Cloisters Pub from 9.30pm

All Thurs Running night Meadows Pam

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue.

Editor's Notes

I quote from the autumn 2008 editorial:

'After the memorable winter and early spring this year the fine weather continued into May and June, leading to water shortages in the northwest and all the boggy ground turning into a crunchy fire hazard. This of course prompted hopes of a classic summer of endless sunny horizons and evenings sitting outside sipping chilled wine and ice cold beer. Now we know it was not to be. Matching the downturn in the economy we saw the weather deteriorate in July and become apocalyptically wet in August. Nevertheless this did not deter bold ESTCers from indulging in outdoor activities and holding Bar-b-Qs, and at the end of it all a few memorable days were snatched here and there.'

My, how things have changed!

The early indications for this winter are for average or slightly above average precipitation and temperatures but... *a 1 in 7 chance of a cold winter.* Well we believe in the *last* part of the forecast, don't we! Everyone can do their bit by doing the snow dance and opening their freezer doors on Friday evenings. See you on the slopes! But now, a message from the leader...

Thought I'd better put a few words in writing as I'd missed the AGM due to a prior work engagement. Although I am really sorry and not a little embarrassed at being unable to attend in person, I am delighted to have been elected to the post of chairperson. It is quite a daunting task to take over the reins from Martin who has steered the club with vision and tenacity over the last number of years. However with an enthusiastic and keen committee and support from the membership I hope I can rise to your expectation. In particular I hope to develop the club's communication strategy, update the club handbook conceived originally by David Brown, improve transparency in the clubs business, and most important of all increase the involvement and ownership of the club membership.

To this last end Caroline has been compiling a list of members who would like to have more involvement in running club events. She is still very keen to identify one or more individuals who might act as social events co-ordinator.

In addition we have established two small working groups. The first which will be chaired by Guy will look at the club's communication strategy to see how it might be streamlined. (At present with information being presented in different media, the website, enews and the newsletter there is a challenge in keeping it all accurate and up to date). Guy will be keen to draw on any expertise within the membership so if you have innovative ideas or suggestions on how we might achieve this I'm sure he would like to hear from you.

The second working group, Helen, Sandie and I are going to review the constitution as indeed we have charged with by the membership at the AGM. Again if you have ideas or expertise that you would like to bring to our attention please get in touch with me.

Finally, with the evenings drawing in we can anticipate a new ski season just around the corner. With that in mind can I invite you all to the opening party on Wednesday 11th November. Come along, bring a friend, new members always welcome. Find out about club activities, book a club weekend or two and plan your ski season. Details to follow on 'What's on' on the website

Clare

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Following a review of club communications the committee has decided that this will be the last ESTC Newsletter. This will save on duplication of effort as all the functions of the newsletter (diary, meets and activities details, booking forms and trip reports) are, or can be, covered by the website and enews and be kept up to date. All information from these is downloadable or printable. In particular we are keen that people continue to submit trip reports as we are considering creating a more formal record of club activities such as a journal.

ESTC Talks/Social Events

FIRST TUESDAY MEALS & PUB NIGHT

The club meets monthly for pub nights on the first Tuesday of each month - from 9.30pm in Cloisters Bar, Brougham Street, Tollcross. It is now also regular occurrence for some folks to meet beforehand to go for a meal in the locality of Cloisters. The forthcoming organisers are...

3 Nov	Brent
1 Dec	Clare
12 Jan	Chris
2 Feb	Keith
2 Mar	TBC
6 Apr	TBC

WED 28 OCT SLIDE SHOW AT BRENT'S KEITH

NB Note this event is one day earlier than preciously published.

Some great photos of last season's trip to ski sail the Lyngen Alps, Northern Norway plus special guests (to be announced).

Venue – Brent's flat. Byob soft drink / alcohol. Nibbles will be provided, no need to book – just turn up between 7.30 and 8.00pm.

Keith will be running another photo evening in the New Year, so if you've got some you wish to show then please contact Keith.

WED 11 NOV OPENING PARTY AT CLARE'S CLARE

You are invited to a drinks and nibbles party hosted by your club chairperson. If you are a new member come and meet some new friends, find out about the club's exciting winter programme and discover how to book yourself onto some winter meets. If you are a seasoned member come and tell tall tales of your summer adventures, boast of the thigh deep champagne powder and vertiginous slopes you will ski this winter (hope springs eternal). Come to the party from 7.30pm, sledges at 10pm.

Wine and nibbles available. It would be helpful if you could let Clare (chair@estc.co.uk) know if you are coming along!

THURS 10 DEC CHRISTMAS PARTY AT KEITH AND TIANA'S KEITH

Thursday 10th December 7.30 for 8.00pm, at Keith and Tiana's flat. Full veggie meal provided (£4) with some homemade wine but BYOB if you wish. Special welcome to new and prospective members. A chance to see photos of club activities and chat about the forthcoming season.

Please book by telephoning Keith by Monday 07/12/09 (please do not email)

THURS 21 JAN BURNS SUPPER, ST. COLUMBA'S BY THE CASTLE CHRIS

Come and celebrate the birth of the Alloway Bard in traditional style with a meal of haggis, neeps and tatties at this now familiar venue opposite the castle! In addition to food, drink and speeches there will be poetry and music, with a live ceillidh at the end of it all. So whether you want a mouthful of sheep gizzard or an earful of Scots dialect, why not come along to our celebration?

Price £15 including meal, glass of whisky and live ceillidh. Please bring your own drinks. If you would like to help with the arrangements, please approach a member of the committee.

Please return booking form (attached) with your cheque to Chris.

ESTC Full Outdoor Programme – Autumn/ Winter 2009/10

FRI 20 – SUN 22 NOV GASTRONOMIC WEEKEND, GLASSIE, ABERFELDY DAVID

This is your opportunity to mix good eating and good drinking with a little gentle exercise. Friday evening dinner is served at 8.30 to allow everyone to drive up after work and is traditionally based around fish pie, Saturday is a four course meal with matching wines. Unlike other meets the price involves all wine on both evenings. Veggies are catered for but the main choice is meat. We have booked the main bunkhouse and you can find details at: www.thebunkhouse.co.uk/

Accommodation is £40 per head and the food and drink is £25. In line with club policy a non-refundable deposit of £40 is required.

The Glassie gastronomic weekend 20-22nd November is fully booked with 32 members and at present there are no vacancies, if anyone drops out enews will give members a chance for a late booking.

FRI 4 – SUN 6 DEC GALLOWAY ACTIVITIES CENTRE, LOCH KEN PAM

This is the annual December "Borders" weekend originally organised to remember the birthday of the late Dave McArthur, who helped to co-found the club nearly 30 years ago and until his tragic death in 2006 was actively involved in the committee in promoting a wide range of cycling, hillwalking, backpacking, socialising and musical opportunities! New members especially welcome.

A great autumn/ winter opportunity for hillwalking and cycling in Dumfries/ Galloway, such as the Southern Upland Way, 7 Stanes mountain bike route, Merrick etc, with watersports (e.g. kayaking) options for hardier souls! Comfortable accommodation with dorms of 4.

See <http://www.independenthostelguide.co.uk/selected-accommodation.php?area=736&s=41>

Range of kit for hire including a new fleet of 10 Trek 4300 disc mountain bikes in various sizes, and limited watersports kit e.g. some of the more stable kayaks. **If interested in hiring kit or other activities on the website please contact Pam (pam@estc.co.uk) ASAP**, same applies if you would like a family room.

Please return booking form (attached) with your cheque to Pam.

A meal will be organised for the Sat night. Usual car pool arrangements. **BOOK EARLY!!!!**

MON 7 DEC TRIP TO SNOZONE, AT XSCAPE, BRAEHEAD CAROLINE

(Not quite 'outdoors', but needs must!) Fancy dusting down those creaky ski legs in preparation for the buckets of snow we just might get this season? There are currently some good offers for **weekday** trips to Snowzone: 1 hr = £12, 2hrs = £15, 3hrs = £20.

Caroline is co-ordinating the transport only, Edinburgh to and from Braehead, to start session at 12 noon to 2pm, on the above date. Will leave Edinburgh approx 9.30am. If you wish to go, please let her know by emailing: membership@estc.org.uk. Please state whether you need / can offer a lift and from where. We have been advised to book, as it will be a busy time of year. **Please book yourself in** via http://bh.xscapeonline.co.uk/booking/web/2_Booking_activity. Via internet its free. You can phone (Tel: 0871 222 5672, 9am-8pm), but you will be charged £1.50.

If anyone else wants to go on a Saturday or Sunday, please contact Lynn and she will co-ordinate folk.

FRI 22 - SUN 24 JAN

CULDEES HOSTEL, LOCH TAY

CHANTAL

Located at Fearnan by Aberfeldy bunkhouse (Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 51, grid reference NN 716447) this is a well appointed bunkhouse. See <http://www.culdeesbunkhouse.co.uk/Bunkhouse.htm>

Hopefully there will be snow on the tops for skiing but if not here is plenty of opportunity for walking or cycling.

Contact Chantal for more information on secretary@estc.org.uk. Please return booking form (attached) with your cheque to Chantal.

FRI 5 - SUN 7 FEB

SLOCHD MHÒR LODGE - CARRBRIDGE

CAROLINE

A new style of weekend for the club aimed at all levels of skier. We will be organising skiers of similar level / experience to ski together on the Saturday (snow willing!) Watch out in enews for more info on this. At 1400' this is one of the best spots in Scotland for ski touring. The Lodge is modern and well appointed and the terrain around the lodge is very easy.

For those that wish to travel further afield to the Cairngorms or Ben Wyvis, for instance, the lodge is beside the A9. Visit the lodge's website. <http://www.slochd.co.uk/>

Contact Caroline for more information on membership@estc.org.uk. Please return booking form (attached) with your cheque to Caroline.

FRI 19 - SUN 21 FEB

LOCH OSSIAN HOSTEL

KEITH

The ESTC have sole use for the weekend of the great SYHA hostel in the middle of Rannoch Moor. Much improved - the ECO refurbishment of a few years ago has retained its character but made the place warm and dry. There are several Munros close by, or why not have a long day walking/skiing to Ben Alder?

The location is wonderfully remote - only accessible by train but reasonably easy to reach. Travel up Friday evening (leave central Edinburgh by 5.30pm) either by car to Bridge of Orchy then train, or train the whole way, and return Sunday evening. Last time I was there it was skiable to/from Corroul station where there is a café/restaurant for Sunday evening beers/food.

Send booking form and cheque to Keith. For more information, telephone Keith (no email).

FRI 5 - MON 8 MARCH

ARDGOUR HOUSE LONG WEEKEND

CLARE

Ever fancied a weekend in a haunted house? With a swimming pool? A winter weekend with a difference! Following on from the popular autumn club trips to Glencanisp and Sallachy we are trialling the model on one long weekend in the winter season.

We have secured an option on a wonderful old mansion house, in a spectacular setting, near Fort William, on the shores of Loch Linnhe, for 3 nights Fri-Monday 5th 6th and 7th March 2010. It sleeps up to 20, has twin bedrooms, two drawing rooms, six bathrooms, swimming pool, sauna, playroom and billiard room!.....AND there might be snow too!!! New members will be especially welcome.

Please return booking form (attached) with your cheque.

Visit the website below to view the house www.cottages-and-castles.co.uk/property/view/accomodation-castles-mansions-ardgour-ardgour-house-p101

The cost for 3 nights would be £109pp (a waiting list is currently in operation). Further information from Clare (chair@estc.co.uk).

FRI 12 – SUN 14 MARCH MILL COTTAGE, SKI INSTRUCTION WEEKEND GUY

The annual chance to brush up your telemark skills. Mill Cottage is a well equipped hut located at the bottom of Glen Feshie, between Kingussie and Aviemore. <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/huts-millcottage.asp> It is in a very attractive location next to the river and is very well located for excellent ski touring or walking trips on the plateau from Glen Feshie or for piste skiing at Cairngorm. If the snow is low enough then there is wonderful skiing from the door through the woods. The hut has places for 14 but camping is also available for hardy types!

This is a very popular meet so get your booking form and deposit to Guy ASAP or contact him on news@estc.co.uk. Please indicate on the form if you require ski instruction.

FRI 2- MON 5 APRIL EASTER AT MORVICH HOSTEL, KINTAIL ROSS

Spend Easter with the club at the recently renovated National Trust for Scotland hostel in Morvich, Kintail. See <http://www.ntsholidays.com/basecamps.aspx>. Surroundings include Glen Shiel, Loch Duich and the famous Five Sisters of Kintail. For Munro baggers the South Shiel ridge beckons. Skye is not too far distant for a day trip.

The meet will be for three nights and four days. Priority will be given to those booked for all three nights.

Contact Ross on ross@estc.co.uk for further details.

Please return booking form (attached) with your cheque to Ross.

FRI 16 – SUN 18 APRIL MILE HOUSE, KINCRAIG BRENT

Milehouse is owned by the Ladies Scottish Climbing Club. Well appointed with real stove, drying room, showers and spacious alpine bunks, it is only a stones throw from Loch Insh and the Boathouse pub. A great base from which to take advantage of the longer days and enjoy excellent ski touring on the Monadhliath Mountains or Cairngorms.

It will be a great help if you can get your form (attached) and cheque to Brent by 1st April 2010 to ensure it arrives before Easter.



<http://www.ladlesscottishclimbingclub.org/hut/huts.htm>

FRI 30 APRIL – MON 3 MAY ELPHIN, NAISMITH HUT JAMES

Comfortably equipped SMC hut in the far North West of Scotland, fantastic opportunities for the far Northern Munros, coastal walks and cycling in the Assynt hills.

Please return booking form (attached) with your cheque to James.

Other News

WEEKEND (2-4 DAY) MEETS AND HOLIDAY DEPOSITS

Following a review by the ESTC committee, it has been decided that the full bednight cost will now be required as a deposit for weekend meets. However if you advise the meet co-ordinator (of your intention to cancel) no later than the Thursday evening one week in advance of the meet, and your place is taken by someone else, then your deposit will be refunded. The earlier you advise the co-ordinator, the better your chances of a refund – first come first served.

NB except in exceptional circumstances, no refunds if less than 8 days notice given.

For club holidays, tuition etc the same principle applies regarding refunds but the deposit may cover more than bednights – always treat a deposit as non refundable, any lost deposits cover costs or go into club funds, not the co-ordinator's pocket!

Any questions, please telephone Keith (not email).

SKI & EQUIPMENT HIRE

HELEN

The club has a stock of ski equipment available for hire stored in Clare's garage. We plan to have a dedicated evening each week during the winter when the garage will be manned for an hour or so for equipment return and collection, subject to agreement with the organisers on that particular night. As a consequence it will be necessary for a deposit to be paid for equipment and a commitment made to prompt return, just so that if there is a rush on the next week, we can make sure that skis are available.

As ever, we need **people willing to volunteer** to spend one or two evenings each this winter manning the garage. If anyone would like to volunteer or has any further helpful suggestions, do please send an email to Helen on skihire@estc.org.uk

Please look out for further details about hire arrangements on the club e-news or website

JOGGING NIGHTS, THURSDAYS, MEADOWS, 7PM

PAM

Contact Pam (pam@estc.co.uk) to be added to the mailing list. We sometimes go to eat/ socialise somewhere after.

Ski Holidays 2009

The following holidays are being organised by the club. This is the state of play at mid October. Keep an eye out for further developments.

(26)/28 DEC 2009 - 4 JAN 2010 CZECH REPUBLIC NEW YEAR HOLIDAY KEITH

There are still some spaces available at the comfortable pension we have booked in the Sumava National Park, Czech Republic. Fly direct from Edinburgh to Prague then with private minibus direct to the village of Kvilda. Here there are naturally wooded rolling hills for cross country skiing (hopefully there will be snow, as Kvilda is over 1000m asl) Plenty of café stops for good cheap lunchtime food and beer. Downhill slopes are available 8-12 miles away (look up Kasperske Hory, Zadov and Nove Hute) if you want steeper ground.

Approx cost half board (dinner Bed and Breakfast) for all 7/9 nights (option of going out 2 days early on 26/12/09 at no extra cost) is £180 + c. £50 return for the minibus. Look at jet2com for flight info. We are booked outbound 9.30 (arr 12.55) Monday 28/12/09 returning 13.35 (arr 15.05) on Monday 4/1/10.

Friends of ESTC members are welcome, but will need to join the ESTC.

For further information, phone (not email) Keith. Leave a contact telephone number if you get the answering machine.

24 - 31 JANUARY 2010 TELEMARK WEEK DAVID

The Telemark Ski holiday to Valmorel in the French Alps for the week of 24th-31st of January is now fully booked with twelve people. If any vacancies become available they will be advertised on enews to give members a chance to fill the cancellation.

FRI 19 - MON 29 MARCH 2010 NORWAY SKI TOUR KEITH

I'm planning a hut to hut trip in Norway - details will be circulated mid November via Enews and web pages. To allow plenty of rest days / touring with lighter load, there will be 2 nights at most of the huts.

If you're interested in joining the tour/ require more info, contact Keith (please do not email).

Other Trips/ Organisations

SUN 6 - SUN 13 JUNE 2010 KINLOCHEWE LODGE, NEAR TORRIDON CHANTAL

The ESTC is organising a week's holiday in the well-appointed Kinlochewe Lodge for the week beginning 6 June 2010. The lodge is in a great location for easy access to some of the most spectacular mountains in Scotland, Loch Maree and the West Coast.

To reserve your place, send a non-refundable deposit for £50 payable to ESTC to Chantal. Contact Chantal on secretary@estc.co.uk for more information.

Reports

A Short Midsummer's Walk by Keith Cocks

Six hills in the great wilderness country of Fisherfield and Letterewe was too much to miss, so a very "select group" (Pam and Keith) set off from Edinburgh in a hire van- the car hire company had run out of cars! We had decided to avoid Shenavall Bothy because of its reputation as being very busy and camp 3K upriver where access to the hills was by an easier river crossing. The area was nice flat grass near a stalkers cottage and some ruins (?shellings). A small dram, and then off to sleep.



Much debate was had on the best way to cross the substantial rivers- one at the start of the day, the other two near the end of the walk. Pam opted for wet boots, Keith for carrying lightweight "crocs" and drying his feet.

Unfortunately the long drive up and walk in precluded an early start so we set off at 10.30am. Despite the late start we were still able to cook an evening meal in daylight!! The route details are below - suffice to say; we packed plenty of water, food and a headtorch (*just in case- for the 1hour it actually gets dark!*- PK).

Having waded the river near our tents, we set off straight uphill and managed the first four hills with relative ease. Normally this would have been the end of a long day with a walk out to a nice hot shower (*but couldn't fit it in the rucksack- PK*). However, two more hills were calling- and it avoided that long walk back in on Sunday. A brief discussion as we crossed the boggy area between the two groups of hills - go for it! By now we had company - two who had two who intended bivvying up high and a third who was pressing on at speed.

The final hill gave interesting views into the set(ing) sun - and we started the long walk out, eventually finding a path. Progress was now slow, at times we felt like stopping to sleep in the heather! We weren't alone- unseen animals (?deer) were making strange noises nearby.



Headtorches now came in useful as we hunted for a crossing point over the river - although I'm sure Pam's torch should come with a Class II laser warning label. (*I needed it!! - PK*). A final long tussocky bog trot and back to the tents over the river we had crossed in the (*previous day's*) morning. With the sun now shining bright, we had a much simplified meal with celebratory small dram.

Up late on Sunday, feeling "jet -lagged", Pam recommended a short walk up the glen to re-orientate body clocks and back for a damp evening's cooking. Monday was not wasted - the interesting local hill of Carn Nam Faihearn (554m) was climbed up through ancient trees and long grass.

Fish and chips in Aviemore rounded off a good weekend. Just remember to pack a headtorch if out walking with Keith and Pam!

Walk Facts and Figures:

Campsite 120m ASL to Beinn A' Chlaidhaimh 914m (3.5km, 800m ascent)
To Sgurr Ban 989M (3.5km, 370m)
Mullach Coire Mhic Fhearchair 1019M (1.2km, 210m)
Beinn Tarsuinn 936m (2.2km, 250m)
A' Mhaighdean 967m (3.5km, 430m)
Ruadh Stac Mor 918M (2.0km, 170m)
To campsite (13.0 km)

Total distance 29km, height gain 2230m (or 18 miles with 7,350' ascent) 18.5 hrs including breaks for rest/ food / photos/ admiring the sunset! (Naismith's estimate circa 12hrs).

Sallachy: 20-27 September 2009. Some highlights by Sandie Sutherland

The club rented Sallachy house near Lairg for the annual summer trip

Sunday: The advance party set out sharp to provision the Lodge, allocate rooms and cook dinner for the green party, due to arrive at 20.15 with the Wick express (sic). House splendid and beautiful, tartan Victoriana and roll-top baths. There was competition among the singles over the best room (turret and flatscreen) which Clare won, and the bonus was to share with Guy. After a delicious cold collation, hostess Chantal issued Standing Orders for the week and we fell into bed.

Monday: The week's forecast was gales but the day dawned warm and still. We split into the walkers, up for Ben Hee; the cyclists, riding the gentle triangle of the river Oykel and Shinness; and the casuals, headed for sand, sea and surf at Tongue. Unhappily the weather was also split- the walkers returned sodden whilst the rest basked in sunny intervals. An excellent dinner laid on by Alan's team (soup, curry and crumble) banished the blues. Sue won at scrabble.

Tuesday: The wind was up, so Munros went on hold. Some softies drove east down Loch Fleet (a nature reserve crammed with Waders) to Embo beach where sunshine, golden sand and crystal sea beckoned. An omission to bring swimsuits did not stop the girls plunging in to revel in the best beach outside Corsica. After a coastal walk to Dornoch and tea, the party faced a 7 mile trudge back to the car. So the girls hid the chaps and thumbed it (*we assume now clothed - Ed*) and right away scored a Mancunian local, who shuffled them to the buggy, so all got back for cocktail hour. The walkers meantime had fought gales to claim Ben Giam Mhor and Ben Giam Beg; and the families had delighted in the salmon leaping at the Falls of Shin. Sue won at scrabble.

Wednesday: A windy day ("It's the Equinox!" said Mary) did not stop an expedition up Morvern, rewarded by views all the way to the north coast. Those minding their complexions strolled up Loch Shin from the Lodge and checked out slipway access for canoes (none). So home for tea and scones in the conservatory, and first aid on a sprained ankle sustained shifting a crate of

wine. Dinner again great. Scrabble banned to keep the peace.

Thursday: Time for shopping - a trip to Lairg to check out the tartan centre (ladies' suit £500 for the Miss Marple look); and one to Tain for fresh fish and a look at the cathedral- an impressive place. (Tain was once a pilgrimage destination visited many times by James IV.) Fun train journey to Tain enlivened on the return by encountering a tipsy man determined to disclose to us the entire content of his mind without pausing for breath between Tain and Lairg, where we fortunately got off. Ross and Alan had sensibly cycled to Bonar Bridge.

Friday: Chantal and Chris went to Dunrobin Castle on Thursday and the rest of us followed suit on Friday by car and bike (gorgeous cycle back through Strath Fleet). The Duke of Sutherland wanted a Chateau look-alike so using "applique" he turned his existing house and grounds into a wee corner of France. We loved the gardens (warmed by the last of the Gulf Stream) and the falconry display, observing the peregrine falcon, the fastest creature on earth, snatch a titbit on the wing. Sun very welcome.

Saturday: Last chance to bag a Corbett, so it was Ben Leoid, in at last lovely weather. Several campers rested at the lodge which now felt like home. The swimmers (see Tuesday) drove to Rogart aiming to walk a circle of small hills and return to help with dinner. But an azure sea hove into view as they tramped eastwards, so they tramped all the way to the shore for a swim (clad), tea and ice-cream. The small problem of returning to the car (no taxis on a Saturday night) was again solved by thumbing it ("Hitch-hikers' Guide for the over-50s" issues shortly). The best dinner of the week appeared from nowhere and we toasted a wonderfully relaxing week. Chantal was thanked for her project management skills (who else could magic away bathroom tide-marks)- Scottish Government's loss is clearly ESTC's gain!

Galloway Activities Centre, Loch Ken

4 – 6 Dec 2009

Please send this booking form to the weekend organiser: **Pam** (see members list for contact details, or contact membership@estc.org.uk for advice)

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £30 for two nights per person or £15 for one night
(payable to ESTC).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone No (home)..... (mob).....

(work)Email

Yes / No Are you wanting to stay Friday night?

Yes / No Are you wanting to stay Saturday night?

Yes / No Willing to shop for and cook one course of a communal meal?

Yes / No Vegetarian Meal required? (State if fish is OK:)

Yes / No Car owner and willing to drive?

If yes: No. of people you can comfortably take? (inc driver & rucksacks)

If Yes: Yes / No Do you have a car cycle rack?

Any other details -e.g. Do you wish transport from other than above address? Special Diet?

Are you properly prepared to go out on the hills / water in winter? Ask for advice if uncertain.

Burns Supper

21 Jan 2010

Please send this booking form to the organiser: **David (see members list for contact details, or contact membership@estc.org.uk for advice)**

I enclose a cheque for £ 15 (payable to ESTC).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone No (home)..... (mob).....

(work)Email

Yes / No Vegetarian Meal required?

Yes / No Willing/ able to help organise (e.g. organising music, making a speech, manning doors, tidying up, washing up?)

Culdees Hostel, Loch Tay

22 – 24 Jan 2010

Please see **What's On** page of website for **Culdees Booking Form**

Slochd Mhor Lodge, Carrbridge

5 – 7 Feb 2010

Please send this booking form to the weekend organiser: **Caroline** (see members list for contact details, or contact membership@estc.org.uk for advice)

I enclose a cheque for £ 38 (payable to ESTC).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone No (home)..... (mob).....

(work)Email

-/..... Skiing and navigational skills as defined on club membership form (e.g. 2B)
- Yes / No** Ski hire required? (If yes contact ski hire coordinator at least one week before meet)
- Yes / No** Willing to shop for and cook one course of a communal meal?
- Yes / No** Vegetarian Meal required? (State if fish is OK:)
- Yes / No** Car owner and willing to drive?
- If yes:** No. of people you can comfortably take? (inc driver, rucksacks and skis)

Any other details -e.g. Do you wish transport from other than above address? Special Diet?

Are you properly prepared to go out on the hills in winter? Ask for advice if uncertain.

Loch Ossian Hostel

19 - 21 Feb 2010

Please send this booking form to the weekend organiser: **Keith** (see members list for contact details, or contact membership@estc.org.uk for advice)

I enclose a cheque for £ 33 (payable to ESTC).

Name.....

Address.....

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Phone No (home)..... (mob).....

(work)Email

-/..... Skiing and navigational skills as defined on club membership form (e.g. 2B)
- Yes / No** Ski hire required? (If yes contact ski hire coordinator at least one week before meet)
- Yes / No** Willing to shop for and cook one course of a communal meal?
- Yes / No** Vegetarian Meal required? (State if fish is OK:)
- Yes / No** Car owner and willing to drive?
- If yes:** No. of people you can comfortably take? (inc driver, rucksacks and skis)

Any other details -e.g. Do you wish transport from other than above address? Special Diet?

Are you properly prepared to go out on the hills in winter? Ask for advice if uncertain.

Ardgour House Long Weekend

5 – 8 March 2010

Please send this booking form to the weekend organiser: **Clare** (see members list for contact details, or contact membership@estc.org.uk for advice)

I enclose a cheque for £ 109 (payable to ESTC).

Name.....

Address.....

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Phone No (home)..... (mob).....

(work)Email

...../..... Skiing and navigational skills as defined on club membership form (e.g. 2B)

Yes / No Ski hire required? (If yes contact ski hire coordinator at least one week before meet)

Yes / No Willing to shop for and cook one course of a communal meal?

Yes / No Vegetarian Meal required? (State if fish is OK:)

Yes / No Car owner and willing to drive?

If yes: No. of people you can comfortably take? (inc driver, rucksacks and skis)

Any other details -e.g. Do you wish transport from other than above address? Special Diet?

Are you properly prepared to go out on the hills in winter? Ask for advice if uncertain.

Mill Cottage Ski Instruction Weekend

12 – 14 March 2010

Please send this booking form to the weekend organiser: **Guy** (see members list for contact details, or contact membership@estc.org.uk for advice)

I enclose a cheque for £ 16/36/56 (£ 16 hostel, £20 per day of instruction) (payable to ESTC).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone No (home)..... (mob).....

(work)Email

Yes / No Ski Instruction required Sat? (Beginner/ Intermediate/ Upper Intermediate).

Yes / No Ski Instruction required Sun? (Beginner/ Intermediate/ Upper Intermediate).

...../..... Skiing and navigational skills as defined on club membership form (e.g. 2B)

Yes / No Ski hire required? (If yes contact ski hire coordinator at least one week before meet)

Yes / No Willing to shop for and cook one course of a communal meal?

Yes / No Vegetarian Meal required? (State if fish is OK:)

Yes / No Car owner and willing to drive?

If yes: No. of people you can comfortably take? (inc driver, rucksacks and skis)

Any other details -e.g. Do you wish transport from other than above address? Special Diet?

Are you properly prepared to go out on the hills in winter? Ask for advice if uncertain.

Milehouse, Kincaraig

16 – 19 April 2010

Please send this booking form to the weekend organiser: **Brent** (see members list for contact details, or contact membership@estc.org.uk for advice)

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £16 for two nights per person or £24 for three nights
(payable to ESTC)

Name.....

Address.....

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Phone No (home)..... (mob).....

(work)Email

...../..... Skiing and navigational skills as defined on club membership form (e.g. 2B)

Yes / No Ski hire required? (If yes contact ski hire coordinator at least one week before meet)

Yes / No Willing to shop for and cook one course of a communal meal?

Yes / No Vegetarian Meal required? (State if fish is OK:)

Yes / No Car owner and willing to drive?

If yes: No. of people you can comfortably take? (inc driver, rucksacks and skis)

Any other details -e.g. Do you wish transport from other than above address? Special Diet?

Are you properly prepared to go out on the hills in winter? Ask for advice if uncertain.

Naismith Hut, Elphin

30 April – 3 May 2010

Please send this booking form to the weekend organiser: **James (see members list for contact details, or contact membership@estc.org.uk for advice)**

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £28 for three nights (payable to ESTC)

Name.....

Address.....

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Phone No (home)..... (mob).....

(work)Email

...../..... Skiing and navigational skills as defined on club membership form (e.g. 2B)

Yes / No Willing to shop for and cook one course of a communal meal?

Yes / No Vegetarian Meal required? (State if fish is OK:)

Yes / No Do you want to take a bike?

Yes / No Car owner and willing to drive?

If yes: No. of people you can comfortably take? (inc driver, rucksacks)

If yes: Yes / No Do you have a car cycle rack?

Any other details -e.g. Do you wish transport from other than above address? Special Diet?

Are you properly prepared to go out on the hills in winter? Ask for advice if uncertain.