

Northern Challenge Trophy (NCT) - 2019

(Final)

Guidance relating to changes for 2019 and the tasks.

1. The HIKE&FLY tasks have been increased to 4 (2 previously).
2. The MAIN task series has been increased to 14 (12 previously).
3. On entry a pilot needs to nominate a CLUB for the new 'Club League'.
4. Scoring system remains the same, based on 8 tasks scoring (MAIN), and but ANY THREE of the H&F. Put another way, six of the MAIN tasks can be dropped if lowest scoring or not attempted, similarly one H&F can be dropped.
5. For 2019 all GRIDS have been retained unchanged with the exception of the Cross Fell GRID which has been dropped and replaced with a flight to goal.
6. Some of the 2018 tasks have been left unchanged for year on year comparison or because they were popular.
7. Some of the 2018 tasks have been tweaked or revamped as detailed below, plus the new tasks.
8. ALL starts are EXIT cylinders to help those with xcsoar. All other cylinders are ENTRY. Note that some of the usual take off areas are outside the start cylinder. You need to fly inside – time starts when you leave. An air restart is possible IF you have not taken TP1.
9. For safety reasons the usual ESS (end of speed section) is larger than the goal cylinder. But you MUST reach the goal cylinder to score time points. Most final legs are shorter, but into wind for safety reasons.
10. As previously the level of difficulty is very much determined by the day, rather than the glider or task length. The conditions aside they are all of roughly equal size, difficulty and score weighting.
11. See notes on scoring to understand weighting between distance, speed and task length.
12. Purely for information some brief notes have been added to accompany each task in the MAIN series. These include the optimum conditions, any relevant safety notes or airspace issues. An intrinsic part of H&F is working it out for yourself.
13. The upload page now includes some basic flight analysis information.
14. In addition to awards for the Main series and Hike& Fly series there will be a third Club award for 2019.
15. FOR ANYTHING ELSE - GO TO THE RULES DOWNLOADS.

Some brief thoughts on each task.

MAIN SERIES (14) -2019

These are outlined below to illustrate the thinking behind some tasks. ONLY the best eight scores will count towards the final scoring positions.

Blease: A popular and large southerly so site retained for 2019, but a wholly new task designed of roughly the same level as previously. On the best days it works from Skiddaw to Scales Fell. Prone to the sea breeze coming in later which can produce decent convergence, but may be accompanied by turbulence around the Blencathra spines and the deep valley between Lonscale and Blease. Best direction SSE, not too light to hold SB and base well clear of tops.

Murton: A new site and task that is based on using the 20k long Pennine ridges to the north. On a good day the whole ridge both soars and thermals well. Sea breezes effect the ridge and can produce powerful convergence lines – especially if they meet. The Solway SB at the north end (pulls wind to west); Morecambe Bay SB to the south (pulls winds off to south). A great ridge but not always easy to read and familiarity with it helps. Note the requirements to inform Warcop before flying (see CSC site guide). Best direction WSW, fairly light, thermic and SB holding off.

Coniston: High mountain site, with the task retained from 2018. Generally, fairly open and smooth, but with potential for SB to encroach from the south, so needs a decent wind to hold it off. Best direction ESE to E and light over the tops, thermic allowing TP's out front to be gained.

Clough Head: The long standing GRID challenge that can be attempted under most conditions but completing it requires height to push well out front for final TP's.

Tailbridge/Mallerstang: A new area and site. The task makes use of the long north/south ridge above the Mallerstang valley. The large take off cylinder means you can take off on either Tailbridge or walk (30 mins) onto the north end of the Mallerstang ridge. Best direction due W ... most of the task can be done on ridge lift, but towards the end the final cylinders require some thermic assistance and a decent base to attain them.

Far Whitestones: Site and task retained from 2018. Makes use of the W/SW bowls to the south of take off. Much of the task can be done in ridge lift but height is required to get the turnpoints that are well out front at the south end, towards Sedbergh. Beware of it getting windy over the highest tops – best escape is to the south. Best direction is SW to W, it's quite a thermic place as the SB comes in from the SW and triggers lots of lift – often well out front.

Whernside: A new and more expansive task that also makes use of the Gragareth ridge behind. Getting there should be OK, but returning from the final TP will be the hardest part. A real sting in the tail! Both ridges are open and hazard free with lots of landing options. Best direction is a due E, light and thermic with a good base.

Dodd: The GRID is retained for 2019 with no changes. Best direction is WNW the final TP's need good height and thermals will help.

Windbank: The 2018 task is retained with no changes.

Pendle: Although it saw few attempts in 2018 the task is retained after discussion and offers a good challenge. Best direction NW to WNW, base above 4000' and thermic.

Parlick: The GRID is retained due to its popularity.

Model Ridge: Not often attempted during 2018, but retained as it actually makes good use of the full ridge.

Cross Fell: The FAI task is retained unchanged. As it uses the 'Masts' take off it may be best attempted in a W to WSW with thermal assistance required to push out front.

Cross Fell: The only open flight type with a flight to goal at Hexham. The large start cylinder is designed to allow either take- off (masts or High Cap) to be used and either a W or SW wind.

HIKE&FLY SERIES (4) - 2019

The main change is the addition of two extra tasks – one long, one shorter. Only ANY three will count for final scoring positions.

Dales Three Peaks: Retained, no changes

Lakes Three Summits: Retained, no changes.

Bob Graham Round: New task.

Howgills/Dales: New task.

ID codes for each task and site for 2019.

Site/Task (MAIN SERIES)	Task ID	Site/task (H&F SERIES)	Task ID
BLEASE	868	DALES THREE PEAKS	696
MURTON	829	LAKES THREE SUMMITS	702
CONISTON	686	BOB GRAHAM ROUND	843
CLOUGH HEAD GRID	546	HOWGILLS/DALES	846
TAILBRIDGE/MALLERSTANG	869		
FAR WHITESTONES	706		
WHERNSIDE	862		
DODD GRID	545		
WINDBANK	705		
PENDLE	687		
PARLICK GRID	544		
MODEL RIDGE GRID	549		
CROSS FELL FAI	711		
CROSS FELL GOAL FLIGHT	859		